

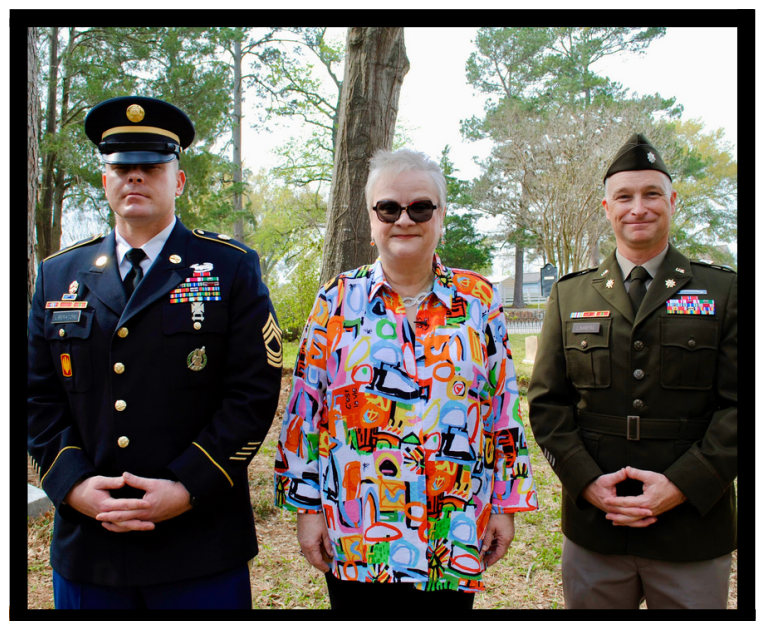


# BEARKAT BATTALION



Cadets (left to right): Nowak, Paez, Jackson, Brown, Alford, Barba, Russell, and Slott preparing for the 21-Gun Salute during March To The Grave ceremony

Over the past months, the Senior class (MS4s) have been diligently working in preparation for the Multi-Program Field Training Exercise (MPFTX). This training exercise for the underclassmen was put together by Cadet Sumner along with others, who did a fantastic job. As the month went on, the Color Guard led March To The Grave ceremony, serving as the battalion's representatives (page 3). As the end of the semester draws near, more MS4s are getting their Branches (to be revealed in the upcoming April Newsletter) and prepping for commencement, while the Junior class (MS3s) is receiving information about their Advanced Camp dates and other summer training.



LTC Limberg and MSG Liberatore with President White at the March To The Grave event



## Eat'Em Up Kats!

# CDT Sergeant Major Deena Stone

Bearkat Cadets, Welcome back from Spring Break!

I would personally like to thank and congratulate everyone who participated in our spring MPFTX with SFA. Our Cadets did exceedingly well at the event and were able to further prepare for their upcoming Cadet Summer Training. Without everyone's hard work, this training exercise would not have been possible. Although the semester is drawing close to an end, we still have many events remaining such as Schuder's Challenge, Bearkat Brawl, and our Bearkat Battalion Military Ball. I look forward to seeing all our Cadets participate and put in work towards these remaining events.

At the end of this semester, our MS4 class will be commissioning, graduating, and moving on toward BOLC. As our time here at SHSU comes to a bittersweet end, I'm excited to see what our class will accomplish during our time in service. In conclusion, I leave 10 principles to stand by that my mentor in the program (2LT Abramski) left me.

1. You are responsible for everything the unit does or fails to do.
2. Never let ego influence your decisions.
3. Always cultivate a positive environment in garrison and the field.
4. Set and enforce standards.
5. Be a team player.
6. What you do counts more than what you say.
7. Counsel and mentor your subordinates-invest in their future.
8. Do the routine tasks and standards correctly.
9. Keep Commander's Intent at the forefront of your decisions.
10. Always be honest about 1) What to fix, 2) How to fix it, and 3) Who is responsible.



**The SHSU Bearkat Battalion**



# March To The Grave



Cadet Slott leading cadets in the 21-Gun Salute

March to the Grave is the oldest continuing event hosted by Sam Houston State University, dating back to 1893. The event commemorates General Sam Houston's birthday as well as Texas Independence Day. In the event, students, faculty, and others march from the SHSU Old Main Pit to Oakwood Cemetery, the final resting place for General Sam Houston. There, a ceremony takes place in remembrance of Sam Houston as well as recognizing Texas Independence Day, with events such as a "Citizen of Texas Baptism", wreath laying, and a 21-Gun Salute.

