A Word from the Wing Commander

It is an honor to be selected as the Cadet Wing Commander for fall 2012 and I am very grateful for the opportunity. Cadet Burchett, the Vice Commander, and I definitely have some big shoes to fill from this spring. Cadets Stout and Zarsky prepared our way by raising up dedicated and excellent leaders in our cadet wing in all AS classes, and we look forward to working alongside them. We also look forward to having new cadets join our Wing. It is, and always will be, an honor to develop alongside citizens who are committed to join the ranks of men and women defending our nation's borders and preserving freedom for all.

This fall will be an exciting one with many events on our calendar such as Air Force Birthday, POW/MIA day, Veteran's Day, and Tri-Service Games, to name a few. We will also have the opportunity to participate in a well-deserved commissioning ceremony for some of our best seniors. The standards for this upcoming semester will be high. Cadet Burchett and I expect nothing but the best from each and every cadet. We know that with outstanding wingmanship and the push for mental and physical excellence, the culture of Det 825 will be unmatched in terms of performance and camaraderie.

Good luck to our AS200s attending Field Training this semester. We look forward to your return. To all, keep up the good work! Enjoy your summer break. You earned it! ~Maykei Nguyen

The President’s Cup

For the last 6 years, the Army, Naval and Air Force ROTC units have competed in the President’s Cup Tri-Service games here at The University of Texas. This year the Longhorn Airmen of Detachment 825 were victorious. A combination of exhaustive planning and flawless execution led to Air Force’s first victory in the Tri-Service games, with many victories to come.

The competition was composed of a number of mentally and physically demanding events. The corps wing commander, Cadet Brandon Stout, attributed the success of the detachment to his team’s dedication to preparation and the determination to achieve a goal set out by the detachment commander, Colonel Jeffrey Staha, when he first arrived last fall.

The success in this year’s competition has outlined the path for Det 825 to continue its reign as Champions of the President’s Cup. Congratulations to the Class of ’12 for leading your team to victory in such a grueling competition!

You try keeping a straight face... Your guess is as good as mine.
On May 18, 2012 Colonel Staha, Commander of Detachment 825, AFROTC hosted the University of Texas-Joint Services Commissioning Ceremony. Family and friends gathered in Bates Recital Hall to witness the commissioning of 24 newly-minted 2nd lieutenants. The spirit of a joint service event was ever present from the stage to the audience. The U.S Army 1st Calvary Band of Ft. Hood, Texas began the ceremony with “Ruffles and Flourishes” for Brigadier General Kenneth Wisian, Commander of TXANG and Assistant Adjutant General-Air for Texas and the ceremony’s guest speaker. The invocation was conducted by U.S. Army Captain Jeremy Stirm. A distinguished panel was escorted onto the stage by UT President Bill Powers proceeded by Steven Leslie, Executive Vice President and Provost, and Dean of Liberal Arts, along with many other distinguished University leadership. The ceremony attracted significant military leaders as well, University of Texas graduate Lieutenant General (Ret) Kenneth Eckmann, former Aeronautical Systems Center Commander, and Rear Admiral William Sizemore, Chief of Naval Air Training. General Wisian concluded by saying “leadership and followership skills their cadets have developed over the last year. The detachment commander, Col Jeffrey Staha, gave a short speech to recognize the most significant impact on their time as a cadet. After the lieutenants returned to the capitol where they were greeted by Family and friends had the opportunity to witness a centuries-old First Salute.” The new 2nd lieutenants headed out to the front steps of the Capitol. The graduating cadets: Chelsie Weathington, Brandon Stout, Jose Machua, Jose Hinjosa, James Forker, and Andrea Collins, will be beginning their officer careers in various assignments around the Air Force. Lt General (Ret) Eckmann, a graduate of The University of Texas and the guest speaker at the commissioning, provided the newly-commissioned officers with several life lessons from his years as an LT. He instructed the cadets that when under the mistake, “learn from it and give your boss the solution.” Following the ceremony, family and friends had the opportunity to witness a 2nd Lieut. “First Salute.” The new 2nd lieutenants headed out to the front steps of the capitol where they were greeted by an enlisted member who had made a significant contribution to their time as a cadet. After the lieutenants returned the salutes of the enlisted participants, the enlisted members were each given a silver dollar. This centuries old tradition was highlighted by the lieutenants having the opportunity to receive first salutes from their parents and siblings. Commission 825 wishes our grads and families good luck in their forthcoming endeavors.

