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Bearkat Battalion Monthly Update



Cadet Hunter Lewis planning an ambush during the Fall FTX

The Bearkat Battalion conducted a variety of training this month to include a three-day Field Training Exercise (FTX) for its MSIIIs/Juniors, Land Navigation, STX lanes, an obstacle course at the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) University Camp, and combatives. This month **ten** new cadets contracted. The program supported Bearkat Football Games with color guard, cannon crew, push-up team, and golf cart support. In addition, the cadets hosted 2 tailgates. The cadets also began to implement ruck marches into their physical training program in order to train their bodies for future missions.

Furthermore, cadets volunteered over 77 hours at the Helping Every American Remember Through Service (H.E.A.R.T.S.) Museum. The cadets volunteered in support of the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum's annual garage sale, which funds the cost of its day-to-day operations. The Bearkat Battalion's Cadet Command Sergeant Major, CDT Raquel Aparicio, also updated the mentorship program to assist cadets with managing college and life as a cadet.



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

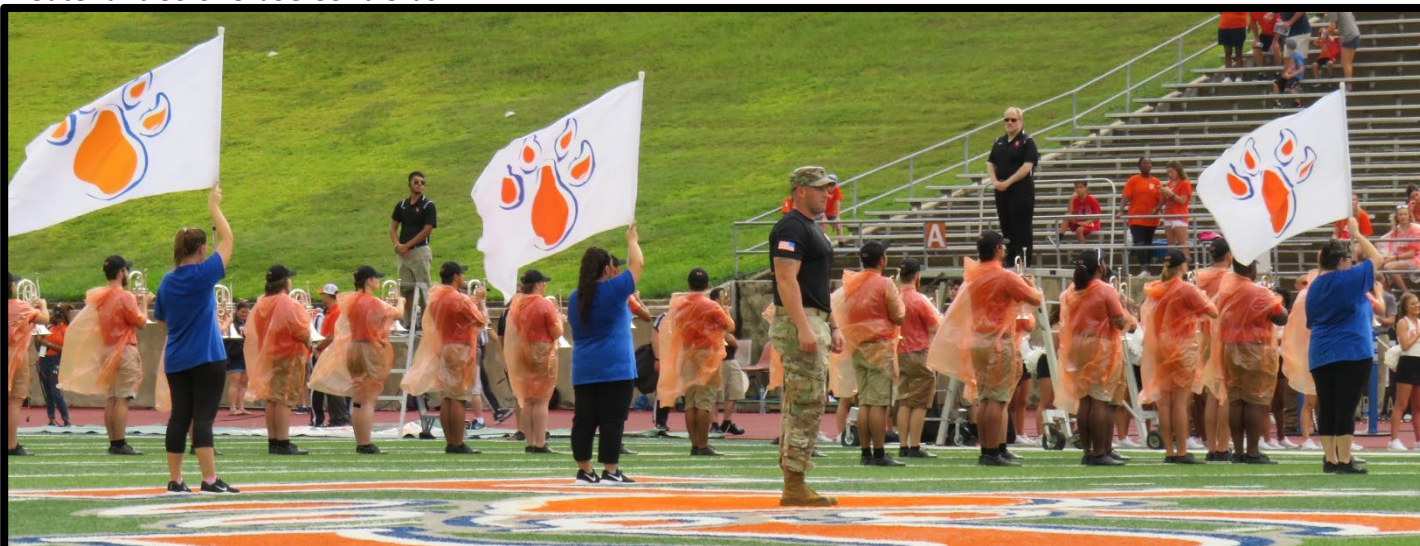
Your cadets continue to train hard and exhibit selfless service by volunteering in the Huntsville community. The cadets do an outstanding job of highlighting these activities in these monthly newsletters and on our Facebook page. However, I am going to personally boast about the cadets during our Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Gibbs Ranch. In the Army, we have a saying, “If it ain’t raining, then it ain’t training”. Well, our cadets got to experience this first hand! Your cadets displayed the perseverance and grit it takes to serve in the Army during this FTX. You should be proud of the resilience your cadets portrayed – they grew as leaders. The cadets ate Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) throughout the FTX. MREs are self-contained, individual field rations in lightweight packing that are used in combat or field conditions where organized food facilities are not available – they are not popular among most Soldiers. However, we were fortunate the Sam Houston State Military Science Alumni Club (MSAC) led by Brigadier General (Retired) Richard Mills, treated our cadets to grilled fajitas for their last meal. A huge thanks to Buddy McCaig ’72, Hal Werlein ’72, Todd Platzner ’81, and Gonzalo Correa ’06, for grilling for our cadets.

