



Runners awaiting the sound of the cannon to officially start the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K. (Nov 13<sup>th</sup>)

## Bearkat BATTALION



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As the semester ends, we are proud of the extraordinary accomplishments Bearkat Battalion cadets achieved. We hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CPT Rowdy Inman 5K, where the program raised over \$10,000. Our Alumni Spotlight this month is 1LT Caitlin Arrigali, the OIC of the Inaugural CPT Rowdy Inman 5K.

From the Bearkat Battalion we want to wish MSG Mitchell a happy retirement and thank him for supporting our program and our country!

EAT'EM UP KATS!

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## MSG Joel Mitchell Farewell Comments

Serving as the senior military science instructor for Sam Houston State University Bearkat Battalion has been one of the most memorable moments in my life. Words cannot express how deeply saddened I am to leave you all. However, I am grateful to be your first military heartache.

Throughout a military career, you will be fortunate to serve with some of the finest men and women of the Armed Forces. Unfortunately, like this very moment in time, the selfless service and dedication to your units and each other will sorrowfully conclude throughout various service obligations. I have experienced several moments of military heartache, but this will be tough to mend. During my retirement ceremony, I shared three quotes that exemplified my passion for the program, personal encounters, and mindsets to help me navigate various obstacles encountered during my development. These quotes I shared were to become MS Level specific during my retirement speech, but I chose to emphasize how thankful I am to have been an instructor here serving you all.

First, My MSIs... I will not designate a quote for you all to remember me by but, I would like to depart by saying I wish we had more time. I recall during our first lesson. I suggested that you all refrain from becoming too attached to me due to my retirement. I would later realize that those words consequently were intended for me to follow and believe. I am astonished by your class' intelligence, tenacity, dedication to serving in the United States Army, and most importantly, your devotion to each other so early in this journey we call ROTC. I am saddened not to be with you next semester, but LTC Sherwood will take exceptional care of the team while I retire. Thank you for accepting me to teach and lead you all.

Next, My MSII's. "We don't rise to the level of our expectations; we fall to the level of our training." ~Archilochus. Probably my most entertaining class of them all however, the time is nearing to codify your skills before you ascend to an MSIII. Training will be your watchword; you must become determined and prepared to compete accordingly when the time comes; I do not doubt that you all will perform admirably. I am thankful to have met a cohort whose majority understood my introverted tendencies and welcomed me with open arms within such a short period.

My MSIII's "What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others" ~Pericles. It has been a pleasure to have met you all first during my introduction into SHSU ROTC program, you guys were my first ROTC family, and I am forever grateful to have shared so much with you all. We shared this experience; I have watched you guys grow into young aspiring leaders upon entry into our program. I am impressed by your development and personal growth over the years; however, I believe the future success of our program will be dependent on your passion and devotion to the program and the candidates to come. I hope that my experience and passion shared while instructing will reverberate into the lives of all who serve under you for years to come. Thank you for being my first family in the program!

Lastly, My MSIV's "Respect is Earned, Not Given" ~Thomas Edward. As mentioned during my retirement, I wish that we had more time together as well. However, you have completed the core requirements to enter the force as aspiring 2LTs, Congratulations! Time to lead our soldiers. As a senior Noncommissioned officer, I never experienced the dilemma of identifying who I believed to be an exceptional leader "there is never an "I" in Team" though I struggled with those who I wholeheartedly chose to follow. My primary reason is in the quote mentioned above. Soldiers respond to impartial leaders and those leaders who are willing to discern their concerns to build a rapport and earn their trust versus demanding it from them. I hope that you all are up for the challenge of leadership. Thank you for taking care of our soldiers and leading the program into its most promising year to date. This Senior class is resilient, determined, and prepared to lead our most dynamic formations in the Armed services.

Thank you all for your commitment to serve each other and our formations of the future. "The uniform is bigger than you/us" and I am pleased to have met each one of you.

### Strength and Honor!

### Master Sergeant Joel Mitchell



LTC Contreras (left) presenting MSG Joel Mitchell (right) a token of appreciation from the Bearkat Battalion.