AFROTC DETACHMENT 825—THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

JOINT SERVICE COMMISSIONING

The University of Texas’ Air Force ROTC Detachment 825 had the honor of commissioning six 2nd Lieutenants on Friday, May 18. The graduating cadets were joined by friends and family in the auditorium in the State Capitol.

The graduating cadets: Chelsie Weathington, Brandon Stout, José Machua, José Hinjosa, James Forker, and Andrea Collins, will be beginning their officer careers in various assignments around the Air Force. Lt. General (Ret) Eckmann, a graduate of The University of Texas and the guest speaker at the commissioning, provided the newly-commissioned officers with several life lessons from his years as an LT. He instructed the cadets that when under the mistake, “learn from it and give your boss the solution.” Following the ceremony, family and friends had the opportunity to witness a centuries-old First Salute.” The new 2nd lieutenants headed out to the front steps of the capitol where they were greeted by an enlisted member who had made a significant contribution to their time as a cadet. After the lieutenants returned the salutes of the enlisted participants, the enlisted members were each given a silver dollar. This centuries old tradition was highlighted by the lieutenants having the opportunity to receive first salutes from their parents and siblings. Commission 825 wishes our grads and families good luck in their forthcoming endeavors.

Sixth Commission in the Texas Capitol

Maxwell Again, Third Time’s the Charm

I am fortunate enough to have been selected as 1/15 cadets in the nation to attend the senior combatives instructor course at Maxwell AFB. I attended the basic combatives instructor course last summer at Maxwell, which I consider to have been a very worthwhile piece of field training. You could say going to Maxwell is a tradition for the “Cheech.”

Senior combatives instructors train over 800 FT cadets and basic instructors for one month over the summer. Each Maxwell enclosure commits a minimum of 8 cadet and basic instructors to lead the training exercises. Instructors put in at least 12 hours of work a day on the mat to ensure mission completion. Once the month of training is over, I will be a certified combatives instructor; the certification will carry over into my officer career in the Air Force. Also, the Air Force has a combat fitness instructor qualification, which I plan to pursue in the fall. After I complete my training, I will be in the top 1% of certified female instructors, most likely ranked 3rd in the entire Air Force for combatives.

See you at Maxwell 3/4 FTP! 

-Instructor Karmenic

AFROTC DETACHMENT 825—THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Meeting 1st Lt Davis*

Have you had the opportunity to meet Lt Davis yet? Capt Will Davis was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He has an M.B.A. from Indiana University and is now working on his newly obtained master’s in strategic management. C’Wang and I got a chance to ask him a few questions. Here’s what he had to say:

CHAPMAN: What were you commissioned as?

DAVIS: I was commissioned as a Developmental Engineer.

CHAPMAN: How did you commission?

DAVIS: I graduated through the Academy. We had a 6-week Basic right up from the commissioning, provided the newly-commissioned officers with several life lessons from his years as an LT. He instructed the cadets that when under the mistake, “learn from it and give your boss the solution.” Following the ceremony, family and friends had the opportunity to witness a centuries-old First Salute.” The new 2nd lieutenants headed out to the front steps of the capitol where they were greeted by an enlisted member who had made a significant contribution to their time as a cadet. After the lieutenants returned the salutes of the enlisted participants, the enlisted members were each given a silver dollar. This centuries old tradition was highlighted by the lieutenants having the opportunity to receive first salutes from their parents and siblings. Commission 825 wishes our grads and families good luck in their forthcoming endeavors.

CHAPMAN: Is it weird being the youngest person in the Cadre?

WANG: No, I was the youngest person in my class at the Academy, so I’m kind of used to being the youngest person.

CHAPMAN: Do you know what your next assignment is after this?

DAVIS: I think I’ll be going to San Antonio to work on the Trainer Acquisition Program.

WANG: Are you looking forward to being here at Detachment 825?

DAVIS: The football games… Really just an opportunity to impact younger people, because it’s one of the best things you can do in the Air Force, developing the leaders behind you and this is an excellent opportunity to do that. The caliber of cadets here has also been really impressive.

CHAPMAN: Is there anywhere else you’d like to tell us about yourself?

DAVIS: Hopefully by the time this comes out I’ll have proposed to my girlfriend. That should be on Monday.

CHAPMAN: That’s awesome, how are you going to do it?

DAVIS: It’s a little late, but every time I’ve gone out to get Chinese food, even if she’s not with me, I always get her a fortune cookie. Or I’ll test her what it says. This is going to make me sound real lame, but I got some custom fortune cookies that say, “Will you marry me?” So I’m going to go get some takeout from this place that she wants to go to…I’ll bring it home. Then when she gets home from work, we’ll eat, and then she’s going to open the fortune cookie. Then I’ll say will you marry me, drop down to a knee, and I got a little speech prepared for her.

