

# BEARKAT BATTALION

## NEWSLETTER



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### EAT 'EM UP KATS!

In this February edition of the ROTC Newsletter, we highlight a series of significant events and initiatives that underscore our commitment to community, camaraderie, and diversity. This month, we kicked off with the Ranger Company Day Zero Event, an initiative designed to foster team spirit and sharpen incoming Cadets skills through engaging and challenging activities. We also extended our outreach efforts at Kashmere High School, aiming to inspire and inform students about the opportunities and values inherent in ROTC programs. In a more relaxed setting, the programs 3rd Annual SHSU Super Bowl watch party brought together Cadets for an evening of sportsmanship and community bonding. Additionally, we dedicated time to honor and reflect upon Black History Month, recognizing the contributions and achievements of African Americans in our military and society. Each of these events reflects our dedication to building a cohesive and inclusive environment that values every Cadets contribution to the programs collective mission.



**Check out the Sam Houston Ranger Company's Day Zero event!**

**Read More - Page 2**



**Read about the Third Annual Sam Houston State ROTC Super Bowl watch party and the Winning Cadets.**

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# Cadet of the Month

## CADET CHASE DAVIS



**“There is nothing more important than your friends in the program. I may have gotten Cadet of the Month, but I wouldn’t be where I am without them.”**

**Cadet Chase Davis**



**“Cadet Davis is always first to volunteer, involved in almost every special team we offer, and is ranked top in his class for physical fitness and academics. Cadet Davis is an excellent role model and leader in his class.”**

**Cadet Cinnamon Wright-Burwinkel**

Congratulations to Cadet Chase Davis for being named Cadet of the Month for February! His exceptional dedication, attendance, and active participation in the ROTC program have not gone unnoticed. Cadet Davis’s commitment to excellence is truly commendable and serves as an inspiration to others. His hard work and determination have earned him this well-deserved recognition. Cadet Davis continuously provides fantastic work. His future in the Sam Houston ROTC program looks bright, and we look forward to witnessing his continued success and leadership!

Cadet Avery Sitkowski  
MS4 Battalion Commander

# Ranger Company: Schuder's Rangers

## DAY ZERO

The Schuder's Ranger Company, established in 1963 and formally known as the "Counter Guerillas", is a specialty detachment within the Bearkat Battalion that offers Cadets more exclusive tactics training, physical training, mental resiliency and leadership development.

On Wednesday, February 7th, the Bearkat Battalion's, Schuder's Rangers, initiated their first training event of the year called "Day Zero". During Day Zero, Cadets are put to the test with vigorous physical exercises, long movements, and stressful situations meant to challenge Cadets throughout the entire operation.

This exercise marks the beginning of Ranger Company's semester-long regiment. Those who successfully complete Day Zero demonstrate unwavering commitment, dedication, and mental resilience. Achieving this milestone unequivocally signifies entry into the esteemed Ranger Company, granting access to subsequent training phases.

It is with immense pride that we announce the triumphant completion of Day Zero with 15 candidates. We eagerly anticipate witnessing their growth and accomplishments throughout the year.

Cadet Tanner Stone,  
Schuder's Rangers Commander



**The Bearkat Cadets persevering and giving it their all!**

# Gold Bar Recruiter

## SECOND LIEUTENANT ELAINE BISHOP



Hi, I am Second Lieutenant Elaine Bishop! In December, I achieved a significant milestone in my journey by commissioning into my top-choice branch, the Medical Service Corps. This achievement marks the culmination of 4.5 years of dedication and I couldn't be more excited to start this new chapter in life!

After my commissioning in December, I was given the opportunity to serve as the Gold Bar Recruiter for our program. I accepted this offer to give back to the program prior to my start of Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC) in March. During this time, I've been visiting High School JROTC programs to discuss the advantages of joining ROTC while in college. Additionally, I've been assigned the task of recruiting JROTC programs in the Houston area to participate in our 2nd Annual Schuders Challenge! We'd love for you to join us!

For those commissioning and receiving a later BOLC date, I encourage you to take the opportunity provided by Cadet Command to work as a Gold Bar Recruiter. This enables you to jumpstart your active-duty benefits prior to starting BOLC. Moreover, it provides an avenue for professional development and networking opportunities as you begin your military career.

# Branch Day at Texas A&M

## BRANCHES OF THE ARMY



As part of our MS3 class at Sam Houston State University, we were honored to attend the “Army Meet Your Army Day” at Texas A&M, an insightful event hosted at College Station, TX, on February 7-8. This opportunity allowed us to interact with Soldiers and experience firsthand the equipment and capabilities of the U.S. Army.

