



Cadets conducting a walk-through of establishing a Patrol Base.

4TH ANNUAL CPT INMAN MEMORIAL 5K

13 NOV, 0700 @ SHSU CLOCK TOWER

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See Page 4 for More Information.

Bearkat BATTALION



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SEPTEMBER | 2021 | Sam Houston State University

Pursuing Excellence, Strength and Honor!

The Bearkat Battalion is excited to return for the Fall 2021 semester after wrapping up a challenging and eventful summer. U.S. Army Cadet Command put our senior class to the test with the final capstone of training, Advanced Camp, while some of our other Cadets attended Air Assault School, Basic Camp, and CTLT.

This month our Cadets kicked off the semester strong by completing the ACFT. The Battalion is preparing for our Field Training Exercise and a visit to La Copa for land navigation and marksmanship training next month.

Let's Go!

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

Welcome to the Fall 2021 Semester! We are excited to announce that we have approximately 100 Cadets in our program, for the second consecutive year. Also, we began the semester with the most Cadets in our program since 2015. We could not have done this without your support. A special “thank you” to SHSU President Alisa White and Associate Vice Provost Dr. Brian Loft, as they provided us the opportunity to conduct safe in-person classes and training for the 2020/21 school year, through unprecedented times. This enabled us to continue our momentum and grow our program, as our team was able to provide direct leadership and mentorship for our future young leaders. Thank you!

The growth in our program provides flexibility and increases the competitiveness among our Cadets. An example of this flexibility is in our junior class of 31 Cadets; 14 of them are in leadership roles, normally held by a senior Cadet. Hence, due to a smaller senior cohort and the trust we have in our junior class, we entrusted them with these leadership responsibilities, and they have excelled during the first four weeks of the semester. Our junior class of 31 Cadets has the potential to be the largest commissioning class at SHSU since 2013, when we commissioned 24 second lieutenants. Prior to this, the largest commissioning class was in 1989 when we commissioned 44 second lieutenants. The growth in our program amplified the competitiveness amongst our Cadets as we started the semester with 42 Cadets contending for limited positions (nine) on our Ranger Challenge Team. The final competition for our Ranger Challenge Team is occurring as you read this newsletter. Our Ranger Challenge Team competes against our sister universities from October 22nd to the 24th. Finally, we began the semester with 29 Cadets who signed up for our Color Guard Team. Color Guard is the face of our program as it supports our community and university with the posting of the colors for distinct events. We currently have 17 Cadets, who previously met the requirements and represent our Color Guard Team. The new Cadets who meet the requirements this semester will join our current Color Guard Cadets and provide us more flexibility to support the university and community.

We commissioned 16 second lieutenants during the last academic year and are grateful for their leadership as it had a big role in our growth. However, we are past the point of rebuilding our program and in turn, are now reloading. The potential of our freshmen cohort is impressive. The cohort includes three Army National Scholarship winners, two National Guard 4-year Minutemen Scholarship winners, six campus based 3-year Scholarship winners, and three Cadets who completed basic training. These freshmen Cadets were scholar athletes in high school. Their cumulative GPA from high school is an impressive 3.51, while they lettered in football, baseball, basketball, wrestling, track and field, cross country, soccer, and we even have a freshman Cadet who played competitive hockey. They are all motivated and have “hit the ground running” as they have an outstanding 100% attendance rate during our fitness training sessions and a 96% attendance rate for class and lab for the first four weeks of the semester. We are eager to see them grow as leaders in our program.

In closing, tomorrow marks the 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks against our country. I was a junior Cadet in college, when 9/11 occurred and recall there were a lot of unknowns facing our country. Here we are, 20 years later and many, still make the argument that our country faces many unknowns, especially with the recent events during the past year. However, what is known and what I can personally attest to is the selflessness exhibited by our Cadets at Sam Houston State University. These young men and women raised their right hand to support and defend the constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic, despite everything that is occurring in our current environment. They will join the .001 of our current population in the country, who serve as Army Officers, and they will lead our sons and daughters with great distinction. Rest easy – we are in good hands. Thank you!

Strength and Honor!

Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras



LTC Contreras and 2LT Chudej providing Major General (RET.) David Glaser, SHSU Chief Strategy Officer, a tour of the ROTC Footprint.



Welcome from The Cadet Battalion Commander

To my fellow Cadets, our families, and distinguished alumni, I am excited and honored to welcome you back for the Fall 2021 semester and serve as your Cadet Battalion Commander. In the past few months, our Cadets enjoyed great success at Cadet Summer Training (CST) in Fort Knox, KY, as well as at Army installations across the country.

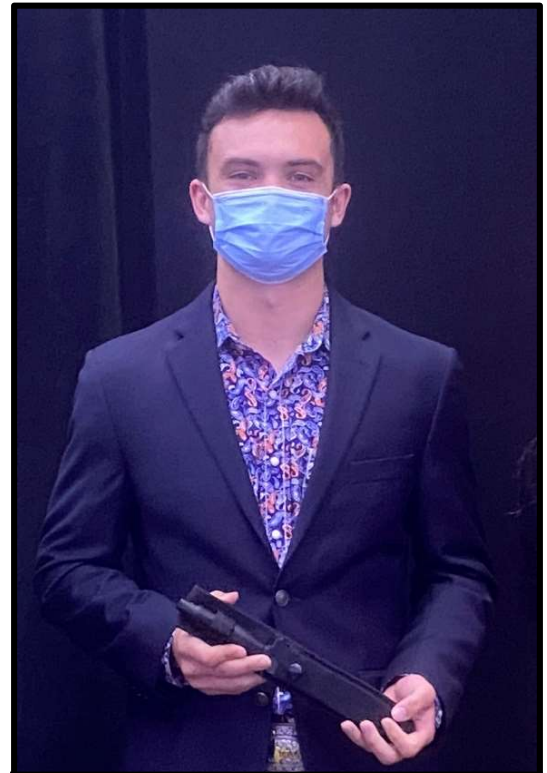
At CST, CTLT, and Air Assault, our Cadets displayed the confidence, physical fitness, technical proficiency, and leadership skills the Bearkat Battalion has instilled in them. The battalion is very proud of its successes, but we are constantly striving to improve. With the start of this new semester, our leadership team is committed to ensuring this year's classes are better prepared for summer training to continue to build on our success.

Eat 'Em Kats!

Cadet Battalion Commander

MSIV CDT LTC Samuel Brink

"Always be proud of your hard work, but not satisfied" -CDT Samuel Brink (MSIV)



Cadet Battalion Commander,
CDT Brink (MSIV).



MSIV CDT Brink motivating the Battalion at the first official PT of the semester.



MSIV CDT Brink assisting MS1 Cadets up an obstacle during the Field Leadership Reaction.



4th Annual CPT Rowdy Inman Memorial 5K

Sam Houston State University's Department of Military Science is excited to announce this year's CPT Rowdy Inman Memorial 5k. The race is held in honor of the department's first alumnus who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our country. It benefits the Department of Military Science Cadets with generous scholarships.

For the people around CPT Inman, the sacrifice was pronounced. In 2007, seven years after being commissioned as an officer from Sam Houston State University's Army ROTC program, he was killed in action in Mosul, Iraq, by small-arms fire. Among numerous other awards, CPT Inman was awarded the Purple Heart.

The 4th annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5k will take place on November 13, Veteran's Day Weekend, at 0700 hrs. The 5k starts at the SHSU clock tower and leads participants across the university's campus. Race entry is 25 dollars, which includes the race t-shirt. The race has grown every year. SHSU's Department of Military Science is excited to host this event and looks forward to honoring CPT Inman's sacrifice along with the rest of the Bearkat family.

This year, the department hopes to expand the 5k even more by promoting both a physical and a virtual race, giving participants the option of completing the 5k wherever they choose. We encourage all supporters to come out and join us in honoring the legacy of our honored alumnus Captain Rowdy J. Inman.

