



# BEARKAT BATTALION



SHSU ROTC Cadets along side the Junior ROTC High Schoolers during the First Annual Schuder Challenge

## Eat'Em Up Kats!

This April, the SHSU ROTC program had some very special events lined up; featuring the Ranger Company completing their final event known as "The Board," to a look into the Upper Classmen's National Guard and Reserves Postings. With the Cadets focusing on finishing their semester on a high note and studying for their finals. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter and appreciate everyone's support in making it possible.



Strength and Honor!!

# Newly Contracted Cadet: Blaine Nowak

"Hello, my name is Blaine Nowak; I am from Texas City, Texas, and I am pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Psychology here at Sam. I am so excited to serve alongside my peers finally. Being contracted into the ROTC program at SHSU has been a massive highlight in my life, and I have learned many new skills and leadership strategies since joining the program in the Fall of 2021. Becoming a Cadet has been an exhilarating journey with many challenges and surprises. Following this path has been a goal of mine since I started my sophomore year of high school in 2018. I treasure this time and all the people I still have so much more to learn from. The cadets and cadre in this program make me feel like I am home, and I look forward to serving this country to the best of my ability."



LTC Limberg shaking Cadet Nowak's hand after the Oath.



Cadet Nowak on Campus



# First Annual Schuder's Challenge

On April 15th SHSU ROTC hosted the First Annual Schuder's Challenge. Twelve Schools were invited but due to the threat of weather only two attended, Magnolia High School and Cypress High School. 23 JROTC Cadets competed in teams of seven were physically and mentally challenged in seven different events: a modified Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), Relay Race, Ruck March, Obstacle Course, Hand Grenade Course, Knot Tests, and a Commanders Cup Test. We are grateful for the JROTC Cadets that showed up and gave it their all!

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# Schuder's Challenge

## Meet the Teams



**Magnolia High School  
Navy ROTC Alpha Team**



**Magnolia High School  
Navy ROTC Bravo Team**



**Cypress Springs High School  
Airforce ROTC**





### Events From Top to Bottom:

The Modified Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) provides a view of what the Army expects of its soldiers, an Obstacle Course to facilitate team growth, a mock Hand Grenade Course that promotes hand-eye coordination under stress, a Jungle Gym hang, and finally, the Commanders Cup Test where the team tested their memorization.

# Schuder's Challenge Events



# Bearkat Brawl



Tony Rodriguez



Tyler Pomeroy

## SHSU ROTC proudly hosted the Second Annual Bearkat Brawl

The SHSU Military Science Department Cadets were proud to host the 2nd Annual Bearkat Brawl Army Combat Fitness Test. The Event took place on April 15th at Bowers Stadium as a way to reach out to the community and connect with those interested in the program. The event allowed participants to test their fitness at the ACFT. The Bearkat Battalion looks forward to seeing everyone next year!



Bryan Pasada

**Eat 'Em Up Kats!**



# Cadet Intramural League: Championship Volleyball Game



Top Row (Left to Right): Cadets Ethan Alford, Rudy Rochat, Carson Shell, Leo Rhome, Jacob Ford, Ben Dene, Mason Kizer  
Bottom Row (Left to Right): Cadets William Ratliff, Tanner Stone, Brianna Broussard, Emily Kehoe, Diego Paez, Camille Dang-Fouty



