



# Bearkat BATTALION

December | 2019 | Sam Houston State University

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## Finishing strong!

The Bearkat Battalion successfully completed the Fall 2019 Semester. We held the Inaugural SHSU Branch Day, the 2nd Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5k, and conducted our Record APFT this past month. Additionally, the Bearkat Battalion commissioned 6 cadets on 13 December 2019. We will have upcoming fitness challenges on our social media platforms throughout the break, so be on the lookout. We appreciate the continued support.

**Have a safe break Bearkats!**

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# PMS Comments

## SHSU Faculty, R.O.T.C. Alumni, Local Community Supporters, and Families.

We are extremely humbled by your support this semester. We accomplished more than I envisioned, when I began this assignment. Our Cadets highlight some of these accomplishments in this newsletter; however, we want to personally thank the individuals who went the "extra mile" to support our Cadets.

Brigadier General (Retired) Richard Mills, the president of the Military Science Alumni Club (MSAC) was essential in ensuring the Inaugural SHSU Branch Day was supported - thank you, Sir! We want to thank the individuals listed below, who made the trip to SHSU and represented a specific branch. Your professionalism and insight is noteworthy.

LTC Richard Hobart	LTC Jayson Morgan	MAJ Jeffrey Gagliano
MAJ Jamesia Redwine	CPT Kenneth Keith	CPT Janie Salazar
CPT Bradley Raynor	CPT Hailey Morgan	CPT Colby Morgan
CPT Robert Thomson	1LT Darian Barbrow	1LT Sarah Donohoe
1LT Holly Rickett	Bill Gawthrop	Mike Whitten
Gonzalo Correa		

Captain Rowdy Inman (SHSU R.O.T.C. 2007 Alumnus) represents the epitome of selfless service, as he paid the ultimate sacrifice during the Global War on Terrorism on December 26, 2007, in Iraq. The 2nd Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K would not have been feasible without the support of our sponsors listed below. Thank you for enabling the Cadets to conduct this special event for CPT Rowdy Inman's family, friends, and the community.

Cowboy Contractors	Leta Reiner	J. Paxton Adams
Bill Fick Ford	Craig and Heights	Snap Fitness
Travis Mills	SHSU MSAC	Texas Army National Guard
Stoermer Solutions	Physical Dominion	300 Kennard'sRegards
H-E-B (Huntsville)	Recon Production Service	H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum

As our Cadets mentioned on the first page of this newsletter, six of our teammates commissioned last week. Congratulations to Second Lieutenants Ismael Alvarez, Jacob Gerlach, Johnathan Hohn, Zaira Lopez, Jordan Pham, and David Weinbel. We also want to thank Brigadier General (Retired) Henry Ostermann for gracing us with his presence and serving as the guest speaker for this commissioning ceremony. We wish these six individuals the best in our selfless profession. However, we are excited that 11 new incoming students are joining our team during the spring semester. There is plenty of time for anyone else to register and join the Bearkat Battalion - we are looking for leaders!

In closing, the next newsletter will be published in February, 2020. However, we will send out the 2020 Spring Semester Events in early January. We appreciate the support you continue to provide and are excited for next semester.

**Strength and Honor!**

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



# Branch Day

SHSU's Inaugural Branch Day was a success for the Bearkat Battalion. We had branch representatives from Infantry, Air Defense Artillery, Armor, Aviation, Field Artillery, Signal, Military Intelligence, Military Police, Logistics, Transportation, and Judge Advocate General. Each of the briefs were fantastic and all of the cadets who participated enjoyed branch day. The presentations consisted of videos, personal experiences, and organized speeches to inform cadets on their exciting future! MS1s, MS2s, and MS3s had many questions and branch representatives were happy to answer. MS4s also enjoyed speaking with representatives of their assigned branch, asking about their upcoming life as a commissioned lieutenant in the Army. It was a wonderful experience for everyone. We look forward to our next branch day!



"Branch Day provides an understanding of each branch you will eventually select. Even if you are set on a certain one, it is important to understand other branches."

-Cadet Elaine Bishop (MSI)



"Coordinating Branch Day is no easy task, especially when it is the first event like this at SHSU! It required plenty of help from cadre and all of the MS4s to provide such a great opportunity for the cadets to explore their future."

- Cadet Hunter Lewis (MSIV)



1LT Rickett briefs cadets on Field Artillery



CPT Salazar briefs cadets on Military Intelligence.