CHAPMAN: Best wishes in your future? Next year looks bright!

WANG: Good luck on the proposal! 

~John Chapman

SIX COMMISSION IN THE TEXAS CAPITOL

The Longhorn Airman is published four times a year; it is not an official publication of the USAF, AFROTC or The University of Texas at Austin; the opinions expressed are those of the respective authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policies of the USAF, AFROTC or The University of Texas at Austin. The Longhorn Airman was created with Adobe InDesign & Photoshop software.

~Nan Bradford-Reid, Editor

AFROTC DETACHMENT 825—THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Annual Parade

On April 28, Detachment 825 took over the Main Mall to put on an outstanding display of military tradition and discipline. The Annual Parade was led by the Senior Cadet Wing Commander, Cadet Brandon Stout. Family and friends in attendance had the opportunity to witness a centuries-old military tradition in which the Corps passes in review, giving the Commander a chance to inspect his or her troops. The detachment commander, Col Jeffrey Staha, gave a short speech to recognize the professionalism and discipline of the troops, and provide encouraging moving forward.

This annual occurrence is an excellent opportunity for parents and friends to see the leadership and followship skills their cadets have developed over the last year.
**AFROTC DETACHMENT 825—THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN**

**SIX COMMISSION IN THE TEXAS CAPITOL**

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The graduating cadets: Chelsie Weathington, Brandon Stout, José Machacá, José Jiménez, James Foraker, and Andrea Collins, will be beginning their officer careers in various assignments around the Air Force. Lt General (Ret) Eckmann, a graduate of the University of Texas and the guest speaker at the commissioning, provided the newly-commissioned officers with several life lessons from his years as an L-1. He instructed the cadets that when in doubt, “learn from it and give your boss the solution.” Following the ceremony, family and friends had the opportunity to witness a centuries-old military tradition in which the Corps passes in review, giving the Commander a chance to inspect his or her troops.

**Meeting 1st Lt Davis**

Have you had the opportunity to meet Lt Davis yet? Capt Will Davis was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. He has an M.B.A. from Indiana University and is now using his MBA to manage strategic management. C/Wang and I got a chance to ask him a few questions. Here’s what he had to say:

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**DAVIS:** I graduated through the Academy. We had a 6-week Basic right up from Commissioning to Initial Training but not as leadership oriented.

**CHAPMAN:** Speaking of Field Training, what was your favorite part about the cadets going off to Field Training this summer?

**DAVIS:** Well, even though there is a lot of competition between cadets trying to get to go to AF for one of the biggest things to remember is teamwork. The Air Force is a big team, and your flight is that team. It’s important to make sure your not looking to stab anyone in the back and always be working toward those team goals.

**WANG:** Has anyone ever told you, “your flight is the army!”

**DAVIS:** I think it’s one of the best things you can do in the Air Force, developing the leaders behind peoples’ lives and develop leaders. I think it’s an opportunity to impact younger people. But its really you, and the flight you have.

**WANG:** What was your worst moment as a Cadet?

**DAVIS:** I got popped on by a girl. During Basic, we were going for a run and this girl repeatedly asked to use the restroom. I didn’t let her in, and I ended up carrying her for a while. I thought she was just really, really sick… and then we stopped. They put us in front leaving rest for pushups and told her “alright, go to the back of the line too.”

**WANG:** Do you have the chance to meet most of the cadets?

**DAVIS:** I’ve met a decent number of them from teaching the 100s… and then a lot of the POC come by and introduce themselves. At Dining-Out, I met some more as well.

**WANG:** How many years are you assigned to be here at Detachment 825?

**DAVIS:** I was commissioned as a Developmental Engineer. On 28 April, Detachment 825 took over the Main Mall to put on an outstanding display of military tradition and discipline. The Annual Parade was led by the spring Cadet Wing Commander, Cadet Brandon Stout.

**Annual Parade**

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Approximately 30 years to the date, “…America’s Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Air Force was rounded out when Col Staha concluded with recognition of the most outstanding AFROTC cadet of the year.”

The joint service theme was highlighted when Col Staha concluded with recognition of the most outstanding AFROTC cadet of the year.

**THE LONGHORN AIRMAN**

**Maxwell Again, Third Time’s the Charm**

I am fortunate enough to have been selected as 1/15 cadets in the nation to attend the senior combatives instructor course at Maxwell AFB. I attended the basic combatives instructor course last summer at Maxwell, and this year went to field training. You could say going to Maxwell is a tradition for the “Cheech.”