Anyone's Game: 23-21



Cadet Camille Dang-Fouty Opening the Game with Her Perfect Serve



# Cadets Attending Air Assault and Airborne School this 2023 Summer



**Cadet Tanner Stone:**  
Air Assault School  
Schofield Barracks, HI



**Cadet Kaleb Brown:**  
Air Assault School  
Fort Campbell, KY



**Cadet Jacob Clement:**  
Airborne School  
Fort Benning, GA



**Cadet William Ratliff:**  
Air Assault School  
Fort Benning, GA



**Cadet Jackson Hyams:**  
Air Assault School  
Fort Campbell, KY

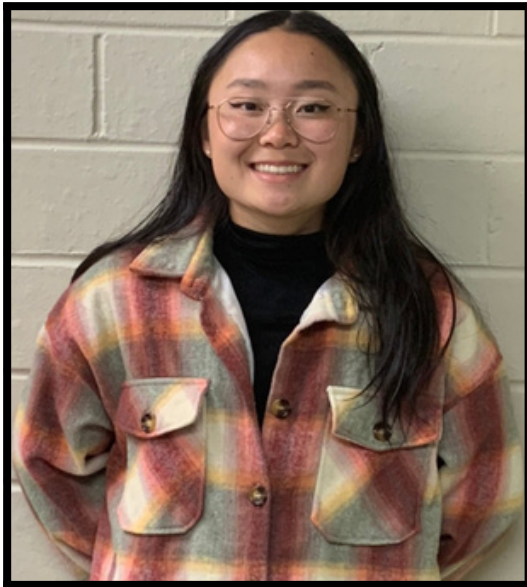


**Cadet Michael Huff:**  
Air Assault School  
West Point, NY





# Additional selectees for the Summer 2023 Training



Cadet Katelyn Nitsche  
Cadet Opfor  
Fort Knox, KY



Cadet Haley Davee  
HHBN, 21D  
South Korea



Cadet Kynnyth Leblanc  
1st Infantry Division  
Fort Riley, KS

Congratulations to all the Cadets selected for additional training this summer! To even be selected they had to volunteer and then be screened against other worthy Cadets. Their experiences will be as varied as learning how to properly jumps (and land) from airplanes to following active duty Lieutenants and learning how they lead their units. We look forward to telling you about their summer adventures in the Fall Newsletters!

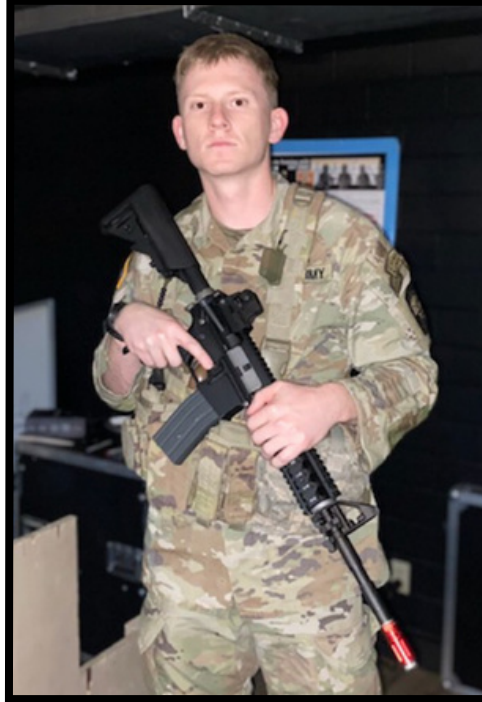
## Train to Lead



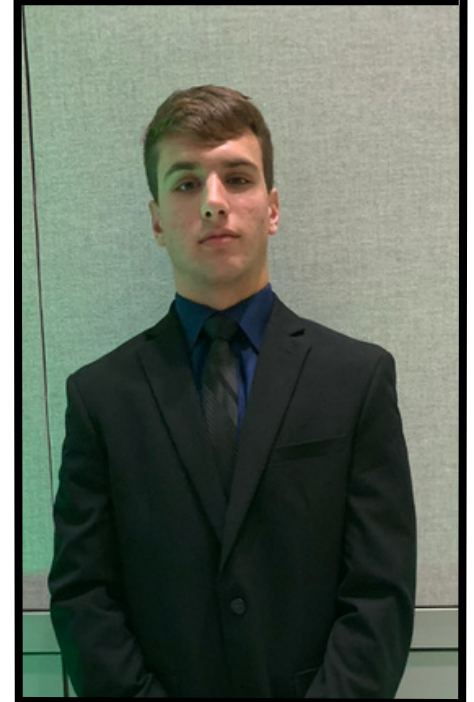
# Additional selectees for the Summer 2023 Training



Cadet William Mills  
MSIII CDT Leader Trainers  
Fort Knox, KY



Cadet Ryan Coker  
GSB, 7th SFG(A)  
Eglin Air Force Base, FL



Cadet Isaac Siekas  
SageEagle  
Fort Bliss, TX



Cadet Cinnamon Wright-  
Burwink  
Engineer Internship  
US Corps of Engineer - New  
Orleans District