# 2nd Annual Rowdy Inman 5K

The 2nd Annual Rowdy Inman 5k on December, 7th, 2019, was an incredible success with over seventy registered runners. Thank you to our community and veterans for participating and supporting this memorable event for Captain Inman. We also appreciate our 15 sponsors! Finally, we are thankful that Rowdy Inman's family attended and shared Rowdy's experiences. Shannon Inman and her children are extremely passionate about this event and we plan on continuing to execute this event in the future.



The crowd getting fired up to start the race.



Racers cross the finish line completing the 5k.



Cadets fire the cannon to signal the start of the race.



## Cadet Battalion Commander for the Day – Britney Loerwald



BC Loerwald oversees battalion training at lab.



BC Loerwald oversees battalion morning PT.

As the CDT BC for the day, I shadowed CDT BC Prescott King throughout the day and learned the importance of this position. The day began with a ruck march for PT at 04:30 in the morning as I led a small group for 7 miles. Our current BC was at my side informing me on what a leader should do in the situation. I constantly had to make sure everyone was doing well and able to continue and look back to see how each person was doing. I had to keep track of the pace and decide when we needed to speed up or slow down. Another duty, I had, was to keep the motivation high. I had to balance pushing not only my group, but also myself and knowing when to give them a break. We made it back to our starting point with my group's fastest pace yet and I got to end PT with a speech. I now know that in the future, I will need to work on my speeches, but I am glad I could give the battalion a good laugh.

I was told that to be BC means you have to work harder than everyone else and I got to go to the gym with BC King after PT, whereas others may have called it a day after the ruck. I learned about his experience and got to see what he has to go through on a daily basis. Being BC requires a lot of communication which took me by surprise. I hadn't realized being in the position meant constantly talking with people, getting updates, and fixing issues.

Later that day, I was allowed to sit in on the MS4's class and see what their briefings looked like. I watched and listened as everyone contributed to the discussing and planning of different upcoming events. I saw the importance each job has and why they are necessary and also how the chain of command works. I even got to add in my suggestions to the discussion.

The highlight of the day was when it was time for lab. I stayed by BC King's side and observed each platoon in the planning of each of their tasks. The other MS4s also helped explain different elements of the lab to me and how their job contributed to the task as a whole. I learned leadership tactics and how to think on the spot; I had to deal with a couple complications and find the best course of action to resolve the issues while keeping track of time. I ended lab with a speech, once again, and this time was able to think and prepare more of what I wanted to say. The whole experience of being BC for the day really motivated me to be better, in hopes that one day I can be the real BC. I'd like to thank BC King and everyone else who encouraged me and taught me what it takes to be a leader.



# Cadet of the Month – Lillian Sheats (MSI)

It was during high school that I made the decision to join the Army. I wanted to do something meaningful that made a lasting difference in the world. While researching the Army, I was drawn to the core values of duty and selfless service. I was convinced the Army would provide me a sense of purpose and direction for my life.

The camaraderie that I have not only observed, but experienced through ROTC, reaffirmed my desire to serve. As cheesy as this might sound, especially coming from someone who wants to be an Army officer, I have had the time of my life. Meeting people that share common goals, having the opportunity to learn alongside my fellow cadets, and stretching myself beyond what I thought possible has been an amazing experience.

The physical aspect of ROTC has been the biggest hurdle. Starting with a PT score of 13, does not illicit confidence in oneself or from others. It has been a struggle to raise my scores, but I am getting there largely due to the Battalion. The encouragement and motivation that I have received, challenges me to improve. Whether I'm falling out while running or struggling to complete my final repetition of a push-up, someone is there encouraging me, even after I feel I cannot keep going. I intend to continuously improve myself and hope to be a source of encouragement for the next "13." I am excited to see where this program takes me in the years ahead.



# The Month in Pictures



Cadets moving the SHSU class rings.



Cadets guarding the SHSU class rings through the night.



Cadet Sumner as BC for a day.



Bearkat Battalion performing its record APFT.



Cadet Padron running the sign-up station for the 5K.



CDT Kennard during the 5k with Roscoe



# The Month in Pictures



MS4s receive their branches.



Participants of the Rowdy Inman 5k.



Academic awards given during our award ceremony.



Ranger Challenge received tabs for their hard work.



