

The History of Company F-2
“The Fighting Fox Company”
Texas A&M Corps of Cadets
What's it to ya Snake?

Est. 1959



Company History

Early Years

Company F-2 was founded in 1959, as a result of the large-scale reorganization of the Corps of Cadets that was taking place at the time. The immediate predecessor units of F-2 were C-Field Artillery and A-Anti Aircraft Artillery. It was formed by the merger of these two outfits, the latter of which produced the Corps Commander, Jon Hagler '58 the previous year. It was established as part of the 4th Battle Group, 2nd Brigade as a “business outfit”, with many members majoring in the economic fields. In later years, it became one of the first outfits in the Corps designed for university athletes.

The first Commanding Officer was Jon Marshall Pierce '60 from Pilot Point, a city located half an hour north of Denton. He spent the previous year in C-Field Artillery as the company First Sergeant. Pierce served as President of the A&M Denton-Wise Club, serving to stimulate interest in A&M among students of Denton County. Pierce also was a Platoon Leader in the Ross Volunteer Company. The first Executive Officer, Stanley B. Humphries was also from C-Field Artillery, and was recognized as the outfit's best drilled sophomore in 1958. He was also an editor of *The Aggieland*. Their first First Sergeant William F. McFarland, was from A-Anti Aircraft Artillery (A-AAA), a freshmen representative to the Student Senate.

The first unit logos of the Corps, which later evolved into the common unit names used today, began to appear among the Air Force units in the 1955–56 *Aggieland* yearbook, with a few Army units following suit in the 1957-58 *Aggieland*. During the 1959–60 academic year,

with the complete reorganization of the two Army Brigades and the abandonment of the Army Branch designations within these units, they began to adopt unit nicknames, mascots, and outfit logos. F-2 was no exception, with our outfit mascot originally being a fox simply dressed in gladiator garb.

The Two Decades

1965-66 marked the first school year for a permanently non-compulsory, totally voluntary Corps of Cadets. In line with this massive change, the corps had been reorganized the year before, since it was anticipated that the strength of the Corps would decline as a result, and therefore fewer outfits would be needed. On its 10th anniversary in 1969, the outfit mascot was changed to a fox “ready to fight and prepared to meet any challenges he might face.” Major General Marvin T. Hopgood ‘65, a future Commandant of the Corps in the early 2000s, was recognized in the 1965 *Aggieland* as a senior from F-2 on 4th Battalion staff as its scholastics officer. It was during this time that the unique tradition of being the only outfit that does not require their fish to hump-it on the Quad was developed. This originated when F-2’s rival outfit, Company C-1 “Cobra Company”, continually hazed F-2 fish. As a result, F-2 rebelled and required their fish to point and say, "F-2, what's it to you snake?"

The late 60s and early 70s saw the development of Rudder’s Rangers. Founded in 1968 as the Texas A&M Ranger Company by Company F-2, the unit was originally for sophomores “to act as an opposing field force against [the outfit’s] juniors and seniors,” according to the Corps of Cadets Center. The unit was renamed in 1971 as “Rudder’s Rangers”, named for the late A&M President Gen. James Earl Rudder, class of 1932. By 1972, F-2 had come under the

control of 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, which consisted of F-2, E-2 and G-2. It later switched to 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade before finally becoming part of 4th Battalion, 2nd Brigade, in 1974. Just four years later, it won the General Moore Award for the first time.

1980s and 90s

In 1983, the unit produced the Deputy Corps Commander for that year, Ronnie Taylor. That same year, F-2 placed 2nd in the General Moore Award and was first for the Hochmuth Award. In 1984, the Company Commanding Officer, Kelly Starr, was named as the recipient of the Fritz Award for Outstanding Unit Commander, presented to the most outstanding company commander within the corps. The company won the freshmen Penberthy intramural flags from 1989-1992. In the 1991 Aggieland, it was stated that F-2 had served as Bonfire guards since 1983.

