

BEARKAT BATTALION

NEWSLETTER



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HAPPY SPRING, BEARKAT BATTALION!

March was an exhilarating month for the Bearkat Battalion, showcasing the intense challenges of training alongside the cherished traditions that shape our cadets into future Army leaders.

On March 1st, we proudly hosted the annual Schuder's Ranger Competition, a testament to our cadets' tactical skills, endurance, and teamwork. This spirited event not only tested their limits but also highlighted the strength and determination that our cadets embody. Additionally, they engaged in vital university traditions such as Saturday@Sam and March 2 the Grave, reinforcing our community spirit.

This month of challenges and reflection underscored the Bearkat Battalion's unwavering commitment to excellence and service. As we step into the next chapter, we are filled with pride and anticipation for the bright futures ahead of our cadets. Their dedication, resilience, and teamwork prepare them to become the strong leaders our Army needs.

We look forward to celebrating their incredible accomplishments and believe that the future is bright for the Bearkat Battalion. Together, we are inspired by their journey and excited to witness the rise of our next generation of leaders!

Eat 'Em Up Kats!



Schuder's Ranger Challenge Competition

Read more on pages 2-3



Brig. Gen Steven M. King Visit

Read more on page 6



Baatan Memorial Death March

Read more on page 7



Alumni Spotlight
2LT Cinthia Salinas

Read more on page 8

Schuder's Ranger Challenge

At the beginning of March, the Bearkat Battalion proudly hosted the Schuder's Ranger Competition, an exciting event designed for high school JROTC cadets eager to showcase their skills and commitment to leadership.

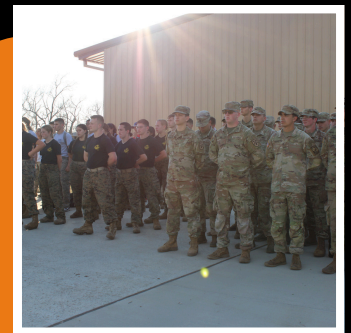
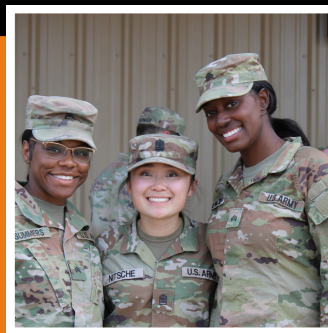
In this year's competition, five dedicated high school teams faced off in a series of rigorous challenges across five diverse lanes. These lanes tested not only physical strength but also mental resilience and military knowledge. Cadets demonstrated their abilities through a challenging hike, an intricate obstacle course, a commanders' competition that required strategic thinking and teamwork, and a controlled hand grenade course that emphasized precision and discipline.

The Schuder's Ranger Challenge is traditionally held among Army ROTC cadets at universities, serving to foster camaraderie and competition within the military community. By putting their skills to the ultimate test, cadets are challenged to push their limits, develop mental toughness, and cultivate the leadership qualities essential for success in the U.S. Army and beyond.

This year's event was particularly special, as it was made possible through the collaborative efforts of local high schools and Army units in the Houston area. The commitment and spirit of the Bearkat cadets who participated in this challenging competition exemplified the dedication to excellence that lies at the heart of the JROTC program.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the participants for their hard work and determination, as well as to everyone who helped make this event a resounding success. Together, we not only compete but also build a legacy of leadership and resilience—preparing the next generation of leaders who will rise to meet the challenges of tomorrow. Keep striving for greatness!

Thank you to the participants and those who helped make this happen!



Schuder's Challenge



Saturday @SAM JROTC Outreach

Saturday@SAM is an exciting opportunity for incoming students to explore all that Sam Houston State University has to offer! This vibrant event invites students to tour the campus, interact with fellow Bearkats, and discover various student organizations, academic programs, and essential services while meeting passionate representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid, Residence Life, and other campus departments.

The recruiting team made a splash by setting up an engaging ROTC booth, where students could learn about the unique advantages and experiences available through the program. The Bearkat Battalion also led inspiring tours of the ROTC building, showcasing how it prepares students for future leadership roles. The event culminated with an exhilarating Military Appreciation basketball game, filling the atmosphere with school spirit and excitement!