Organized by the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets, the event featured the participation of the 3rd Armored Corps, who brought equipment from Fort Cavazos to showcase. We had the privilege of stepping inside an M1 Abrams main battle tank, engaging with a military working dog team, and witnessing an explosive ordnance disposal robot in action. The event, held at Aggie Spirit Lawn from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days, provided us with invaluable insights into the Army's operations.



In addition to 3rd Armored Corps, various branches of the military, including Medical Corps, Transportation, Armor, Air Defense Artillery, Military Police, Infantry, Aviation, and Quartermaster, were represented. 3rd Armored Corps, boasting nearly 100,000 soldiers, over 700 main battle tanks, and more than 1,000 Bradley Fighting Vehicles spanning four divisions, serves as a cornerstone of the U.S. Army's combat power.

Our experience at Army Meet Your Army Day was both enriching and enlightening. We extend our gratitude to Texas A&M University and the 3rd Armored Corps for this invaluable opportunity to engage with our nation's brave soldiers and gain a deeper understanding of their dedication and professionalism.



Cadet Katelyn Nitsche  
 Newsletter NCOIC

# Kashmere High School

## RECRUITING EVENT

This month my fellow cadets and I visited Kashmere Highschool to share information about ROTC and Sam Houston State. Myself and others talked about our experiences as enlistees, some of us about their experiences in the army reserve and national guard, and collectively about our experience in college with ROTC. A lot of the students were interested in the benefits ROTC and the Army provide, not just in allowing them to attend college when they otherwise wouldn't have the ability to, but also with how many opportunities the Army provides to set you up for a future career. Seeing that each of us had used different avenues to end up as ROTC cadets we showed that there is no one path and that all of them could get to where we currently are.

We were also asked lots of questions about different jobs and how their own ambitions align with Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) that the Army utilizes. From students that want to be veterinarians, doctors, welders, programmers, photographers and more we talked about how the Army has all those jobs and they could serve their country while doing what they love. Multiple students shared that after our meeting they would be applying to SHSU and how excited they were to join ROTC and see us all again. Us talking about our experiences and everything that ROTC has to offer made us feel proud to offer it to them as well.

I genuinely feel like we showed them an option for them to seek higher education and do what they dream of all through the Army and ROTC. It was fulfilling talking to them and seeing them show so much interest, I'm excited to see them in the future and can't wait to visit another school and share more information and access to opportunities to others. We look forward to visiting Kashmere High School again and seeing familiar faces on campus and in our battalion in the years to come.

Cadet Jackson Hyams  
Color Guard NCOIC



# Super Bowl Bash

## CHIEFS VS 49ERS!!

This February, the Bearkat Battalion hosted the 3rd Annual Superbowl Party! During this event, the program provides food, drinks and a space to watch the game in our Cadet lounge. This year our Cadets got to witness the Kansas City Chiefs and San Fransico 49ers play in the 58th Annual Superbowl with the Chiefs winning with a final score of 25-22. Adding to our tradition our Cadets pick a square in our Superbowl square chart, as seen on the right, and the winners of each quarter received a prize! This year we had 3 winners with a Cadet winning two quarters and a Cadet winning during overtime. Thank you to all the Cadets that participated in our Annual Superbowl party and congratulations to the Cadets who were lucky enough to win a prize!

**The SHSU ROTC Squares Sheet**



# First Ruck of the Semester

## 6 MILE RUCK

This semester, Cadets are continuing to grow in both physical and mental fortitude in preparation for their upcoming Army endeavors. Twenty Cadets will be commissioning this semester and moving onto new duty assignments that require a high level of physical fitness. The current MS3 class will attend Cadet Summer Training (CST) this Summer at Fort Knox, KY and will be evaluated on many key aspects of leadership. This year, the Army has emphasized physical fitness within the CST point structure for the Class of 2025 ROTC Cadets, with physical fitness accounting for 30 percent of the point structure. Within the program, we've observed this change and have implemented new programming within PT and rucks to better prepare Cadets for CST and future duty assignments upon graduating.

A ruck march can be beneficial in bringing a group together in both a physically and mentally healthy manner. The U.S. Army utilizes ruck marching as a core military skill, challenging Cadets not only to complete 12 miles in three hours but also to do so with a rifle and a weighted pack on their back. Although there is some variation in the weight carried, it is typical for rucksacks to weigh at least 35 pounds. This semester, Bearkat Battalion Cadets will conduct six ruck marches over the Spring semester, consisting of two 6-mile rucks, two 8-mile rucks, one 10-mile ruck, and the final culminating event being the 12-mile ruck march. Ruck marches are designed to build soldiers' mental and physical fortitude throughout the semester and will progressively become more challenging as the semester progresses.

