



# Bearkat Battalion

Monthly Update

## Welcome Back Bearkat Battalion



**Cadet Jake Gerlach during Advanced Camp**



**Cadet Jordan Pham (Left) outside an operating room in Korea during AMEDDIP**



**Cadet Raquel Aparicio at CTLT w/the 82<sup>nd</sup> ABD**

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.

**2**

PMS Comments

**3**

Newly Contracted Cadets

Summer Training

Cadet COC

**4**

Cadet Features:

Airborne and Air Assault Schools

**5**

Cadet Features:

CULP  
Upcoming Events

**6**

Blast to the Past

November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1952

**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.

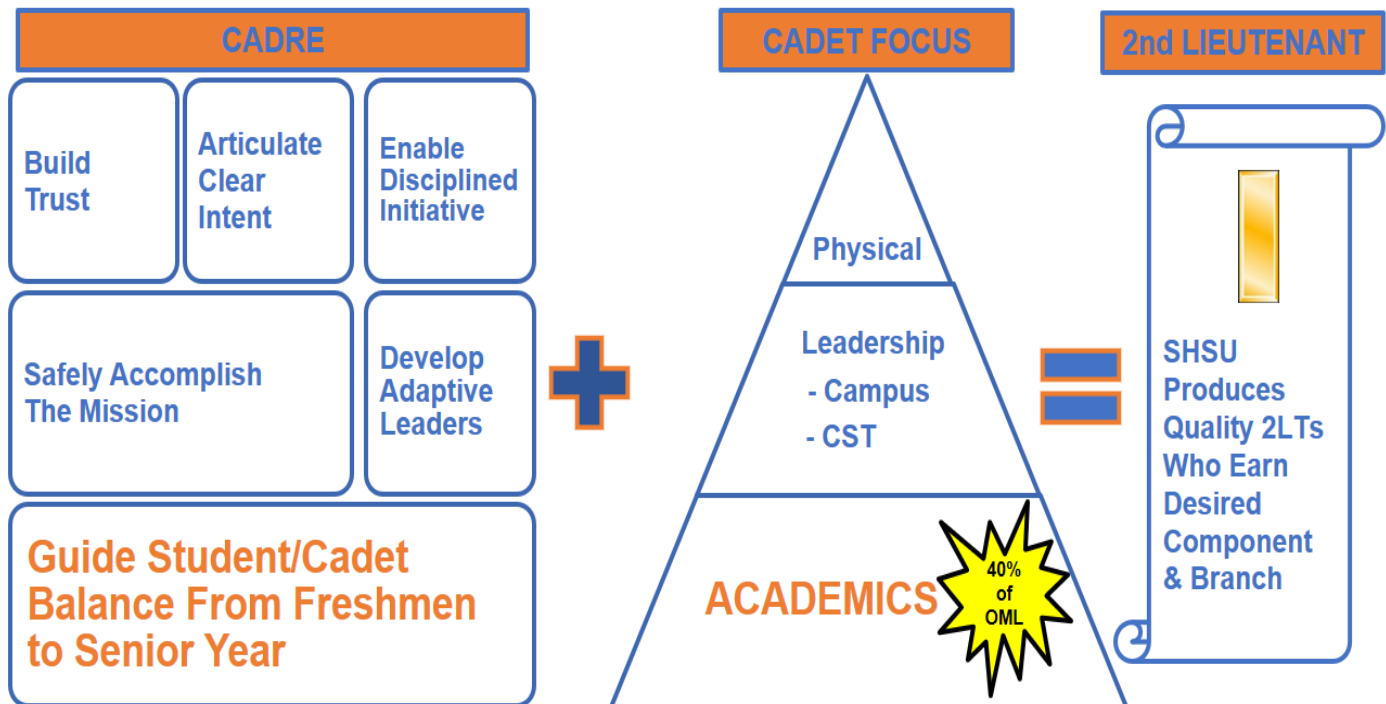
Our cadets will continue to tell their story in these newsletters. They have also developed an initiative to honor our ROTC Alumni with a “Blast to the Past” page. The SHSU cadets continue on their quest to commission and join a profession of selfless service during this upcoming year. They fully comprehend 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



