



Bearkat

BATTALION

January | 2019 | Sam Houston State University

Welcome Back!

The Bearkat Battalion hit the semester running! Cadets are working hard, and focused in their preparation for cadet summer training at Fort Knox, KY. This semester, the Bearkat Battalion hosted the Inaugural CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5K. It also successfully conducted the first rappelling lab in approximately six years. 85 cadets are eager to support the local community this semester and continue their quest to become commissioned officers in the United States Army.

Inside This Issue

[Pg. 2 PMS Comments](#)

[Pg. 3 MS4 Updates/Upcoming Events](#)

[Pg. 4 CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5K](#)

[Pg. 5 Because of *his* leadership-Editor's entry](#)

[Pg. 6 The Spirit of Competition-MS1 Article](#)

[Pg. 7 Conquering Fear-MS2 Article](#)

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

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

PMS Comments

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

It has been approximately two months since our last newsletter. As, I pondered on what I should highlight, I struggled as there are considerable things your cadets have accomplished. Thus, I will attempt to be brief as I have always been taught less is always better.

Recently, my university boss (Dr. Mary Robbins, Vice Provost), asked me to provide the one thing we would like the President's Cabinet to know about our program. I provided her with the following: An ROTC contracted cadet's graduation GPA is 3.41 vice the campus graduation GPA of 2.80 and our cadets average 4.1 years to graduate vs. the 4.8 year campus average. We are extremely proud of our cadet's academic achievements as I am certain you are as well. Also, we recognize the first semester in college can be challenging as students adjust to life away from home. Our freshmen cadets earned a remarkable GPA average of 3.37 during their first semester. Well done!



As impressive as our cadets perform academically, equally inspiring is their selflessness. Two examples of this occurred during the first week of the spring semester. First, the cadets participated in the Walker County Warrior Banquet providing color guard and usher support. Second, the cadets planned and hosted the Inaugural Captain Rowdy Inman 5K. This 5K is highlighted in the following pages; however, it would be remiss of me if I did not share my personal gratitude of our cadet's hard work and desire to make this event special for the Inman family and his Army teammates who travelled to this event from Georgia, Oklahoma, and El Paso. We promise to continue to host and improve the Captain Rowdy Inman 5K, from this point forward.

We would like to thank MSG Rene Loreda (retiring after 21+ years in the U.S. Army) and Mr. Gerald Stoermer, who departed the program last semester. We appreciate the hard work these two individuals provided to our cadets. We welcome Mr. Kyle Knowles, who takes over as our sophomore instructor. Kyle brings a wealth of combat experience on active duty and in the reserve component and we are excited to have him on the team.

Finally, our success is directly tied to your support. Anytime we ask for your support, you always answer the call – a recent example is when I requested Brigadier General (Retired) Richard Mills, the Military Science Alumni Club President, to fill in for my class, while I attended a conference. BG (R) Mills did so without hesitation and the senior cadets benefitted from his wealth of experience. Thank you, Sir, and thanks to each of you for your continued support!

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



New Cadet Orientation

To welcome new cadets to the program, our MS4 leadership hosted a new cadet orientation – an initiative to ensure our cadets are welcomed to the program appropriately.

The Bearkat Battalion Operations Officer, Cadet Aaron Calderon, tours the incoming cadets around the ROTC building and familiarizes them with the day-to-day aspects of cadet life.



Cadet Aaron Calderon shows incoming cadets the Engagement Skills Trainer

Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date
George C. Marshall Convention (Cadet Arrigali)	Ft. Leavenworth, KS	10-14 FEB
M16/M4 Range	Huntsville PD Range	15 FEB
6 TH Grade Leadership Initiative	Field Leader Reaction Course (FLRC)	19-21 FEB
Staff Ride	Sephen F. Austin	22 FEB
Operation McCaig (SPRING FTX)	Gibbs Ranch	1-3 MAR
Bataan Memorial Death March	White Sands Missile Range	17 MAR
Obstacle Course for Boys & Girls club – Huntsville	Gibbs Ranch	19 MAR
Saturday at Sam	Bowers Stadium	23 MAR

Spring Introduction Lab

The new Bearkat Battalion chain of command began the spring semester by hosting the Spring 2019 introduction lab. Cadets who displayed academic excellence by attaining a GPA of 3.5 or above for the Fall 2018 semester were recognized for their achievement.



