



# UTPA / UTB BRONC BATTALION



UTPA Bronc Battalion

Last UTPA/UTB Vol. 2015

## Professor of Military Science Sends!



Greetings Army ROTC members, University Leaders and Faculty, families and friends. It's been awhile since our last letter but we continue to be extremely busy and engaged at both campuses. Since our last letter we have commissioned 15 officers in the Army Reserves, National Guard and Active Duty. We are proud to say that we have made our mission this year 2015; for the first time in five years. The program has also grow in enrollment; we are steady at above 100 cadets for both campuses combined.

Last fall 2014 we were honored to host the Cadet Command Commanding General, Major General Peggy Combs. She was impressed with the quality of cadet and student in our area. This is the first time in over 20 years that a Commanding General visits the program.

The program conducted a STEM and leadership seminar for 240 students seeking degrees related to STEM. The event was hosted by the Army ROTC in conjunction with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and the university. We conducted our second annual Bronc Challenge bringing 27 High School JROTC programs with over 450 students to participate in a day full of friendly competition.

It was a great year as we close it out with Cadet Summer Training at Fort Knox, KY, and in other stateside locations and abroad. We sent 32 cadets to some type of training last summer. This is another great accomplishments for the program having so many cadets take part in the summer training. I am amazed with the success and dedication of all my staff and cadets. We continue to do great things with limited resources; everything that we do is for the young men and women that will become the future leaders of our Army and communities all over our great Nation.

As we complete the transition to University of Texas Rio Grande Valley we can reflect back and say that the Bronc Battalion did an outstanding job providing officers to the Army. We will continue to do the same and more as the Vaqueros Battalion keeps supporting UTRGV. We will strive to be seen as the pre-eminent leadership program in the Rio Grande Valley staffed by master's level leader development professionals and above all meet the requirements and expectations of the Army, the community, families and our Nation. We need more leaders that have a commitment to the Army Values and Warrior Ethos; leaders that can conceptualize what military service and the Army Profession means and ultimately commission and become the future Warrior Leaders.

In the following pages we share pictures of the different events that the ROTC did this past academic year. I am extremely proud of the Vaqueros Battalion!



# SPRING DINING-OUT



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The Bronc Battalion conducted the annual Dining-Out on 27 March 2015. This year was a bit different as we conducted a consolidated event with UTPA and UTB. We had over 180 people in attendance including university leaders, community leaders, supporters and cadets. The Bronc Battalion had the honor of hosting Brigadier General Richard B. Dix, as our guest speaker. His profound message was extremely well received by the cadets and the audience. In addition to the formal events we had a live band as part of the entertainment.



**The Bronc Battalion MSL 4 Cadets with Brigadier General Richard B. Dix.**



# 2015 SPRING JOINT-LTX (J-LTX)



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MSL 3 cadets receiving the OPORD before initiating in platoon operations. Cadets had the opportunity to practice leadership positions during this event and exercise their acquired knowledge before the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC) in the summer.



On 24-26 April 2015, the Bronc Battalion participated in a Joint Field Training Exercise that included not only our program, but Texas A&M Corpus Christi, Texas A&M Kingsville, and Texas A&M Laredo in a three day event of Platoon Operations along with Land Navigation.





# COLOR-GUARD TEAM



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By displaying exceptional skill, endurance, ability, strength, and balance, the color-guard team carried themselves with great professionalism at all events. They assisted in many events throughout the semester while representing the UTPA Army ROTC program. Such events included, commissioning ceremonies, 9/11 run, retirement ceremonies, Veterans' Day, the Edinburg 10K, etc...





# CWST / SWIM TEST



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During this semester, Bronc Battalion cadets participated in the Army Combat Water Survival Training (CWST) and swim test. These events allowed the cadets to train in order to obtain the necessary skills to survive in the water. The CWST and swim test not only trains and develops swimming skills but it also builds courage in those cadets who are not strong swimmers. The CWST and swim test consists of five events which are: the 25 meter swim with a rubber M16 and Loaded Bearing Equipment (LBE), unexpected water entry, a blindfolded three meter drop off the diving board, 10 minute swim, and lastly a five minute treading of water.



Cadets get ready to challenge their limits as they drop from the three meter diving board.



Cadet Vasquez, Michael swimming 15-meters with an M16 and LBE.



# EDINBURG ANNUAL 10K



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## Fastest Broncs Around!

On February 7, 2015 the Bronc Battalion, alongside high school JROTC Battalions from across the Valley and hundreds of community members, participated in the annual All-America City 10K Run/Walk. The Bronc Battalion led the way motivating participants and JROTC cadets as they dug deep to run the 6.2 mile course. The Bronc Battalion came in first under the ROTC/JROTC category and stood by the finish line to congratulate the JROTC Battalions as they passed by proud of their determination and camaraderie. The Bronc Battalion walks away, trophy in hand, ready for next year to represent the UTPA ROTC Bronc Battalion as the fittest and finest group of leaders.

