

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin Eighty-Eight (88)



August 13, 2024

The opinions expressed in this bulletin are those of the Board of Directors of the Sul Ross Group and do not represent the opinions of The Association of Former Students, its officers, or leadership. The SRG is a nonpartisan organization. Our intention is in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, to keep the Sul Ross Group membership informed on pertinent topics and occurrences at TAMU in a timely manner and enlist their support when required.



SEPTEMBER 17, 1789 – CONSTITUTION DAY – THE DAY WE BECAME A REPUBLIC

United States Constitution Preamble – September 17, 1789 “We the People of the United States, ...”.

As Ben Franklin stated at the time, “A Republic, if you can keep it.” This is still true today.

May God continue to bless the United States of America.



CORPS OF CADETS COMMANDANT MICHAELIS MOVING INTO NEW ROLE

Corps of Cadets Association Newsletter –
August 12, 2024

Texas A&M University Corps
Commandant Patrick R. Michaelis is
transitioning to a new role serving as special
assistant to President Mark A. Welsh III,
effective August 12th.

Welsh has named retired U.S. Air Force
Lt. Gen. Loyd S. “Chip” Utterback, ’75, as
interim commandant, and said a national search committee will soon be formed.

Michaelis — who retired as a brigadier general after serving almost 30 years in the U.S. Army — said he’s grateful for the opportunity to serve Aggieland. “One of the great loves of my life is the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets,” the 1993 Aggie graduate and former cadet said. “Its focus on developing leaders of character for the global challenges of tomorrow demands that we continue to advance as we preserve what makes Aggieland so unique.” “I look back on my time as the Commandant with joy and satisfaction, he said. “The opportunity to give back what the Corps gave to me has been reflected in the commissioning of our nation’s newest officers, the hiring of leaders across industry and public service, and the path opened to those continuing their education. I want to thank the cadets for their trust, confidence and their commitment to the future of our state and nation. You make me very proud.”

In the new position, Welsh said Michaelis will continue contributing to the betterment of Texas A&M, focusing on university strategic initiatives. Thanking Michaelis for his leadership over the past few years, Welsh pointed to his dedication to enhancing cadet resiliency, improving academic initiatives and promoting physical fitness programs. The combined efforts have been instrumental in helping each cadet excel both academically and within the Corps lifestyle, Welsh said. “I extend my deepest gratitude and appreciation to General Michaelis for his service to Texas A&M University and the Corps of Cadets. He worked tirelessly to improve leadership training and the overall Corps experience while also expanding the reach of the Corps through expanded recruitment efforts.”

<https://s3.us-west-2.amazonaws.com/cdn.corpsofcadets.org/general-michaelis.pdf>

LTG. (RET.) USAF CHIP UTTERBACK '75 NAMED INTERIM COMMANDANT



President Mark Welsh has named retired U.S. Air Force Lt. Gen. Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback, '75, as interim commandant, and said a national search committee will soon be formed.

Lieutenant General Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback '75 received his BBA in management from Texas A&M and MAS from Embry Riddle University. At A&M he served as Commander of 1st Group, was a member of Squadron 2, and a Ross Volunteer. A Distinguished Military Graduate, he commanded USAF units at all levels including a fighter squadron, three fighter wings, two

numbered Air Forces, served as a United States Senior National Representative to NATO, and was dual-hatted as the Commander of 13th Air Force and Air Forces Pacific. Additionally, he led negotiations on defense policy reforms in Asia resulting in major international agreements.

A career fighter pilot, Utterback led his units in combat in the Middle East. His decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal and the Distinguished Flying Cross with "V" device for valor. Following military retirement, he served as President/CEO of a six-corporation conglomerate providing senior living services and health care to veterans and their families and as CEO of one of the largest Alzheimer's and dementia research and care foundations in the nation.

General Utterback is the Past Chairman of the Corps of Cadets Association.
Lieutenant General Loyd S. "Chip" Utterback '75, USAF (tamu.edu)



A&M SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS APPROVE BIOSECURITY AND PANDEMIC POLICY CENTER FOR BUSH SCHOOL

August 1, 2024 Bill Oliver - WTAW

The Texas A&M system board of regents approved at their quarterly business meeting Thursday (August 1) two items involving the flagship campus's Bush School.

The regents approved president Mark Welsh's request to create a "biosecurity and pandemic policy center". Background information given to

the regents says this expands on what was created at the Bush School in 2014 to create policy solutions to address biological threats. Welsh says the center will address five objectives. The list includes serving as a resource to inform the public and support the A&M system, state, and national responses to future biological crises, which Welsh says are inevitable.

Texas A&M System Board Of Regents Approve Two Items Involving The Flagship Campus's Bush School - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM



NEW CONSTRUCTION AT FT. WORTH LAW SCHOOL

Letter from John Sharp

On August 1, 2024, The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents authorized System leaders to begin the design of the second building for the Texas A&M-Fort Worth research campus. Just last summer, the Texas A&M System broke ground on an eight-story, \$180 million Law & Education Building to house

its education components. Thursday's vote authorizes the design of the Research & Innovation Building A, which primarily will be home to A&M system agencies participating in the research campus in southeast downtown, near the expanding convention center.