## Newly Contracted Cadets



CDT Rashaad Hammond  
MSII/Sophomore  
Desired Branch: Signal  
Major: Mass Communications  
Hometown: Pearland, TX.  
**3-Year Scholarship**



CDT Ethan Bahr  
MSIII/Junior  
Desired Branch: Signal  
Major: Management Information Systems  
Hometown: New Caney, TX.  
**\$5,000 Basic Camp Bonus**



## Cadet of The Month – Nicholas Watson (MSII)

My journey towards joining the Bearkat Battalion at Sam Houston State University started in high school, when I began applying to colleges. I always knew I wanted to join the military, and study Criminal Justice when I was younger. When I visited SHSU and met the battalion and its cadets, I knew immediately I wanted to join this family and I was blessed enough to do so.

My time here in the battalion has been short, but the lessons, experiences, and friendships I have made already have been enough to last a lifetime. I am extremely proud to be a part of this battalion. While here in the program, I have seized the opportunity to contract and earn the coveted Schuder's Ranger Scroll. Contracting this semester was an important step in my life. It allowed me to take the first step in my Army career, opened many new and exciting opportunities, and proved to myself that I was fully ready to commit my life to something bigger. I'm becoming a United States Army Officer. Earning the coveted title of a Scroll in Ranger Company (Schuder's Rangers) was another important step in my life, and so far, has been the most physically and mentally demanding challenge I have ever undertaken and accomplished. I've proven that I can accomplish any task I set my mind to, no matter how big, small, easy, or difficult it is. I know I have the mental and physical fortitude to achieve success thanks to Ranger Company. I am beyond excited to continue my development and leadership as a scroll next semester and ready to put the work in!

I am very grateful to be a part of the Bearkat Battalion here at Sam Houston State University. The guidance, leadership, wisdom, and kindness I have received from the upperclassmen, cadre, and battalion as a whole has motivated me to work my hardest every day. I can push myself to accomplish tasks, I never believed I could. I'd like to especially thank my MSII class for being by my side along the way. Your friendship and dedication mean everything to me, I don't know the type of person I would be without you all. I am very excited to continue my academic and ROTC career here. I can't wait to get started next semester and continue leading future soldiers in the program. Let's get it!



CDT Watson along with fellow MSII's with MSG Mitchell at the fall awards ceremony.



CDT Watson rucking at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CPT Rowdy Inman Memorial 5K.





## 4<sup>th</sup> Annual CPT Rowdy Inman Memorial 5K (2021)

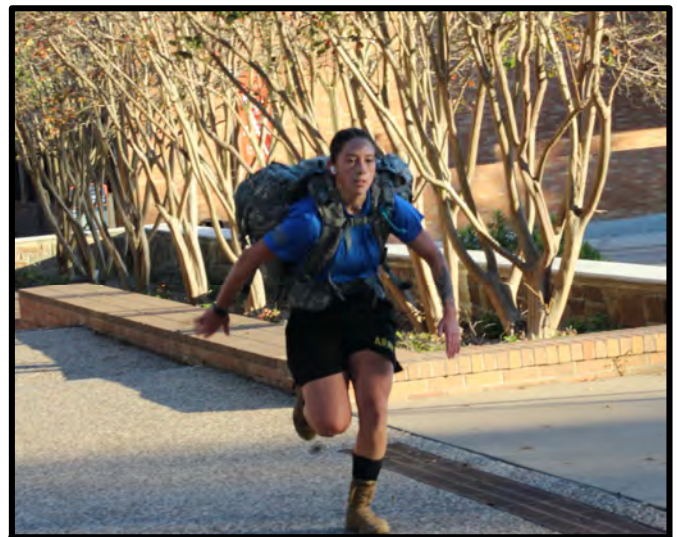
On this past Veteran's Day Weekend, November 13, the 4th Annual CPT Inman Memorial 5K was successfully held at Sam Houston State University. The university, once again, graciously hosted the 5K for the Department of Military Science. The 5K honored CPT Rowdy Inman and raised over \$10,000. Sam Houston State Military Science Department pulled together to make the 5K happen. CDT Mize a junior Cadet, this year's OIC, worked closely with cadre, battalion leadership, and select cadets beginning over the summer, up until the night before the race to ensure everything went smoothly.

