



Returning MS1s who passed the APFT earned a \$750 scholarship.

Bearkat BATTALION

February | 2020 | Sam Houston State University

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Continuing with Strength and Honor!

This is our first newsletter of the semester as we have been busy supporting the university and community. This support includes us overseeing the SHSU Softball Team and the Crosby JROTC Program in the execution of our Field Leaders Reaction Course at Gibbs Ranch. This newsletter contains an article from the MSIV JRTC Leadership Professional Development, along with our freshman, sophomore, and junior cadet articles. We hope you enjoy!

Eat'em Up Kats!

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SHSU Faculty, ROTC Alumni, Local Community Supporters, and Families.

Welcome to March! We are enthusiastic to report that we have returned to our original footprint (Academic Building III). We truly appreciate the support from the university in providing our program over \$2.5 million in HVAC, electrical, and cosmetic repairs. Our Cadets are truly grateful! We welcome you to visit our new and improved building, if your schedule permits.

We look forward to supporting the university and our community this semester. Our Cadet Retention Rate was above 90% this semester; thus, our Cadets are fortunate to have “each other’s backs” and assist each other with these important responsibilities. In addition to this selfless support, our Cadets work hard in improving their fitness, they excel in the classroom, and continue to develop their leadership skills. Therefore, we sought to reward them for their hard work. We were fortunate to have the means and provide approximately one-third of our hard working Cadets with academic and fitness scholarships this semester. Congratulations to these deserving Cadets.

Our senior cohort is approximately two months away from completing their quest to become commissioned officers. Recently, they received first-class leadership professional developments (LPD) from our fellow alumni and supporters. Thank you to LTC Troy Mills (SHSU R.O.T.C. Alumnus) for hosting our soon-to-be 2nd Lieutenants at the Joint Readiness Training Center, in Fort Polk, Louisiana for an exceptional LPD, two weeks ago. Last week, our senior cadets also attended the San Jacinto Battlefield Staff Ride, hosted by Brigadier General (Retired) Henry Ostermann. Finally, the Military Science Alumni Club invited our Cadets to its annual meeting and provided one-on-one mentoring. We appreciate the continued support you all provide to our Cadets. The knowledge our Cadets gain from these events will pay dividends when they become Army Officers.

We look forward to the accomplishment of many major goals in March, such as the completion of the Bataan Death March on the 15th of March. Twelve of our most determined Cadets will travel to White Sands, New Mexico for this marathon. We appreciate the donors for supporting this event and providing our Cadets the opportunity to complete this demanding marathon. In closing, I want to thank each of you for the continued support to the SHSU Army ROTC Program. I also want to thank the families for raising these great young men and women of character, who will be leading Soldiers in the near future. We hope everyone enjoys a much needed Spring Break.

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



LTC Contreras speaking with LTC Mills during the JRTC LPD



Cadet of the Month – MS1 Cadet Giuliana Greco



CDT Greco during tactics lab.

My experience in ROTC has been so much better than I thought. I came into the program with an open mind and no expectations, since this was all new to me. By being in ROTC, I have learned to be more disciplined, from having to waking up for PT and ruck marches, to learning the officer leadership skills that will build us to be better officers in the long run. There is no better way to acquire the knowledge, than by being surrounded by great mentors that have prepared themselves for the future and cadre members that have been through the journey.

In the program, I have been involved in the Push-Up Crew and Color Guard. During the first semester, I participated in Push-Up Crew, hoping it would improve my form and repetitions for the APFT. Before joining the crew, I was not very fond of pushups, but I learned to enjoy them since we did it as group, encouraging each other while our football team scored. By the end of the season I improved very much, even though I am still one pushup away from maxing out. I was also a part of Color Guard practice the first semester to learn drill and ceremony. During that time, we learned posting/ retiring the colors, and marching techniques. Even though I did not feel confident enough to test for my tab the first time around, I plan to practice some more and earn it in the future.

