



Bearkat BATTALION

April / May | 2019 | Sam Houston State University

Follow us!



Twitter: @shsuArmyRotc



Instagram: @shsu.rotc



Facebook: Sam Houston State University Army ROTC

Mission Complete!

This month the Bearkat Battalion wrapped up a challenging and eventful semester, saying farewell to its senior class as they embark on their journey as newly commissioned Second Lieutenants. Additionally, this summer our junior class will be put to the test and have the opportunity to demonstrate what they have learned over the past year. For the rest of the Battalion, our Public Affairs team is hosting weekly challenges to keep everyone in shape. Our cadets are proving they are ready and hungry for another year of tough training.

Good luck Bearkats!

Inside This Issue

[Pg. 2 PMS Comments](#)

[Pg. 3 Commissioning Ceremony](#)

[Pg. 4 Battalion Awards Ceremony](#)

[Pg. 5 Military Ball](#)

[Pg. 6 Cadet of the Month-*CDT Colton Smith*](#)

[Pg. 7 Summer Challenges](#)

[Pg. 8 Blast from the Past](#)

[Pg. 9 The Month In Pictures](#)

[Pg. 10 Cadet Summer Training](#)

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

This is our final newsletter of the 2018 – 2019 Academic Year. As I reflect on the academic year and the accomplishments of your Cadets – a smile crosses my face as I feel fortunate to be surrounded by our future leaders, a first-class community, and academic faculty who truly embody “team work”. This has been an enjoyable first year as the PMS and I look forward to building on the success of our senior class.

Our senior class was critical in everything the Bearkat Battalion accomplished during its tenure. I can honestly tell you, these men and women do a lot more than I did as a Cadet. Our program grew by 20 Cadets this year and our Cadet Retention Rate was 94%. This is directly correlated to the leadership of our senior class. They led from the front in everything they did and truly left their legacy on the program.

As a program, we wanted to find a distinctive way to thank our seniors for their hard work and dedication. Therefore, we chose to present them with bricks engraved with their names, located at the Alumni Garden. We will continue this tradition moving forward. This cohort left a lasting impression on the program and will continue to do so, as it developed a \$1,000 scholarship, it will award to a deserving Cadet next year and continue in the future. Well done!

We have exciting news to report - our building (ABIII) is undergoing repairs (HVAC, Electric, and Cosmetic) this summer. A special thank you to Dr. Hoyt, Dr. Eglsaer, Dr. Hernandez, Dr. Maynard, Mr. Charles Jones, Mr. Julian Flores, and everyone else who has supported this process! Our staff is currently operating on the second floor of the Templeton Building. We will move to Art Buildings D, E, and F, before the start of the 2019

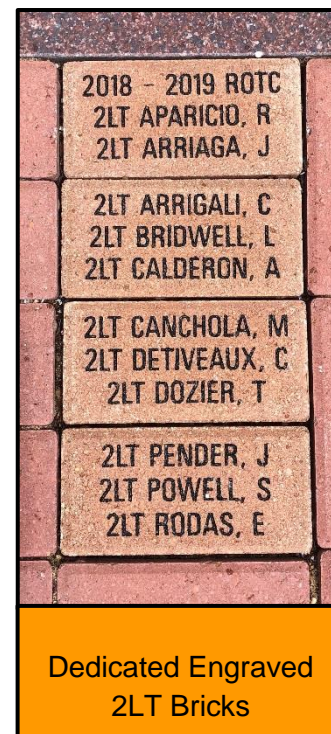
Fall Semester and remain there until the ABIII repairs are complete.

We also want to personally thank Lieutenant General (Retired) Steven A. Hummer for honoring us with his presence as the guest speaker for our commissioning ceremony, LTC William (Mike) Gorby for his words of wisdom at our military ball, and Dr. Dale Underwood for his support this past year in singing the national anthem during all of our formal events. I also want to thank the SHSU Alumni Association for inviting me to serve as its guest speaker in San Antonio. This enabled me to showcase the accomplishments of our Cadets. Thank you!

In closing, this has been a remarkable academic year that would not have been possible without your support. We are excited about our incoming freshmen cohort and look forward to grow the program to our goal of 100 Cadets. Please follow us on our social media outlets this summer to stay in touch with all of the great things our Cadets are accomplishing.

