



Bearkat Battalion and supportive SHSU Students gather at the clock tower to take part in CDT Ryan Coker's Contracting

# BEARKAT BATTALION



@shsuarmyrotc



@shsu.rotc



@shsuArmyRotc

## Strength and Honor!

As our semester ends, our Cadets are finishing the semester strong by excelling in the Battalion and in their academic classes. This summer, our MSIIIs are attending cadet summer training (CST) and in addition approximately 20% of our Battalion will execute Army training across the United States (page 10). Ranger Company (also known as Schuder's Rangers) completed its final culminating event known as "The Board" where four Cadets earned the highly coveted Ranger Scroll (page 8). Lastly, we continued to show our support to Sam Houston State University as Cadets graciously volunteered their time to guard the university class rings throughout the night at Sam Houston's own home (page 7).

We are extremely excited to observe the development and growth of every cadet throughout the Battalion. We wish you the best of luck and look forward to observing everyone excel!

**Eat'Em Up Kats!**

## *Inside This Issue*

- **Page 2: PMS Comments**
- **Page 3: Contracting Board - Katelyn Nitsche**
- **Page 4: Cadet of the Month**
- **Page 5: MSAC Scholarship Board – Emmett Gray**
- **Page 6: MPFTX Experience - Julian Monroig**
- **Page 7: Ring Guard – Deena Stone**
- **Page 8: Ranger Board – Marlon Hardeman**
- **Page 9: The Month in Photos**
- **Page 10 and 11: Summer Training**
- **Page 12: Cadre Memorial and Advocate Appreciation – Dr. R. A. Reiner, (LTC Retired) and Mrs. Leta Reiner**

# Final PMS Comments

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

Greetings! Your Cadets continue to improve physically, academically, and hone their leadership skills. Cadets recently took the Army's fitness test and as a program we improved by an average of 40 points. The #1 priority for our Cadets is academics. They are preparing for finals and look forward to improving the program's culminating 3.31 GPA. In addition, our Cadets remain committed to join our profession of selfless service. Cadet Ryan Coker joined our profession as he contracted this month (page 1); thus, 65% of our Cadets have raised their right hand to defend our constitution, upon graduation from SHSU. We have 28 soon-to-be rising Senior Cadets who will attend Advanced Camp (the culminating training event for ROTC) this summer at Fort Knox, Kentucky. This training will pay dividends as our rising Senior Cadets will lead our program next semester with a projected 115/120 Cadets. These accomplishments would not be possible without your support – Thank you!

As you read this newsletter, I am conducting (my final out from the Army); thus, the beginning of my retirement transition, prior to my official retirement on September 1, 2022. I would be remiss if I did not share my personal thoughts of the last four years as the SHSU Professor of Military Science. The Army has treated me and my family very well and I have been fortunate to work for many stellar leaders throughout 20+ years. However, I have never served with more professional and dedicated leaders than at SHSU.

- Thank you to President Dr. White, Dr. Stephenson, Major General (retired) Glaser, and Dr. Loft, who were among the many university leaders, who provided us the leadership, support, latitude, and resources to shape tomorrow's leaders!
- The SHSU Military Science Alumni Club (MSAC), led by Brigadier General (retired) Rich Mills support our Cadets with scholarships, mentoring, tailgate/training support and quite frankly, any assistance we request. This is not the norm at other universities – Thank you Sir and to the entire MSAC – you truly embody SHSU's motto "The Measure of a Life is its Service"!
- Thank you to countless alumni and community donors, who support Cadets with well-deserved mentorship and scholarships. This support enables them to commission as Army Officers. An example of this support is on page 12 (Mrs. Reiner).
- A tremendous thank you to the Families of our Cadets. You have and continue to do a remarkable job of raising selfless young men and women.
- A special thank you to my wife Anita and son Noah. Military families sacrifice more than most, for their country and allow us to serve in this profession.
- Thank you to the Cadre from the past four years. We appreciate your tireless efforts of developing tomorrow's future leaders. The Cochise award for best-small sized program in our brigade and the accolades we receive is primarily due to your hard work. A special thank you to my battle buddy, Joel Mitchell for his loyalty.
- Finally, a tremendous thank you to former and current Bearkat Battalion Cadets. The impact you made on me is everlasting and made me a better leader. This has unequivocally been the best assignment of my career. I leave you with the same advice that I communicate to all our senior Cadets. You must lead by example, be a good team player, and treat everyone with dignity and respect. If you do these things, then everything else will take care of itself. Let's go!!!!