Cadet Mills, who participated in the event stated that "this was my third time taking part in this event and second marching with the Color Guard. This time, I was the commander of the Color Guard that marched to the grave. Alongside me were the following cadets: Michael Thille carrying the Texas flag, Katelyn Nitsche as the Left Rifle, and Samantha Gaus-Schmidt as the Right Rifle. The march itself was approximately one mile long and once we arrived, we began the ceremony portion of the event. The Color Guard posted and retired the colors during the event while Cadet Emily Slott commanded the 21-Gun Salute with her team. Overall, March 2 the Grave was a fun event to take part in and I am very grateful for the opportunity to have played a role in making it happen."



Cadets (left to right) Gaus-Schmidt, Thille, Mills, and Nitsche with people from the Historical Society



Color Guard with the community during March To The Grave



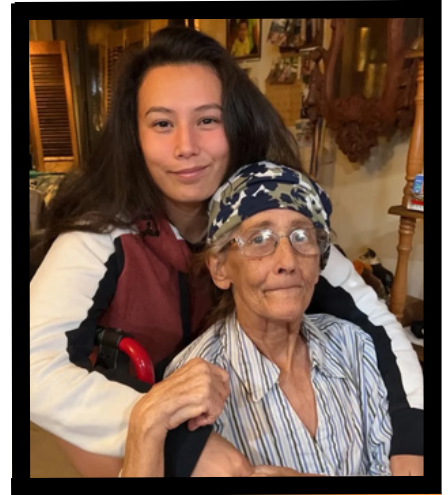
# Cadets on Spring Break



Cadet Dang-Fouty and her dog shooter at Salt Flats, Utah



Cadet Dang-Fouty in Arches National Park

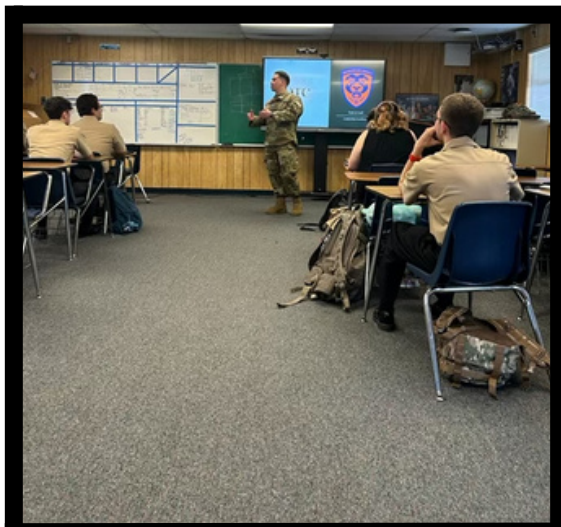


Cadet Dang-Fouty in Los Angeles visiting her grandmother



CDT Olatunji at Piccadilly Circus, London, UK

**Leadership  
Excellence!**



Cadet Rios recruiting at his Alma mater Stony Point highschool NJROTC over the break



# Cadet Accomplishments: Gaus-Schmidt

CDT Samantha Gaus-Schmidt is from Tomball, Texas, and is a junior here at SHSU. She joined the Bearkat Battalion as an MS1 (freshman) last semester in Fall 2022. Outside of ROTC, she is President of the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) – Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE) – Delta Chi chapter here at SHSU. ACJA-LAE is a national criminal justice association that explores all aspects of the criminal justice field. Delta Chi is entirely student-run, the largest chapter in Region 2, and tied as the second-largest chapter in the nation. Over Spring Break CDT Gaus-Schmidt traveled to Louisville, Kentucky with three other members for the 2023 ACJA – LAE National Conference. Members from across the nation attended this week-long conference. On the first conference day, we competed in some academic tests, and crime scene scenarios, and went to a career fair. She competed with two Delta Chi alumni in the crime scene competition. The conference scene was staged in a hotel room as a missing person scenario. In the scene, they found numerous evidence items relating to Louisville, the March Madness games, and the Saint Patrick’s Day holiday later that week. Although they didn’t place, it was a fun opportunity for her to work with Delta Chi alumni who are now experienced police officers in the field where the scene could be a regular occurrence for them.

On the second day of the conference, CDT Gaus-Schmidt competed in more academic testing and the physical agility event. The physical agility was proctored by the Louisville Metro Police Department. The initial round of the test was point-based and consisted of bench press, pushups, and sit-ups. CDT Gaus-Schmidt got max points for all three sections and advanced to the tiebreaker round. Although she did not end up placing while competing she enjoyed hitting a new bench press personal record and meeting other ROTC students from both Army and Air Force programs out of state.

