

BEARKAT BATTALION

NEWSLETTER



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EAT 'EM UP KATS!

This month has been filled with exciting events and remarkable achievements within our Cadet community. We're proud to announce our newest Contracting Cadets, who have formally joined the ranks, and our Cadet of the Month, recognized for their exceptional leadership and dedication. Our Cadets also displayed creativity during the Halloween PT event, blending fun with fitness, and celebrated Thanksgiving together, fostering a strong sense of camaraderie.

The Rowdy Inman 5K Run was a great success, uniting students, faculty, and alumni in a shared spirit of fitness and remembrance. The Ring Guard Ceremony created a meaningful milestone for Cadets preparing for their futures, while Range Day and Super Lab provided practical, hands-on training experiences.

Additionally, the Veterans Day Banquet honored those who have served, and the SHSU College Rodeo showcased the talents of our Cadet athletes. This month's newsletter also highlights an inspiring Alumni Spotlight and encourages everyone to contribute to the Toys for Tots campaign, spreading holiday cheer to those in need.

It's been a month of service, achievement, and community. We look forward to continuing this momentum into the months ahead!

Cadet Michael Huff
Bearkat Battalion Newsletter OIC



Check out what our cadets dressed up as for Halloween PT!

[Read More - Page 4](#)



Check out our 7th Annual Rowdy Inman 5k highlights!

[Read More - Page 6](#)

Contracting Cadet

CADET ALICIA SUMMERS



Cadet Alicia Summers getting instructed by our Air Assault qualified cadets during the Swiss Seat station.

On Thursday, November 21, Cadet Alicia Summers, an MS3, reached a significant milestone in her ROTC journey by officially contracting with the Bearkat Battalion. This momentous event marks her formal commitment to serving as a future officer in the United States Army and highlights her dedication to both her academic and military careers.

Contracting is a critical milestone for every ROTC Cadet aspiring to earn their commission as an officer. It affirms their role as scholars, athletes, and leaders within the Bearkat Battalion and grants access to various benefits, including tuition assistance, a monthly stipend, and invaluable training opportunities. More importantly, it represents the Army's investment in each Cadet's potential and commitment to becoming a capable leader.

For Cadet Summers, this achievement is particularly meaningful. Balancing rigorous ROTC training with academic coursework, she has consistently demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination, and leadership. Her contracting not only acknowledges her hard work but also empowers her to embrace the responsibilities and privileges of Army service.

This milestone is a testament to the support system within the Bearkat Battalion and the broader ROTC program. Contracting ceremonies remind Cadets and cadre of the enduring mission of ROTC: to develop leaders who are prepared to serve America's sons and daughters with honor and integrity.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Cadet Summers and look forward to her continued success as she embarks on this next phase of her ROTC journey.

Cadet of the Month

CADET STEVEN KELLENBERGER

This month, we are proud to highlight Cadet Steven Kellenberger, an MS2 in the SHSU Army ROTC Bearkat Battalion. Cadet Kellenberger exemplifies the qualities of a dedicated Cadet, successfully balancing the demands of academic excellence, ROTC responsibilities, and extracurricular leadership.

Beyond excelling in his ROTC responsibilities, Cadet Kellenberger serves as the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the Barbell Club, where he has made a significant impact. He has taken the initiative to grow the club's membership and enhance its activities, coordinating training schedules, teaching safe and effective lifting techniques, and motivating peers to reach their fitness goals. Under his leadership, the Barbell Club has become a hub for building strength, resilience, and community.

Cadet Kellenberger works to align the club's mission with the Army's emphasis on holistic health and fitness, ensuring that its members meet the physical demands of military service. His strong work ethic, willingness to mentor others, and commitment to the Bearkat Battalion's success set him apart as a rising leader.

We are honored to have Cadet Kellenberger in our ranks and look forward to his continued contributions to the SHSU Army ROTC and the broader university community. Keep setting the bar high, Cadet Kellenberger!



Discipline Starts Here.