In closing, the Army and the SHSU ROTC Program will keep rolling along. My replacement LTC Josh Limberg, who was on campus last week conducting our transition, will assume this position in August. Josh is a well-respected military intelligence officer who brings a wealth of experience and the SHSU ROTC Program will thrive under his leadership. I am fortunate to continue my service to SHSU students and families, as I have been appointed as the SHSU Director of First-Generation Initiatives. It has been an honor to serve you and to say that I am thankful for the last four years is an understatement. God bless America!



Lieutenant Colonel Joe Contreras  
Professor of Military Science

## Contracting Board by Katelyn Nitsche - MSI

My name is CDT Katelyn Nitsche, and I am an MSI (freshman) in the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) ROTC program. The Army has always been a part of my life, and in my senior year in high school I knew I wanted to join. I took the initiative to reach out to a recruiting office to weigh my options. I overheard a conversation about the SHSU ROTC program in Huntsville and I immediately became interested. I knew from that conversation that I was going to join the program and start my journey to become an Army Officer.

Earlier this month, some of my fellow MSI peers and I went in front of the contracting board. There are several requirements that Cadets must achieve to go in front of the board for a scholarship, contracting, or both. Cadets must have a minimum 2.0 GPA to contract, at least a 2.5 GPA for the scholarship, pass the contracting PT test (also known as the 1-1-1 test), complete a 104-R degree plan, pass the medical examinations (optometry and physical exam), and turn in an application with an essay on “Why I Aspire to be an Army Officer”.

I prepared myself ahead of time by asking my fellow peers for advice and my mentors for the appropriate regulations regarding an Army board. Preparing for potential questions put my mind at ease and made facing the board less stressful than it had been at the beginning. There was a protocol for addressing and leaving the board, but the questions and interactions were more open for me to elaborate why I wanted to contract. The contracting board was a great learning experience for me and my peers that attended. I thank the contracting board for allowing me to participate.

### Strength and Honor!



CDT Nitsche during lab training

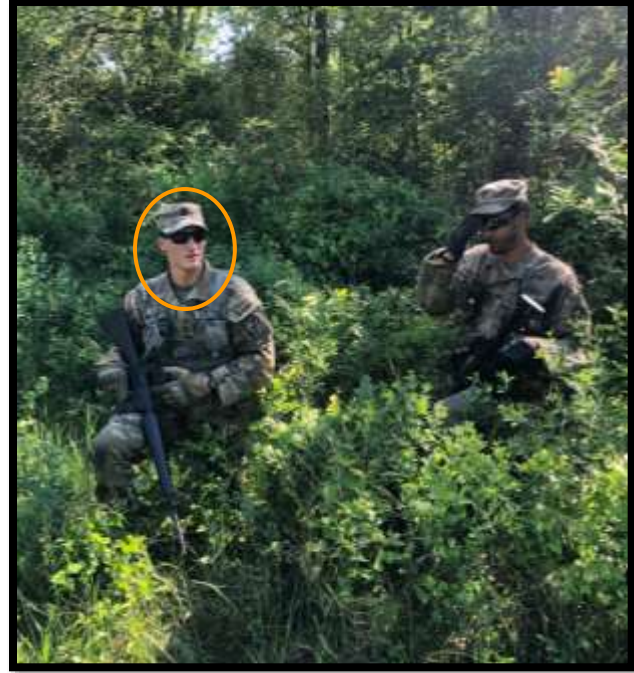
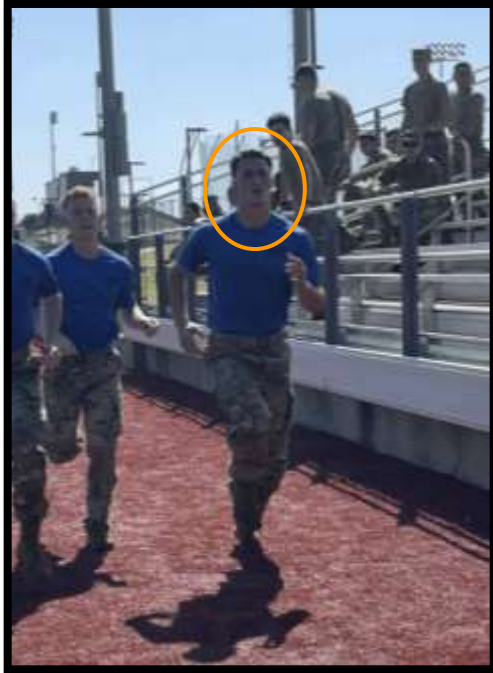


CDT Nitsche after winning a squad competition at lab and earning a challenge coin.



## Cadet of the Month

CDT Julian Monroig competing in Ranger Challenge and leading the platoon as PL during the culminating tactical lab for the year.