In 1994, F-2's very own Scott Torn was elected as Head Yell Leader. In 1996, the outfit was moved to the newly created 1st Brigade. Two years later, Tim Duffy served as a Yell Leader during the Bonfire stack collapse.

21st Century

In Spring 2008, F-2's own Jordan Reid '09 was selected to become the Corps Commander for the 2008-09 school year. Under his leadership, the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets provided swift and significant humanitarian aid in the wake of Hurricane Ike. Their efforts earned them the Distinguished Humanitarian Service Award in December 2008, followed by further recognition in February 2009 for their sustained commitment to relief efforts. The cadets' actions truly embodied the Aggie spirit of selfless service during a time of crisis. F-2 was

repositioned into 1st Brigade in 2011 as part of a new initiative to remove minor units (battalion-sized elements) from the corps.

In 2015, the decision was made to integrate Company F-2, with the first female Commander, Abigail Adams, serving from 2016-2017. From 2017-2018, F-2's Commanding Officer, Joshua Ratta, served as Chair of the MSC Wiley Lecture Series, hosting world-renowned leaders and experts at Texas A&M University to provide thought-provoking discussion on national and foreign policy issues.

In 2020, in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic, during which Texas A&M transitioned to all online classes from March-May and all corps operations were suspended, the outfit, under the leadership of Blake Watson '20, secured first place for the General George F. Moore Outstanding Unit Award, the George P.F. Jouine Award for Scholastic Achievement, and the Taylor A. Gillespie Most Improved Outfit Award. Additionally, they achieved third place for the Bruno A. Hochmuth Award for Military Achievement, showcasing their commitment to excellence across various domains. In Spring 2021, F-2's own Connor Fortier '22 was selected to become the Corps Commander for the 2021-22 school year. That same semester, Alexandra "Lexi" Thern was selected to become F-2's first female guidon bearer.

In January 2023, Brigadier General Patrick Michaelis, Commandant of Cadets, reorganized the Corps in 2023-24, returning to the system of 3-4 minor units under one ROTC affiliated major unit. As a result, F-2 was positioned in the newly reestablished 1st Battalion for the 2023-2024 school year, where it remains to date.

Company F-2 Leadership History

Leadership History			
School Year	Commanding Officers	Executive Officers	First Sergeants
1959-1960	Jon Pierce	Stanley B. Humphries	William F. McFarland
1960-1961	Billy McCutchen	Oscar Saenz	Thomas L. Sims
1961-1962	Thomas L. Sims	Charles Wehring	John F. Platt
			Gerald Jamail
1962-1963	Gerald Jamail	William F. Humphries	Charles Gregory
1963-1964	Charles Gregory	John W. Taylor Jr.	John Franks
1964-1965	John Franks	Paul Zeis	William Seerden
1965-1966	William Seerden	M. P. Tomberlain	M. P. Tomberlain
1966-1967	Jim Mitchell	Robert McConnell	Robert Gibbons
1967-1968	Robert Gibbons	John W. Laughlin	Donnell Safford
1968-1969	Donnell Safford	Walter E. Black (Fall)	Gary Wortham
		Roy C. Mathis (Spring)	
1969-1970	Gary Wortham	Roland S. Torn	Richard Miller
1970-1971	Richard Miller	Ernst Wueste	Robert Hanson
1971-1972	Robert Hanson	Homer C. Strauss	Joseph Carstens

1972-1973	Joseph Carstens	Kay K. Cox Jr.	
1973-1974	Barry Bowden	William S. Steele	
1974-1975	Kenneth Rhoades	Don R. Whitney	
1975-1976	David Elbel	Anthony L. Wolfskill	Walter Wilson
1976-1977	Steve Goddard	Romeo Salinas	Joseph Kent Marshall III
1977-1978	Joseph Kent Marshall III	Richard L. Chastain	Jerry Holditch
1978-1979	Jerry Holditch	Anthony L. Nixon	Mark A. Previty
1979-1980	Douglas Duffie	Ronald Blase	Billy Jordan
1980-1981	Billy Jordan	Mark Swanner	John Edward Nisbet Jr.
1981-1982	John Edward Nisbet Jr.	David Scot Redding	Charlie Childs
1982-1983	Charlie Childs	John Bauer	Kelly Starr
1983-1984	Kelly Starr	Chris Uptimore	David Stephens
1984-1985	David Stephens	Allan White	Bryan Bartay
1985-1986	Michael Bailey	John Wegenhoft	
1986-1987	Rodney Huerter	Brad Nehring	Steve Kerutis
1987-1988	Steve Kerutis	David Burger	Scott Williams
1988-1989	Scott Williams	David Rubinger	Lee Potts
1989-1990	Lee Potts	Mark	Scott Carter