Cadet Nicholas Watson  
Communications-Electronics  
Command  
Aberdeen proving Grounds,  
MD



Cadet Mason Kizer  
593ESC  
Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA



# Ranger Board

From April 21st to April 22nd, five of the SHSU Cadets in the Bearkat Battalion endured the 2023 Ranger Company Testing Board. During this thirty-one-hour operation, they endured the Ranger Physical Assessment Test, land navigation, day-to-night Tactics Lanes, and an unknown distance ruck march while physically and mentally exhausted. These five Cadets include: Cadet Gurrola, Rhome, Taravella, Paez, and Brown. All of which proved themselves with their outstanding work and their semester-long hardship of attending extra PT, classes, and lab.

Staff Sergeant Raymond “Jack” Schuder founded this program to teach young cadets squad tactics and important leadership values that would push them to their absolute limits to find their true strength while under immense pressure. Today it harbors many leaders within Bearkat Battalion, all those who will shoulder any task, whatever it may be, one hundred percent and then some. It was an honor to be the OIC for Ranger Company this semester. I owe it all to my fellow ROTC Rangers, who I couldn’t have succeeded without, the Cadre with their undying mentorship and support, and most of all, the Candidates for putting in so much hard work and dedication to this program. I am incredibly proud of all the work they have accomplished and the leaders they have come to be. I can’t wait to see what the future holds and what these distinguished cadets will achieve.

- Officer-In-Charge Cadet Nicolas Watson

## Rangers Lead The Way!



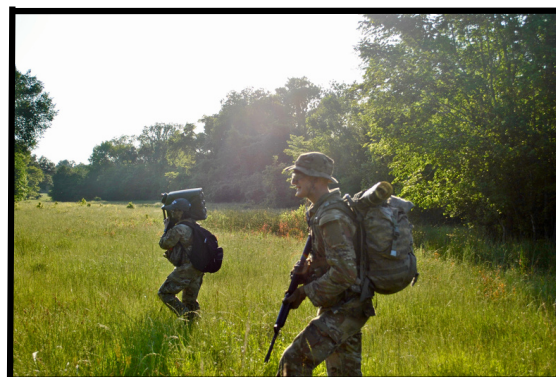
Cadets Using a Terrain Model Kit in preparation for an Attack



Cadet Paez leading the Formation



Cadet Gurrola using Land Navigation to Plan Her Route



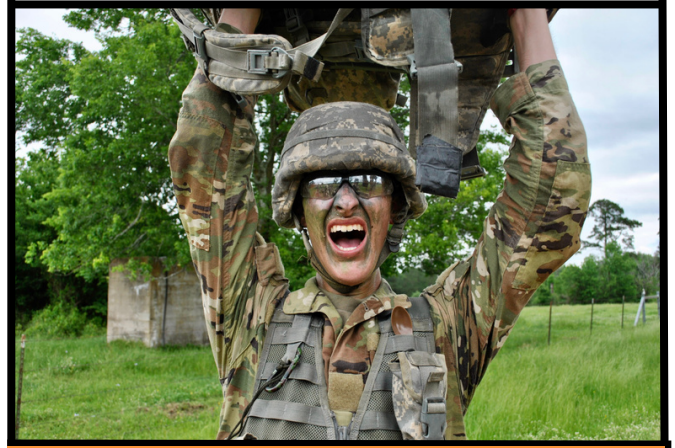
Rangers crossing a Liner Danger Area



# Ranger Board Continued



Cadet Watson being Proud of the Underclass Men



Cadet Taravella Showing Off his War Face



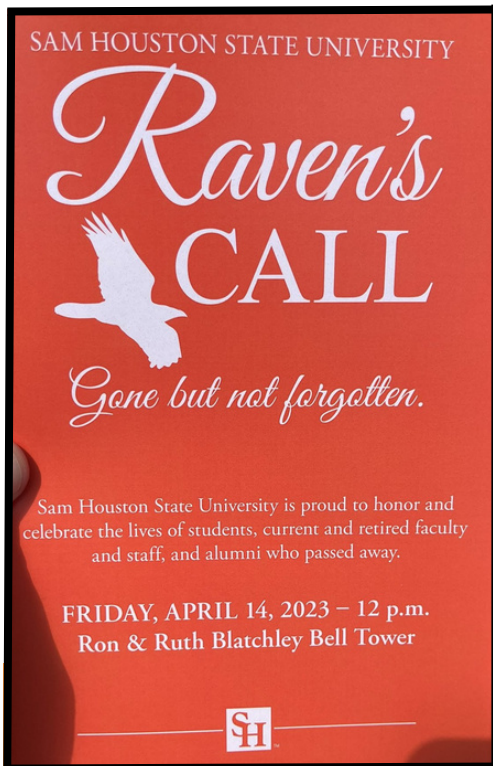
Cadet Rhome Pushing Through the Exhaustion