The building could cost up to \$260 million, including 150,000 gross-square-feet of offices and lab space for Texas A&M System at an estimated cost of \$150 million. The remainder would be for private sector partners as well as parking that could be used by campus tenants and the public. Regents also approved a plan to build 10 storm shelters worth \$254.5 million across the state.

Regents voted to commit about \$25 million in matching funds to apply for up to \$229 million in Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants from the Federal Emergency Management Agency through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM). This allows us — for just 10-percent of the cost — to build storm shelters at campuses that will be used as basketball arenas, convocation centers or even lab space most of the time, thanks to FEMA.

Potential projects are planned in Texarkana, Beeville, Killeen, McAllen, Commerce, Stephenville, Corpus Christi, San Antonio and Canyon.



**A&M CORPS OF CADETS – MARCH-IN
SCHEDULE FOR 2024 FOOTBALL GAMES**

By Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets
August 1, 2024

The Texas A&M Corps of Cadets will conduct a march prior to kick off for every home football game during the 2024 football season. March-in routes will vary by game to ensure every Aggie fan, spectator and guest has the opportunity to see the Corps of Cadets.

The following is the schedule:

Notre Dame vs. Texas A&M, Aug. 31: Campus march
McNeese State vs. Texas A&M Sept. 7: Campus march
Bowling Green vs. Texas A&M, Sept. 21: Campus march
Missouri vs. Texas A&M, Oct. 5: Aggie Park march
LSU vs. Texas A&M, Oct. 26: Campus march
New Mexico State vs. Texas A&M, Nov. 16: Veterans Review, Simpson Drill Field
Texas vs. Texas A&M, Nov. 30: Campus march

During the Missouri game, the Corps will be joined by hundreds of former cadets who will participate in the Aggie Park march as part of the Corps of Cadets Association's Rally to the Guidons event.

Texas A&M Corps of Cadets Announces March-In Schedule for 2024 Football Season - Texas A&M Today ([tamu.edu](https://www.tamu.edu))



ATHLETICS DIRECTOR'S UPDATE TO THE SYSTEM BOARD OF REGENTS

August 2, 2024 Bill Oliver - WTAW

Texas A&M athletics director Trev Alberts presented an update to the A&M system board of regents during a workshop meeting on Thursday (August 1).

Alberts, who was named AD on March 13, brought up the department's culture, student-athlete experience, business operations, and the department's challenges and opportunities.

Alberts said this is the first time since 2018 that A&M athletics is not on NCAA probation or in an active investigation.

June's Kyle Field soccer match and George Strait concert generated a profit of roughly \$6.5 million dollars.

A reduction of about 18 employees in the athletic department's administration has saved \$2 million dollars. Alberts then said there is probably additional room for more staff reductions.

Alberts also brought up how coach's budgets are impacted by the expected court decision where A&M athletes would receive 22 percent of the athletic department's revenue.

Academically, Alberts said the student-athlete cumulative grade point average is the highest ever at just under 3.1. And the graduation success rate is among the highest ever at 87 percent, something that Alberts wants to see raised to at least 90 percent.

Texas A&M's Athletics Director Presents An Update To The A&M System Board Of Regents - WTAW | 1620AM & 94.5FM

FROM THE PAST ... SHAPLEY PRINCE ROSS

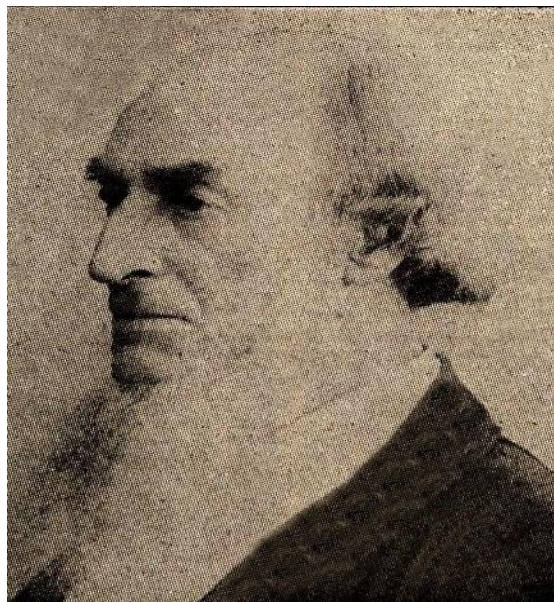


Figure 1 - Captain Shapley Prince Ross

While many episodes of Texas frontier history involve the exploits of Sul Ross, the pioneer who trained and educated young Sul and his brother Peter, Shapley Ross, was in fact one of the original entrepreneurs to settle Texas. In recent months I have uncovered the life and times of a truly remarkable man. After the end of the Black Hawk War in the upper-Midwest, Shapley, with wife Catherine, Sul (only a few months old), and Peter, arrived in Texas in 1840. The only advance advice they received was to cross the Red River, find the Brazos River and head south. After days of travel, they first camped on the banks of the Brazos at a deserted Tonkawa and Waco Indian village – with only their wagons, a few livestock, and

sparse belongings.

