



BEARKAT BATTALION



From Left to Right, CDT Jacob Clement, Ryan Coker, Austin Sumner (Center), Benjamin Dene, Avery Sitkowski, Julian Monroig, and Destiny Mendez (off camera) unloading the Zodiac and pulling security before continuing mission Brigade's Ranger Challenge competition.

This Veterans Day, the Bearkat Battalion would like to thank all Veterans, past, present, and future. In a special article on page 13, we get a glimpse into the lives of one ROTC cadet who has won five academic gold medals. This is a common example of some of our incredibly talented cadets that strive for achievement both within and outside of the program. Finally, our Active Duty December graduate Cody Weeks, received the branch of Air Defense Artillery (ADA) officer.

Eat'Em Up Kats!



CDT Weeks with his wife, Jamayka, after his branch reveal with LTC Limberg and MSG liberatore.

Newly Contracted Cadets: Summers and Hyams



CDTs Hyams and Summers ready to take the Oath of Enlistment given by LTC Limberg



Jackson Hyams
League City, TX

"I am from League City, TX. I spent the last four and a half years on Active Duty as a Signal Specialist in both Airborne and Cyber units. This semester, I joined as a Green to Gold cadet seeking a bachelor's in Homeland Security. I am excited to develop myself and contribute to the program's success these next four years. Outside ROTC, I enjoy bodybuilding, scuba diving, volunteering, and watching soccer."



Erika Summers
Columbus, TX

"As someone who has always had the drive to be a part of something greater than myself and serve our nation, the SHSU Army ROTC program has been a vital stepping stone. The program has taught me the importance of making decisions under pressure, being an effective leader, and displaying confidence with compassion to develop those around me. I decided to contract because I wanted to pursue the Army Officer route to better help soldiers and have the resources to meet their many needs."



Rowdy Inman 5K: CDT Weeks

On November 12th at 0700 near Blatchley Bell Tower, SHSU ROTC hosted its 5th Annual CPT Rowdy Inman Memorial 5K. The 5k was established to honor CPT Rowdy J. Inman, the first SHSU ROTC graduate to pay the ultimate sacrifice in combat on December 26, 2007, while serving with the US 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment out of Fort Hood, TX during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The 5k hosts cadets, parents, sponsors, veterans, those currently serving, community members, and most importantly, the family of CPT Inman. The money raised funds scholarships for cadets at Sam Houston ROTC. This year we were able to surpass our goal. Profits support the CPT Rowdy Inman Scholarship Fund. Each semester at least one \$500 and one \$1000 scholarship is awarded to a deserving cadet on behalf of the Military Science Alumni Club. SHSU ROTC would like to extend its gratitude to all those who supported and participated in the run this year. It is the commitment and generosity of Huntsville and beyond that makes the annual 5K possible. We look forward to seeing everyone and more out at our next 5K. Big plans are already in the works as we are actively looking to improve each year.



Captain Rowdy Inman's Family



Captain Cooley with his family at the 5K



Rowdy Inman race participants





WINNERS OF THE 5K



LTC Limberg and MSG Liberatore presenting a thank you plaque to MG(R) Mills



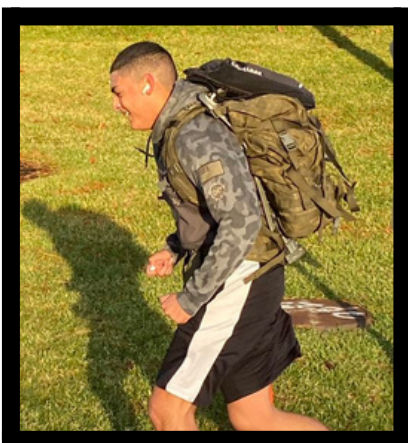
LTC Limberg and MSG Liberatore presenting a plaque to a representative of the First Generation Student Center



CDT Taravella finishing the 5K strong!



CDT Executive Commander Smith with his wife Emma at the 5K



CDT Nitsche with her family at the 5K



CDT Gaus-Schmidt with family at the 5K



Ring Ceremony: CDT Watson

This year marks the 24th anniversary of Sam Houston State University's class ring ceremony. The class ring is eligible to be earned once a student has achieved 75- credit hours in their degree. Once a student makes the decision to order the class ring, it is then made to become part of a time-honored tradition.

The word "honor" has been engraved on each and every ring. Before Sam Houston left for battle, his mother gave him a ring. "Honor" was inscribed on that ring as a constant reminder to conduct himself honorably while serving his country in battle.

“Honor” plays not only a part in our university's values, but it is one of our seven and most important Army values, which we will forever continue to uphold in the Bearkat Battalion. Most, if not all of our cadets carry on this tradition with their own rings.