## Bronc Corps Lead The Way!!



Runners and cannon team pose after completing the Edinburg Annual 10K Run/Walk.

The University of Texas at Pan American (UTPA) ROTC Color guard presenting the colors to begin the Edinburg Annual 10K run/walk.





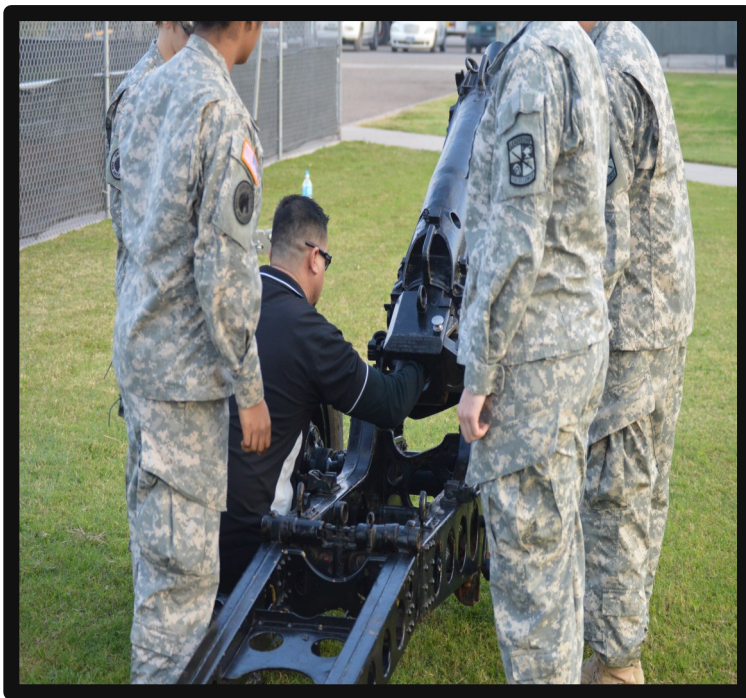
# CANNON TEAM



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The 75 mm Howitzer, nicknamed Caroline by team members, was built in the time of World War II and is currently being used by the UTPA Bronco Battalion in ceremonial firings. In the past, the cannon team has done presentations for Veterans' Day, the Edinburg 10K, basketball games, and in remembrance of 9/11.



← Master Sergeant (MSG) Escamilla assisting the cannon team by ensuring the cannon is obstruction-free and ready for use before the Edinburg 10K Run/Walk.

→ Cadets Reyes, Jonathan; Munoz, Kasandra; Par-ab, Apoorva; and Alaniz, Bethany firing Caroline to start the 9/11 run.





# MSG JOHNNY ESCAMILLA'S RETIREMENT CEREMONY



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On 30 January 2015, we held a retirement ceremony in honor of master sergeant Johnny Escamilla and his family. We honor his selfless service to the Army and the nation. He was an excellent example and mentor to our cadets. His contributions and experience led the ROTC program to success in several areas. Although he is no longer a cadre member, he will always be a part of the Bronc Battalion; he will be missed.

Lieutenant Colonel Walter Llamas and  
Master Sergeant Johnny Escamilla



The UTPA ROTC Color-guard  
Team posting the colors.





# 2015 ROTC STAFF RIDE SAN ANTONIO TEXAS



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The purpose of a staff ride was to immerse a staff in a past experience, to build and set the scene of a battle and ultimately learn what happened or could have happened. The 2015 staff ride took place at the grounds of The Battle of the Alamo of 1836, the cadets learned from a historical guide how the battle unfolded. Each cadet was tasked with taking the on the role of predetermined characters that were in the battle. After the battle analysis, cadets were taken to a dinner where stories were told and relationships grew.





# FIRST TIGER FURY KAJUKENBO



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Tiger Fury Kajukenbo, a Black Belt school, instructors came to PT and taught the cadets basic self-defense moves. This was the first time the Bronc Battalion ROTC program has done this and it turned out great! Cadets had a great time and also were able to learn valuable self-defense moves and had the opportunity to get hands-on training by sparring with one another while an instructor supervised.





# COMMISSION CEREMONY



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We conducted two commissioning ceremonies this academic year. We are proud of the Bronc Battalion newest Second Lieutenants that are about to start their military journey in the Active Duty, Army Reserve and National Guard. Congratulations again to 2LT Jose Aguilar, 2LT Jennifer Cecilio, 2LT Agustin Munoz, 2LT Juan Rodriguez, 2LT Francisco Cardenas and 2LT Jesus Silva. Serve with honor and make us proud always!

Cadets anxious before the ceremony and awaiting the arrival of the distinguished guest.



LTC Walter Llamas administers the Oath of Office to the new officers.