I moved to Texas eight years ago from Paraguay, South America. After High School, I decided I wanted to do something out of the ordinary. Being in ROTC has given me the encouragement I needed to become a better version of myself and break out of my shell. Early into my first semester, I realized I did want to pursue a career as an Army officer. Soon, I will be a naturalized U.S citizen which places me a step closer to pursuing my dream. The program has given me the support system and a family away from home.



CDT Greco being awarded Cadet of The Month



CDT Greco practicing her rappelling techniques.



JRTC Trip

“During our visit to the Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC), I gained much needed and valuable information. Once the MS4s and myself arrived on base, we were sent directly to their briefing room for introductions. Here we discussed a vast amount of information encompassing from the role JRTC fulfills and the processes of which it utilizes to achieve its mission. Although we receive highly valuable information from our Cadre at SHSU, it is still greatly beneficial to hear from officers with varying experiences and leadership techniques.

Following the prepared briefs, we had the opportunity to split-up and talk with experienced officers of the same branch as us. The conversation continued to a BBQ restaurant on base, where we were able to make a personal connection and exchange contact information. Overall, I had a wonderful time at JRTC and hope future MS4s have the same opportunity.”

- **Cadet Hunter Lewis**



CDTs being briefed during their visit.



MS4s receiving mentoring from an MI CPT.



MS4s have lunch with JRTC CPTs



MS1 Cadet Austin Sumner

As the great BC Prescott King once asked us, “What’s the definition of success?” Through this program, I have learned the answer is an active pursuit of a worthy ideal. Going into SHSU, I was not sure about the ROTC program. I got in touch with BC King through a family friend and talked to him about the program. He told me all about it and the benefits of it. After our conversation, he brought my name up to LTC Contreras and after being interviewed, he sent my name up to Cadet Command requesting a three-year scholarship for me. They graciously awarded me the scholarship cementing my decision to enroll into the ROTC program at SHSU. There are numerous opportunities for cadets to receive scholarships in the program. You can earn 2-3-year scholarships. I also received a scholarship this semester for passing my PT test and earning above a 3.5 GPA.

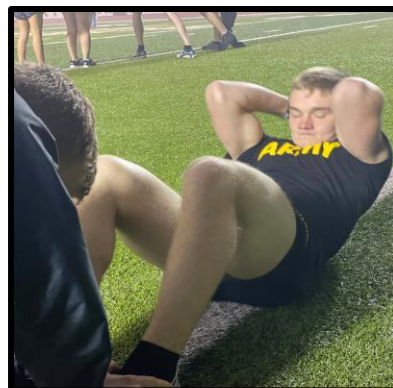
It has hands down been the best decision of my life. I have enjoyed every moment of my experience in the program, even waking up early for PT. Doing these things develop discipline and a good work ethic that transfers into schoolwork and in life. I have participated in Ranger Challenge, Color Guard, and Ranger Company. All three of these programs have developed skills that will transfer to my military career after college and into my daily life moving through college. It has helped to develop critical thinking skills allowing me to make decisions on my feet. It has also instilled in me a greater understanding of physical training. Not simply training to get bigger, but training to be functional for the tasks at hand. So far Ranger Company has been one of the hardest physical and mental challenges, I have faced. The scrolls (instructors) challenge us to push harder, move faster, and make decisions at a moment’s notice. They throw challenges at you that you must overcome during the mission you are executing. Even though it has been challenging, I do not regret my decision to join for a second. I also had the opportunity to be Battalion Commander for the day. This means that I shadow Cadet King and see what goes on behind the scenes at the MS4 level. It was a great experience getting to see the planning aspect of our labs.



CDT Sumner as Battalion Commander for the day.



CDTs Brink and Sumner after competing in Ranger Challenge.



CDT Sumner during his APFT.



MS2 Cadet Lawson Comer

I joined the SHSU ROTC program in the spring semester of 2019 and have had a great experience ever since. As an infantryman in the National Guard, I was skeptical of the value an ROTC program would have on my ability to grow, as a leader, but the students and cadre of the SHSU Military Science Department have exceeded my expectations every step of the way. Since my first day in ROTC, the experience and knowledge held by the instructors has been evident in everything we do. From PT to battle tactics the instruction has been some of the best military training, I have ever received and has greatly developed me not only as a Soldier, but more importantly as a leader.

