Welcome Back Bearkat Battalion

The Bearkat Battalion is excited to return to Sam Houston State University (SHSU) with the knowledge and skills gained during summer training. 29 SHSU cadets attended summer training to include: Air Assault School, Airborne School, AMMEDIP, Advanced Camp, Basic Camp, CTLT, and CULP. We are proud of our cadets who sacrificed part of their summers to improve and train hard. Their hard work and resiliency in the face of tough challenges is commended!

We started out this semester strong as prospective cadets already took an APFT and five cadets contracted during the first lab. These cadets committed to a career as an Army officer and a profession of selfless service. The determination and maturity of these young professionals is humbling, and we are proud of them. SHSU cadets also began field training at their second lab. Training consisted of the FLRC, rope climbing, IMTS and Battle drills.
Bearkat Cadets, SHSU Faculty, ROTC Alumni, Local Community Supporters, and Families.

We appreciate the time you are taking out of your busy schedule to read this newsletter. This version highlights the summer training success of our cadets in part due to your continued support. As I embark on 2 months as the PMS, your support and professionalism is the most impressive that I have encountered during my 20 years of active federal service. Thank you!

I am a fellow Texan, who earned my undergraduate degree from Texas Tech University. Sam Houston State University was at the top of my preference list of schools during the PMS selection process and I feel blessed to be serving at this school. As a Texan, you have my word that our cadets will continue to strive to be the best and go the “extra mile” in their academics, leader development, training, and support to the Huntsville Community.

Our cadets will continue to tell their story in these newsletters. They have also developed an initiative to honor our ROTC Alumni with a “Blast to the Past” page. The SHSU cadets continue on their quest to commission and join a profession of selfless service during this upcoming year. They fully comprehend the impact that you – the families, have had in this quest and how your support remains crucial for them to accomplish their goals. In closing, below is my vision for the Bearkat Battalion as we continue to build on the success of the program.

Strength and Honor!
LTC Joe Contreras
**Newly Contracted Cadets = August 23rd 2018**

From Left to Right, Cadets Jennifer Navejas, Shyanne Oviedo, Alec Melkovitz, Nicole Stone, and Gianni Nunez

**Cadet Chain of Command (Fall)**

BC – Rodas, Erick
XO – Arrigali, Caitlin
CSM – Aparicio, Raquel
**Company Commander** – Arriaga, Jose
S1 – Pender, Jazzmine
S2/Platoon Mentor – Alvarez, Ismael
S3 – Canchola, Mario
S3 Plans Officer – Calderon, Aaron
S4 – Gerlach, Jake
S5 – Pham, Jordan
S6 – Powell, Symone
**Safety Officer/Platoon Mentor** – Hohn, Johnathan
**ACE OIC/Platoon Mentor** – Bridwell, Leighanna

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**Summer Training**

**Air Assault School**
King, Julian

**Airborne School**
McEnroe, Andrew

**AMMEDD Internship Program**
Pham, Jordan- 121st CSH South Korea

**CTLT**
Arriaga, Jose- 2nd ID
Aparicio, Raquel- 82nd ABD/117th HARS CAV
Calderon, Aaron- 82nd ABD/18th FA HIMARS Regiment
Pender, Jazzmine- 82nd ABD/189th CSSB

**CULP**
Arrigali, Caitlin- Mozambique, Africa

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**Basic Camp Graduates**

**MS2s**
Valentin, Joshua
Navejas, Jennifer

**MS3s**
Lewis, Hunter
Oviedo, Shyanne
Morrow, Kaitlyn
Nunez, Gianni
Melkovitz, Alec
Kennard, TY
Miller, Mason
Goodson, Alexander
Airborne School

**Cadet McEnroe’s Personal Experience**

Airborne School was an eye-opening experience for me. I started the school with fear and had doubt in my abilities to jump out of airplanes. I did not know if I had the courage to face these fears and take on new heights. However, I left better than before. I feel more confident in my abilities to tackle a challenge and face what used to scare me the most.