Newly commissioned officers being congratulated by LTC Walter Llamas (PMS)





# BRONC CHALLENGE



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The Bronc Challenge was designed to foster the relationship between the SROTC and JROTC in South Texas. The Bronc Battalion with the assistance of the Ed Rachal foundation was able to bring 27 High Schools, 44 teams and over 450 students and instructors together for this amazing event. The competition consisted of 11 events (10 predetermined and the PMS Challenge). The students conducted a modified physical fitness test, negotiated a series of obstacles as a team, rock wall, rope bridge and tug-of-war. All events had set point values that ultimately gave an overall 2015 Bronc Challenge winner.





# SUPPORTING SHARP



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In support of the Army Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention (SHARP) Program UTPA ROTC partnered with the Coalition Against Violence and Exploitation (CAVE) and Mujeres Unidas on 18 April 2015 for the 6th Annual Walk in Her Shoes Run / Walk. Over 500 university students and community supporters showed up to participate on this event. The UTPA ROTC male cadets put on high heels along with over 50 other men in order to do the traditional 1K "Walk in Her Shoes" walk. This annual run/walk raises sexual assault awareness and helps educate the community on procedures as well as available resources for personnel who have been victims of sexual assault.





# MESQUITE FIRE 50K RUN/ WALK



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Challenges determine not only greatness, but bring out leadership and resiliency in all who attempt them. We took a handful of cadets to the Bronc Battalion's first 50K run in the Hike & Bike Trails located in Mission, Texas. The event was very demanding and tested our cadets physical and mental fitness. Some cadets completed the course with no problem with several cadets a lap away from finishing. This stands as a recognition to the Bronc Battalion cadets who constantly work to improve themselves and achieve new heights.



Cadets Palomares, Aaron; De la Rosa, Crystal; and Ruiz, Edgardo and their last lap.



# AIRBORNE SCHOOL

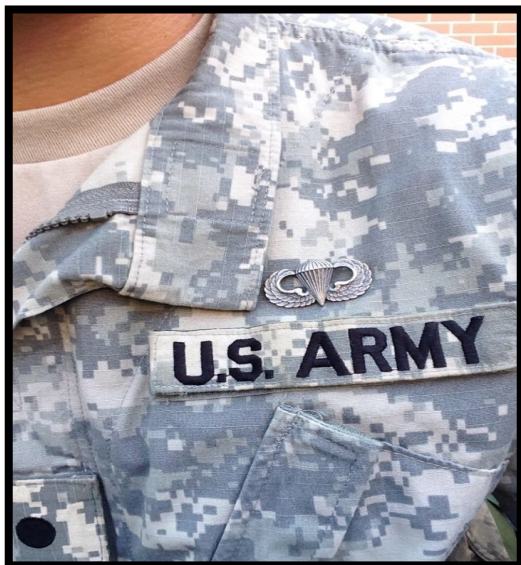


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Cadet Jose Trevino proudly represented the Bronc Battalion by successfully completing the three-week Airborne training at Fort Benning Georgia. The course is divided into three phases, Ground, Tower, and Jump. These phases are meant to prepare cadets and soldiers for unassisted jumps in their future military careers. His dedication and drive earned himself the coveted Airborne wings and the title as a Paratrooper.

Cadet Trevino poses for a photo before conducting his first jump from the C-130(Hercules).



Cadet Trevino proudly wears his Airborne Badge after graduation.



# AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL



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This semester, Cadet Joel Galvan attended the Air Assault School at Fort Benning Georgia. His experience included many hours of hard work and study while getting little to no sleep daily. Through the two-week training, he was constantly put to the test by challenging his readiness and ability to remain active throughout the duration. From supply checks to a 12-mile ruck march, he completed the course and earned the coveted Air Assault Badge.



Participants practicing before their graduation day.

Participants performing rappelling from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.







# WEST POINT



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Cadet Field Training (CFT) is the summer training primarily for upcoming West Point sophomores to train as team leaders. Acting as squad leaders, platoon sergeants, platoon leaders, etc. are the upcoming juniors and seniors. A majority were West Point cadets along with some ROTC, Naval Academy, Chilean, and Brazilian cadets. Among those cadets was our own Cadet Luis Moreira who earned a slot to train with cadets from around the globe. During the training the cadets were given multiple classes from branches such as Aviation, Armor, Engineers, Medical Services, and a few others in preparation for a regiment wide field exercise called SULD (Small Unit Leadership Development). It was through this exercise that Cadet Moreira was challenged to use everything he was taught from being transported via helicopter, to conducting patrols, setting up patrol bases, calling in fire support, setting up casualty collection points, and virtually everything used during patrols.