You can REGISTER or DONATE for/to the event at the attached link: <http://fundly.com/4th-annual-cpt-rowdy-inman-memorial-5k>



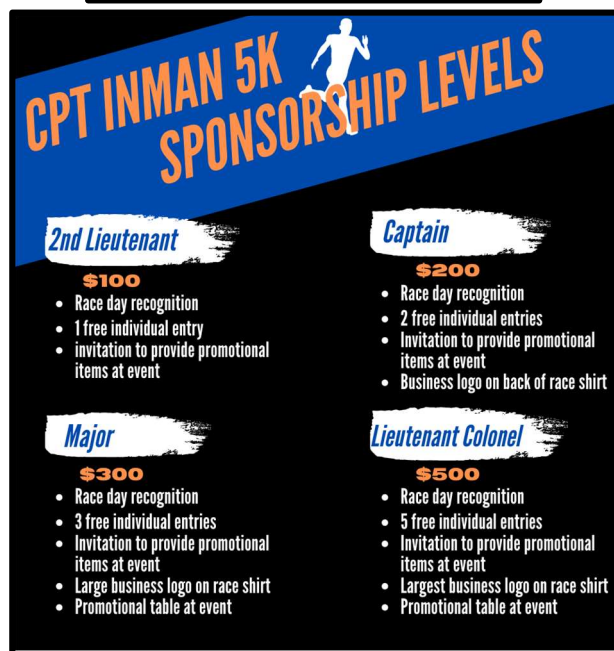
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CPT INMAN 5K SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

2nd Lieutenant	Captain
\$100	\$200
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race day recognition• 1 free individual entry• invitation to provide promotional items at event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race day recognition• 2 free individual entries• Invitation to provide promotional items at event• Business logo on back of race shirt
Major	Lieutenant Colonel
\$300	\$500
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race day recognition• 3 free individual entries• Invitation to provide promotional items at event• Large business logo on race shirt• Promotional table at event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Race day recognition• 5 free individual entries• Invitation to provide promotional items at event• Largest business logo on race shirt• Promotional table at event



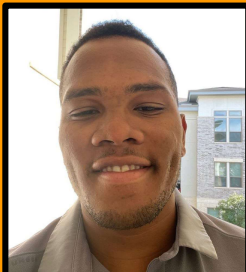
Participants of the Inaugural CPT Rowdy Inman 5K. (2019)



Runners starting the 3rd Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K. (2021)



Newly Contracted Cadets



CDT Princeton Davis
MSIII/Junior
Major: Interdisciplinary
Arigculutre
Hometown: Kileen, TX
\$5,000 Basic Camp Bonus



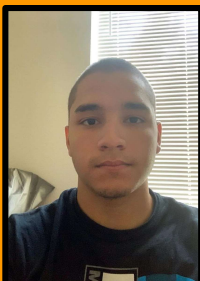
CDT Cory Morrison
MSII/Sophomore
Major: General Business
Hometown: Austin, TX
3-Year Scholarship



CDT Isiah Galindo
MSIII/Junior
Major: History
Hometown: Houston, TX
\$5,000 Basic Camp Bonus



CDT Carson Shell
MSII/Sophomore
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Maypearl, TX
3-Year Scholarship



CDT Joseph Locklin
MSI/Freshman
Major: Cyber Security
Hometown: Belton, TX
4-Year Minuteman Scholarship



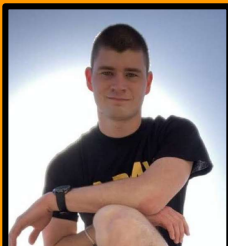
CDT Avery Sitkowski
MSII/Sophomore
Major: Homeland Security
Studies
Hometown: Katy, Texas
**Simultaneous Membership
Program Cadet**



CDT Samuel McNaughton
MSII/Sophomore
Major: History
Hometown: San Antonio, TX
Army National Scholarship



CDT Deena Stone
MSIII/Junior
Major: Victim Studies
Hometown: Katy, TX
2-Year Scholarship



CDT William Mills
MSII/Sophomore
Major: Biology
Hometown: Woodlands, TX
3-Year Scholarship



CDT Nicholas Watson
MSII/Sophomore
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Woodlands, TX
Army National Scholarship



CDT Julian Monroig
MSIII/Junior
Major: Criminal Justice
Hometown: Friendswood, TX
2-Year Scholarship



Why I contracted with SHSU ROTC- CDT Princeton Davis (MSIII)

My name is Princeton Davis, and I am from Killeen, TX. I currently live in Conroe, Texas, with my wife, Milica, and son, Baylor. Some of my hobbies include hanging out with friends and playing basketball. I attend a church in the Woodlands, and I am a follower of Christ. I am an Agricultural Science Major and want to start a community garden one day.