Airborne school is not exceptionally difficult to be completely honest. There are a few runs that may seem tough and the days are long and hot; however, getting past those obstacles was feasible with determination. The biggest thing I learned was to trust myself and the equipment.

The black hat instructors provided all the tools required to jump out of an airplane, the rest depended on each individual’s ability to jump out of the plane and utilize the training they received. While some portions of Airborne School were tough, I will never regret taking that jump and becoming a paratrooper.

-Cadet Andrew McEnroe

**Air Assault School**

At Air Assault School an individual repels from:

- A 60 ft tower- more than a dozen times
- A Blackhawk- flying at 90 feet

Other requirements include:

- 12-mile ruck march
- Four-mile timed run
- Two 50-question exams
- Three practical exams
Cultural Understanding Leadership Program (CULP)

“This summer I had the opportunity to spend a month in Mozambique, Africa through CULP. This was the first time I traveled out of the country, so I did not know what to expect or what I was going to be partaking in. Upon arrival, I was immediately exposed to the wonderful culture of Mozambique and its way of life. During this program, I met with high ranking military officials from all branches of the Mozambican military (Army, Navy and Air Force), learned about their education system by visiting primary schools and a university, and learned about their health care system by visiting various facilities. The best part of the CULP program was learning from the local people and their culture. My exposure to cross-cultural competencies and interacting with the Mozambican people are experiences that will assist me during my military career.”

-Cadet Caitlin Arrigali

Upcoming Events

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<th>Event Details</th>
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<td>Bowers Stadium</td>
<td>08 Sep</td>
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<td>Hearts Museum Garage Sale</td>
<td>Hearts Museum</td>
<td>10-15 Sep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Football Color Guard/Cannon/Push-up SHSU vs. North Dakota</td>
<td>Bowers Stadium</td>
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<td>Fall FTX</td>
<td>Gibbs Ranch</td>
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<td>Fall Safety Bash</td>
<td>Bowers Stadium</td>
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<td>Football Tailgate/Color Guard/Cannon/Push-up SHSU vs. University of Central Arkansas</td>
<td>Bowers Stadium</td>
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<td>Battle of Piney Woods (Color Guard) SHSU vs. SFA</td>
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<td>Scholarship Board</td>
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<td>Ranger Challenge Competition</td>
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<td>13-14 Oct</td>
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Please like us on Facebook @ Sam Houston State University Army ROTC
“Sam Houston’s own ROTC will soon enter its third month of operation, and according to the regular army officers assigned to it, the unit is ‘shaping up nicely.’ This particular unit is something new in the idea of college ROTCs, so new in fact that its operations are being closely observed by Washington. There are only 28 colleges and universities throughout the US that have installed this particular plan. Of them five are in Texas. Others are at Trinity University, Hardin-Simmons, West Texas State, and Midwestern.

Sam Houston’s unit is technically termed “branch general” and differs from the older type of “branch specific” in several important ways, according to Captain Malcom Fellman, ROTC assistant…

…While the student is in the advanced ROTC he will receive from the government twenty-seven dollars a month for subsistence. This money in addition to the money earned at summer camp in his final two years will help him considerably in paying for his education.

The student may after three and a half years of ROTC state his preference of duty and if he is in the upper portion of his class he will stand a fair chance of getting that of which he requests. Naturally there are certain factors that may be considered when the student applies for a particular branch. The needs of the army must be considered along with the cadet’s own adeptness.

According to Capt. Malcom A. Fellman, adjutant of Sam Houston’s ROTC, the student has everything to gain and nothing to lose by joining the ROTC. ‘World conditions dictate that sooner or later most men will be called upon to be in same branch of the armed forces’ he said. ‘By joining ROTC the student will be able to complete his education before being called, and have the advantage of starting off as an officer.’

At the present time there are 405 cadets, of which 12 are officers in the ROTC unit here on the campus. The officers were obtained from transfers from others colleges who have had two years of ROTC training previously, thus making them eligible to become ROTC officers.” The officers were selected after six weeks of careful observations by the instructors of the unit.”