CDT Julian Monroig was selected as the April Cadet of the Month by his peers and Cadet leadership for his constant attention to detail, attitude, servant leadership, physical fitness, and his attestation to the Army Values. One of his platoon members stated “he works hard and takes good care of us every day. He is always there early, and he encourages people to strive for their best. As 1SG, he does a lot to make my job easier and builds essential esprit de corps to the Battalion.”

Congratulations Cadet Monroig!



## MSAC Scholarship Board by Emmett Gray - MSI

My name is CDT Emmett Gray, and I am a sophomore at Sam Houston State University. I recently joined the ROTC program in my second semester, and my experience with the Bearkat Battalion has been nothing short of amazing. In my short time in the program, I have not only learned about the military, but also how to improve my leadership skills, public speaking, and handling of day-to-day responsibilities.

As a result, I have recently been awarded the opportunity to attend the board for the CPT Rowdy Inman Scholarship. The scholarship is named in honor of CPT Rowdy J. Inman, an SHSU Alumnus who served and was killed in Iraq while bravely leading his soldiers in combat. Those who are awarded the Rowdy Inman scholarship are awarded either a \$1,000 or \$500 scholarship during the academic school year and their names are displayed on a plaque in the CPT Rowdy Inman Room in ABIII. The importance of receiving the scholarship reflects upon Cadets' hard work in the program and the classroom.

While attending the board, I was asked questions that required self-reflection of character both for ROTC and personal. I was also allowed to ask the board questions and received advice on successfully continuing my ROTC career and day-to-day life as a student. When joining the program, Cadets will learn the 7 Army values: Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity, and Personal Courage. As Cadets advance in their ROTC careers, they will learn how to apply each of the seven values to themselves and help develop others into leaders. I am very thankful for the opportunities ROTC has awarded me, and I look forward to continuing to develop as a responsible leader in my future with the Bearkat Battalion.

### Eat'em Up Kats!



CDT Gray on Campus



CDT Gray during a team-building exercise at FLRC lab



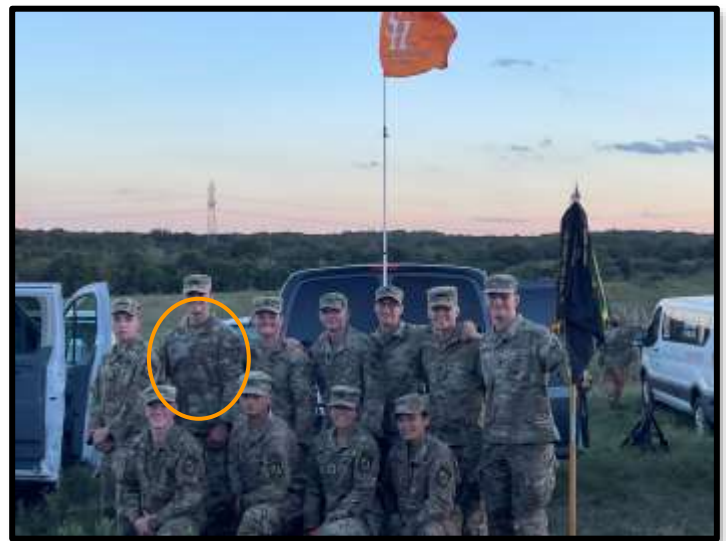
# MPFTX Experience by Julian Monroig - MSIII

My name is CDT Julian Monroig, and I am currently in my second year in the Bearkat Battalion. After attending Basic Camp last summer at FT. Knox, I started my MSIII year in Fall 2021 semester as a Platoon Sergeant. Throughout my short time here in the Bearkat Battalion, I have received an immense amount of tactical training and acquired numerous leadership traits all in preparation for Cadet Summer Training (CST). From classroom training to executing simulated training exercises (STX) at Gibbs Ranch, I believed that I was receiving some of the best training I could until I attended this year's Multi-Program Field Training Exercise (MPFTX).

The MPFTX is a field training exercise where multiple ROTC programs from the surrounding area meet and our tactical knowledge, leadership skills, and interpersonal tact is all put to the test. The integration of different programs within the platoons allows for a near-perfect replication of what we can expect at CST. Having the opportunity to work alongside different programs such as Stephen F. Austin University and the University of Houston, I was exposed to different tactics making me more knowledgeable for more missions in the future. More importantly, during this training, I gained knowledge about my strengths and weaknesses as a leader. I would like to sincerely thank everyone who helped in facilitating this year's MPFTX and a very special thank you to Stephen F. Austin University for hosting this opportunity for excellent training.