# COMBAT DIVER QUALIFICATION COURSE(CDQC)



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Cadet Edgardo Ruiz attended the prestigious course by earning a slot, and trained with some of the most qualified personnel in the military. From Rangers to Special Forces, the best of the best were chosen to participate in this vigorous curriculum. Students are trained in specialized physical conditioning and waterborne operations to include day and night ocean subsurface navigation swims, day and night team infiltration dives, deep dives, search dives, diving physics, physiology and injuries, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, marine hazards, tides and currents, US Navy dive tables, submarine lock-in/lock-out familiarization, closed-circuit and open-circuit dives, surface swims, small boat operations, and a course culmination Situational Training Exercise (STX). Although Cadet Ruiz was unable to advanced through the preliminary course, he is working to challenge the course again and earn his Combat Diver Badge.





# CADET TROOP LEADER TRAINING (CTLT)



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Cadet Palomares, Aaron and company posing for a photo.

Cadet Aaron Palomares, Cadet Raymond McKnight and Cadet Enrique Becerra were selected among many cadets to participate in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). The

purpose of this program is to expose cadets to other cultures while executing missions under a Senior Officer or Senior Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO). Through their interaction, the cadets worked side by side with future leaders from around the globe. Cadet Palomares attended his training at Yongsan, Korea for 30 days, Cadet McKnight trained in Schofield barracks, Hawaii, and Cadet Becerra trained in Fort Polk, Louisiana.



# DRILL CADET LEADERSHIP TRAINING (DCLT)



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Drill Cadet Leadership Training (DCLT) is a 4-week program that provides cadets an opportunity to apply leadership skills, interact with highly skilled and experienced



Cadets leading the 10-mile ruck march.

Noncommissioned Officers (NCOs) and drill sergeants, and

improve common task skill proficiency in an Army training environment. Locations for DCLT include Fort Benning, Georgia; Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri; Fort Jackson, South Carolina; Fort Sill, Oklahoma; and Fort Knox, Kentucky. Cadet Martinez, Jose was selected for training and displayed peak physical condition to avoid injury and made a positive impression on new soldiers.



# CADET INITIAL ENTRY TRAINING (CIET)



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This summer we sent 16 cadets to Cadet Initial Entry Training (CIET). An intense four-week introduction to Army life and leadership training of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, the aim of the course is to motivate and qualify Cadets for entry into the Senior ROTC program. This program targets Sophomores and Freshmen in college to prepare them for the Senior ROTC program at their respective universities. The Cadets trained under a Drill Sergeant, to the basics of Army discipline and achieve physical fitness.



Cadet Trevino, Jose catching his breath after the gas chamber.

## Graduates:

- Cadet Garcia, Alejandra
- Cadet Echevarria, Alejandro
- Cadet Sepulveda, Aaron
- Cadet Gonzalez, Oscar
- Cadet Parab, Apoorva
- Cadet Hernandez, Xavier
- Cadet Vasquez, Michael
- Cadet Deleon, Jose
- Cadet Maldonado, Kevin
- Cadet Lopez, Armando
- Cadet Ruiz, Edgardo
- Cadet Bernal Roberto
- Cadet Salinas, Steven
- Cadet Vidaurri, Roxanna
- Cadet Trevino, Jose
- Cadet De La Rosa, Crystal



Cadet Maldonado, Kevin graduating from CIET.



# CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE (CLC)



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This year we sent 12 Military Science Level (MSL) 3s to attend the Cadet Leadership Course (CLC) held annually at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This course is designed to train U.S. Army ROTC Cadets to Army standards, to develop their



Cadet Reyes ,Johnathan poses for a photo before going through the gas chamber.

leadership skills, and to evaluate their officer potential. Most Army Cadets attend CLC between their junior and senior undergraduate years after having contracted to join the Army. Successful completion of CLC is a prerequisite to becoming an Army officer through ROTC. The Course is 29 days long with the cadets in constant training environments.

## Graduates:

- |                          |                        |                          |                      |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|
| -Cadet Palomares, Aaron  | -Cadet Alaniz, Bethany | -Cadet Becerra, Enrique  | -Cadet Chapa, Miguel |
| -Cadet McKnight, Raymond | -Cadet Garza, Lupita   | -Cadet Izaguirre, Daniel | -Cadet Rangel, Greg  |
| -Cadet Aranda, Ilse      | -Cadet Martinez, Jose  | -Cadet Reyes, Johnathan  |                      |



# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Thus we end the semester as the Bronc Battalion!

The academic year just ended but the fun continues as we prepare for the transition to UTRGV and get ready for the next academic year to do great things in support of our great ROTC program. **Bronc Corps will always, Lead The Way!**

### Upcoming events for the next academic year

- **August Commissioning Ceremony**
- **UTRGV Round-up**
- **Annual Family Night**
- **Fall LTX**
- **Thanksgiving Lunch**

## Thanks to our Partners

We would like to extend our gratitude and thanks to our partnerships and donors for your continued support.