Choosing the right college is a pivotal and life-changing decision and experiencing the campus firsthand is one of the best ways to make an informed choice. Thanks to Saturday@SAM, these enthusiastic JROTC students are now energized and prepared to take the next step in their educational journey.

The ROTC presentation illuminated the transition from high school leadership training to college-level officer development. It empowered students to envision their futures and explore whether ROTC is the right path for them. The possibilities are truly limitless!



March 2 The Grave

March 2 The Grave is a time-honored tradition at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) that has thrived since 1893. This memorable event celebrates the vibrant life and birthday of General Sam Houston, while also commemorating Texas Independence Day. Each year, on the eve of this significant date, an inspiring procession unfolds as faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the Huntsville community unite to march from the bustling SHSU campus to Oakwood Cemetery. There, under a canopy of towering trees, they gather for a solemn yet uplifting ceremony at the grave of General Sam Houston, where dignitaries eloquently speak of his enduring legacy and impact.

Leading this revered march is the ROTC Color Guard, resplendent in their uniforms, carrying the colors with pride and purpose. Following the ceremony, they honor General Houston with a powerful 21-gun salute—an esteemed military tradition that resonates with respect, reverence, and profound gratitude. Each shot echoes with historical significance, a tribute to the ideals and sacrifices that General Houston embodies.

For the Cadets, this tradition fosters an enduring appreciation for military history, leadership, and the spirit of service. Families of ROTC members swell with pride as they witness their cadets partaking in a deeply meaningful event that intertwines military values with the rich tapestry of Texas heritage. March 2 the Grave stands as a living tribute, a captivating lesson in history, and an inspiring demonstration of patriotism and respect.

These cherished traditions connect cadets and their families to the noble heritage of military service, igniting a sense of leadership and a heartfelt commitment to remember those who paved the way for today's soldiers and officers.



Brigadier General King Visit



The Bearkat Battalion recently had the privilege of hosting Brigadier General Steven M. King, the Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Cadet Command, during the Schuder's Challenge Ranger Competition. His visit underscored his steadfast dedication to cultivating the next generation of military leaders, making it a memorable day for both participants and their families. This event, held on Saturday, served as a powerful reminder of the core values of leadership, dedication, and service that define the U.S. Army.

Throughout the competition, BG King actively interacted with the cadets, sharing valuable insights drawn from his extensive experience in human resources, personnel management, and operational command. His impressive career began as a Platoon Leader in Alabama and has progressed through numerous critical leadership roles, showcasing a journey marked by dedication and commitment. His story inspired many aspiring officers, highlighting the diverse opportunities available in military service.

A particularly moving highlight of the day was the contracting ceremony attended by Brig. Gen. King on March 1. This ceremony signified much more than a formality; it marked a pivotal milestone in the lives of these cadets, symbolizing their official commitment to military service. Surrounded by their proud families, this event represented a significant step toward their future responsibilities as commissioned officers. The atmosphere was charged with emotion as families celebrated their cadets' devotion and the promising leaders they are destined to become.

BG King's presence at these events resonates far beyond mere attendance; it serves as a powerful source of motivation for the cadets. His leadership reinforces the Army's fundamental values of service and integrity, reminding everyone involved of their crucial roles in shaping the future of the Army. The day was not only a celebration of individual achievements but also a testament to the collective strength and potential of the upcoming generation of military leaders.

Thank you for your support to our program!

Bataan Death March



The Bataan Memorial Death March is a challenging annual endurance event held at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico, honoring the heroic service members who defended the Philippines during World War II, specifically recognizing the Bataan Death March.

This event commemorates the brutal forced march of American and Filipino prisoners of war by the Japanese army in 1942, following the surrender of the Bataan Peninsula. The Bataan Memorial Death March consists of a grueling 26.2-mile marathon or a shorter 14.2-mile honorary distance, both designed to test participants' mental and physical endurance. As a tribute to the resilience and sacrifice of soldiers who endured the real Bataan Death March, it takes place at the White Sands Missile Range.

On March 22, 2025, the Bearkat Battalion was proud to have seven dedicated cadets participate in this meaningful event. This challenge pushed them to test their limits as they navigated unforgiving terrain while carrying rucksacks, simulating the hardships faced by soldiers in 1942. The march prepared them for the demands of military service and underscored the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and leadership under stress, offering a powerful opportunity for personal development and resilience.