**SHSU ARMY ROTC VISION**



Newly Contracted Cadets =  
August 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

Summer Training

**Air Assault School**

King, Julian

**Airborne School**

McEnroe, Andrew

**AMMEDD Internship Program**

Pham, Jordan- 121<sup>st</sup> CSH South Korea

**CTLT**

Arriaga, Jose- 2<sup>nd</sup> ID

Aparicio, Raquel-82<sup>nd</sup> ABD/117<sup>th</sup> HARS CAV

Calderon, Aaron- 82<sup>nd</sup> ABD/18<sup>th</sup> FA HIMARS Regiment

Pender, Jazzmine-82<sup>nd</sup> ABD/189<sup>th</sup> CSSB

**CULP**

Arrigali, Caitlin- Mozambique, Africa

**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



**Mass Exit Jump**

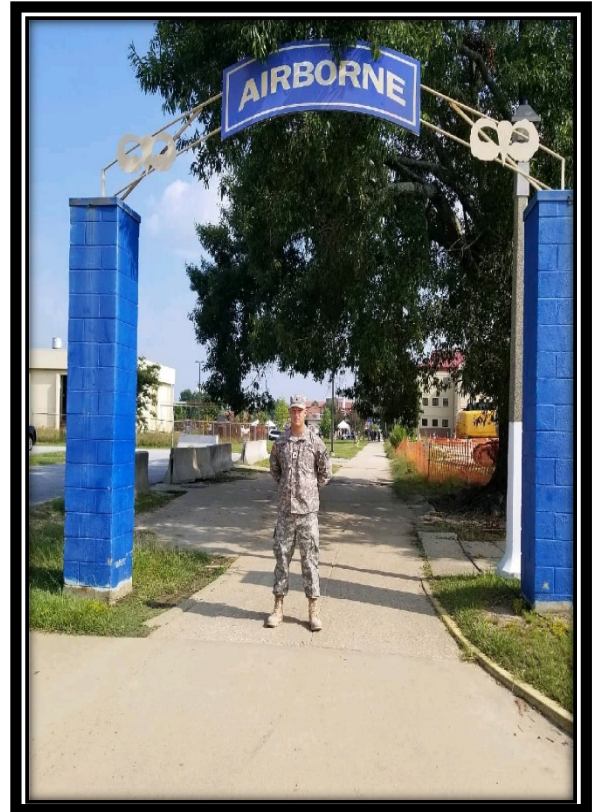
### Cadet McEnroe's Personal Experience

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 in 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



**Cadet Andrew McEnroe completed Airborne school August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at Fort Benning, Georgia**

## Air Assault School



**Cadet Julian King (left) rappelling from a Blackhawk.**

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



**Cadet King's mother (Kara King) pinning on his Air Assault wings on July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at Fort Benning, Georgia**

## 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



**Cadet Caitlin Arrigali with the Mozambican military during CULP.**

### Upcoming Events

Football Tailgate/Color Guard/Cannon/Push-up SHSU vs. Prairie View A&M	Bowers Stadium	08 Sep
Hearts Museum Garage Sale	Hearts Museum	10-15 Sep
Football Color Guard/Cannon/Push-up SHSU vs. North Dakota	Bowers Stadium	15 Sep
Fall FTX	Gibbs Ranch	21-23 Sep
Fall Safety Bash	Bowers Stadium	25 Sep
Football Tailgate/Color Guard/Cannon/Push-up SHSU vs. University of Central Arkansas	Bowers Stadium	29 Sep
Battle of Piney Woods (Color Guard) SHSU vs. SFA	NRG Stadium	06 Oct
Scholarship Board	ABIII	19 Oct
Ranger Challenge Competition	FT. Hood	13-14 Oct

***Please like us on Facebook @ Sam Houston State University Army ROTC***

## “Washington Watches College ROTC Unit” by Henry Rosenthal. November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1952



### A picture of the original article published November 8<sup>th</sup>, 1952

“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.”