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



Class of 2019 Commissioning Ceremony

The long-awaited day arrived for the cadets of the 2019 Senior class. On 10 May, 2019, the Bearkat Battalion welcomed nine of its cadets into the Army ranks, commissioning them as Second Lieutenants in both the Active and Reserve components. The Bearkat Battalion welcomed Lieutenant General (Retired) Steven A. Hummer as the guest speaker, and as one of the many distinguished guests present.

Families filled the seats in the Lowman Student Center Theatre, arriving from across the United States to witness this momentous occasion. Each new Lieutenant was provided the opportunity to experience each component of the traditional commissioning experience individually: the administering of the Oath of Office; the pinning of the "gold bars", and the rendering of the first salute. Prior to pinning the Second Lieutenant "gold bars", those doing so were afforded the opportunity to share with the crowd their experiences with the newly commissioned Lieutenants. Understandably, it was not long before the room was filled with emotion, as everyone present shared their pride for the officers presented before them.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, the newly commissioned Lieutenants hosted their families to a small reception where the traditions continued, as the youngest of the newly promoted Lieutenants, 2LT Caitlin Arrigali, cut the ceremonial cake, symbolizing the start of celebrating all that has been accomplished.



The newly commissioned Second Lieutenants from right to left: Raquel Aparicio, Jose Arriaga, Caitlin Arrigali, Aaron Calderon, Mario Canchola, Christopher Detiveaux, Jazzmine Pender, Symone Powell, and Erick



Lieutenant General (Retired) Steven A. Hummer provides the new Lieutenants with some words of wisdom.



Bearkat Battalion Awards Ceremony

The Bearkat Battalion hosted the spring 2019 awards ceremony on 25 April, 2019. Sponsored by our friends at the HEARTS Veteran's Museum, the Bearkats held a banquet-style event, with a social hour, a catered dinner for the distinguished guests and family, and a selection of music sung by the Huntsville Men's Choir.

Friends and Sponsors of the Bearkat Battalion provided over \$12,000 dollars' worth of scholarships to well deserving cadets within its program. Awards like those provided at this ceremony are critical to college students who use them to supplement their financial income, allowing for more dedication to the program instead of having to work a part-time/full-time jobs. Among those awarded were:

- **Cadet of the Year** – Cadet Jacob Gerlach

Superior Cadet Awards:

- **MS4** – 2LT Caitlin Arrigali
- **MS3** – Cadet Shyanne Oviedo
- **MS2** – Cadet Oscar Edo-Terradas
- **MS1** – Cadet Samuel Brink

In addition to awarding cadets for superior performance, many cadets were inducted into the many special programs available in the Bearkat Battalion. Among those recognized were the newest "Scrolls" inducted into Shruder's Rangers; the members of the Piney Woods Shootout team, who defeated Stephen F. Austin for another consecutive year; and lastly, the newest members of the SHSU Color Guard team, the most recognizable faces of the Bearkat Battalion.



The MS1 awardees pose proudly in front of the HEARTS Veteran's Museum.



LTC Contreras addresses the guests of the spring battalion awards ceremony.



LTC Contreras recognizing Cadet Jacob Gerlach as Cadet of the Year.



Spring 2019 Military Ball

The Bearkat Battalion held its annual Military Ball on 26 April, 2019, at the Panorama Village Club House in Conroe, TX. The formal portion of the evening began with a receiving line comprised of the Battalion leadership, followed by the introduction of the senior class. During the dinner portion, the senior cadets conducted the traditional “grog” ceremony where a concoction of beverages were mixed together to represent the ingredients necessary to take on a semester like the one the battalion had just experienced – physically and mentally challenging.

Our guest speaker, Commander of 1st Battalion (Airborne), 143rd Infantry Regiment of the Texas National Guard, Lieutenant Colonel William Gorby, provided insightful words to the cadets of the Bearkat Battalion. In his speech, he provided the Bearkats with a framework for operating successfully in chaotic environments, and how to prepare to take over their first platoon. His insight is greatly appreciated, and from the cadets of the Bearkat Battalion: thank you, Sir!

The evening formalities concluded in the retiring of the colors, and the start of social activities led by skits. Each class from the program had the opportunity to prepare skits and performed them in a form of good-natured banter towards their fellow classmates. These were definitely a highlight of the night, and were well received by everyone present – particularly the members of the senior class.



Dr. Dale Underwood sings the National Anthem during the posting of the Colors.