		Basinger	
1990-1991	Scott Carter	Mike Freeman	Jim Allen
1991-1992	Jim Allen	Unknown	Jim Thomison
1992-1993	Jim Thomison	Jaime Armendariz	Ben Haygood
1993-1994	Ben Haygood	Ramiro García-Cordones	Seth Fritcher
1994-1995	Mark Crutch	Scott Torn	Rick Harvey
1995-1996	Bill Meridith	Jon Walker	Mike Mizell
1996-1997	Mike Mizell	Chris Torn	Cameron Wyman
1997-1998	Michael Reber	Robert Payne	Kristopher Widener
1998-1999	Matthew Sellman	Kristopher Widener	Ryan Hill
1999-2000	Chet Clayton	Richard Vinson	Will Ferrell
2000-2001	Daniel Campbell	Matt Blackwell	Eric Alarid
2001-2002	Brittain Cunningham	Unknown	Joshua Grossman
2002-2003	T.J. Flowers	Matthew Obenhaus	Travis Moen
2003-2004	Dane Plumley	Steve Ramirez	
2004-2005	Mark Fargason		
2005-2006	Brad Barrick	David Saranaki	
2006-2007	Jason Schlachter	Jeffrey Cash	
2007-2008	Wesley Hunnell		

2008-2009	Bryce London		
2009-2010	Brian Rhoades (Fall)		
	Paul Hurley (Spring)		
2010-2011	Luke Vierus		
2011-2012	Ian Munoz		
2012-2013	Collin Madison		
2013-2014	Paul Jordan		
2014-2015	Alexander Gerdes		
2015-2016	Cole Bishop	Phillip Pugel	
		John Wood	
2016-2017	Abigail Adams	Furman Sims	
2017-2018	Joshua Ratta	Jacob Al-Muaber	
2018-2019	Daniel Hayworth	John Derry	Blake Watson
2019-2020	Blake Watson	Tyler Roane	Jordan Capollo
2020-2021	Jordan Capollo	Brandon Yin	David Meyer
2021-2022	David Meyer	Richard Zhang	Sean Watson
2022-2023	Sean Watson (Fall)	Caleb Silva (Fall)	Madison Sliva
	Caleb Silva (Spring)	Mason Hoover (Spring)	
2023-2024	Madi Sliva	James Parks	Kayli Woodward

2024-2025	Nick Lang	Nicholas Groenewold	Alex Card
2025-2026	Will Loftin	Mason Taylor	Logan Reed

Notable Members

Will Ferrell, Class of 2001



William “Will” Ferrell ‘01, was a dedicated student and leader whose life exemplified the Aggie Spirit. Born and raised in Gilmer, Texas, Ferrell pursued a bachelor’s degree in applied mathematical sciences. As a senior, he served as the commander of the prestigious Ross Volunteers unit. After earning his degree, Ferrell pursued graduate studies at Texas A&M after earning his degree. He planned to teach high school for a year, sharing his knowledge and passion for mathematics with younger students, before pursuing a commission in the U.S. Army. Tragically, Ferrell’s promising life was cut short on July 4, 2002, when he was killed in a car accident at the age of 23. In honor of his memory, Ferrell’s family donated his Aggie Ring to the Memorial Ring Collection at Texas A&M University’s Association of Former Students in 2007. Marty Holmes, Class of 1987 and assistant executive director for The Association of Former Students, accepted Ferrell’s ring on behalf of The Association, noting that Ferrell “embodied the Aggie Spirit and lived a life of integrity.”