Arriving further downstream at the Nashville Trading Post, just north of present-day Caldwell, he applied for and received a 640-acre land grant on the Yegua Creek. Hunting and fishing to feed his family, Shapley soon began to raise race horses. His equestrian expertise resulted in joining the Texas Rangers during the mid-1840s, assigned first to the Rio Grande border and then back to central Texas.

Discharged following a number of tours with the Rangers, he was encouraged to consider development of a settlement on the Brazos. By 1850, he returned to his old Indian camp site to be the founding father of what is today Waco, Texas. For his efforts he received the sole right to open the first hotel, a couple hundred-acre ranch, and the ownership of the first full-service upper Brazos cross river ferry. By the early 1850s, the majority of new settlers moving westward through East and central Texas crossed the river at Waco.

Leaving his wife in Waco to manage the hotel and ferry, Shapley was recruited to become one of few Indian Agents at the Brazos Indian Reserve up-river in what is today the Young County region. The reservation was divided into two sections: one for the Comanches and the lower section for the less nomadic friendlier Indians. The challenge of managing the reservation and the constant outside threats from “pushy” white settlers who wanted the land was a tremendous and complex job. However, the level of Shapley’s commitment to the improvement of the peaceful settlement of the Indians, was reflected in him enrolling Sul, Peter, and sister, Ann, in the Indian reservation school – the first Native American school of its kind west of the Mississippi.

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

Unable to control the growing local hostilities against the reservation Indians, the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington ordered Ross and the agents to relocate all the Indians to the Oklahoma Territory. This was a harsh and bitter sweet end to efforts to settle the Texas frontier, that even after the relocation, hostilities in the West continued into the late 1880s.

A close friend of Sam Houston, Shapley returned to Waco to ranch and manage his businesses. Few are aware his frontier exploits and his mentoring two future governors of Texas, his son Sul and Richard Coke.

Dr. John A. Adams, Jr. '73



Reveille X - April 2021 - Texas A&M Today - Jesse Everett – Texas A&M Marketing & Communication

**Mark your calendar - Sul Ross '25 Reunion will be March 3 – 5, 2025 in College Station at the Hilton Hotel - 801 University Dr E, College Station, TX 77840
Phone (979) 693-7500**

WHO, WHY, AND HOW TO RECEIVE THE SRG BULLETINS?

To provide our thoughts and communication with our membership, the SRG board has decided to communicate directly through bulletins sent by email to the Class

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

Agents who will then share with those in their Classes. Anyone is free to pass these bulletins to any Aggie, friends of Aggies, or just friends. The Board plans to maintain our policy of complete transparency and that is the reason we have inserted the disclaimer on the front page of this bulletin. **You can contact us at:**

SRGbulletin@gmail.com

The Sul Ross Group (SRG) Board of Directors (BoD) are solely responsible for producing the SRG Bulletins. We do so in keeping with one of our four charged SRG Constitution's purposes, which is to ensure our represented SRG Membership is kept informed on pertinent topics in a timely manner.

Note: All the Bulletins from Bulletin #1 to the current Bulletin are available to be viewed on the SRG Website at www.ferrata.net/srg/portal.aspx. Click on 'Uploaded Files.'

Suggest you use "Google Chrome", "Foxfire", or "Microsoft Edge" as a browser.

To access information about us as the elected SRG Board of Directors, and our Constitution and By-Laws, and the SRG's history and what we are about, please refer to our new "**SRG Tab**" (Under "**Programs**") on The Association's website, at:

aggienetwork.com.

If you wish to comment to those who decide:

Chancellor John Sharp: **chancellor@tamus.edu**

The Board of Regents: **vickie@tamus.edu** or **jbelle@tamus.edu**

President Mark Welsh: **president@tamu.edu**

Provost Alan Sams: **asams@tamu.edu**

Athletic Director Trev Alberts: **Ichamberlin@athletics.tamu.edu**

VPSA Joe Ramirez: **jramirez@vpsa.tamu.edu**

Commandant Patrick Michaelis: **pmichaelis@corps.tamu.edu**

SRG Board of Directors' Resolutions for: 2024 – 2025

To keep the Sul Ross Group (SRG) membership informed of pertinent topics and activities on campus through periodic SRG Bulletins.

As investors of A&M, to continue to meet with and to offer our support and assistance to the leadership of TAMUS, TAMU, the Association of Former Students, A&M Foundation, the Commandant, the Corps Commander, and student government leaders.

- To support A&M's Core Values and traditions and share these with all we meet, especially students, stressing unity of purpose and effort within the A&M community.

Sul Ross Group (SRG) Bulletin

- To continue the ongoing review, execution and improvement of new student integration and assimilation into TAMU, working with and assisting the V.P. of Student Affairs, if invited, by periodically observing new student orientation – avoiding “not too much nor too little” oversight of student run organizations.
- Be it resolved that the SRG support their strategic goal of preserving what sets TAMU apart as distinctive and transcendent, as elder statesmen, and in accordance with the SRG’s four established Constitutional objectives while serving TAMU, the Association, and our membership.