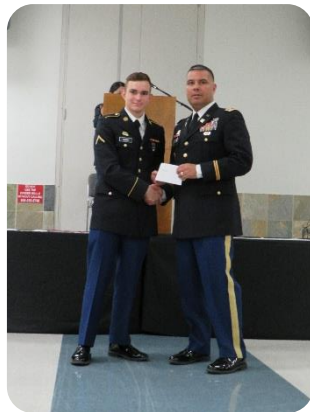


Cadets watch as the traditional “grog” ceremony takes place



LTC William Gorby addresses the Bearkat Battalion.





Cadet Smith receives a scholarship during the Awards Ceremony.

Why Did You Join ROTC & How Has It Impacted You?

“ROTC is a great way to advance in the military and gain more leadership opportunities. As a kid, I looked up to soldiers in the military and desired to become one. Now, I want to lead others and be a role model for kids that don’t have one. Another reason I joined ROTC is the family environment. I feel that I fit in here and everyone cares

about me. The cadre and cadet leadership hold you to high standards and push you to improve yourself when it comes to PT in the morning as well as during classes throughout the day. They push you to achieve not only physical, but also academic success. ROTC is making my dream of making a career in the Army a reality.

In the short time I have been in the program, I’ve learned new skills and built-on skills I already possessed. I’ve developed my skill of working as a team, which is vital to being in the army. If your platoon is one cohesive unit, the mission will be accomplished easier and with more success. Everyone has a responsibility to the mission. Whether that responsibility is leading a squad, pulling security or providing support for a fellow soldier to move. A skill I’ve reinforced while being a member of the ROTC program, is the importance to be physically and mentally tough. Toughness in the Army keeps you and others alive and healthy, if you can’t carry another soldier out of danger and care for their injuries when he or she gets hurt, you are not fulfilling your responsibility as a soldier or battle”



CDT Colton Smith

MS Class Year: MS1

Hometown: Willis, TX

University:

Sam Houston State University

Major: Criminal Justice

Minor: Military Science

Desired Branch: Military Police

Teams you’ve participated in:

- ✓ Color Guard

What organizations are you involved in?

- ✓ United States Texas National Guard

*“Hold the line. Stay with me. If you find yourself alone, riding in green fields with the sun on your face, do not be troubled; for you are in Elysium, and you’re already dead! Brothers, what we do in life, echoes in eternity.”
(Gladiator, 2000 film)*

“This quote motivates me, because it reminds me that we have the possibility to make history if we have the desire to fight. Plus, I love watching action movies.”



A Summer of Challenges

This summer, the Bearkat Battalion Public Affairs team is hosting a series of challenges for members of the Bearkat Battalion. Each week, different challenges will be launched to encourage physical activity during the summer period, and to provide winners of the challenges well deserved incentives. On a monthly basis, cadets will have the opportunity to win a free pair of combat boots as a reward for the most miles marched under a weighted load.

These challenges have taken the Bearkat Battalion social media by storm, and have already proven to spark friendly competition among the cadets. Winners of these challenges will be recognized during the Fall 2019 awards ceremony.



Cadet Hunter Lewis working on his miles while enjoying the scenery.



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



Cadet Steven Cardenas, the winner of our squat challenge, completed 3,100 unweighted squats, and 790 weighted squats! Way to raise the bar!



Blast from the Past

Booth Commissioned as Corps Leader – September 15, 1972



The featured article states the following

Sam Houston had 18 cadets commissioned recently, Commandant of Cadets Lt. Col. John Riley presented the commissions.

Larry Booth was commissioned Cadet Colonel, with the duties of leading the Cadet Corps through the 1972-72 school year. Bill Hutchenson was commissioned Cadet Lt. Colonel, the Corps' executive officer.

Booth and Hutchenson were the only cadets from SHSU to attend Ranger training at Fort Benning, GA., this summer. Prior to the Ranger Camp, Booth and Hutchenson attended Airborne School.

Ron Dykes was named the outstanding Advanced Camp Cadet. Dykes along with 15 Sam Houston cadets attended Advance Summer Camp at Fort Riley, Kan., this past summer.

Mike Crim was the top graduate of the Basic Camp Cadets. Basic camp was for two-year ROTC cadets. They attend two camps and attend two years of ROTC training in College. The Basic Camp was held at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Jack Herron, a senior cadet attended Airborne Training during July. He is scheduled to attend Advanced training next summer.

This year, the Corps of Cadets will have 110 students taking an active part in the military training.