Halloween PT

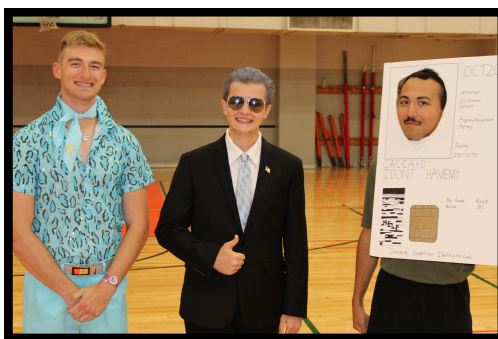
FRIGHTFULLY FIT

This year's Bearkat Battalion Halloween PT was a frightfully fun experience, combining physical fitness with the festive spirit of Halloween. Cadets embraced the occasion by trading their uniforms for creative costumes, showcasing their enthusiasm and ingenuity. From superheroes to classic monsters, the morning workout was alive with energy as Cadets powered through challenging drills and spooky exercises in their festive attire.

One of the most anticipated moments of the event was the costume contest, which did not disappoint. Cadet Dominic Johnson took home first place with a standout costume that captivated everyone's attention and drew widespread applause. Not far behind, Cadets Kaleb Brown and Adrian Simonsen earned runner-up honors with their equally impressive looks, dazzling both judges and their peers.

Beyond the costumes and fun, this event reinforced the camaraderie and strong sense of community that define the Bearkat Battalion. It was a chance for Cadets to bond, laugh, and create lasting memories while maintaining their commitment to fitness and teamwork. Events like these remind us that while discipline and training are critical, it's equally important to celebrate the moments that bring us together.

A big thank-you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this Halloween PT unforgettable! Stay tuned for more exciting events next semester!



Wicked workouts and hauntingly good fun - Halloween with the Bearkat Battalion!

Toys for Tots

DECEMBER LUNCH BRUNCH



HONOR
★ CAFE ★

🎄 December Lunch Bunch – A Special Gathering for a Great Cause 🎄

📅 Date: Thursday, December 5th

🕒 Time: 11:30 AM

📍 Location: Honor Cafe, 103 N Thompson St. Suite 101, Conroe, TX, 77301

Celebrate the Season with Friends and Support a Great Cause!

Join us for our monthly Lunch Bunch, hosted by Ken Rice, Class of 1969! This cherished tradition brings together alumni from the classes of 1968, 1969, and 1970 on the first Thursday of each month (except July).

This December, we're meeting at the Honor Cafe in Conroe—a military veteran-themed restaurant owned by a former Marine. Enjoy a warm, welcoming atmosphere with a touch of military pride while catching up with friends.

Spread the Holiday Cheer! In the spirit of giving, we're supporting the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign. Please consider bringing a toy or making a donation to help brighten a child's holiday.

Don't Miss Out—We Can't Wait to See You There!



Point of Contact: Ken Rice

✉ **Email:** shsumsac@gmail.com

7th Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5k

HONORING A LEGACY

The SHSU Army ROTC program proudly hosted the 7th Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K on November 9, 2024. This meaningful event brought together over 150 participants, including students, alumni, faculty, and Soldiers, to honor CPT Rowdy Inman, an SHSU ROTC alumnus who made the ultimate sacrifice during Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2007.

This year, we were blessed to welcome CPT Inman's family once again, along with nearly 80 Soldiers and Family members from the 3rd Squadron "Thunder," 3rd Cavalry Regiment. CASA Myrna Trevino also joined us, adding to the event's sense of unity and remembrance. The morning began at the iconic Blatchley Bell Tower, where runners tackled a challenging course through Huntsville's hills, embodying the determination and spirit that CPT Inman exemplified.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the donors whose generosity made this event possible, including community organizations and SHSU alumni. Their contributions ensured the day's success and allowed us to continue honoring CPT Inman's legacy.

Congratulations to our top finishers:

- Anthony Lu (SHSU Student): 17:07
- Nick Basel (3rd Cavalry Regiment): 17:28
- Jonathan Jordan (3rd Cavalry Regiment): 19:53
- Top Female, Anh Nguyen (SHSU Student): 25:08

Anthony Lu, this year's overall winner, shared his experience with humor: "It's Huntsville—those hills definitely kept things interesting!"



Participants at the beginning of the race.



CDT Madison Evans leads the invocation before the race.

We're also incredibly proud of our Cadets, whose dedication made this event possible. Special recognition goes to Cadet Michael Huff, this year's Officer in Charge of Operations, and Cadet Cailyn Whitner, Assistant Officer in Charge, who will take the lead next year.

Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event. Your participation ensures CPT Inman's memory continues to inspire future generations. We look forward to seeing you at next year's race!