I truly appreciate this opportunity to become an Army Officer. When I talked to Mr. Derr this summer, he told me that if I wanted to become an officer, I would need to go to Fort Knox, Kentucky, for a week and see whether or not I like the Army. After completing my time at Fort Knox, I decided that becoming an officer would be challenging but worth it in the end. I decided that if I took my goal seriously, I would need to start by contracting. I knew that contracting would mean a commitment and that it would mean that I was all in.

Unlike most other Cadets in the program, I have already obtained a bachelor's degree and started a 'Big boy job.' Things didn't go as I had hoped in my first career, and I wanted to have a more fulfilling career. I considered becoming an officer because I can make a large impact on many people's lives, and I get to travel, which was a key perk for me. I made the right decision and am looking forward to my next two years in the program.



MSIII CDT Davis running 2 miles during the ACFT.



MSIII CDT Davis learning about the Execution Paragraph of an OPORD from CDT Frye.



Cadet Summer Training Experience- CDT Nathan Frye (MSIV)

Cadet Summer Training (CST) was among the most rewarding experiences I have had the opportunity to be a part of. At CST, I worked with Cadets from all over the United States, including Puerto Rico, allowing me to test my cross-cultural fluency, a necessary skill to have as an Army officer. As the United States Army becomes increasingly diverse, an officer's capacity to lead Soldiers is dependent on their ability to establish respect, trust, and influence among those who do not share the same background.

Going into CST, I felt well prepared; the Cadet leaders of the Bearkat Battalion throughout my first three years at SHSU provided essential training that prepared me to perform well at camp. This training included numerous land navigation lanes, field training exercises, PT sessions, and practical labs each week. The training I received through the Bearkat Battalion allowed me to feel confident at CST and rely on the lessons I learned from previous years to lead others effectively.

My advice for Cadets that wish to make the commendable commitment to become an Army officer is to take the training seriously. I understand that during college, waking up for a 12-mile ruck may be the last thing you wish to do before an exam. However, the grit, the willingness, and the commitment to be a part of something great will serve you well as you continue into your career in the United States Army. Furthermore, listen to the Cadets who have been in your shoes. Trust me, at times, it may not be easy, but they truly are doing all they can to help you succeed, not only at CST, but after as well.

Trust the training you receive. At CST, there are times where you will be exhausted, and several different people want you to accomplish a specific task a certain way. However, if you trust the training you receive at Sam Houston, you will excel. Finally, my most significant piece of advice is to learn people. At CST, you will lead individuals from different backgrounds and are expected to complete the mission. To do so, you must understand how to motivate, influence, and communicate well. This last piece of advice may be the most challenging, but it will allow you to connect with and learn from numerous individuals with diverse perspectives.

Overall, my Cadet Summer Training experience provided leadership lessons that I will apply throughout my career as an Army Officer. I am thankful for the Bearkat Battalion and the valuable training it continues to provide for me.

Eat 'em up Kats!



MSIV CDT Frye during the first lab with
MSIV CDT CSM Sarah Brock



MSIV CDT Frye as a Squad Leader during a
Defense Lane.



Transition to SHSU and Cadet Orientation- CDT Wes Wisnewski (MS1)

Hello, my name is Wes Wisnewski, and I am an MS1 (freshman) at Sam Houston State University. We are three weeks into school, and I am very much enjoying my time here. My adjustment from home to college has gone smoother than most people would have suspected. I jumped all into ROTC. I have attended every PT session that I can. I have also been trying out for the Ranger Challenge team. I have enjoyed every second of it. Even when the workouts have been tiring and challenging, I have loved the challenge, the hard work, and the attitude and dedication that all the other Ranger Challenge participants have.