As they marched together, the cadets fostered strong bonds, enhanced their leadership skills, and learned to overcome adversity as a team. This event serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by both past and present service members. The endurance and dedication displayed by the cadets reflect the core values of honor, duty, and resilience that define military families.



Alumni Spotlight

We are proud to highlight 2LT Cinthia Salinas, who graduated in May 2024 from Sam Houston State University with a bachelor's degree in Victim Studies. During her time as a cadet, she demonstrated exceptional leadership as both S8 and Company Commander. Additionally, she was an enthusiastic member of the Barbell Club, achieving her goal of joining the prestigious 500 lb. club.

2LT Salinas began her military journey in 2017 when she enlisted as a 68W in the Reserves. She completed her basic training at Fort Sill, OK, followed by Advanced Individual Training (AIT) at Fort Sam Houston.

Throughout her time with the 441st Ground Ambulance Company, she gained invaluable experience through assignments in Poland and Guatemala, participated in a Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear (CBRN) Response Force mission, and successfully completed the Basic Leaders Course (BLC).

Shortly after her graduation, 2LT Salinas attended the Chemical Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, where she excelled in the demanding curriculum. Following her training, she assumed the role of Squadron Chemical Officer for the Regimental Field Artillery Squadron (RFAS) of the 3rd Cavalry Regiment at Fort Cavazos, TX.

As she embarks on this new chapter, 2LT Salinas is excited to share that she is married and expecting her first child this summer. She remains dedicated to her military career, continually challenging herself to be a resilient leader.

Please join us in congratulating 2LT Salinas on her accomplishments and wishing her the best as she navigates the exciting journey ahead!



Spring Break 2025

After weeks of intense training, academics, and leadership development, spring break offers ROTC cadets a much-needed opportunity to rest, recharge, and refocus. Whether they choose to visit family, travel, or continue their fitness and skills training, this break serves as an essential reset before the final stretch of the semester. Maintaining a balance between hard work and recovery is crucial for effective leadership, and spring break allows cadets to return refreshed, motivated, and ready to tackle the challenges ahead in ROTC and beyond.

Cadets Erin Juarez, Jacob Clement, Cardona Hagui, Alexander Cannon, Simon Binetti, and Michael Kilgore participated in the BlueBell Half Marathon, showcasing their dedication to physical fitness and endurance. Their commitment to training and perseverance exemplifies the resilience and discipline that define our program.

Cadet Ratliff embraced adventure by hiking in Arkansas, highlighting the importance of staying active and mentally refreshed.

Cadet Jesus Ortega devoted his break to scientific research, earning acceptance into his third research program—a remarkable achievement that underscores our cadets' academic excellence and drive beyond ROTC training.

Cadet Catherine Benton demonstrated her leadership and confidence outside of the military by winning the title of Miss Tall Pines in the Princess of America Pageant. Her success is a testament to the diverse talents and aspirations of our cadets.

Whether through athletic challenges, academic achievements, or personal milestones, Bearkat cadets continue to lead by example in all areas of life. Their accomplishments during spring break reflect the values of discipline, perseverance, and excellence, reinforcing why the Bearkat Battalion stands strong.

Great job, cadets! We can't wait to see what you achieve next!



CADET OF THE MONTH



CDT Irving Prudencio

We are thrilled to announce that CDT Irving Prudencio has been honored as Cadet of the Month! This distinguished recognition reflects his steadfast dedication to both his peers and the ROTC program.

CDT Prudencio exemplifies exceptional leadership, consistently going above and beyond in both uniform and civilian life. Whether he is leading intense physical training sessions, achieving impressive academic results, or providing mentorship to fellow cadets, he consistently sets a remarkable standard for others to aspire to. His commitment to teamwork and personal growth embodies the core values of our ROTC program and aligns perfectly with our mission to shape future military and civilian leaders.

The ROTC program takes great pride in recognizing the tireless efforts and determination demonstrated by cadets like CDT Prudencio. His hard work not only enhances his own development but also fortifies the entire program, cultivating a culture of excellence. This distinction serves as a powerful reminder of the essential values of discipline, selfless service, and an unwavering commitment to greatness in every facet of life.

Congratulations, CDT Prudencio! Your dedication truly inspires us all!

UPCOMING EVENTS!



03-06 APR: MULTI-PROGRAM FIELD TRAINING



11 APR: MILITARY BALL



11 APR : NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH