



Bearkat BATTALION

September | 2019 | Sam Houston State University

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Lets Go!

The Bearkat Battalion wrapped up a challenging and eventful summer. Our current senior class was put to the test during U.S. Army Cadet Command's final capstone of training, Advanced Camp. Many other cadets also attended other forms of Cadet Summer Training: Basic Camp, Basic Camp Leadership, Internships, CTLT, CULP, CAIT, CFT, and OPFOR. The rest of the Battalion participated in weekly summer challenges to keep everyone in shape. Our cadets are ready and hungry for another year of tough training.

Welcome back Bearkats!

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PMS Comments

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

Today marks 18 years since the 9/11 attacks against our country. As you are aware, some of our Cadets are 18 years old! Since 9/11, only .45% of the U.S. population has served in our military – your Cadets desire to join this profession of selfless service. This is significant as it portrays our Cadet's character, in large part due to the impact you make in their lives.

Academics is our #1 priority in our program as it is weighed 40% of our Cadet's Outcome Metrics list when they compete for components and branches in the Army against their peers across the nation. We began the semester with 100+ Cadets in the program, who are ready to excel in the classroom. We are excited about our bright and athletic freshmen cohort, whose most impressive feat to date is their high school GPA average of 3.57. A huge appreciation to Dr. Heather Thielemann, Dr. Brian Loft, and Dr. Leah Mulligan, who are providing us with additional scholarships, so we can continue to attract top-tier students to our program. Our contracted Cadets graduate with a 3.41 GPA average with degrees that range from Business to Health Sciences to Psychology; however, 65% of our Cadets are Criminal Justice (CJ) Majors, due to SHSU being ranked as the #1 CJ University in the state of Texas. A majority of our Cadets also desire to serve in a 3-letter agency after their service in the military. We were fortunate to have agents from the FBI, DEA, and ATF visit our Cadets during our first lab and provide them with an insight on their agencies. We appreciate the agents (Gavin Lappe, Melanie Blosser, Darren Butler, Roy Brashier, Tommy Doyle, and Jerod Yates) who took time out of their busy schedules to further emphasize the importance of military service and academics.

Soldier physical readiness is vital for our Cadets as they strive to join our profession. The U.S. Army announced on 9 JUL 2018, a new physical fitness test – The Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT). The ACFT is replacing the current physical fitness test that has been utilized since 1980. The ACFT will require training equipment for our Cadets to develop strength, endurance, and mobility. We are fortunate that Dr. Christopher Maynard and the university provided us funds to purchase three sets of this equipment – Thank you. I also want to personally thank Mr. Clint Fisher, the manager at New Balance, The Woodlands. Mr. Fisher is providing our program a generous discount as we are purchasing running shoes for all of our Cadets. In addition, Mr. Fisher sent a team to SHSU, to fit all of our Cadets with the correct running shoe. This training equipment and running shoes will provide our Cadets the tools to become physically fit this year.

In closing, I will finish up with some administrative notes. We are currently operating in the former Art Buildings as the repairs in ABIII are underway. A special thanks to our very own Darryl Derr and Emily Elkins who were crucial during the transition to the Templeton Building in the summer and to our current footprint. Also, we appreciate the support from Mr. Gonzalo Correa, proud alumnus of the SHSU ROTC program, who assisted us with the IT during both moves. Finally, we welcome Mr. Alan Payne and his family to the team. Alan officially started as the logistics technician, a position that has been vacant for approximately two years. We hope you enjoy the Cadet articles from their training experiences this summer.

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



National Advanced Leadership Course / Advanced Camp

The National Advanced Leadership Course, also known as Advanced Camp, is a 37-day training event designed to train U.S. Army ROTC Cadets to Army standards, further develop leadership skills, and evaluate U.S. Army Officer potential. This course is required for all ROTC Cadets nationwide to attend during the summer between their Junior and Senior years, and is known as the U.S. Army's largest training exercise.

In order to graduate Advanced Camp, cadets must successfully complete the: Army Physical Fitness Test, Land Navigation test/course, Confidence training, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, First-aid, Field Leaders Reaction Course, Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN), and Tactics training. This past summer, 17 Bearkat Battalion cadets successfully completed this strenuous training exercise.

CDT Allen, Kahlil	CDT McEnroe, Andrew
CDT Escamilla, Andrew	CDT Melkovitz, Alec
CDT Hernandez, Amri	CDT Morrow, Kaitlyn
CDT Kennard, Ty	CDT Nunez, Gianni
CDT King, Julian	CDT Oviedo, Shyanne
CDT Leasure, Brett	CDT Padron, Abraham
CDT Lewis, Hunter	CDT Webb, Morgan
CDT Lopez, Samanta	CDT Weinbel, David
CDT Lopez, Zaira	



6th Reg. CDTs Webb, Lewis, & Nunez on Graduation Day.



4th Reg. CDTs King, Kennard, Hernandez, & Morrow on Graduation Day.



2nd Reg. CDTs Lopez & Melkovitz ran into SHSU Cadre SFC Moates during Advanced Camp.



Army Basic Camp

Basic Camp is a 31-day training event designed to introduce Cadets to the Army, and develop leadership skills while reinforcing the Warrior Ethos and Army Values. The purpose of Army Basic Camp is to learn what progression Cadets have learned in their freshman and sophomore years of Army ROTC. In order to graduate Basic Camp, cadets must successfully complete the: Army Physical Fitness Test, Confidence training, Basic Rifle Marksmanship/Live Fire, and Chemical Biological Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN). This past summer, 7 Bearkat Battalion cadets successfully completed this training exercise.



CDT Cissna and his parents at Basic Camp graduation.

CDT Cardenas, Steven	CDT Marcuccio, Dante
CDT Chamberlain, Quinton	CDT Tierney, David
CDT Cissna, Kyle	CDT Zepeda, Hannah
CDT Gonzales, Oscar	



CDT Gonzales and Cardenas at Basic Camp.



CDT Zepeda after rappelling at Basic Camp.

Cadet Zepeda's Experience

"It taught me to be a team player, and the importance of selfless service. It was a true learning experience for me!"

-CDT Hannah Zepeda



CDT Marcuccio with his Drill SGTs at Basic Camp.



Cadet Troop Leader Training / Internships

Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) and Army Internships are job shadowing experiences where you are paired with a platoon leader for up to 3 weeks on one of the many Army posts around the world. Cadets are assigned a unit mentor, and are provided on-post lodging and meals. This program is exclusively designed for Cadets in their Junior year before and after completion of Advanced Camp. Cadets have the opportunity to participate in several courses and internship opportunities during the summer to further develop their leadership potential. This past summer, 10 Bearkat Battalion cadets were selected to attend either a CTLT or Internship.



CDT Kennard at Basic Combat Training CTLT in Fort Jackson, South Carolina.



CDT Escamilla at Transportation CTLT in Hawaii.



CDT Webb at a JAG Corps internship in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

Basic Camp Leader

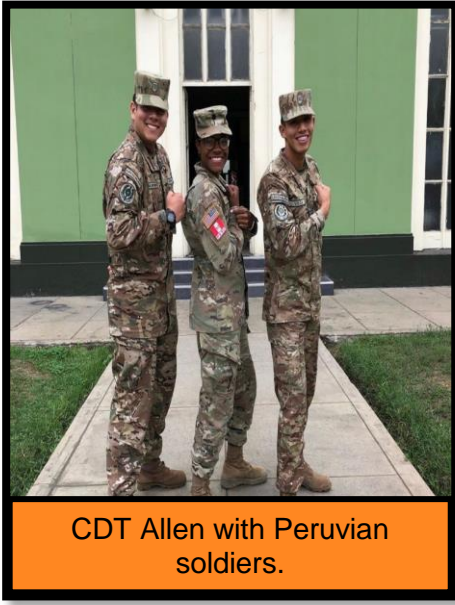


CDT Lopez as Basic Camp Leader in Fort Knox, KY.

Basic Camp leaders are cadets in their Junior year, who opted to lead underclassmen cadets through their summer at Basic Camp. This is an opportunity for cadets to build confidence in their leadership abilities as well as be evaluated in their potential to become an Army Officer.



Cultural Understanding Leadership Program



CDT Allen with Peruvian soldiers.

The purpose of the Cultural Understanding Leadership Program (CULP) is to enhance the cultural awareness of cadets by completely immersing them into another culture. This program consists of a series of month-long group deployments. This past summer, CDT Allen participated in this program, and was selected to go to Peru.

“Peru is a great country that suffers from poverty, because they don’t have the manpower needed when it comes to health resources. This mission taught me to have an open mind, and to always be humble.”

- CDT Allen, Kahlil



CDT Allen at the BRM range in Peru.



CDT Allen at the Calvary school in Peru.

Cadet Advanced Individual Training

The Cadet Advanced Individual Training program allows cadets to attend functional qualifications, and other courses that results in being awarded a skill badge. This past summer, 2 Bearkat Battalion cadets successfully completed Air Assault School.



CDT Way (son) and CSM Way (dad) at graduation.

CDT Way, Michael

“Receiving the opportunity to attend Air Assault School was an eye-opening and unforgettable experience. I wanted to attend this school because I wanted to challenge myself and test my abilities. I believe attending Air Assault School prepared me for the discipline and dedication required to be an Army Officer.”

CDT Edo-Terradas, Oscar

“Air Assault School was an amazing experience for me in which I learned about the importance of attention to detail, discipline, and hard work. I also had the opportunity to meet great people, which made me realize how great of an organization the Army is.”



CDT Edo-Terradas Graduating Air Assault



Cadet Field Training

Cadet Field Training (CFT) is a 4-week training event is held at West Point during their Cadet Summer Training cycle. The purpose of CFT is to integrate ROTC Cadets into the West Point Corps of Cadets, before they are commissioned together into the officer corps. This is an opportunity for less experienced ROTC Cadets to immerse themselves into Army training for an extended period of time. This past summer, the Bearkat Battalion had 2 cadets successfully complete CFT.



"When I arrived, I was pleasantly surprised to meet so many helpful cadets that made me feel like we were one happy family. Even though this training was not mandatory, I would do it all over again. I made some awesome friendships with the people in my platoon, and I feel much more confident going into my MS3 year with the skills I was able to improve on at CFT."

- CDT Stone, Nikki

"This experience was extremely humbling for me and though at times it was tough, I would do it again and recommend it to anyone interested. I met so many great people and learned a tremendous amount about the Army. I feel that my time at West Point has helped me grow as a person, as well as an individual who's seeking a career in the Army."

- CDT Steele, Lynnsey

Opposing Forces

The Advanced Camp Opposing Forces program is 35 days and allows Cadets to test their leadership abilities at the Fire team and Squad levels, from troop leading procedures to tactical operations against Advanced Camp Squads and Platoons. This past summer, the 2 Bearkat Battalion cadets volunteered their summer to participate in this program in Fort Knox, Kentucky.



"I am so glad I was provided the opportunity to be OPFOR for the Advance Camp cadets! It was an experience that gave me a lot of insight to the in's and out's of Cadet Summer Training that I found valuable to myself, and to my peers at school. The other cadets were amazing people to be around and I hope I can see them again next year!"

CDT Valentin, Josh

"I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to have been OPFOR for Advanced Camp. In just a short 5 weeks I was exposed to a plethora of knowledge and experience that I will carry with me as an MS3, and for years to follow. I was fortunate enough to be surrounded by highly motivated Cadets and Cadre that instilled a demand for excellence. Above all, I will carry with me the need to have passion in all that I do and for those I lead."

- CDT Massey, Jarrod



Cadet Summer Challenges

This summer, we used our social media accounts as a way of encouraging cadets to stay active and motivated during the summer. There were weekly exercise challenges as well as monthly ruck competitions for cadets to compete for prizes. The workouts were designed to help cadets improve their physical fitness through exercises such as: pull-ups, squats, push-ups, sit-ups, etc. There was a vast number of cadets who participated in these challenges, and their hard work this summer did not go unnoticed!

WEEKLY CHALLENGES (\$20 gift card)

- Week 1 squats challenge – CDT Cardenas
- Week 2 run 14 miles – CDT Abramski
- Week 3 sit-ups – CDT Cardenas & CDT Hulse
- Week 4 run 10 miles – CDT Zirkel
- Week 5 pull-ups – CDT Cardenas & CDT Steele
- Week 6 ruck 6 miles – CDT Hulse
- Week 7 push-ups – CDT Cardenas
- Week 8 run 10 miles – CDT Zirkel
- Week 9 burpees – CDT Teal & CDT Trejo
- Week 10 hike 6 miles – CDT Chudej
- Week 11 hand release push-ups – CDT Hulse
- Week 12 run 12 miles – CDT Zirkel
- Week 13 sit-ups – CDT Marcuccio
- Week 14 plank time – CDT Cardenas

RUCKING CHALLENGE (\$150 check towards new boots)