Cadet Jack Boucher  
Physical Training OIC





# Black History Month

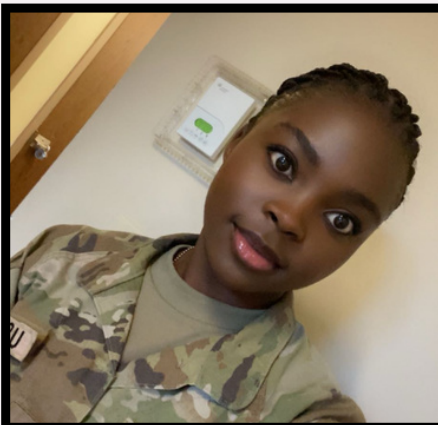
## GET TO KNOW SOME OF THE CADETS

During the month of February, we celebrate Black History Month, a time to honor the significant contributions and enduring legacy of African Americans throughout American history. Among the many areas where African Americans have made a profound impact it is in the military, where their bravery, leadership, and sacrifice have shaped the course of our nation. This legacy of service extends the ROTC program here at Sam Houston State, where African American Cadets have played vital roles in preparing for future military leadership. As we observe Black History Month, we reflect on the remarkable achievements of African Americans in the Army and within institutions like Sam Houston State University ROTC, highlighting their inspirations in defending democracy and inspiring future generations. Take some time to read about the up and coming Cadets in the program and what the program means to them.



**“The ROTC experience here at Sam Houston State University has been nothing short of astounding! I’ve been learning so much and my peers are doing an amazing job at making the atmosphere feel like home and they have been my strongest support system during my transition here at Sam. I hope to continue to build with these future leaders everyday and impact them as they have impacted me!”**

**Cadet Smith Kennedy**



**“Your mind gives up before your body. Train your mind to overcome any situation and you will be unstoppable”**

**Cadet Iris Tebungagi**



# Black History Month

## MCKENZIE MOONEY

Hi, my name is McKenzie Mooney! I'm new to the ROTC program here at Sam Houston, and I won't lie when I say that it's challenging for me, but that's one of the reasons why I joined in the first place. The ROTC is very new to me, to say the least, but it's probably the friendliest environment/organization I've been in. Coming from a family where only my grandfather served in the military—and they didn't talk about most of his experiences in the military, nor did I ask—I was pretty much dumbfounded half of the time because I didn't know what was going on. But almost everyone, from teachers to upperclassmen to my own classmates, is very helpful and understands that I'm new at this but I'm trying my hardest.

In all honesty, joining the ROTC has been a pretty strong change in my life—I wasn't used to waking up when it was still dark outside to go and work out, I wasn't used to training with other people, and I wasn't used to accountability or having to answer to somebody else — in summary, I just wasn't used to being told what to do or not being able to do what I want. Instead of viewing my experience so far as negative or something I don't want to do anymore, I view joining the ROTC as a new experience — something that'll add character and, of course, give me stories that I can ramble about to anyone who'll listen or people who don't want to.

Cadet McKenzie Mooney  
MS1



# Alumni Spotlight

## FIRST LIEUTENANT JERRY ROE

As class of 1966, 1st Lieutenant Jerry Roe graduated from Sam Houston State University's ROTC program and joined the Army's Aviation Emergency Medical Flight Crew. He led the Dust-off 90 on evacuation missions to and from the Gia Nghai Special Forces Camp in Darlac Province, South Vietnam. On February 12, 1968, 1st Lieutenant Jerry Roe led his flight crew on an emergency medical evacuation mission. However, 20 minutes into the flight, the radar lost the Huey's signal without any distress calls or signs of mechanical issues or enemy fire.

The disappearance occurred in an area northeast of a mountain nicknamed "VC Mountain" due to ongoing communist activity. Immediate search and rescue (SAR) operations began, with returning aircrews reporting sightings of "fire and lights" indicating enemy presence.

The following day, a Huey from the 50th Medical Detachment, piloted by the unit's commanding officer and executive officer, joined the search, describing the mission as surreal due to the mountainous terrain. Despite extensive efforts, the formal search was called off on February 22, 1968, with Jerry Roe declared Missing in Action.

In July 1971, a defected Vietnam People's Army soldier reported seeing American POWs in a camp near Vinh City, North Vietnam, including Jerry Roe. The CIA analyzed this information, considering it coincidental that two men from the same crew were identified.

The fate of Jerry Roe and his crew remains uncertain, reflecting the ongoing issue of POWs and MIAs from the Vietnam War. Their story serves as a reminder of the sacrifices made by aircrews and the enduring hope for resolution.