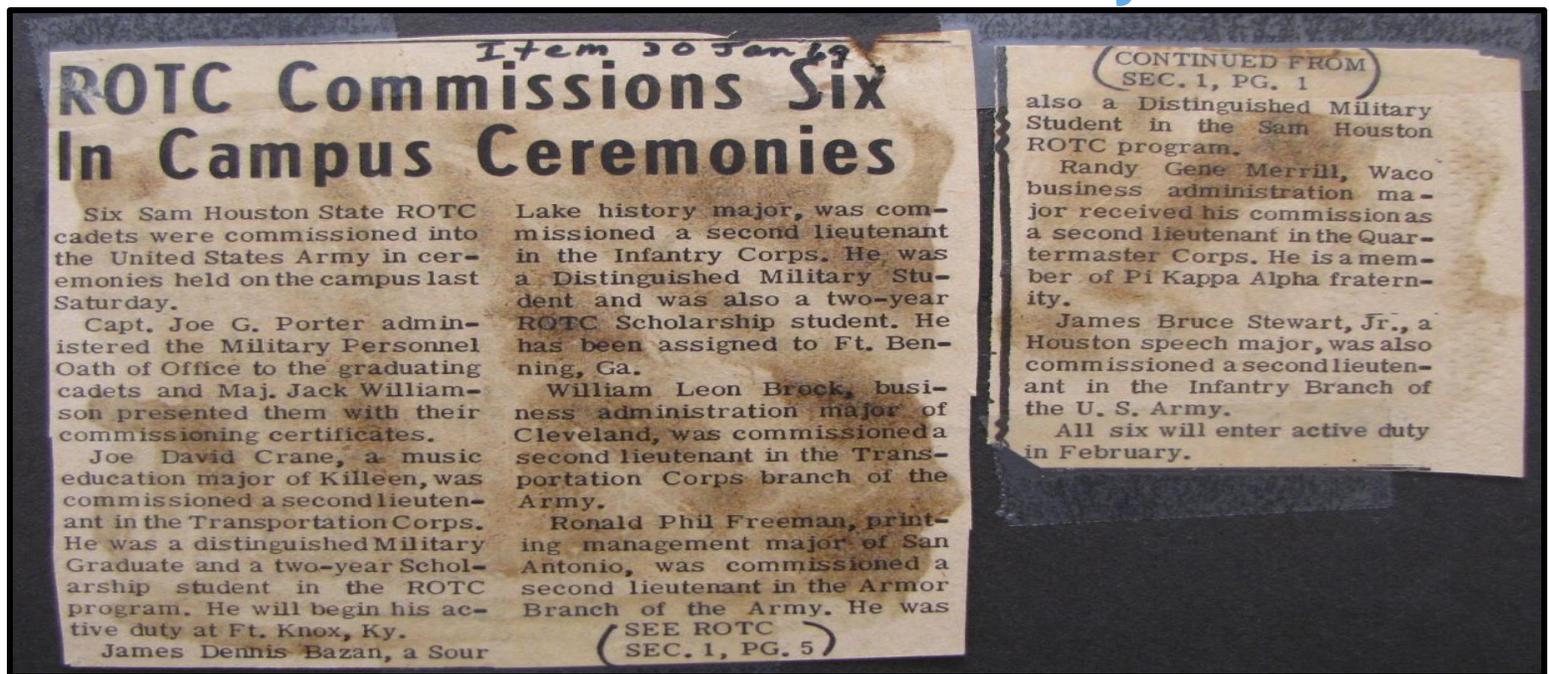
The "Face-to-Face" Scholarship Lunch



Cadets volunteer at the local High School "Success Academy"



# Blast from the Past – January 1969



## ROTC Commissions Six In Campus Ceremonies

Six Sam Houston State ROTC cadets were commissioned into the United States Army in ceremonies held on the campus last Saturday.

Capt. Joe G. Porter administered the Military Personnel Oath of Office to the graduating cadets and Maj. Jack Williamson presented them with their commissioning certificates.

Joe David Crane, a music education major of Killeen, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps. He was a distinguished Military Graduate and a two-year Scholarship student in the ROTC program. He will begin his active duty at FT. Knox, Ky.

James Dennis Bazan, a Sour Lake history major, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry Corps. He was a distinguished Military Student and was also a two-year ROTC Scholarship student. He has been assigned to Ft. Benning, Ga.

William Leon Brock, business administration major of Cleveland, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps branch of the Army.

Ronald Phil Freeman, printing management major of San Antonio, was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Armor Branch of the Army. He was also a Distinguished Military Student in the Sam Houston ROTC Program.

Randy Gene Merrill, Waco business administration major, received his commission as a second lieutenant in the Quartermaster Corps. He is a member of Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

James Bruce Stewart, Jr., a Houston speech major, was also commissioned a second lieutenant in the Infantry Branch of the U. S. Army. All six will enter active duty in February.