- Month 1 – CDT Edo-Terradas
- Month 2 – CDT Hulse
- Month 3 – CDT Chudej



SUMMER WORKOUT 2019
SHSU ARMY ROTC

Brief:

- Download the app Map My Run by Under Armor and add SHSU ROTC as a friend to track and log workouts.
- Follow the SHSU ROTC Twitter (@shsuArmyRotc) and/or Instagram (@shsu.rotc).
- Each Sunday, a new challenge will be posted.
- The top Cadet each week will receive a **\$10 gift card** at the first lab of Fall 2019.
- Additionally, whoever rucks the most miles each month (May15-June14, June15-July14, July15-August14), will win a **free pair of combat boots** of your choice

Weekly \$10 gift card winners

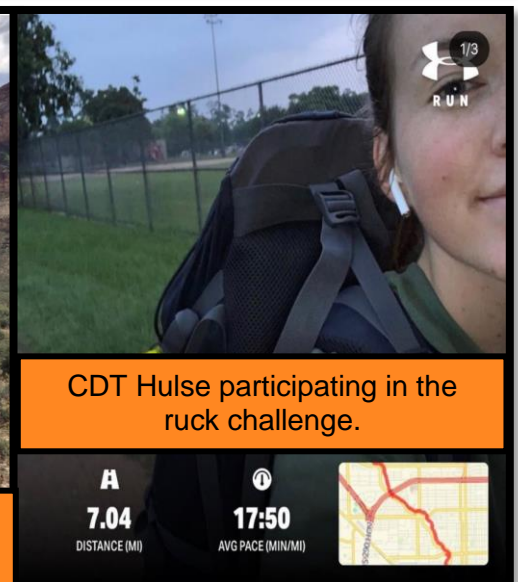
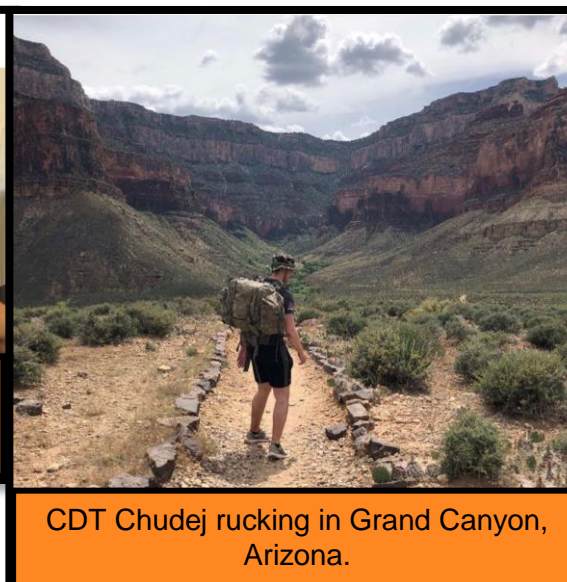
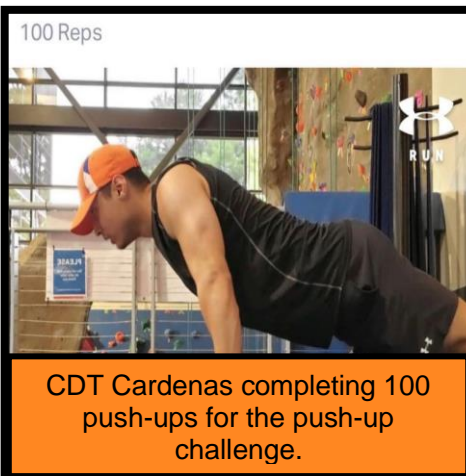
WEEKLY CHALLENGES 12MAY-10AUG

Monthly free combat boots (OF YOUR CHOICE) winners

MONTHLY RUCK CHALLENGE 15MAY-15AUG

HOOAH!

"NOTHING WILL WORK UNLESS YOU DO."
- Maya Angelou



University, Huntsville, Texas

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ROTC named best in nation

By Beth Ballew
Staff Writer

Sam Houston State University's Reserve Officers' Training Corps recently received the third annual MacArthur Award, signifying it as is the nation's best R.O.T.C.

The award is presented each year to the top R.O.T.C. branch of small, medium and large schools. SHSU won in the large school category.

"Sam Houston has been

known in certain circles as having a very good R.O.T.C. program," Lt. Col. Ronald Scotka, professor of military science, said. "Now that we have the award the information will spread to other circles. That should be a recruiting advantage not only for this R.O.T.C. but for the university as well."