Cadet Battalion Commander, Jose Arriaga, awards Cadet Joshua Valentin for demonstrating academic excellence



The Inaugural CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5K

Early Saturday morning, January 26th, cadets from the Bearkat Battalion rallied together to host Sam Houston State University's Inaugural CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5K. Dozens of student volunteers, family members, and alumni, gathered to assist with the race set-up led by Cadet Caitlin Arrigali. This event required coordination with several departments within the university, as well as city officials to ensure safe passage along more than three miles of Huntsville road.

The open registration led to a diverse crowd spanning all ages, and even some four-legged runners! Families enjoyed spending time with one another, some taking two of the three top places, and others chose to march together wearing rucksacks.

Here are the top finishers:

Name	Time	Age
Joseph Smith	18:54	15
Eaden Brink –	23:22	14
Addy Brink	23:24	15

Special thanks to all the sponsors and volunteers who made this event possible

- Alpha Delta Pi Sorority
- Sigma Lambda Beta International Fraternity
- Kappa Delta Chi Sorority Inc.
- Omega Delta Phi Fraternity
- Ironman Moving
- SHSU Military Science Alumni Club
- Capital Insulation
- Bay Area Photo Art
- Texas Army National Guard
- H-E-B
- VFW Post 463
- HEARTS Veterans Museum
- Kappa Sigma Fraternity
- TCCSI



Keeley Inman, daughter of CPT Rowdy Inman, shares heartfelt words of gratitude to race participants at the starting line.



Father/Daughter pair that supported the run by marching with rucksacks on their backs



Siblings Eaden & Addy Brink race toward the finish line

Editor's Entry

Because of HIS Leadership

The month of January was symbolic in its creation and recognition of an aspect of leadership that many do not consider until after their service – legacy. As the seniors begin their final semester as the leaders of the Bearkat Battalion, many cadets had the honor of participating in the CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5K, and even more so, had the honor of meeting the family, friends, and former Soldiers of CPT Inman.

CPT Rowdy J. Inman was a 2000 graduate of Sam Houston State University, who was killed in action on December 26th, 2007, while conducting operations in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. CPT Inman is survived by his wife Shannon, his two daughters, Keeley and Casey, and his son, Gary. However, his memory lives on in another form; that is, through the Soldiers whose lives he changed through his leadership.

CPT Inman's legacy was honored by Soldiers who served under him during Operation Iraqi Freedom. "He mentored everybody" said Chris Deez, and added, "CPT Inman took it upon himself to be a father figure to us junior enlisted [Soldiers]". Another of CPT Inman's former Soldiers, Taylor Feudacher, added, "He was a father to all of us...He would never give up on anyone." Raising his sleeve to reveal a silver bracelet on his wrist, Feudacher adds, "I wear this bracelet every day, and we just try to live up to his motto, which is: 'no slack'."

Each of the Soldiers present shared with several cadets, their memories of CPT Inman's leadership, and cherished this brief reunion with friends who all lead their own separate lives. One theme which was made apparent by the Soldiers and family of CPT Inman, is that through *his* leadership, they have had the strength to carry on.

By honoring his legacy, and the legacy of leaders like CPT Inman, Soldiers and Families across the nation will serve in various forms, and pass the lessons shared through their example. So long as the Bearkat Battalion is in existence, cadets will operate in a manner which brings honor to our very own – CPT Rowdy J. Inman.



Photograph of CPT Rowdy J. Inman.



Soldiers who served under CPT Inman (from right to left): SSG(Ret) Donovan Miller, SFC George Lee, Taylor Feudacher, Maj. John Imus, and Chris Deez.



Samuel Brink (MS1) The Spirit of Competition

Since the earliest I can remember, my family and I have always been extremely competitive, particularly when it comes to running. I am the oldest of seven siblings, all of whom have been gifted with this extremely competitive spirit. Our mom competed in track at Katy High School, running the 200-meter dash, the 4x200 meter relay, and as a part of her high school's first ever 4x100 meter relay team that went on to compete at the regional level. Our dad was also very competitive, playing defensive tackle, and being selected as a captain on a three-time state champion high school football team. All of my siblings have inherited the same ultra-competitive nature, sometimes causing us to be somewhat too competitive. Whatever the objective is neither myself, nor my siblings, can stand to lose. Playful wrestling matches end in blood and bruises, harmless toy sword fights end in bloody noses, meaningless bets and wagers turn into never ending arguments.