Senior combatives instructors train over 800 FT cadets and basic instructors for one month over the summer. Each Maxwell embarks on an extensive combatives instructors to lead the training exercises. Instructors put in at least 12 hours of work a day on the mat to ensure mission completion. Once the month of training is over, I will be certified as combatives instructor; the certification will carry with my officer career in the Air Force. Also, the Air Force has a combat fitness initiative that calls for individuals to be certified in combatives. During Basic, I met some of the best combatives instructors, and was fortunate enough to train under many of the best combatives instructors in the Air Force.

During Basic, we were going for a run and this girl repeatedly asked to use the restroom. I didn’t let her in, and I ended up carrying her for a while. I thought she was just really, really sick… and then we stopped. They put us in front leaving rest for pushups and told her “alright, go to the back of the line too.”

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**--- Useable song---**

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Spring 2012 Awards Ceremony

The cadet wing gathered to honor their best on 1 May 2012 at the Spring 2012 Awards Ceremony. The Bellmont Hall Auditorium was decorated and prepared to host distinguished guests including AFROTC Southwest Region Commander, Colonel Peter Hunt.

We began with a special presentation of the “Legion of Merit” medal awarded to Colonel Jeffrey Staha for his service in OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM from 2010-2011. Col. Hunt was the presiding officer and commented, “This is a rare occasion, in all my time on active duty I’ve only seen this medal presented once and never have I had the honor of being the presiding officer, many go an entire career without witnessing this decoration being presented.” With this inspiration the cadets were ready to honor their own.

A total of 38 certificates, a dozen ribbons, and over $6800 were awarded. The ceremony featured the 52nd anniversary of the Captain John E. Simpson Award with Colonel (Ret) Mark Simpson, the son of Captain Simpson in attendance to present the award to Cadet Colonel Brandon Stout.

The ceremony ended with the presentation of the coveted Cadre Excellence and Commander’s Wingman awards.

The Cadre Excellence Award is presented to the cadet that strives for excellence in all aspects of cadet and personal life. The winner was C/4c Ruifei Wang. Cadet Wang is an active member of the Honor Guard and Arnold Air Society. He is enrolled as a dual major in Biology and Aerospace Engineering and has earned a CGPA of 4.0.

The Commander’s Wingman Award is presented to the cadet that is always where they need to be to provide mutual support for fellow Longhorn Airmen in pursuit of mission success. Cadet Captain Michael E. Thomas received the distinction for his efforts as the Honor Guard Commander, Deputy Class Leader for AS400 and lead vocalist in the 825 Quintet. He led the 825 Quintet on multiple singing engagements to include the National Anthem at the opening game of the UT baseball season.

Congratulations to the entire Detachment 825 Cadet Wing for inspiring one another and choosing to be “Be a Leader…All The Time”.

A special thank you to the following organizations and representatives: Col Mark Simpson, USAF (Ret), Son of Captain John E. Simpson, Class of 1953; Mr. Mike Cooper, father of Major Christopher M. Cooper, Class of 1997; Col Charles Loffin, USAF (Ret); Maj E.J. Kennedy, Commander, VFW District 28; Mr. Ralph Chalfant, AFA Vice President Austin Chapter; Maj Ernie Banasau, USA (Ret), Military Order of the Purple Heart; Col James W. Boyce, USAF (Ret), Military Officers Association of America; Col Trochta, USAF (Ret), Veterans of Foreign Wars; Mr. Andrew McDanal, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association; Col Conrad Derdeyn, USA (Ret), Military Order of the World Wars; Lt Col Keye Perry, USAF (Ret), National 1st Vice President, National Sojourners; and Mr. Jim Nelson, Sons of the American Revolution.

Longhorn Paintball

This past semester, Longhorn Airmen and cadet alike played hard in the biannual paintball games. It was a great opportunity to push off the academic stress of the semester, relax with friends, and learn valuable group leadership lessons. To win each game, it was essential that each flight worked together to complete the objective or take out the other team. Of course, it was often difficult due to jammed guns or seemingly ubiquitous hostile villagers with dual-wielded paintball guns shooting everyone in sight – alive or dead. However of course, the point of paintball for us was to simulate real-time combat so such unpredictable factors should be expected and dealt with accordingly. It was interesting to have Colonel Staha and Lt Davis take part in the colorful fight because they presented themselves as primary targets – as most cadets wanted the credit for hitting them. Overall, the last paintball games were a great time for paintball beginners and experts, cadets new and old, to get together and bond over the sound of whizzing balls of paint.

Longhorn Airman 4