According to Scotka the MacArthur Award is based on several criteria in which the R.O.T.C. had to excel.

"Every year the Assessments Panel evaluates the records of all the cadets nationwide that

will be commissioned in one year and ranks them from best to worst," he said. "One criteria for the award is how well the school's cadets ranked with the Assessments Panel."

A school's junior cadet's performance at a six-week summer intensive training camp is also taken into consideration for the award.

"In the last summer camp, 54 percent of our cadets were in the top one-third of the camp," Scotka said. "The

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Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Ronald Scotka has supported the Bearkat Battalion for the past 7 years, providing the Top Cadet of the Junior Class a \$1,000 scholarship for their hard work and dedication.



Cadet Chain of Command

CDT BN CDR	CDT LTC Julian King
CDT BN CSM	CDT CSM Samanta Lopez
CDT BN XO	CDT MAJ Shyanne Oviedo
CDT BN S1/CONTRACTING LIAISON	CDT CPT Ty Kennard
CDT BN S2/SAFETY OFFICER	CDT CPT Amri Hernandez
CDT BN S3/FALL FTX OIC/RANGER CHALLENGE OIC	CDT MAJ Gianni Nunez
AS3/CUOPS - LAB OIC	CDT CPT Andrew McEnroe
AS3/FUOPS - LAND NAV OIC	CDT CPT David Weinbel
CDT BN S4	CDT CPT Andrew Escamilla
CDT BN S6/ACE OIC	CDT CPT Zaira Lopez
CDT BN S8/NEWSLETTER	CDT CPT Morgan Webb
CDT PAO/BRANDING	CDT CPT Kahlil Allen
CDT MENTORING OIC/SHSU BRANCH DAY OIC	CDT CPT Hunter Lewis
CDT RECRUITING OIC/PLT MENTOR	CDT CPT Brett Leasure
SMP RECRUITING LIAISON/ACE NCOIC	CDT SFC Samuel Honeycutt
CDT CO CDR/TAILGATE OIC	CDT CPT Alex Melkovitz
HERITAGE PROJECT OIC/PLT MENTOR	CDT CPT Kaitlyn Morrow
RUNNING COORDINATOR - ARMY 10-MILER/ROWDY INMAN 5K OIC	CDT CPT Abraham Padron

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date
Kyonggi University Visit	SHSU Main Campus	8-12 Sep
Program Council 9/11 Support	SHSU Main Campus	11-Sep
Combat Water Survival Training	Fitness Center/Pool	12-Sep
HEARTS Event	HEARTS	16 & 18 Sep
BRM	HPD	20-Sep
SHSU vs. Incarnate Wood- Family Weekend	Bowers	21-Sep
Fall Safety Bash Support	Bowers	25-Sep
Battle of the Piney Woods	NRG	5-Oct
SHSU vs. Lamar- Pink Out	Bowers	12-Oct
Bearkat Bolt Run	Bowers	13-Oct
Army Ten Miler	Washington, D.C.	10-13 Oct
Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Ave.	17-Oct
Regional Ranger Challenge	SFA	18-20 Oct
Distinguished Alumni	LSC Ballroom	18-Oct
Homecoming Game vs. Nicholls	Bowers	19-Oct
Scholarship Board	ROTC Building	22-Oct
Fall FTX	Gibbs Ranch	25-27 Oct
Halloween Run	Campus	30-Oct



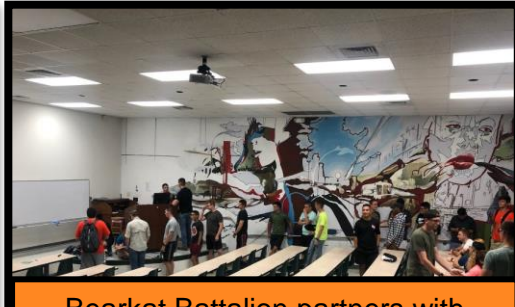
August in Pictures



Cadets introduce themselves at the Freshman/New Cadet orientation.



Senior Cadets grill for the first lab of the semester.



Bearkat Battalion partners with New Balance for new running shoes.



First official tactical lab for the Bearkat Battalion.



Bearkat Battalion dominates their first intramural Dodgeball game.



CDT Dieck doing drills at the HGAC.



2nd Lieutenant Bridwell commissioned as a Field Artillery Officer.



Bearkat Battalion conducts diagnostic APFT.