Ranger Company Ending the Day with Pride



# Raven's Call



Raven Call Pamphlet

Sam Houston State University is proud to honor and celebrate the lives of students, current and retired faculty and staff, and alumni who are gone but not forgotten. Jarrett Thompson, the president of the ceremony, wished to commemorate all those that played an important part of the SHSU family. Families of all the deceased Bearkats were invited to attend the ceremony between March 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023. **Gone But Not Forgotten**



The Crowd Paying Respect to the Fallen



Color Guard in Attendance



# Sundial Ceremony

College of Criminal Justice 50th Sundial Ceremony Honors the Criminal Justice Alumni who lost their lives in the line of duty. The event was held outside the Criminal Justice Center, where the ROTC Color Guard paid tribute. The solemn ceremony recognized the fallen heroes between March 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023.



Criminal Justice Students Paying their Respects



SHSU ROTC Color Guard attending the Ceremony



Cadet Emily Slott handing off the Old Flag to the Donors



# National Guard and Reserves Branch Reveal



Cadet Xiomara Santiago  
United States Army Reserves  
Quartermaster Officer



Cadet Giuliana Greco-Casas  
United States Army Reserves  
Chemical Officer



Cadet Oluwasegun Olatunji  
United States Army Reserves  
Quartermaster Officer



Cadet Rudy Rochat  
National Guard  
Engineer Officer



Cadet Britney Loerwald  
National Guard  
Quartermaster Officer



Cadet Lindsay Mitchell  
National Guard  
Adjutant General Officer



Cadet Marlon Hardeman  
National Guard  
Chemical Officer



# Alumni Spotlight: 2nd LT Colton S. Smith

To the Sam Houston Cadets,

Greetings Bearkats; For those who may not know me, I am 2LT Colton Smith. I grew up in Willis, Texas, and enrolled at Sam Houston State University in the Spring of 2019. During my time in the Bearkat Battalion, I served as the Color Guard OIC, Public Affairs Officer (PAO), Assistant S3 (AS3), S4, and the Basic Rifle Marksmanship OIC. I graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Military Science. I commissioned as an Active Duty Quartermaster Officer, where I know currently serves as a Platoon Leader in Charlie Company Composite Truck Company 194th DSSB in South Korea. My additional duties are Public Affairs Officer, AER Company Representative, Primary Unit Movement Officer, and Container Control Officer.

During my time as a 2nd Lieutenant, I have experienced many challenges and I would advise to the incoming Officers to be approachable yet assertive with your platoon. When someone from your team comes to you for help or guidance, be accepting, receptive, actively listen to them, and think about how you can positively affect the situation. If it's bad news, never lash out or direct your frustration toward them. That will cause others to not come to you in the future.

I'm sure most Cadets are familiar with Battle Rhythms and the 8-Step Training Model. These are excellent tools for keeping your platoon training on track. Implement them into your weekly training to ensure your training time is used effectively and not wasted time.

Lastly, it's easier to be prepared than be reactive. Preparing contingency plans and Courses of Action (COAs) beforehand is always quicker and more effective than having to react to an issue on the spot.

V/R,

**Colton S. Smith**  
**2LT, QM**  
**4th Platoon Leader**  
**C CTC, 194th DSSB**  
**Camp Casey, South Korea**



**2LT Colton S. Smith**  
**4th Platoon Leader**



**During FTX at BOLC in Fort Lee, VA**



**Company tour to DMZ 38th parallel between North and South Korea. Inside the United Nations Command Military Armistice Commission Conference Building (on the North Korean Side)**