5k Donor Support

2024 DONORS

2LT Level (\$100)

1LT Julian Monroig
 2LT Avery and Mrs Zoe Sitkowski
 2LT Cinnamon Wright-Burwinkel
 Mr. Ted Bilke

CPT Level (\$200)

1LT Cody and Mrs Jamayka Weeks
 Ms. Theresa Gaus-Schmidt and Family
 Park Law Firm
 Mr. Bill Briggs

MAJ Level (\$300)

LTC(R) Sharon Nitsche
 Mr. Johnny Oliver

LTC Level (\$500)

Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement
 Management Institute of Texas
 College of Criminal Justice
 Correctional Management Institute of Texas
 Department of Security Studies
 HEARTS Veterans Museum of Texas
 Military Science Alumni Club

COL Level (\$1000)

Mr Dennis Pat & Mrs Marie Dardis



2024 Ring Guard & Ceremony

PRESERVING & HONORING TRADITION

This year, I had the distinct honor of leading a cherished tradition within the SHSU Army ROTC program—the Ring Guard Ceremony. As the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), I was entrusted with overseeing the precise movements and vigilant guarding of the prestigious Sam Houston rings during their journey to and from General Sam Houston’s home.

Participating in this time-honored event was a source of immense pride for me, not only as a representative of the Bearkat Battalion but also as a student at Sam Houston State University, which is steeped in history and tradition. Witnessing the ring recipients during the ceremony was an incredibly moving experience, symbolizing the culmination of their hard work, resilience, and dedication.

This tradition holds a special place in the heart of SHSU, connecting each recipient to the university’s enduring legacy. It is a reminder of the values that Sam Houston himself stood for—leadership, integrity, and commitment. The ceremony inspired me to one day earn and wear my own Sam Houston ring with pride, carrying forward the same values that define our university.

Leading this effort as NCOIC was both a privilege and a powerful reminder of the enduring bond between SHSU and its ROTC Cadets. It reaffirmed the importance of service, tradition, and the deep connection we share as Bearkats. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this meaningful event, which continues to inspire generations of students and Cadets alike.



CDT Alexander Cannon receiving his Sam Houston ring.



Facilitating the movement of Sam Houston rings from Sam Houston’s home to the Johnson Coliseum.

**Cadet Cailyn Whitner
Bearkat BN Ring Ceremony NCOIC**



The Ring Ceremony, established in 2004, celebrates the tradition of the official University ring, unveiled in 2003.

HPD Range Day

SHARPENING SKILLS



Cadet Hagui Cardona Sanchez guiding Cadet Ephram Becker through BRM.

Top Shooters:

1. **Kaleb Brown: 36/40**
2. **Matthew Bilke: 34/40**
3. **Cailyn Whitner 34/40**
4. **Simon Binetti: 33/40**
5. **Diego Paez: 33/40**
6. **Caleb Rodas: 32/40**
7. **Adrian Simonsen: 31/40**
8. **Kennedy Smith: 31/40**
9. **Leo Rhome: 30/40**



MS3s conducting Table VI qualifications.

On November 15, the Bearkat Battalion had the privilege of participating in HPD Range Day, an essential training event focused on sharpening marksmanship and weapon-handling skills. This opportunity was particularly significant for our MS3 Cadets as they prepare for Advanced Camp this summer, a critical milestone in their ROTC journey.

Additionally, the Bearkat Battalion Ranger Challenge Team joined the event, showcasing their dedication to mastering advanced weapon systems and tactics. Their participation emphasized the importance of readiness, discipline, and precision—core values of Army leadership.

Throughout the day, Cadets practiced Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), honing their accuracy and confidence under the guidance of experienced instructors. MS3 Cadets focused on refining the skills they will need to excel at Advanced Camp, while other Cadets gained foundational knowledge that will prepare them for future responsibilities within the program.

Top performers demonstrated exceptional accuracy, with Cadets Kaleb Brown, Matthew Bilke, and Cailyn Whitner leading the scoreboard. Their outstanding performances reflected the hours of preparation and commitment required for success.

HPD Range Day was more than just a training event; it was a testament to the teamwork, resilience, and excellence that define the Bearkat Battalion. Events like this reinforce the importance of readiness while fostering camaraderie, ensuring our Cadets are well-prepared for their future roles as Army Officers.

Cadet Isaac Siekas
Bearkat Battalion Cadet S8

Super Lab

SOOOOPPPPAAAA LAB

On November 21, the Bearkat Battalion conducted its Fall 2024 Super Lab, a comprehensive training exercise designed to test tactical proficiency and leadership skills in a realistic environment. This capstone event included two challenging Situational Training Exercise (STX) lanes followed by a rigorous Night Land Navigation exercise.