Our duty as a battalion is to transport, guard, and conduct a color guard ceremony in honor of the university and Sam Houston himself. This year, I had the privilege of being OIC for this event, and with the tremendous help of my NCOIC, CDT Siekas, and the support of numerous other cadets who volunteered and sacrificed their own time in order to support both the battalion and the university, the event was a complete success.

We began by transporting the rings from the Alumni center to Sam Houston's original home. There, the rings were placed inside his house and guarded overnight by cadets. On the morning of the ring ceremony, we loaded up the rings once more to be transported from Sam Houston's home to the Johnson Coliseum. Later that night, a color guard presentation of the colors was conducted for the official Ring Ceremony.

Several of our cadets this year had the honor of earning their class ring. These cadets include CDT Cinnamon Wright-Burwinkel, CDT William Mills, and CDT Dang-Fouty. Congratulations on receiving your class ring cadets! Continue to wear them with pride and honor!

Eat'em Up Kats!





CDTs Rios, Loya, Watson, Kehoe, LeBlanc, Weeks, and Boucher (Left to Right) with the rings



CDTs Slott, Siekas, Summers, Watson, Loya and Monroig loading the rings for transport



CDTs Kehoe and Slott guarding the rings throughout the night



CDTs delivering the rings to Sam Houston's house



Information on Contracting: Mr. Darryl Derr

Many readers may not understand the Army ROTC contracting procedure or believe the contract process is complicated. The process is not complex, but it is thorough, requiring several checks and balances. All ROTC cadets that wish to pursue a commission as an Army officer must meet the minimum eligibility requirements, such as US citizenship, age bracket, medical qualification, academic minimums, and fitness standards.

First, we need to determine if the prospect meets the minimum standards to pursue a contract and ensure we have the required documents for proper enrollment in ROTC. Those documents include Social Security cards, birth certificates, and a medical statement. Second, we need to validate the Cadet's Mission Set (graduating year) by completing a Planned Academic Worksheet (Form 104-R). The 104-R helps us place the prospect in the correct Military Science level. Third, we must determine the type of contract: Scholarship, Non-scholarship, and/or Simultaneous Membership Program. The SMP contract is only for Reservists or Guardsmen. Fourth, all prospects must attend a contracting board. Those cadets that participated in the Army ROTC National Scholarship Program while in high school have already been boarded. Fifth, some cadets may need waivers for medical disqualifications, civil charges, or age. Waivers must be resolved before contracting.

Cadets must have credit for all four years of Military Science to commission. Some cadets will progress through ROTC from freshman (MS1) to senior (MS4). Some might need to attend ROTC Basic Camp to earn credit for parts of the Basic Course if they entered ROTC as a sophomore or junior. Prior Service Cadets earned Basic Course credit if they completed Basic Training, but they may still progress through Military Science if they joined as a freshman.

All contracted Cadets receive a stipend of \$420 a month while Scholarship and SMP Cadets receive additional benefits.

For more information contact Mr. Darryl Derr at:

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Mr. Darryl Derr, Recruiting
Operations Officer



Pictures from Tailgating



Bearkat Battalion won best Tailgater prize at the SHSU v. ACU game



CDT Alex Dieck counting the repetitions for a JROTC Cadet



Bearkat Battalion serving over 250 JROTC CDTs at the Sam Houston State University v. Abilene Christian University game



Summer Training: CDT Wright-Burwink

This past summer, I had the opportunity to attend Cadet Field Training (CFT) at the United States Military Academy (USMA) in West Point, New York. It was a phenomenal experience to witness the caliber of resources, officers, and cadets that reside at West Point.

Additionally, 50 ROTC cadets from around the nation were integrated into all regiments of CFT. Cadet Field Training is the Academy's substitute for ROTC's Cadet Summer Training. West Point's "Yearlings", rising sophomore cadets, train over the summer at Camp Buckner, a nearby training facility for United States Military Academy (USMA). While "Cows" and "Firsties," junior and senior USMA cadets, acted as leadership, the training was conducted by the 101st Airborne (Air Assault).

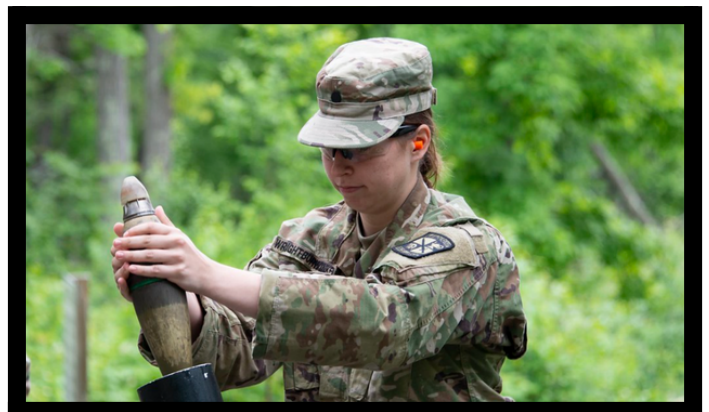
I received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be integrated into the Academy's training and way of life. I received training in Combat Life Saving, Basic

Rifle Marksmanship, Land Navigation, Combative Training, and Team Live Fire. Additionally, I completed the Water Confidence Course and an Obstacle Course that covered all major and minor obstacles seen at Air Assault school. I also participated in a 5-day Field Training Exercise (FTX) in which I was evaluated as a team leader. In addition to the basic soldiering skills above, the 101st Airborne (Air Assault) and nearby units participated in the United States Military Academy's "Branch Days." During the Field Artillery Day, I had the opportunity to watch my Call for Fire and to load and fire rounds for an M119 Howitzer and the M29, an 81mm mortar. I acted as a crewman on Armor Day in the M1A1 Abram and M2 Bradley simulations. Each branch day allowed me to talk with young lieutenants and listen to their experiences in the Army. These branch days greatly influenced my ranking of the branches.

Cadet Field Training (CFT) concluded with a 10-mile ruck march back to the West Point campus. I could tour parts of campus that were not available to the public. I made great connections and friends during my time at CFT and would highly recommend any ROTC cadet to attend if given the opportunity. I can't wait to serve with the fine young men and women I met over the summer at CFT!



CDT Wright-Burwink with her company receiving instruction on Mortar emplacements
Photo Credit: West Point – The U.S. Military Academy



CDT Wright-Burwink practicing proper loading techniques of an 81mm Mortar
Photo Credit: West Point – The U.S. Military Academy



Ranger Challenge: CDT Summer

"Being the Officer in Charge of Ranger Challenge has been an absolute pleasure this semester. Our team's dedication and work ethic this year has been inspiring, and without it, we would not have made it all the way to the brigade competition. As soon as we found out we were going to Ft. Gruber, OK, for the 5th Brigade's Ranger Challenge competition, we immediately started trying to get as much information on the competition as we could. We started preparation and training that same week, even training for competition during our Battalions' Field Training Exercise. All our hard work and training paid off as we placed 4th place overall after competing in the Brigade competition for the first time in 13 years! I am incredibly proud of all our Cadets on the team and those who supported us from Cadre, fellow cadets, friends, and family. We're proud of our performance but not satisfied, and the teams next year better be ready because we sure will be!"



CDT Austin Sumner barrels over "the high one" as SHSU takes the lead in the confidence course



CDT Jacob Clement and CDT Julian Monroig completing the one rope bridge obstacle



It was a brisk morning for a paddle but the whole Ranger Challenge team filled the Zodiak and paddled the "U" shaped course



CDTs Destiny Mendez and Camille Dang-Fouty at Camp Gruber



A 4th place finish after a 13 year dry spell shows how hard these cadets worked and how talented they are



Field Training Exercise (FTX): CDT Dene

The Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) for SHSU ROTC at McGloin Ranch was a great success, and we conducted some quality training for our sophomore and junior cadets! Many of our cadets in training enjoyed many aspects of the training, and they all improved immensely in their tactical abilities and basic soldiering skills. Initially, we had planned on having two separate platoons training in different areas at McGloin, and it would've taken much more support to conduct than we ended up needing.

The week before the Fall FTX, our Ranger Challenge team placed second at the Regional competition and qualified to move on to the 5th Brigade's Ranger Challenge competition at Ft. Gruber, OK. This changed our plans for FTX training since we pulled the Ranger Challenge team to train for competition while the other cadets conducted their training for Advanced Camp. With this change, we combined all the cadets in training into one platoon, requiring less support than we initially needed. Everyone who assisted, especially our Cadre, made the FTX run incredibly smoothly and as according to plan as we could. It was a phenomenal turnout, and we're much more prepared for our multi-program FTX in the Spring semester!



CDT Sumrall camouflaging during FTX



OPFOR for FTX (Left to Right): Sumrall, Mcmillin, Hyams and Knight



Train to Lead!

Field Training Exercise (FTX): Pictures



Cadets cleaning their weapons after the FTX



Cadet Barrera explaining weapon zeroing to CDT (Left to Right): Stone, Huff, Cooke, and Slott



Cadets receiving their mission for the second day of the FTX



Cadet plotting their points during Night Land Navigation



Leadership excellence!

Cadet Spotlight: Samantha Gaus-Schmidt

Samantha Gaus-Schmidt, a junior here at SHSU and an MS1 in the Bearkat Battalion, is from Tomball, Texas, northwest of Houston. Outside of ROTC, she is President of the American Criminal Justice Association (ACJA) – Lambda Alpha Epsilon (LAE) – Delta Chi chapter here at SHSU. LAE is a national criminal justice association that explores all aspects of the criminal justice field. Delta Chi is one of the largest chapters in Region 2 and is entirely student-run. Our members participate in community projects throughout the year throughout Huntsville, including maintaining our adopted highway on FM 1791, just up the road from Gibbs Ranch. Chapter committee heads hold many weekly events relating to forensics, violent offenders, special topics, physical training, victim services, firearms, field tactics, corrections, professional development, and more. Our chapter continuously grows by accepting new members each semester and building connections in the professional field and with Delta Chi alumni.

In October, she and five other students representing SHSU traveled to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, for the ACJA – LAE Region 2 Conference. Region 2 includes Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana chapters. Members representing chapters from Texas and Oklahoma were at this year’s regional conference. On the first full day of the conference, October 14th, they went to four crime scene and forensics-related workshops at the Oklahoma City Police Department Training Center. These workshops were hosted by professionals from the Oklahoma Bureau of Investigation and the Oklahoma City Police Department. They learned through hands-on exercises how to collect and identify fingerprint samples, collect biological evidence, identify blood spatter, and use proper evidence-collection techniques.

The following day, she competed in a crime scene competition. Her three-man team responded to a homicide scenario staged in a hotel room. We had 15 minutes to respond to the scene, gather all the evidence, and take notes of the room’s layout. Afterwards, they had 45 minutes to make a sketch of the room and write the report. That day we also competed in various academic tests and attended a career fair.

The conference wrapped up with the guest speaker and awards banquet. Our guest speaker was a retired Oklahoma City Police Department (OKCPD) captain. He spoke about his experiences responding to the Oklahoma City Bombing and the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks. He highlighted the conference theme, “Breaking the Stigma,” and the importance of recognizing and prioritizing mental health, especially in the criminal justice field and law enforcement.

The final moment of truth came with the awards. Although our chapter was vastly outnumbered at the conference, we earned third place overall sweepstakes out of 7 chapters present. Of our members present, everyone placed in an event, and we brought home 14 titles! I am honored to share that I brought home six medals, five gold, and one silver.



Eat ‘Em Up Kats!

Cadet Spotlight: Samantha Gaus-Schmidt Pictures



CDT Gaus-Schmidt holding up "Delta Chi" with her 6 medals along with new fingerprinting kit for the chapter since we won 1st Place Crime Scene in our category



Part two of the Oklahoma City Police Department Physical Agility Test



CDT Gaus-Schmidt Inside the Oklahoma City Police Department Training Center after completing physical agility test



Alumni Spotlight: 2LT Shawn Amiry

Hello, my name is 2LT Shawn Amiry. I graduated from Sam Houston State University in May 2022. I am an Ordnance Officer in the U.S. Army. After graduation, I was honored to receive the opportunity to serve alongside some of the best leaders in the Cadet Command as Camp Cadre at Fort Knox, KY. During my time as Cadre for the 7th Regiment Advanced Camp, I learned a vast amount of information, leadership skills, and mentorship.

Now retired LTC Contreras always stressed the importance of taking care of soldiers and setting an example. Seeing Sam Houston State ROTC Cadets at camp be successful was truly inspiring. I had the chance to interact with Cadets Hardeman and Dene at the Densberger Training Area. One of the most inspiring moments for me as a leader was when I provided Cadet Dene with his mail at the training area and watched his morale improve.

After my time in Kentucky, I went to BOLC, Basic Officer Leader Course, Fort Lee, Virginia. My time here in VA is ending as I will graduate on Friday, November 18, 2022. BOLC has pushed me to the best of my ability, taught me many lessons, and gained many skills. I could perform to the best of my ability alongside my cohort. I am confident in my leadership skills in and out of the field. I have gained many skills that I will take onto my next duty station, Fort Hood.

I am so thankful for BOLC, the ROTC Program at SHSU, and the time Cadre spent mentoring me, especially Captain Joshua Cooley. Some of the most stressed leadership competencies he taught me were confidence, mental agility, and communication. The skills I learned as a Cadet have prepared me as a Commissioned Officer by letting me be in significant leadership positions and receive constructive feedback.

I am excited and ready to keep serving this great nation and to be part of the 1st Calvary Division at Fort Hood.

Hooah!





2LT Johnson, Amiry, and Wilcox (Left to Right) after receiving their awards at Cadet Summer Training



2LT Amiry receiving the Army Achievement Medal award at Cadet Summer Training



2LT Amiry along with 2LT McDonald and other BOLC graduates at their graduation ceremony