CDT Loerwald and CDT Pilgrim contacted sponsors, and CDT Dang-Fouty assisted with the budget. Over 30 cadets volunteered on the day of the race, beginning at 5:00 AM and working hard even after the event was over to make this year's memorial 5K the best one yet. This is partly because the 5K was not the only way CPT Inman was honored this year. The Department of Military Science proudly dedicated one of its classrooms to CPT Inman. Classroom 331 is now officially the CPT Rowdy Inman Classroom. It was unveiled immediately after the race and contains memorabilia, information, and personal items of CPT Inman, as well as pictures and items from previous 5Ks. CDT Loerwald and CDT Mize, with extensive help from Ms. Elkins, worked hard designing posters, ordering plaques, and painting walls to get the classroom ready on time.

The Department of Military Science is thankful to all the sponsors who came together to make all this possible, particularly Colonel (R) John and Geanie McManners, who were extremely generous and instrumental to the classroom dedication. We hope to improve upon this year's race next Veteran's Day Weekend at the 5th Annual CPT Inman Memorial 5K! See you there!



Runners celebrating together as they cross the finish line.



CDT Mendez (MSIII) giving it her all during the 5K.





# CPT Rowdy Inman Room Dedication (ABIII, Room 331)





## Fall Awards Ceremony – CDT Izabella Lopez (MSI)

Hello, my name is Izabelle Lopez. I am an MSI in Sam Houston State’s Army ROTC program. Our battalion recently had its 2021 Fall Awards Ceremony and I was one of many Cadets that received awards. During this event, I was one of two Cadets that was awarded the prestigious CPT Rowdy Inman Scholarship. This award is revered in the battalion because it honors a fallen alumni member of our program. I also received a scholarship award for earning the top female Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) score in my class. In my opinion, it is good that we have these award ceremonies to recognize the achievements and progress of the Cadets in our program.

This was my first time attending the awards ceremony and it was very well organized. Everything was done in a timely manner and seemed very well put together. I personally liked how the battalion recognized all of the specialty teams within the program. Getting to see the other awardees and my friends go up and receive awards was one thing I feel added a special aspect to the awards ceremony. Another thing I admired about the ceremony is that afterward, we transitioned into Master Sergeant Mitchell’s retirement ceremony. All in all, it was a great experience getting to be a part of this event. It made me excited for next semester and all the achievements our battalion is bound to make.



CDT Lopez (middle) with her fellow MSI cadets at the fall awards ceremony.



CDT Lopez with the awards she earned during the fall awards ceremony.





# This Month In Photos



MSIV Cadets receiving their Active-Duty Branches.



Cadets continuing the tradition of guarding the SHSU Graduation Rings.



CDT BC Samuel Brink teaching MSI Cadets how great MREs are.



MSI Cadets receiving Perfect Attendance Awards for their dedication.



Color Guard performing as SHSU goes into the playoffs.



Cadets at the start line of the 2-mile run, the last event for the ACFT.





## Fall 2021 Commissioning Ceremony



Second Lieutenant Courtney Paulson was born on November 6, 2000. She grew up in Belize, Central America and graduated at Kingwood Park High School. Second Lieutenant Courtney Paulson enrolled at Sam Houston State University and started school in spring 2020. She joined the Bearkat Battalion and served as the Land Navigation OIC, Safety Officer and AS3. Second Lieutenant Courtney Paulson is graduating a Distinguished Military Graduate (Top 20% in the nation). She will be graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a Minor in Military Science. Upon graduation, Second Lieutenant Courtney Paulson will serve as an Active-Duty Field Artillery Officer.

Second Lieutenant Hannah Zepeda was born on August 19, 1998. She grew up in Alvin, Texas and graduated from Alvin High School. Second Lieutenant Zepeda enrolled at Sam Houston State University and started school in fall 2018. She joined the Bearkat Battalion and served as the Battalion S1. Second Lieutenant Zepeda will be graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice with a Minor in Military Science. Second Lieutenant Zepeda is a first-generation Bearkat and a first-generation Army Officer. Upon graduation, Second Lieutenant Zepeda will serve as an Active-Duty Quartermaster Officer.