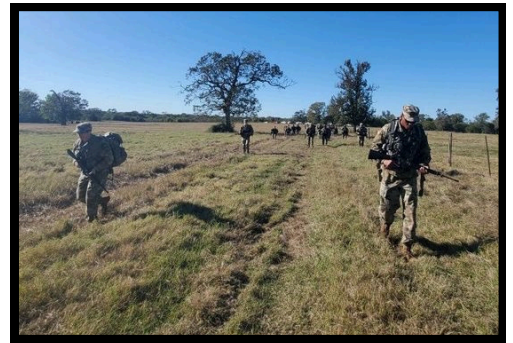
The day began with a Platoon Attack scenario that required Cadets to coordinate effectively, execute complex maneuvers, and achieve their objectives under simulated combat conditions. Following this, Cadets transitioned into a Platoon Perimeter Defense scenario. This exercise focused on terrain analysis, establishing defensive positions, and responding to potential threats. Both lanes took place at Gibbs Ranch, providing an ideal training environment that mirrored the challenges of real-world operations.

As the sun set, Cadets prepared for Night Land Navigation. This segment tested their ability to navigate unfamiliar terrain in low-visibility conditions, emphasizing the importance of attention to detail, mental resilience, and teamwork.

The Super Lab was especially critical for MS3 Cadets, who demonstrated their leadership skills while managing platoon-level operations. MS1s and MS2s gained hands-on experience, learning valuable lessons from their senior peers and cadre.

This culminating event highlighted the Bearkat Battalion's commitment to developing well-rounded leaders who embody Army Values and are prepared for the challenges of Advanced Camp and beyond. By pushing their limits and refining their skills, Cadets left the Super Lab with a renewed sense of confidence and readiness.

Cadet Tanner Stone
Bearkat Battalion Cadet S3



Cadets tactically marching to their first lane.



CDTs' Tanner Stone, Michael Huff, and Michael Kilgore giving the MS1s' a class on tactics.



MS3s' discussing their terrain model for the Defense lane.

Veterans Day Banquet

HONORING HEROES

On November 11, I had the distinct honor of presenting the colors at the annual Veterans Day Banquet hosted by the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum. As a member of the Color Guard, it is truly a privilege to participate in community events and ceremonies that go beyond our routine university engagements.

As Commander, I could hear my voice echo through the hall as hundreds of veterans from all branches of service, along with supporters of what our flag represents, stood in solemn silence. This moment was not only a mark of respect for the colors but also a tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation and could no longer stand alongside their comrades.

Throughout the evening, many attendees approached us to share advice, stories of their service, and encouragement for our future careers. Since the event, I have encountered several of these individuals in public, and they have eagerly asked about our training, upcoming Color Guard appearances, and our progress as we prepare to join the storied ranks of Army Officers.

It is my profound honor to represent the Bearkat Battalion and proudly wear its insignia. Our involvement in events like this has cemented the Bearkat Battalion's reputation for discipline and excellence within the community. One day, I hope to stand in the shoes of the veterans I met, looking upon a younger generation prepared to make the same sacrifices I am willing to make if my country calls upon me.

I stand not just as a Soldier or a Cadet, but as an American who has sworn an oath to defend those who cannot defend themselves. Carrying the colors—a symbol of bravery, purity, and justice—is a responsibility I hold with great humility. I look forward to continuing collaborations with the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum and other groups, proudly representing the Bearkat Battalion and displaying our national and state colors with pride and honor.

Cadet Kaleb Brown
Bearkat Battalion Color Guard NCOIC



SHSU College Rodeo

RIDING FOR SUCCESS

As the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) of Rodeo Operations, I want to commend all the Cadets who volunteered for this year's SHSU Rodeo at the Sonny Sikes Arena. From November 7th to 9th, the Bearkat Battalion proudly assisted the SHSU Agriculture Department by directing parking and supporting operations for this annual tradition. Despite the added challenge of hosting the 7th Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K on the morning of November 9th, our Cadets seamlessly supported both events, demonstrating their dedication, resilience, and teamwork.

The SHSU Rodeo is an incredible event that brings the community together and showcases the talent of the SHSU Rodeo Team. This year was particularly special as the battalion's Color Guard opened the rodeo for the first time by presenting the colors. Watching the Color Guard represent the Bearkat Battalion with precision and pride was an inspiring moment that set the tone for the weekend.