The ROTC program as a whole is amazing. It feels like a family away from my family. No one blows me off because I'm an MS1, and all of the upperclassmen and Cadre have no problem answering any question I have about the Army or anything else. My mentor, CDT Noah Abramski, was very helpful to me before I even got to campus. He helped me know what I should already have before I arrived, like boots and gloves, and he offers to lend me a hand anywhere I may come up short with ROTC or my day-to-day life. Cadets like this make me look forward to my future.

Now, I have a somewhat interesting position in my academics. I graduated high school with an associate's degree. So, I am going to double major in Psychology and Criminal Justice. However, this means that I am currently enrolled in Junior level classes. In one of my classes, I have 2 MS3s, Cadet Austin Sumner and Cadet Elaine Bishop, and Battalion Commander Cadet Sam Brink as classmates. It feels a little weird being an MS1 in class with these MS3s and an MS4, but they have been nothing but kind and helpful to me. CDT Sumner has helped me a tremendous amount with answering questions I have about Ranger Challenge, Army acronyms, and the uniform. Battalion Commander CDT Brink has also been very helpful with information and encouraged me through Ranger Challenge and PT. These Cadets have made the transition into college smoother and made being in a higher-level class less awkward for me. Now, I only have one last thing to figure out—this being which church I want to be a member of. I am still looking for a church that suits me.

I am looking forward to these next four years of being in college and the ROTC Program. I am eager to learn so much more about the Army and get so much more training. My time at Sam Houston will prepare me for my career as an Army Officer and my life in general. Even though the upperclassmen will leave before I do and start their careers before me, I hope to meet with them again in the future.



Wes on a tour of the SHSU ROTC Program and Campus during his national scholarship interview. He earned an Army National Scholarship.



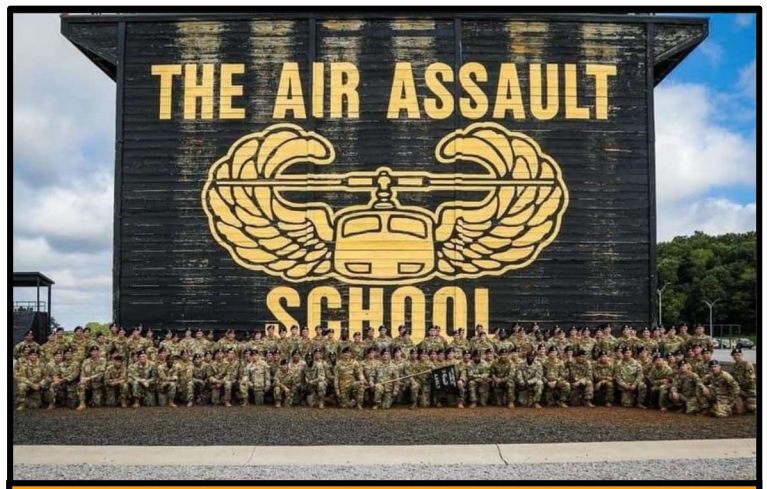
MSI CDT Wisnewski doing PT with his mentor tree.



Air Assault Experience- CDT Matthew Pilgrim



CDT Pilgrim at La Copa training prior to attending Air Assault School.



CDT Pilgrim graduating Air Assault School.

Through the Sam Houston State ROTC program, I had the opportunity to attend the Sabaluaski Air Assault School during the summer. Going to Air Assault was one of the most incredible experiences I have had. During my 27 days stay at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, I had the opportunity to go on a division run with the 101st, shadow an Infantry Captain, and of course, attend the legendary Air Assault school.

Although Air Assault was challenging and tested our grit, the Bearkat Battalion did a fantastic job at preparing me for everything the school had in store for me. I was ready to complete school well before I left through physical training, rappel classes, and maneuvering through the obstacle course. I am genuinely grateful for the chance to represent the program and earn my air assault wings. Class 29-21 AIR ASSAULT!



CDT Pilgrim showing off his Schuder's Ranger Company scroll. The scroll is awarded to SHSU Cadets who are deemed tactically proficient.



CDT Pilgrim learning about the Sustainment paragraph of an OPORD from CDT Paulson.