The expertise and wisdom of the instructors is most prevalent in the student leadership. The knowledge and leadership abilities of the cadets at SHSU is some of the best I have ever seen and not a day goes by where I don't learn something from them. They are motivated, innovative, and push beyond the standard in everything they do. In the spring semester of 2019, I had the privilege of being on the SHSU ranger challenge team. The level of teamwork, commitment, and motivation to learn from my teammates made the whole experience an absolute blast and taught me a lot in the process. My experience in ROTC has been forever life changing and has progressed me immensely as a leader. I am very grateful for the opportunities the Bearkat Battalion has afforded me and can't wait to continue to develop into an army officer.



CDT Comer during tactics lab.



CDT Comer participating in Ranger Challenge.



CDT Comer with the Ranger Challenge team after competition.



MS3 Cadet Courtney Paulson



CDT Paulson rappelling off the tower.

14 May 2019, was the start of my introduction into the Army. I spent 20 weeks in Fort Leonardwood, MO, for MP OSUT (Military Police One Station Unit Training). Throughout my time in OSUT, I was taught by a group of well-rounded Drill Sergeants who instructed us with basic rifleman tactics/skills, as well as how to perform and execute missions while under a great deal of stress. Their goal was to convert over 150 civilians into strong and proficient Soldiers. My experience during OSUT is one that I will never forget. It's as if it was just yesterday, I was on the bus with 70 other civilians from across the states going to what was going to be our "home" for the next 5 months. The development to becoming a Soldier consists of becoming physical fit, self-confident, willing and able to tackle anything that comes his/her way. This experience has set a permanent tone in my life, along with establishing the standards that I now live by and will carry out throughout my entire career. I gained more knowledge that I could've imagined within those 5 months and I use that knowledge on an everyday basis. I learned how to be a follower, as well as learning what it takes to be a leader.

After graduating from OSUT, I made the decision to enroll back into school and pursue a commission through ROTC as a way of pushing myself to achieve greater heights and to give back to the Army. Along with this being my first semester in the Bearkat Battalion, this is my first semester at Sam Houston State University, and I have enjoyed every second of it. Initially, I did not really know how different it was going to be from the training I had previously received, but within the first couple weeks I realized the tactics taught here focused on leadership.

Entering the program as an MS3 and trying to catch up can be challenging at times. I am thankful for the rest of the MS3s that have been here longer, for being helpful and trying to guide me these past few weeks. I am excited for what is yet to come this semester as well as making myself better in every way, shape, and form.



CDT Paulson with her Drill Sergeant from Basic Training.

CDT Paulson graduating Basic Training as the guidon bearer.



Upcoming Events

March to the Grave	Campus / Cemetery	2-Mar
JROTC Drill Meet	New Caney HS	7-Mar
Bataan Memorial Death March	White Sands, New Mexico	13-16 Mar
Saturday @ Sam	SHSU Lowman Student Center	28-Mar
Multi-Program FTX with TAMU and SFASU	Camp Bullis, TX (San Antonio)	2-5 APR
Ravens Call	SHSU Clock Tower	3-Apr
HEARTS Museum Muster Festival	HEARTS Museum	4-Apr
Ring Escort and Ceremony	Sam House / Coliseum	06-07 Apr
BRM	Huntsville Police Department Range	15-Apr
Cadet Military Ball	Panorama Village, Conroe	17-Apr
Alumni Scholarship Board	Academic Building III	17-Apr
Sun Dial Ceremony	CJ Building	23-Apr
Take Back the Night	SHSU Campus	23-Apr
Spring Awards Ceremony	Prison Museum	23-Apr
Schuder's Rangers Final Exercise	Gibbs Ranch	24-25 Apr
Veterans Stole Ceremony	HEARTS Museum	30-Apr
Commencement Ceremonies	Johnson Coliseum	07-09 May
Commissioning Ceremony	TBD	9-May



February In Picture



MS4s host the New Cadet Orientation



MS1s during the FLRC



SHSU Softball Team at the ROTC FLRC



CDT Brink practicing his rappelling skills.