Our MSI Cadets stepped up in a big way, answering the call for volunteers and proving their commitment to the program. On Friday night, we faced heavy rain during operations, but our team maintained their bearing and completed the mission successfully. Their hard work and perseverance throughout the weekend exemplified the leadership and service our program strives to instill.

Supporting rodeo operations is significant to our program because it's our way of giving back to Gibbs Ranch, which provides the facilities that prepare us for Cadet Summer Training. The strong relationship between the Bearkat Battalion and the SHSU Agriculture Department is built on mutual respect and collaboration, and this event reinforces that bond.

I am incredibly proud of our Cadets for their efforts in making this event a success and for representing the Bearkat Battalion with excellence. I look forward to supporting rodeo operations again next year and leading our battalion in continuing this valuable tradition.



CDT Joseph Piro walking Rodeo participant trailers to park.



Cadet Jayla Perry hard at work even despite the weather.

Cadet Joseph Piro
Bearkat Battalion Rodeo Operations NCOIC

Rodeo **SH** Team™

Alumni Spotlight

WHERE ARE NOW?!

Our 2023-2024 Battalion Commander, 2LT Avery Sitowski, is starting an incredible journey this December, heading to a year-long training program with the U.S. Secret Service. We're so proud of his dedication and leadership and can't wait to see the impact he'll make in this prestigious role. Best of luck, 2LT Sitowski, as you begin this exciting new chapter!



We are so proud to celebrate an exciting milestone for our 2023-2024 S1/S4, 2LT Kynnyth Leblanc, as he graduates from Military Police BOLC at the end of November! His hard work and unwavering dedication have inspired everyone in the Bearkat Battalion. We can't wait to see him excel and thrive in the next steps of his career. Congratulations, 2LT Leblanc—you've truly earned it!

We are thrilled to celebrate a milestone for our 2023-2024 CSM, 2LT Cinnamon Wright-Burwinkel, who graduated from ABOLC in October! Her unwavering dedication inspires the Bearkat Battalion. We couldn't be prouder of all you've accomplished and are excited to see you excel in the next steps of your career. Congratulations on this incredible achievement—you're making us all proud!



Our 2023-2024 S3, 2LT Nicolas Watson, recently graduated from IBOLC, reaching an exciting milestone! His hard work inspires the Bearkat Battalion, and we can't wait to see him tackle Ranger School in January. Congratulations, 2LT Watson, on your achievement!

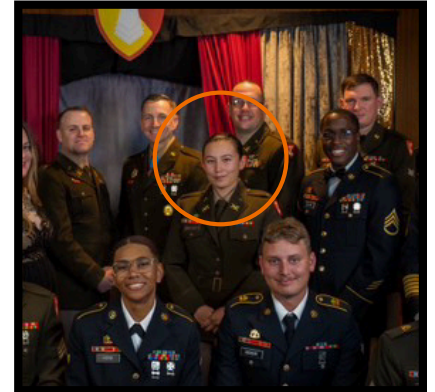


Our 2023-2024 Color Guard OIC, 2LT Emily Slott, is excelling as they work to complete ABOLC! Her commitment and determination reflect true leadership. We're excited to celebrate their success and see where their journey takes them next. Great job, 2LT Slott—keep it up!

Alumni Spotlight

WHERE ARE NOW?!

Our 2022-2023 AS4, 1LT Camille Dang-Fouty, reached an exciting milestone, graduating from BOLC on December 2, 2023! Their hard work and dedication have been an inspiration to the Bearkat Battalion. Currently serving in Okinawa, Japan, with the 1st Battalion, 1st Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 38th Brigade, they continue to make us proud as they excel in their military career. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!



Our 2022-2023 XO, 1LT Brendan Smith, reached an exciting milestone, completing his time as a Platoon Leader with the 329th Composite Watercraft Company! His hard work and dedication have been an inspiration to the Bearkat Battalion. Now serving as a training officer in HHD of the 10th Terminal Transportation Battalion (Waterborne), he continues to excel and lead in his military career. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!

Our 2023-2024 S8, 2LT Cinthia Salinas, reached an exciting milestone, graduating from Chemical BOLC on September 27, 2024, with the Steel Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment! Her hard work and dedication have been an inspiration to the Bearkat Battalion, and we're excited to see her excel as she takes the next steps in her career. Congratulations on this incredible achievement!