During the entire conference, CDT Gaus-Schmidt had the opportunity to connect and network with other students, professional members, alumni, and leaders in the association. The final night of the conference ended with an awards banquet. In total, the four Delta Chi members brought home four medals. CDT Gaus-Schmidt placed third in the upper level for the ACJA – LAE Knowledge academic test. Following the conclusion of the conference she was also elected to be the next National Student Representative for the association. In this position, she is now a member of the national executive board and will help facilitate and host the 2024 National Conference in Southlake, Texas, in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. Over the course of the entire nationals trip the Delta Chi students visited six total states along the road trip! The members also got to visit some fun sights including the Louisville Slugger Museum, the Thomas Edison Museum, and the Bass Pro Shops pyramid.



CDT Gaus-Schmidt holding up her medal at the awards banquet



CDT Gaus-Schmidt holding up "Delta Chi" along the Kentucky – Indiana border



CDT Gaus-Schmidt hitting her 95lb. bench press PR during the physical agility competition



## Your Story: Cadet Brown (MS1)

"When I explain the Army to my friends, explaining the difference between Officers and Enlisted soldiers can be complicated because they just don't understand what it means. Being enlisted is like being a salesman, you're the one actually going out, working, and 'doing the job'. Officers are the managers. They don't directly create or accomplish a whole lot, but they plan and are responsible for things getting done. They are leaders from both the front and rear in any situation. For me, being an Officer is about more than just a pay raise. It's about your skill set. I am very much a planner, and doing things on the fly is not my mode of operation. This is a skill set that is beneficial to an Officer because their job is inherently built on planning and making arrangements so that Soldiers can accomplish the mission. Officers aren't the face of the operation and they don't get much of the glory. For me though, it's not about getting the credit. That's for my Soldiers. I want to know that they accomplished something and that they did it not because I ordered them to, but because they wanted to do their best, and when it comes down to it, I'll go to bat for them. Everyone has a place and a role to fill in the Army. I think that as an Officer, I'll be filling my role."



**Kaleb Brown**  
Whitehouse, TX



**Cadet Brown In front of an M18 Hellcat**  
at Ft. Jackson, SC after Basic Training  
Graduation



## Your Story: Cadet Ratliff (MS2)

"I have always been afraid of getting a desk job. When I think of a desk job, all I can think is that I'll be wasting my life away with something that I don't enjoy and won't change the future for the better. This is one of the reasons why I've invested so much time and thought into my future and my final decision of becoming an Officer in the U.S. Army. I hope that my path to becoming an Army Officer will challenge me and push me to become a better person not only for myself, but for the people around me as well.

I find it humbling to be in the military and serve the nation under extreme circumstances, but taking this into consideration, I didn't want to go into the military as a grunt waving a gun around. As a sophomore now, I know that I am far from prepared to serve my nation effectively. I want to go into the military informed and knowledgeable about my surroundings. Becoming an Officer allows me to do that by getting my degree, training to be a leader, developing my brain entirely, and gaining a little bit of military experience all at the same time. I want to be more prepared by having this skill set before risking myself and others' lives in hopes of better serving my country.

My future and the future of others around me has also influenced my choice in becoming an Army Officer. Compared to going into the military as enlisted, the Officer route sets my future up for greater success with an education and skills that I can use later in other career fields. With an education, valuable skills, and a military background, I can put myself into a position to not only better myself but also better the community and nation around me. Becoming an Army Officer would allow me a life to be proud of and an opportunity to change our community for the better. I believe that one person can change the world, but without the right tools, you'll be stuck sitting in a cubicle at a desk job, wasting your life away."



Cadet Ratliff learning the proper way to throw a hand grenade



Cadet Ratliff during lab



William Ratliff  
Cypress, TX



# Spring 2023 MPFTX With SFA

"We conducted our Spring 2023 MPFTX from March 24th through the 26th. Our Sam Houston Cadets along with our counterparts from SFA conducted tactical lanes to prepare our Junior Cadets for the rigors of Cadet Summer Training. I think that it went very well. All our Cadets in all classes were able to learn numerous lessons that we will be able to apply to not only our future in ROTC but also our careers as Army officers. There were a few minor hiccups that happened during the FTX. However, we were able to learn from our mistakes and correct the training mishaps on the spot. Overall, I am immensely proud of all the hard work that all our Cadets put into the FTX. They brought out their best attitudes and learned all that they could. I want to thank our cadre, my fellow MS4s, and SFA for putting together such a great training event for our underclassmen."

