

## Alumni Newsletter May 2023

### Military Science Alumni Chapter, Middle Tennessee State University

Greetings Blue Raider Military Science Alumni,

The Blue Raider Battalion continues to excel as your alumni chapter supports ROTC Cadets on their journey to commissioning as Army Officers. The MTSU Advancement Office assists us in reaching chapter members so keeping your contact information current allows us to reach our 1,500+ MSAC members. Please share this newsletter with other MSAC members so we can maintain contact.

During April 20, 2023 Spring Awards Ceremony, **MSAC provided 2 awards and 3 scholarships.**

- MSAC President presented MSAC Award for peer leadership to Cadet Christopher K. Boykin
- MSAC President presented ROTC Alumni Foundation Scholarships:
  - Cadet Jonathan M. Cordine
  - Cadet Sebastien R. Kernisant
  - Cadet Gabriel F. Sussman
- Alumni General Officer Saber presented to Cadet Jonathan Cordine, incoming Cadet Battalion Commander, by BG (R) David Ogg



New this Spring, MSAC members conducted Leadership Staff Rides for ROTC and JROTC Cadets along with Cadre at the Stones River Battlefield. Having the National Battlefield in Murfreesboro offers a great resource for leadership discussions.

During May 5, 2023, MTSU ROTC **Commissioned 11 new officers** into the Regular Army, Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. Branches included Armor, Aviation, Chemical, Engineer, Medical Services, Military Police, Nursing, and Transportation. Family, friends, alumni, and MTSU Administrators created a standing room only crowd in the theater. Watching Cadets take their oath of office as 2LT makes many of us envious of their journeys ahead.

**Big thanks to MSAC member Ron Bailey** (commissioned 1986 and retired from the Army in 2013). Ron provided each newly commissioned 2LT with a \$100 AAFES gift card for purchasing uniforms. He noted “ROTC made a very positive impact on my life and also a career.” Remarkable support for our newest Army officers.

**More thanks to MSAC member, LTG (R) Bill Phillips**, for joining Senior Executive (R) Rickey Smith, for a flag officer leadership round table with MSIV Cadets. Plenty of questions about leading Soldiers and Army Civilians....and a few “war stories” shared with Cadets for context.

MTSU Baseball chose your MSAC President to toss the ceremonial first pitch for the final Salute to Veterans Saturday game. Very proud to represent over 1,500 Army officers commissioned at MTSU during the past 72 years. MTSU Head Coach, Jerry Meyers, received **our MSAC coin** before the game and said the coin would become a good luck charm if MTSU won. Our Blue Raiders won both games of the double header that day, so **Coach Meyers now has a new good luck charm.**



This summer MTSU will send 10 Cadets to Summer Camp at Fort Knox KY. Cadre members also pull duty at Fort Knox for Summer Camp so the ROTC building is almost empty for the summer (Nancy will hold down the fort as usual). While Summer Camp has evolved significantly to better suit the current force, Cadet performance remains a key factor in individual evaluation for branch and component assignments.

The **MSAC Annual Meeting will be on November 11, 2023**, at the MTSU Army ROTC Building, to coincide with MTSU's 41st Annual Salute to Veterans Game (MTSU vs Florida International University). We have not set the time for our annual meeting as we await the Veterans Salute Football Game television broadcast scheduling. Please save the date and join us if you can. You will have the ability for virtual attendance via Zoom again this year.

**Unfortunately, we did not receive nominations in 2022 for the MSAC Hall of Fame or the Virginia S. Austin Service Award.** Please consider nominating worthy candidates this year using the forms at the web link below or send us an email at [mtsu.msac@gmail.com](mailto:mtsu.msac@gmail.com) so we can assist.

**MSAC Membership Dues:** Remember to send in our membership dues to Nancy Garner at [nancy.garner@mtsu.edu](mailto:nancy.garner@mtsu.edu) to submit. The current dues system is: Lifetime Membership (scaled by age) 40-under: \$350; 41-50: \$300; 51-60: \$250; 61-70: \$150; 71-80: \$125; 80-above: \$100; OR Yearly Membership: Gold Hooah: \$80; Silver Trooper: \$40; Bronze Raider: \$20.

**MSAC Funds Update:** The 3 funds where you can contribute to support our Cadets and Military Science Department are below. To contribute see the **Online links** below. **Remember, donations are 100% tax deductible.**

-- **MSAC Alumni Capstone Fund: Current Amount: \$15,138.** This general-purpose fund supports Military Science Department priorities. This fund is under the direction and control of the Dean of the College of Basic and Applied Sciences with recommendations from the Military Science Department Chair and the MSAC President. MSAC members have direct recommendation input through the MSAC President into the use of these donations. Please consider shifting your donations from the already substantial ROTC Alumni Scholarship account to the Capstone account.

-- **ROTC Alumni Scholarship: Current Principal: \$142,079.** This account is controlled by MTSU and influenced by the PMS. This funding amount is amazing, and more than enough to support the ROTC Department's desire to provide scholarships to deserving Cadets. Since 1999, MSAC has provided 47 Cadets with scholarships totaling \$80,740.

-- **Alumni General Officer Award: Current Total: \$1,368.** These funds, controlled by MTSU and influenced by the PMS, are donated by the 12 living Alumni General Officers (total ROTC Alumni General Officers is 17). The funds are specifically directed for the purchase of an Officer/Military Dress Saber presented each year to the new MTSU Cadet Battalion Commander.

**ONLINE GIFTS:** Click the below link to make a gift online. Donations to Military Science Alumni Capstone Fund #91386 offer the greatest flexibility and benefit to the Military Science Department. <https://securelb.imodules.com/s/1092/development/index.aspx?sid=1092&gid=1&pgid=978&cid=2264>  
or

--Mail your donations/gift check, payable to the *MTSU Foundation* to: MTSU Foundation, Wood-Stegall Center, P.O. Box 109, Murfreesboro, TN 37132

### **MTSU ROTC Alumni Link & Information:**

- **MSAC Hall of Fame Nomination or Virginia S. Austin Service Award:** When you nominate a deserving individuals, please use the Nomination form at the [ROTC Alumni Link](#): <http://www.mtsu.edu/arotc1/alumni/index.php>
- Our updated MSAC email address: **mtsu.msac@gmail.com** is open for information sharing.
- **Keep your Email Up-to-Date:** Any changes or updates let Nancy Garner know at [nancy.garner@mtsu.edu](mailto:nancy.garner@mtsu.edu). If you are on active duty, email Nancy and give her your branch, duty status and duty location.
- **Blue Raider Battalion's Facebook** page at: <https://www.facebook.com/blue.battalion>.
- **Blue Raider Instagram** at [mtsureotc](#).
- **MTSU ROTC Twitter:** @MTSUROTC is used by the MSAC for meeting updates and newsletter notifications.
- **KIAs:** If you know of an MTSU Army ROTC alumnus that was killed-in-action, please submit their names by e-mail to Nancy Garner at [nancy.garner@mtsu.edu](mailto:nancy.garner@mtsu.edu).

**Let's all remain True Blue!**

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