J. Malon Sutherland, Class of 1965



Dr. Jesse Malon Southerland '65 has been recognized for his extensive contributions to the institution. He was born on 13 September 1942, Southerland graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Management and was commissioned in the US Army. Outside of F-2, he was also a member of outfits G-3 and A-3, and the Fish Drill Team. Following his service in the Army, Southerland returned to Texas A&M in 1968, beginning his career as a counselor in the Commandant's office. He furthered his education at Texas A&M, earning a Master of Arts in 1974 and a Ph.D. in Education Administration in 1980. Southerland held several significant positions at Texas A&M. He served as Assistant to the President and later as Associate Vice President for Student Services. In 1986, he was appointed Interim Commandant of Cadets. From 1993 to 2003, he was Vice President for Student Affairs. Upon his retirement, he was honored with the title of Vice President Emeritus. During this period, Sutherland also served as the official Outfit Advisor. Throughout his career, Southerland received numerous accolades, including the Buck Weirus Spirit Award, the Faculty Distinguished Achievement Award in Student Relationships, and the NASPA Goodnight Award for Outstanding Performance as a Dean in 2003. His dedication to student leadership and development led to the creation of the Southerland Aggie Leader Scholarships, providing financial support to over 100 students.

John Huffman, Class of 2005

John Huffman

OVER FOUR YEARS, A CADET WHO WAS NOT SURE HE WANTED TO JOIN THE CORPS AT ALL TOOK CHARGE AS ITS LEADER.



Commander John Huffman, a member of the F-2 and then K-1 outfits, stands in front of the "Danger 49er" statue at the Quachangle.

The highest-ranking student in the Corps of Cadets during fall of 2004, senior finance major John Huffman, said he wanted absolutely nothing to do with the Corps before college. "Until senior year of high school, I swore I would never join the Corps," Huffman said. "But when my brother was a cadet, he would bring all his buddies home, and they would tell these stories about cadet life, and my brother really convinced me to join."

Starting off in Company F-2 with an army contract, Huffman was asked by the Corps Commandant, Lt. Gen. John Van Alstyne, to transfer outfits and become the first sergeant of Company K-1 his junior year. Huffman was chosen as the next commander and became the second person ever to reach that position without already being a member of Corps Staff. He said that his experience outside Corps Staff gave him a different view about how the Corps was run.

"As a junior, I had a lot of friends in Corps Staff and saw the policy being developed," Huffman said. "But as first sergeant I was responsible for implementing those policies, and I saw the reaction from the cadets."

Huffman said that his job allowed him to set policy that reflected what was happening in the regular ranks of cadets.

"We are giving control back to the outfits," Huffman said, "but I also trust them to do the job they were picked to do."

Besides keeping nearly a 4.0 GPR and applying to law school, Huffman also proposed to his girlfriend, Elizabeth Jones. He planned to go to law school and then to be commissioned into the U.S. Army JAG Corps.

"I remember how much I looked up to the Corps commander when I was a fish," Huffman said. "I keep that in mind and understand that other cadets are looking at me the same way."

Story by Teresa Weaver

I remember how much I looked up to the Corps commander when I was a fish. I keep that in mind ...

—John Huffman, '05

John Huffman '05 is a dedicated public servant and accomplished professional with a diverse career spanning law, politics, and business. He began his career as a judicial clerk for the United States Senate Subcommittee on Immigration from 2006 to 2007, where he assisted in the development and review of immigration policy and legislation. Huffman then worked as an associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP, from August 2008 to March 2014, honing his legal expertise. During the 2012 election cycle, he served as a deployed attorney for the Mitt Romney Campaign, providing legal support and ensuring compliance with election laws. From July 2012 to September 2018, Huffman contributed to the regulation and oversight of psychological practices in Texas as a member of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists.