CDT Gentry contracting.



Crosby JROTC at the ROTC FLRC



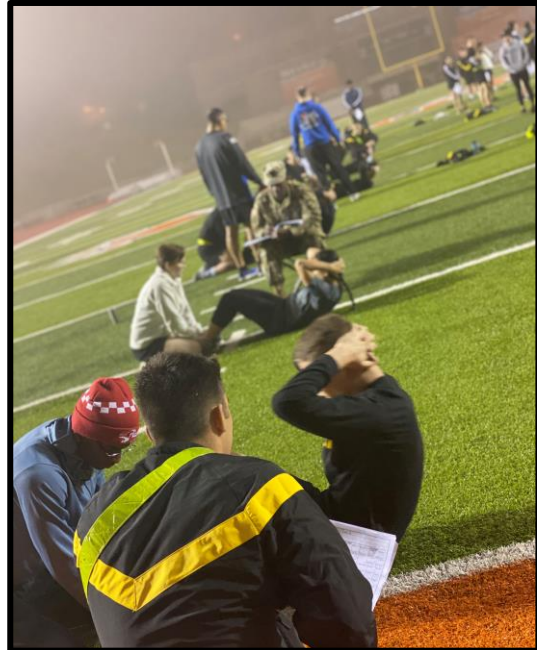
CDTs interacting with ROTC Alumni during Kat Chats.



February In Pictures continued...



CDT Zirkel during Land Navigation.



CDTs during the APFT



MS4s helping at the Huntsville Horney Success Academy.



Bearkat CDTs grading a local JROTC Drill Meet



MS4s attending the San Jacinto Battle Staff Ride



CDT Perry contracting



CDTs helping at the local H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum.



8 THE HOUSTONIAN. Tuesday, November 6, 1979



Lt. Col. William Hill

Future army marches on Sam's ROTC grows

BARBARA DOBBS
Editor

The purpose of the ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) on the campus of SHSU is to attract young men and women to a program which will allow them to become officers in the United States Army.

ROTC hopes to motivate its members to remain in the army. Also it tries to enhance their civilian education with ROTC courses which prepare them to accept commissions, said Lt. Col. William Hill chairman of the Military Science Department.

Currently, 160 students are enrolled in Sam's ROTC courses. The Military Science Department offers eight courses and five labs.

If a student decides to join the ROTC program he or she will sign a contract during his or her junior year. The student will attend a base camp during the summer. If the student is successful in the ROTC and at camp he or she will receive a commission upon graduation.

The contract the student signs is one with a six year obligation which is not necessarily active-duty. The obligation can be fulfilled through: 1) serving as a reserve officer 2) regular army commission

or 3) a 90 day active duty service followed by assignment to the National Guard or a Reserve Unit.

A campus ROTC program is not often popular to non-ROTC students. Hill said, "Being unpopular is not difficult, but it requires some perspective. Historically, students are inquisitive and searching for new ideas, and the military represents the establishment, the status quo."

Overall, the ROTC program has grown nationwide since 1973. Hill attributes this growth to the resolution of the Viet-Nam situation in the minds of Americans so that it is not as disruptive to society.

Also, a significant number of people are interested in a military career, and the ROTC program is more responsive to student needs.

Hill said the reason ROTC is on the campus is to enable the army to have a representative selection of people according to geographic location, race, sex, economic background and education.

With the end of the draft in the United States, the National Guard and the Reserve could not depend on Officers Candidate School for recruits, therefore, the mission of ROTC this year is to commission 6,500 2nd lieutenants.

attention...

Beacon lights the way

Lt. Col. William Hill (chairman of the Military Science Department: "The purpose of the ROTC Reserve Officers Training Corps' on the campus of SHSU is to attract young men and women to a program which will allow them to become officers in the United States Army. ROTC hopes to motivate its members to remain in the army. Also it tries to enhance their civilian education with ROTC courses which prepare them to accept commissions."

Future army marches on... Sam's ROTC grows

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