Photo Caption: Officers of the Cadet Corps – Pictured are the 18 cadets recently commissioned by appointment from Dr. Elliott Bowers, president of SHSU, and Col. B.C. Tubbleville, professor of military science.



The Month in Pictures



2LT Rodas accompanies family of incoming cadet, Ben Dene, to a military appreciation breakfast.



2LT Powell and CDT Gerlach brief students at Magnolia HS.



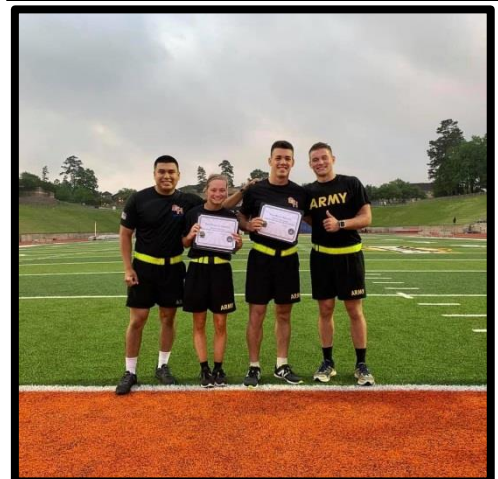
CDT Escamilla leads the color guard during the Sundial Ceremony.



LTC Contreras poses with MS4 class near their legacy brick.



2LT Arrigali is awarded SHSUs most prestigious award: The Sammy



CDTs Steele and Edo-Terradas recognized for PT excellence.



SFC Moates introduces the Bearkat Battalion to the ACFT.



LTC Contreras accompanies these graduates during the veteran's stole ceremony: (Rodas, Canchola, Bridwell, Pender, Arrigali)



Cadets Leasure and Cissna lead the Bearkat intramural softball team to Victory!



Cadet Summer Training

AASLT	OPFO	CFT	Basic	CULP	CTLT	Internship	CST		
Way, Michahel	Massey, Jarrod	Stone, Nicole	Cissna, Kyle	Allen, Khalil	Escamilla, Andrew	Leasure, Brett	Allen, Khalil		
Edo-Terradas, Oscar	Valentin, Joshua	Steele, Lynnsey	Marcuccio, Dante	King, Julian	Hernandez, Amri	Lewis, Hunter	King, Julian		
<p>*AASLT (Air Assault School): A 10-day course designed to prepare Soldiers for insertion, evacuation, and pathfinder missions that call for the use of multipurpose transportation and assault helicopters. Air Assault training focuses on the mastery of rappelling techniques and sling load procedures, skills that involve intense concentration and a commitment to safety and preparation.</p> <p>*OPFO (Opposing Force): Select Cadets are sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to participate in advanced camp as the Opposing Force for cadets attending CST.</p>			Chamberlain, Quinton	Oviedo, Shyanne	Kennard, Ty	Morrow, Kaitlyn	Oviedo, Shyanne		
			Tierney, David		McEnroe, Andrew	Nunez, Gianni	Escamilla, Andrew		
			Zepeda, Hannah		Padron, Abraham	Webb, Morgan	Hernandez, Amri		
			Cardenas, Steven	<p>*Basic (Basic Camp): Cadets are sent to their first summer training with ROTC. Harnessing and sharpening their skills for future trainings.</p> <p>*Internship: Cadets can go to various internship opportunities in order to build more skills to use in their future careers.</p>					Kennard, Ty
			Gonzales, Oscar						
<p>*CULP (Cultural Understanding & Leadership Program): Select Cadets gain the unique opportunity to live and work with foreign military. Expanding their global understanding.</p> <p>*CTLT (Cadet Troop Leader Training): Select Cadets spend a 3 to 4-week period shadowing a LT at an active-duty unit. This opportunity gives these cadets first hand experience of what to expect once they commission as 2LTs.</p> <p>*CFT (Cadet Field Training): Select Cadets are sent to West Point, New York, to participate in the United States Military Academy's summer training.</p> <p>*CST (Cadet Summer Training): Also known as "Advanced Camp" cadets are sent to Fort Knox, Kentucky, to be tested on all they've accomplished and learned throughout their training in ROTC.</p>							Padron, Abraham		
							Leasure, Brett		
							Lewis, Hunter		
							Morrow, Kaitlyn		
							Nunez, Gianni		
							Webb, Morgan		
							Lopez, Samantha		
							Honeycutt, Samuel		
							Lopez, Zaira		
							Melkovitz, Alec		
				Weinbel, David					