I also want to personally thank a few other R.O.T.C. program supporters. Mrs. Lydia Montgomery, Huntsville Rotary Club President, for enabling me to highlight our cadets and the program during its lunch meeting. Dr. John Jordan, for extending me an invitation as a speaker for the Sam Houston ELITE Exchange Program. It was an honor to speak to the first-generation minority students in this program. Colonel (Retired) Dan McDaniel, President of the East Texas Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) for inviting myself, my wife, and two of our senior cadets (Jose Arriaga and Caitlin Arrigali) to the MOAA Fall Dinner. Lieutenant General (Retired) Steven A. Hummer for his presentation during this dinner and for providing our cadets with their first coins – they were excited! Finally, the Sam Houston State University Athletic Program and Huntsville Community, for honoring Sergeant First Class (SFC) Matthew Moates as the Huntsville Hero during our first home football game.

In closing, our cadets continue to make huge strides in their mental, physical, and academic areas during this semester. They remain some of the most motivated students at the university. This in large part due to your continued support. I also want to thank the **Families** for raising “great” Americans! Please let me know if you need anything from myself.

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



SFC Moates being honored as the Huntsville Hero. SFC Moates has 24 months of combat experience and was awarded the Army Commendation Medal with “V” device (combat valor) that distinguishes his act of valor when faced with the enemy. Our cadets are fortunate to have him as an instructor.



On September 16, 2018, at the end of the three-day FTX, Cadets Samuel Honeycutt (Junior), Jarrod Massey (Sophomore), and Kaitlyn Morrow (Junior) contracted.



On October 4, 2018, Cadet Oscar Edo-Terradas (Sophomore) and his mentee (Cadet) Austin Zirkel (Freshmen) contracted.



On September 13, 2018, Cadet Nancy Tran (Sophomore) contracted.



On September 4, 2018, Cadets Abraham Padron, Morgan Webb, and TY Kennard (all Juniors) contracted.



On October 2, 2018, Cadet Andrew Escamilla (Junior) contracted.

The Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX) 21-23 SEP

I went to this FTX feeling anxious, because I knew it would rain all weekend, and I knew it would not be easy. I was worried my negative attitude would hinder my performance, but after this FTX, I admit my attitude changed entirely. Personally, my biggest takeaways were not about the tactics, land navigation, or patrol base operations. They were about overcoming the mental hurdles and challenges with my peers.

The second night of the FTX in our patrol base, after getting only two and a half hours of sleep the previous night, I woke up for my fireguard shift feeling exhausted. The day before, we conducted operations and land navigation with our rucks all day and did not bed down until 0200 hours. To say we were exhausted would be an understatement and to complete the trend, I woke up to a torrential downpour.

I sat there soaked, miserable, and feeling sorry for myself. It was at that moment, I finally came to the realization that it was not about me. I am not the only one soaked and exhausted. I am not the only one wishing I was lying in bed asleep, rather than pulling security in a wet uniform. It was then I realized everyone around me was struggling, not just myself.

In the past year that I have been in this program, I have always been caught between good and the bad experiences. I was never able to decide whether the good experiences outweighed the bad or vice versa. This weekend I concluded the bad times are worth the good. It is about those moments when you are with your team, sitting down eating chow, when it is all smiles and laughs. It is about motivating each other while on long ruck marches, when you think you can not go any further. It was about that feeling we all felt once the FTX was over—accomplished.

I am glad I had these revelations this weekend because my attitude changed. Now I can stop feeling sorry for myself and help others, because I know we are all struggling together. I can remind myself of those small significant moments, when we are all together sharing a few laughs and know anything I go through is worth those moments.

– Cadet Shyanne Oviedo (Junior)



CDTs Nunez and Oviedo assaulting an objective



MS3s conducting an “After Action Review” (AAR) at the end of the FTX

The H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum

The SHSU ROTC program is engaged in the Academic Community Engagement (ACE) program. ACE is a teaching method at Sam Houston State University that combines classroom instruction and community engagement. Throughout the year the ROTC program participates in different community service projects that instill within each Cadet, the Army Values taught in class. By contributing to community service projects all over Huntsville, Cadets not only improve the lives of the community, but also learn to become better members of a community. Cadets not only leave Sam Houston State University with a degree, but leadership skills to contribute to their future communities across America.

The H.E.A.R.T.S. Veterans Museum's annual garage sale is one of the biggest fundraisers of the year! People all over the community donate items ranging from clothing, children's toys, and collectibles. This fundraiser not only helps the HEARTS Museum raise money to fund day-to-day operations, but also improves the community by selling these items to those in need. The garage sale is run by volunteers from all over the county, doing everything from unloading heavy furniture, to working as cashiers. Without this fundraiser, some children would not have backpacks or books, elderly would not be able to remove old or unused furniture, and those in need would not be able to purchase simple necessities like kitchen utensils.'

Cadet Cresses' Volunteer Experience

At the start of this semester, I was not aware of the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum. However, now I keep wanting to return. The veterans at the H.E.A.R.T.S. Museum are some of the most incredible loving people in the world, and I enjoyed working with each and every one of them. While I was there, I had the chance to talk with a few of the veterans and staff including a Vietnam veteran known as "Doc", who I spent a great deal of time with. Some of my college classes tell me about historical events, but there is nothing like listening to stories from someone who was actually there or taking a tour and seeing actual items from these events.

Furthermore, I was especially excited to learn the items in the museum were mostly donated by veterans. I have always had a passion for history, particularly the history of war. There is a long line of veterans in my family, and I enjoy working hard to keep open a place that showcases the history of our military and the brave men and women who served. It's funny to me, but in just a few short weeks, I have fallen in love with the idea of this museum dedicated to our veterans. I would absolutely love to continue volunteering with the H.E.A.R.T.S. museum anytime I can.

-Cadet Zachary Cresse (Sophomore)

The Mentorship Program

My goal for this program is to ensure that throughout the academic year all cadets receive the information necessary to excel in the Bearkat Battalion as well as the Sam Houston State environment. This program is modeled towards self- initiative mentorship. Every cadet is assigned a mentor, with similar majors or minors. The mentor's responsibility is to assist with questions, issues, or concerns the mentee has. This program is not only designed to help cadets build a teamwork culture within the battalion, but to also develop the individual's development with the guidance of the mentors.

Mentors are experienced cadets who demonstrate confident leadership in fulfilling the mission of Sam Houston State University and Bearkat Battalion and recognize the reciprocal benefits of mentoring students. Mentees have the responsibility of identifying and communicating personal interests, goals, and strength through self- reflection and engaged participation in the mentorship meetings. The strength of the mentoring relationship relies on mutual trust and respect. Proteges carefully consider assessment, feedback, and guidance; these become valuable for growth to occur.

– Cadet Command Sergeant Major Raquel Aparicio (Senior)



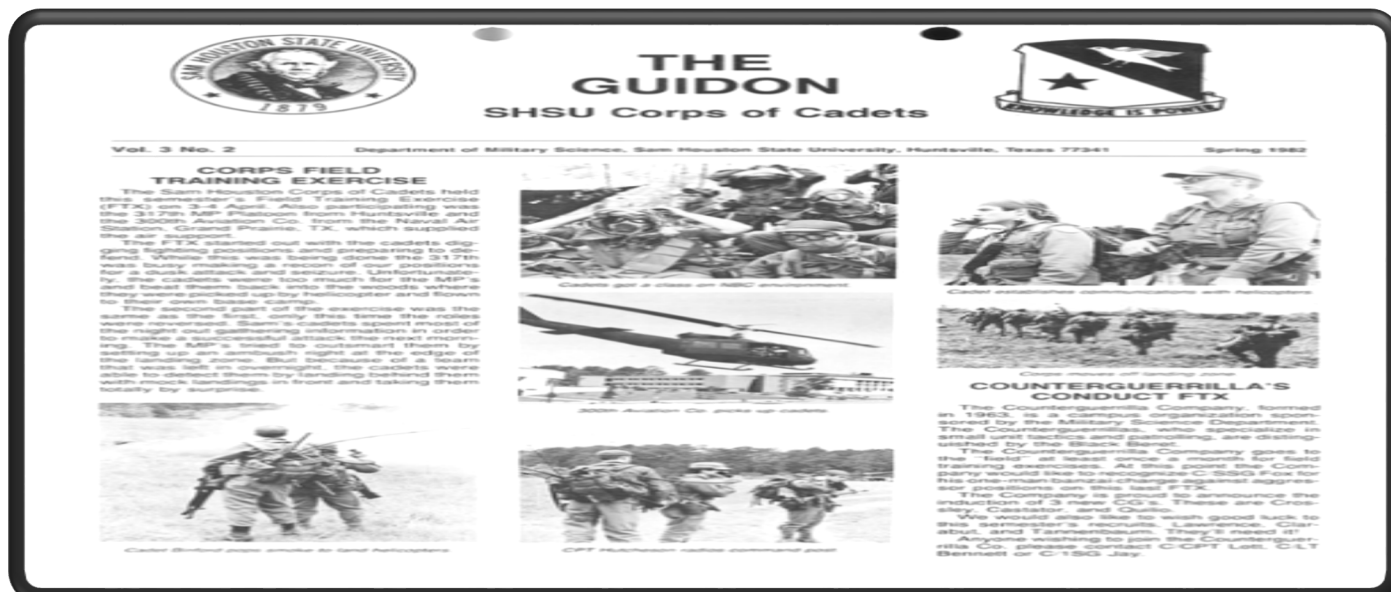
SHSU Ranger Challenge Team preparing for the Regional Competition

Upcoming Events

Like us on Facebook @ Sam Houston State University Army ROTC

Battle of Piney Woods SHSU VS. SFA	NRG Stadium	6 Oct
Regional Ranger Challenge Competition	FT. Hood	12-14 Oct
Scholarship Board	ABIII	19 Oct
Homecoming Parade	Sam Houston Avenue	25 Oct
Homecoming Football Game SHSU VS. S.E. Louisiana	Bowers Stadium	27 Oct
Basic Rifle Marksmanship	Houston Police Department	2 Nov
Veterans Day Football Game SHSU VS. Abilene Christian	Bowers Stadium	10 Nov

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A picture of the original article published in spring, 1982

CORPS FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

“The Sam Houston Corps of Cadets held this semester’s Field Training Exercise (FTX) on 3-4 April. Also participating was the 317th MP Platoon from Huntsville, and the 300th Aviation Co. from the Naval Air Station, Grand Prairie, TX, which supplied the air support.

The FTX started out with cadets digging fighting positions. While this was being done the 317th was making a recon of our positions for a dusk attack and seizure. Unfortunately, the cadets were too much for the MPs and beat them the woods, where they were picked up by helicopter and flown to their own base camp.

The second part of the exercise was the same as the first, only this time the roles were reversed. Sam’s cadets spent most of the night gathering information in order to make a successful attack the next morning. The MPs tried to outsmart them by setting an ambush right at the edge of the landing zone. But because of a team that was left in overnight, the cadets were able to detect them by landing behind them with mock landings in front and taking them totally by surprise.”

COUNTERGUERRILLA’S CONDUCT FTX

“The Counterguerilla Company, formed in 1963, is a campus organization sponsored by the Military Science Department. The Counterguerillas, who specialize in small unit tactics and patrolling, are distinguished by the black beret. The Counterguerilla Company goes to the “field” at least once a month for field training exercises. At this point, the Company would like to recognize C SSG Fox for his one-man banzai charge against aggressor position on this last FTX. The company is proud to announce the Introduction of 3 new CG’s. These are Crossley, Castador, and Quito. We would also like to wish good luck to this semester’s recruits. Lawrence. Clarabut, and Tannenbaum. They’ll need it! Anyone wishing to join the Counterguerillas Co. please contact C/CPT Lott. C/LT bennet or C/1SG Jay.”



CDT Gianni Nunez leading the push up crew



MS1s and MS2s on the swing at the University Camp



CDT/LTC Erick Rodas teaching MS1s and MS2s about land navigation.



CDT Andrew Schumann practicing clearing a bunker with a grenade.



MS1s and MS2s overcoming obstacles at the University Camp.



Ranger Challenge conducting a diagnostic PT test at Gibbs Ranch.



CDTs Aaron Calderon, Jarrod Massey, and Leighanna Bridwell paying their respects at the Honors College 9/11 memorial.



CDTs Andrew Schumann, Andrew Escamilla, TY Kennard, and Julie Trejo posting the colors at the first football game.



The Military Science Alumni Club (MSAC) after grilling fajitas for the cadets at the end of the Fall FTX.