Transitioning to local governance, Huffman was a member of the Southlake City Council from May 2015 to December 2022. His commitment to public service continued to grow as he became the CEO and owner of Black Door Home Co. in February 2016, showcasing his entrepreneurial spirit and business acumen. Huffman's dedication to his community culminated in his election as the Mayor of Southlake, Texas, in May 2021, a position he held until 2024.

Mark Johnson, Class of 1978



Colonel Mark H. Johnson '78 is a highly accomplished individual with a distinguished career in both the military and academia. Colonel Johnson earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration (Marketing) as a Distinguished Military Graduate. During his time as an Aggie, he was a member of Company F-2 in the Corps of Cadets, the Ross Volunteer Company, and the Bonfire Committee Green Pot (Finances). He furthered his education with a Master of Science Degree in Administration from Central Michigan University in 1991 and is a 2002 graduate of the U.S. Army War College. Notably, he was the Commander of the 1st Information Operations Command and Deputy Commander, Joint Information Operations Warfare Command. After retiring from active duty, Colonel Johnson continued to serve in high-level positions. He was the Director of Cyber Solutions for Camber Corporation from April 2012 to December 2013. Prior to that, he was a member of the Senior Executive Service (Flag/General Officer Equivalent for Federal Government Employees) from August 2008 to September 2011, serving as the Director, Joint Information Operations Warfare Center (JIOWC) at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He currently serves as the Director of the Professors of Practice Program in the College of Engineering and a Professor of Practice of Industrial Distribution at Texas A&M University. He also actively engages with student organizations, serving as the Faculty Advisor for the Society of Women in Engineering, and the Professional Association for Industrial Distribution.

Blake Purcell, Class of 1981



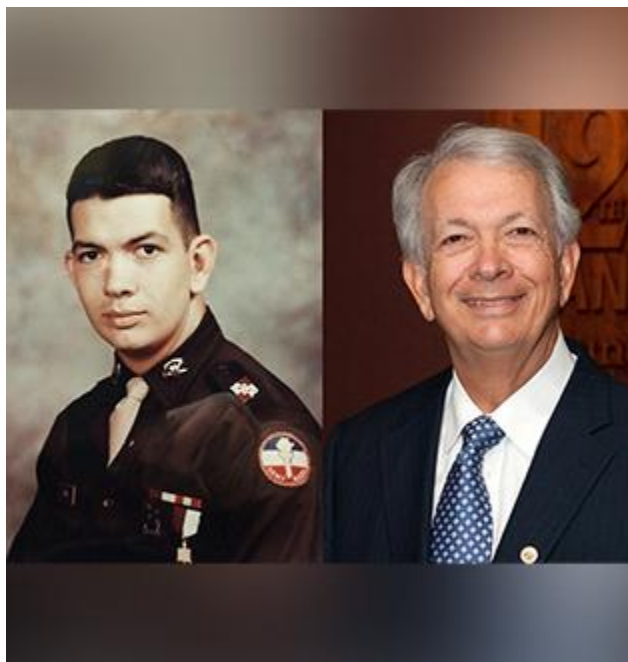
Blake E. Purcell '81 received his B.S. in English from Texas A&M in 1981. He was the Corps Chaplain and on the university wrestling team during his time at A&M. After graduating and commissioning into the U.S. Army, he went to the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course (IBOLC) at Fort Benning. He was then in the Individual Ready Reserve for 10 years. He went into full-time ministry with the Navigators at the United States Air Force Academy in 1984. In 1990, Blake and his wife Cathy moved with their three children to Leningrad (now St. Petersburg) in what was then the Russian Republic of the Soviet Union. They became some of the first Evangelical missionaries allowed to live in the USSR following the 1917 Russian Revolution. Purcell was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in America in 1998 as a teaching minister of the Gospel. He is the founder and President of HopeRussia and the founder of the Slavic Reformation Society. He has also served as the Pastor of the Reformed Presbyterian Church of St. Petersburg since 1999, being the director and primary instructor of the seminary.