SHSU ROTC Summer Highlights



MSIV CDT Brent Garrett at Fort Hood, TX on a Blackhawk ride during CTLT.



MSIII CDT Brendan Smith on a hike in Alaska.



Color Guard supporting the Huntsville Fire department's Open House.



MSII CDT Russel Lamson with Arson dog in Cypress.



MSIII CDT Isiah Galindo on a ruckmarch to Heart-break Hill at Basic Camp.



MSIII CDT Xiomara Santiago and MSIII CDT Lindsay Mitchell in Honduras visiting Mayan Temples.



Newlyweds: MSIV CDT Austin Zirkel and Mrs. Zirkel.



Alumni Appreciation- COL (Ret.) Scott Schisser

“Colonel (RET.) Scott J. Schisser served in the US Army for over 32 years. The first 29 were as a US Army Officer (serving both within Aviation and Air Defense) and for 3 plus years as a Department of the Army Civilian.

During his 29-year Army career, Colonel (Ret) Schisser held multiple command and staff positions around the world, including brigade and battalion command. He commanded the 25th Infantry Division’s Combat Aviation Brigade, and the 101st Airborne Division’s (Air Assault) 2-17th Air Cavalry Squadron. He held key leadership positions on the Joint Staff, first as a charter member and Joint Command and Control subject-matter-expert in the Joint Advanced Warfighting Program – Advanced Projects Office and then as the Chief of Warfighting Concepts and Architecture Integration Division, in the Force Structure, Resources, and Assessment Directorate (J- 8). Additionally, he served as the Special Assistant to the Assistant Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, focusing on support to the Secretary of State on defense matters throughout the Middle East, Asia, and the Pacific. As a member of the Army Staff, Colonel (Ret) Schisser was hand-picked by the Chief of Staff to develop and implement the Army Senior Leader Development Office. An organization that brought together the management and development of the Army’s General Officers and Colonels.

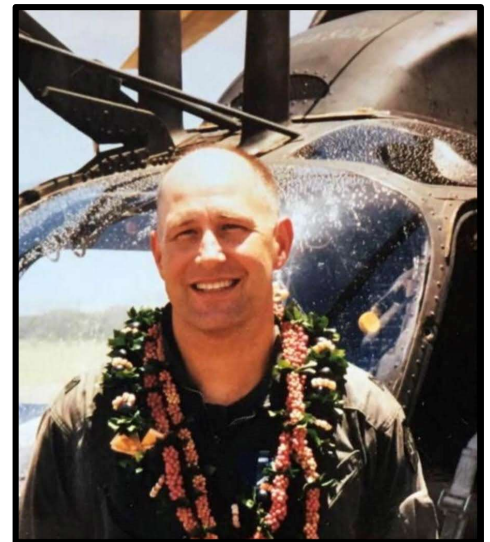
As a Department of the Army Civilian Colonel (Ret) Schisser served as the US Army North Liaison to Headquarters Department of the Army, whereas a GS-15 he represented the command's interests to the Army, Joint, and OSC staffs. Additionally, in crisis and exercises, he supported the Army Command Center and Alternate Command Locations during Defense Support to Civil Authority missions.

Colonel (Ret) Schisser joined Standard Aero in 2016 and is currently the Vice-President, Strategy and Business Development for the Military and Energy Sector. In this position, he is responsible for the development of growth and capture strategies, campaign and program win plans, customer relationships, and the development of shaping requirements for the sector.

Colonel (Ret) Schisser’ awards include the Senior Army Aviation Badge, the Joint Staff Identification Badge, the Army Staff Badge, the Air Assault Badge, the Defense Superior Service Medal, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, and various others.”



COL (RET.) Schisser with his Wife, Nancy, at the Army Aviation Association of America Hall of Fame Dinner - April 2019.



COL (RET.) Schisser during his final flight, 25th CAB, Wheeler AAF, Hawaii – June 2003.

COL (RET.) Scott Schisser embodies every aspect of leadership we instill in our Cadets. He continually exemplifies selfless service and dedication to growing and mentoring future leaders. This program and our Cadets are thankful for his continued support.

On behalf of the Bearkat Battalion, thank you for exemplary service and support!