- Cadet Sumner the Officer In Charge of the MPFTX



Left to right: LTC Limberg, CDT Monroig, MSG Liberatore, and CDT Sumner at The MPFTX



SHSU and SFA Cadets during an attack mission at the MPFTX



SFA BC Skinner with SHSU BC Monroig at the MPFTX



SHSU and SFA Cadets during an Ambush mission at the MPFTX





# MPFTX Pictures Cont.



Cadets Cleaning weapons after the last lane of the MPFTX



SHSU and SFA Cadets during the ROC drill for the MPFTX

# Train to Lead!



Opposing force (OPFOR) volunteers (left to right): cadets Gurrola, Evans Knight, Eiland, Milburn, Daar, Loya, and Cardona

## Juniors (MS3) MPFTX Experience



Cadets Gray (left) and Hammond (right) during the MPFTX

"I learned some important lessons from the MPFTX. The two biggest things I learned was the importance of influence and adaptability. One's influence amongst their peers is essential to their leadership. It can detect morale, trust, and communication. Adaptability is required in order to be ready for anything. Whether the land, the weather, or other variables are different then excepted, one must be ready to adjust their plans. I liked working with another university. Working with new people always allows one to work on their social and commutation skills. The one thing I disliked about the MPFTX, was that there were only two schools. Personally I would like there to be more schools. I think that would be beneficial. Nevertheless, the MPFTX served as practice and as a lesson. The things I learned will follow me this summer when I go to camp." - Cadet Hammond

"The Multiprogram Field Training Exercise (MPFTX) provided me with an abundance of knowledge and preparation that I can now take to Cadet Summer Training (CST). Throughout the weekend, I had the opportunity to be evaluated four times in leadership positions and was given great feedback and advice on what I needed to improve on to do my best at CST. The biggest pieces of feedback that came from the MPFTX was how to simplify but also enhance the effectiveness of my operations order (OPORD) brief, and how to improve my linear danger area (LDA) crossings plan." -Cadet Coker



Cadets Clement (left) and Coker (right) during the MPFTX



## Congratulations LTC (R) Sharon Nitsche



LTC (R) Sharon Nitsche after swearing into the Texas Guard

Retired LTC Sharon Nitsche, served a combination of active, National Guard, and Reserves for over 30 years in the U.S. Army as an Intelligence officer (35D). She began her Army career at the University of California-Davis ROTC program.

LTC (R) Sharon Nitsche, who missed the Army life, swore into the Texas State Guard on the morning of April 8, 2023. After being sworn in, she was given command of the 2nd Brigade G3 plans.

The Texas State Guard is comprised of civilians who volunteered to provide mission-ready military forces to assist state and local authorities in times of state emergencies. Their purpose is to offer humanitarian assistance throughout Texas. The Guard's moto is "Duty. Honor. Texas." Soldier for life.

For more information check out Texas State Guard website. <https://tmd.texas.gov/state-guard>



Cadet Nitsche with her grandmother and mother, LTC (R) Sharon Nitsche, after the ceremony



**Leadership Excellence!**

# Alumni Spotlight: 2nd LT Nikki Rocha



2nd LT Nikki Rocha with her father in-law chief warrant officer 5 Jesse Rocha

“I attended Sam Houston State University and graduated in 2021, branching active-duty aviation. During my time at Sam Houston State University in the ROTC program, I was fortunate enough to serve as Battalion Commander my senior year. Our country was just coming out of the COVID-19 lockdown which provided many challenges that the ROTC program had to overcome. Having to be in command and learning how to adapt and successfully conquer the challenges presented to us was extremely useful to my future in the active-duty army. I am able to look back on my time spent in ROTC as a time spent learning how to face obstacles and effectively overcome them. This benefitted me greatly when I arrived at aviation BOLC and had to attend SERE school, as well as basic and advanced flight courses. SERE training was nothing but being adaptable and learning how to conquer the challenges at hand. Which in turn, prepared me better for the challenges of flight school. As I approach my final month left at aviation BOLC, I feel more prepared than ever to face the new set of tasks that my future career holds for me.”



2nd LT Nikki Rocha in an aircraft



2nd LT Nikki Rocha 1st LT Jake Bueno



2nd LT Nikki Rocha with Warrant Officer 1 Andrei Idriceanu