## Alumni Spotlight - 1LT Caitlin Arrigali

Lieutenant Caitlin K. Arrigali graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate from Sam Houston State University (SHSU) in May of 2019 with a degree in Criminal Justice and a minor in Forensic Anthropology. While attending SHSU, she was an active member of both the ROTC program and Alpha Delta Pi Sorority while also working as a student assistant. LT Arrigali served as the Bearkat Battalion XO, Mentor OIC, Color Guard OIC her senior year and received program and university recognition by receiving the Sammy Award and George C. Marshall Award. However, the achievement she is most proud of is the legacy left behind through the founding of the CPT Rowdy J. Inman Memorial 5k. Upon graduation, LT Arrigali commissioned as a Military Intelligence Officer, branch detail Chemical and started her career at Fort Bragg, NC.

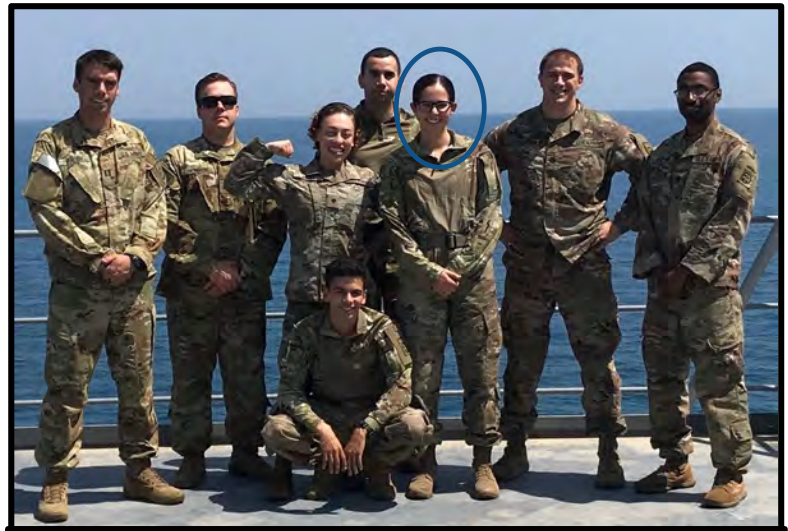
LT Arrigali was first assigned to 1st Squadron, 17th Cavalry Regiment, where she deployed in support of Operation Spartan Shield. During this deployment, she had the opportunity to work closely with the Navy in support of the Naval Forces Central Command (NAVCENT) mission set operating out of the North Arabian Gulf. Upon redeployment, LT Arrigali continued serving as the Squadron's Chemical Officer. Her current assignment is with 21st Chemical Company, where she is currently transitioning out of Platoon Leader time into the Executive Officer position. As Platoon Leader for a Mounted Reconnaissance Platoon, LT Arrigali was afforded the opportunity to attend L6 and gain significant knowledge regarding the NBCRV Stryker platform. LT Arrigali is also a full-time online Masters student through George Washington University, where she is working towards a Masters in Homeland Security.

### Advice For Cadets:

There are two pieces of knowledge I wish I would have known sooner that I want to share with current cadets: (1) make the most of the period of life you are currently in, and (2) you will never be prepared for everything, and that is perfectly okay. ROTC and College, in general, is a great time to push yourself, work your hardest, and better yourself as a person. However, it is also a time to figure out who you are, make those lifelong friends, and take advantage of the freedom. It is important to find that balance during your four years and take advantage of every opportunity handed your way. Additionally, no matter how hard you work, there will always be something that you aren't prepared for. That is okay and not a failing moment. It is simply an opportunity for you to overcome hardship, something that will make you a better leader in the long run.



Newly Commissioned 1LT Arrigali with her ROTC classmates on graduation day in 2019.



1LT Arrigali with her TOC crew on the USS Lewis B. Puller in the North Arabian Gulf on deployment in 2020.