Albert W. “Al” Clay, Class of 1965



Albert W. “Al” Clay ’65 received his B.S. in Accounting from Texas A&M and his MBA from the University of Texas. He was the 2nd Brigade Scholastics Officer, a Fish Yell Leader, and a Ross Volunteer, serving as Platoon Sergeant his Senior Year. Clay served in the U.S. Army at the Special Ammunition Support Command in Handorf, Germany. He worked as a Certified Public Accountant and a Real Estate broker. In 1998, he founded Clay Development and Construction with his son, Robert ’97, to focus on commercial real estate development in the Houston area. Together they have developed over 280 real estate projects valued at over \$1.8 Billion. Clay Development has also purchased and developed over 25 multi-use industrial parks and currently owns over 3.8m square feet of company-developed space in 80+ buildings. He has served as a board member of St. Thomas High School and St. Francis Episcopal School in Houston. He is a 2021 Inductee of the St. Thomas High School Hall of Honor.

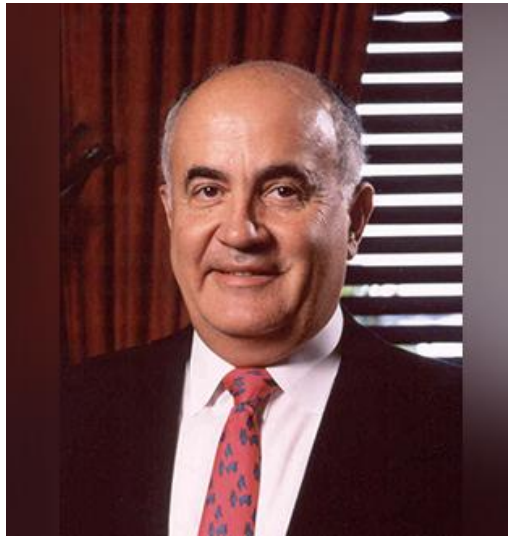
R. Sam Torn, Class of 1970



Sam Torn received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from Texas A&M, his Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas in 1973, and his Doctor of Jurisprudence, Summa Cum Laude, from the South Texas College of Law in 1977. As a cadet, he was a Technical Sergeant in Company F-2, served as Head Yell Leader, and was a member of the varsity baseball team.

He and his wife, Susan, have owned and operated Incomparable Camp Ozark, one of the largest residential summer camps in the nation. In addition, he is the Executive Director of two not-for-profit organizations, Camp War Eagle –in Bentonville, Arkansas, and Camp Red Cloud – in Lake City, Colorado. Torn is a past Chair of the 12th Man Foundation, during which he coordinated the redevelopment of Olsen Field at Blue Bell Park. He is the former Class Agent for the Class of '70, and President of the Association of Former Yell Leaders. Torn was inducted into the Texas A&M Letterman's Association Hall of Honor in 2013 for his efforts on behalf of Texas A&M athletes.

Harris J. Pappas, Class of 1966



Harris Pappas '66 was a Finance and Accounting major from Texas A&M. He was an intramural manager and served as Social Secretary for the Class of 1966. He also participated in the Finance Society and served as the chairman of the Election Committee. After graduation, Pappas was commissioned into the army, being stationed in Thailand and Vietnam for one year each. He is the recipient of two Bronze Stars and three Army Commendation Medals for his service. Upon returning from Southeast Asia, he helped manage the family's three Pappas Bar-B-Q restaurants, founded by his father Jim. Pappas currently serves as the President of Pappas Restaurants, overseeing over 90 locations across 7 states.

In 2001, Harris and his brother Chris joined the management team of Luby's, with Harris serving as Chief Operating Officer, helping facilitate its move from San Antonio to Houston. He served for 10 years on the Memorial Hermann Healthcare System Board and is currently part of the Board of Directors of Oceaneering International. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2001 and the Outstanding Alumnus Award from the Mays College of Business in 1999. Pappas was inducted into the University of Houston's Hilton Hospitality Hall of Honor in 2009.

Outfit Logos



(1966-1969)



(1969)



(1970)



(1980)



(1990)

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