As soon as we were able, my siblings and I were eager to jump into sports. Although my main sport was football, and my sisters played soccer, we have all been very invested in running. My brother Eaden, as well as my sisters Addy and Caroline run cross country, and the four of us have all run track. Although my youngest three siblings (Rocky, Liberty, and Cedar) are not old enough to run for a team themselves, they have participated in various elementary track camps over their summers. All of my younger siblings, especially Caroline, Addy, and Baden are natural runners. They have continued to run exceedingly well in their events despite moving to a much larger and more competitive school division. This being said, when cadets were asked to recruit runners for the annual Capt. Rowdy Inman memorial 5k, my job was relatively easy with four siblings, and my dad quickly agreeing to run. However, while I knew very well that my siblings were good runners, I did not anticipate the possibility that any of them would beat me, much less win second and third place overall. But sure enough, they did it, and I know I'll be hearing about it for the rest of the year.

My family's competitive spirit has carried us all far, both in literal miles as well as in teaching us life skills such as hard work and persistence. Although we can all at times get carried away with our competitiveness, it generally brings us together as a family. It can at times be bit frustrating that my younger siblings beat me, but it also makes me proud as a big brother to see them do so well. We are all looking forward to cheering each other on in the upcoming track seasons, and I know we are also looking forward to competing again in next year's 5k.



The Brink family arriving the morning of the 5K.
Each one determined to perform.



Eldest of the Brink children, and Bearkat Battalion Cadet, Samuel Brink approaches the finish line.



Lynssey Steele (MS2) Conquering Fear

Fear is a powerful emotion that works as the human's warning system and can influence how people live their lives. There are two ways that a human can react to fear. They can either avoid it or they can face it. Facing your fears is a difficult challenge and it is much easier to avoid whatever it is they are afraid of.

I am personally afraid of heights but I refuse to let that keep me on the ground.

I, however, believe that fear can limit an individual from reaching their full potential. When a person backs down due to fear, they are letting that fear win without knowing what life would be like if they challenged that fear. I am not saying that an individual should not have fear, but they should use it as an opportunity to better themselves. Nelson Mandela once said "I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers it." Being able to openly admit that you are afraid of something but not letting that statement limit you to a box. For example, I am personally afraid of heights but I refuse to let that keep me on the ground. I push myself whenever I get the chance to challenge that fear whether it be by rock climbing or parking at the top of a parking garage. I do this because I'm afraid of limiting myself. There are enough people trying to limit your power in this world so we cannot let the things we fear keep us from reaching our full potential. I guess one could say my biggest fear is fear itself. I am terrified of letting that fear win and being confined to a box. If I am afraid of something, I intentionally do what I can to push me outside of my comfort zone because that is when I can grow as a person.



Cadet Steele races toward the finish line during the Inaugural CPT Rowdy Inman 5K.



Cadet Steele conquers her fear of heights and rappels off a 40ft wall.



Blast from the Past

Cadet Washington – Why He Joined ROTC (Spring 1967)



The featured article states the following

Cadet Earnest Washington joined the Reserved Officers Training Corps because of the many opportunities that it has to offer a young college student. “Any person seeking a career in the armed services would enjoy going into the service with training from the Reserve Officers Training Corps in college as well as a college education” he observed, and added, “Educated officers are as important in the service as is required in the business world. The corps gives an individual the opportunity to learn to cope with the everyday problems. If a person can schedule his classes so that he can participate in the ROTC without excuses, then he is the person who will probably succeed in the business world. Everything works on a time basis in the business world. If a person is able to schedule his time in college, he more than likely will succeed in life.”

The corps of cadets teaches him more about becoming a good leader as well as a good follower. The drill and classes might seem hard, but it is all part of the training that he is seeking in order to be pushed forward. Cadet Washington also firmly believes that service to the United States is very essential and since he plans to go into the service, then it would be a good idea to go into the service through the ROTC. It seems as if the corps has something to offer, so it would be a good idea to get this training that will help toward fulfilling the desire to serve his country.

Cadet Washington was a 1966 Graduate from Booker T Washington High School in Conroe. An acquaintance whom he had known in high school told him about the ROTC program. Although he has been in the ROTC for only a short time, he believes it is a very good program. He is going to tell the seniors of his former high school about the program and the wonderful opportunity that the Reserve Officers Training Corps has to offer. If it is at all possible, he thinks he will serve his country in his major field which at the present time is mechanical engineering.



The Month in Pictures



The Gibbs Ranch cleanup crew for Spring 2019.



Cadets are fired up for the first lab of Spring 2019.



Cadets meet Earl Campbell at the Wounded Warrior Banquet



Cadet Marcuccio testing the "drunk goggles" during 1st lab



Members of the Ranger Company planning training



Cadet King instructs cadets on how to descend a wall



Cadet Battalion Commander, Jose Arriaga, finishes the 5K



Cadets Calderon and Wilson showcase the cannon to a curious future Bearkat



Cadets Hinojosa and Wachtendorf at the rappel wall

