Dear MTSU ROTC Alumni, Family, and Friends,

I hope everyone’s New Year is off to a great start. Thank you to all those who attended the alumni meeting on December 27, 2010 as it was great to see each of you once again and a special thanks to LTC(R) Doug Chaffin (’78) and his wife, LTC(R) Sherry Chaffin (’78), for hosting everyone at their house afterwards for a get together. During the meeting, the members present elected a new President, MAJ Jennifer Phelps (’00), and Vice President, Mr. Tom Hoover (’80). On behalf of all the alumni, we would like to thank the outgoing MTSU ROTC Alumni President, MAJ(R) Chuck Giles (’76), for his support to this program, the alumni, and the cadets over the past eight years.

As the spring semester begins, the cadets have a lot to look forward to with many opportunities for the alumni to get involved. On April 14, 2011, the ROTC cadets will host their 2nd Annual Golf Tournament at the Legends Golf Course in Franklin, Tennessee. Last year they raised over $3,000, and this year, they hope to raise over $20,000. This money will allow the cadets to fully pay for their military ball, participate in competitions such as Ranger Challenge, Best Ranger and Sandhurst Competitions, and have the opportunity to attend events such as the Army Ten Miler to name a few. Working alongside the alumni, funds will also eventually provide a free or reduced cost housing solution, specifically for contracted cadets. Their hope is to make this annual fundraiser their only fundraiser so cadets can focus on their studies and more importantly on preparing to be a future leader within the U.S. Army. As alumns, we all remember the number of fundraisers we had to complete to support our activities. Let’s support the cadets, our future leaders, in their endeavor to accomplish their goal of $20,000. Register today at http://www.golfdigestplanner.com/17274-MTSUBlueRaiderBattalionGolfFundraiser/index.html

The cadets are eager for the alumni to get involved in other ways too. If you have the opportunity to stop by the ROTC department to share about your branch or experiences within the military, they are enthusiastic about hearing from you, whether you are a junior or senior leader. The MTSU ROTC program was established in the 1950’s and since then, we have commissioned over 1,300 officers, many serving within the highest ranks of our military; however, only a small few are active within the alumni organization. I want to challenge each of you to find a way to get involved – join the alumni organization, get in touch with old friends, make a donation to the MTSU ROTC Alumni Association, participate in the cadet’s annual golf tournament, or volunteer to serve in a position within the alumni organization. This is our organization and each of you have much to offer whether it is to the cadets or just to rekindle the camaraderie from your college days in ROTC.

We have some very exciting initiatives and events on the horizon. In lieu of the MTSU ROTC Alumni giving annual scholarships to deserving cadets, COL Chuck Tilton (’87) is leading a committee to determine the opportunities available for the alumni to be able to fund housing for the cadets while they attend college. In the past, the alumni have awarded three $1000 scholarships a year to deserving cadets; however, with the majority of cadets already receiving scholarships, there is a greater need for cadets to receive funding for housing. So we are going to look at the opportunities for being able to assist cadets with that.
We are also going to host our Annual Alumni meeting in conjunction with MTSU’s 30th Anniversary Veteran’s Day Salute in November 2011. More details to follow, but we want this meeting to be an ROTC reunion for all year groups as we catch up, tell war stories, reminisce about our days as a Forrest Raider, watch football, and eat some great food. We will also induct BG(R) David Ogg into the Hall of Fame. This will prove to be a very fun and exciting day that you will not want to miss.

Ways to stay involved:
- Follow the “Blue Raider Battalion” on Facebook
- Visit the ROTC Alumni website - www.mtsu.edu/aroct1/alumni_MilitarySci.shtml
- Visit the cadet’s new MTSU ROTC homepage – www.blueraiderbattalion.com
- Join the MTSU ROTC Alumni organization for as low as $20 a year. Contact Nancy Garner.
- Help keep our records up to date: Email Nancy Garner at ngarner@mtsu.edu with your contact information (name, rank, email, address, phone number, and year group)

Thanks for all your support and for your service to this great nation. Tom and I look forward to working with each of you over the next year, and if you have any suggestions, please contact either one of us at jennifer.phelps@us.army.mil or tomfrankhoover@comcast.net.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Phelps
President, Military Science Alumni Association