CDT Monroig before MSIII class



CDT Monroig with Ranger Challenge Team



## The Ring Guard Ceremony by Deena Stone - MSIII

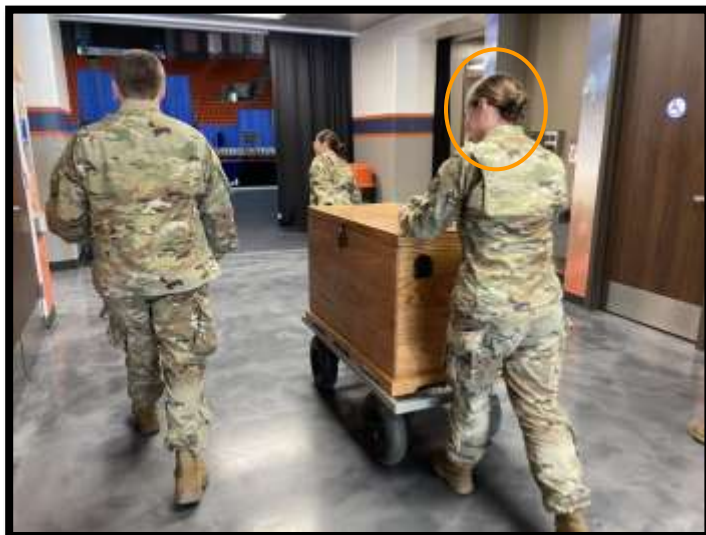
Sam Houston State University (SHSU) is a university that practices many important traditions, and among those traditions, is the ring ceremony. The very first ring ceremony took place in 2004 and has since grown into an event that hundreds of students participate in each semester. SHSU ROTC is very fortunate to be able to provide support to this ceremony through our Cadets and the Color Guard program.

The Cadets who participate in the ring guard are volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts to make sure the graduation rings are kept safe in their movement around campus. Once the rings arrive in Huntsville, Cadets transport the rings to Sam Houston's house where the rings are stored until the ceremony. While the rings are stored overnight, Cadets stand guard until sunrise. Cadets then transport the rings to Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum, where the ceremony takes place. Cadets are responsible for ensuring the rings arrive safely at the coliseum and supervise the entire transportation and storage process.

Participating in events such as ring guard, is a great way for our program to get involved in events on campus and to interact with local SHSU faculty, staff, students, and alumni. We enjoy every opportunity we get to reach out and volunteer our time to our campus and the surrounding Huntsville community.



CDT Stone receiving the best shooter award at the fall awards ceremony.



CDT Stone transporting rings into the coliseum



Cadets stand guard throughout the night.



# The Ranger Company Board by Marlon Hardeman - MSIII

Hello, my name is Cadet Marlon Hardeman. I've been in ROTC a little over a year and I'm an MSIII class member and the Ranger Company NCOIC. I have grown remarkably since joining the Bearkat Battalion and participating in programs such as Ranger Challenge and Ranger Company (Schuder's Rangers). These programs have allowed me, and many other Cadets to flourish as leaders.

I joined Ranger Company not knowing exactly what it was; I heard it was difficult both mentally and physically and would be the best training, so I joined. Once I earned my scroll in April of 2021, I was eager to help the next group of Cadets to improve like myself. Ranger Company not only taught me tactics, but it taught me valuable life lessons necessary to succeed in life and in the Army. This past weekend, (April 9-10<sup>th</sup>), the Ranger Company candidates executed their yearly evaluation called "The Board".

This semester we started with 12 candidates and trained every week. Throughout the training cycle, dedication waned in some. The board was tough, but six remaining candidates pressed on through the trials. The entire exercise is over 36 hours long, pushing candidates to their mental, physical, and psychological limits. The grueling process ended with four new Ranger Company candidates earning their Scroll, which signifies their attestation to the Ranger Creed, physical fitness, leadership, tactical prowess, and mental toughness.

The current scrolls were impressed with the candidate's performance and happy to announce that we have welcomed four new Scrolls into Ranger Company. Congratulations to Tanner Stone, Avery Sitkowski, William Ratliff, and Jacob Clement!



CDT Hardeman (far left) and others deliberating candidates' performance.



Pictured from left to right: CDTs Jacob Clement, Avery Sitkowski, William Ratliff, and Tanner Stone.



Scrolls at the conclusion of The Board.





# This Month in Photos



MSIII cadets conducting a 12-mile ruck march.



MSI Cadets Tanner Stone (left) and Blaine Nowak (right) confirming their azimuth on a buddy-team Land Navigation exercise.



Berkat Alumnus 2LT Oscar Edo-Terradas (C/O '21) graduating Ranger School.



MSI Cadets at Huntsville Firing Range conducting Rifle Marksmanship.



# Summer Training



CDT Ryan Coker – Air Assault.



CDT Julian Monroig – Air Assault.



CDT Nicholas Watson – Air Assault.



CDT Avery Sitkowski – Air Assault.



CDT Benjamin Dene – INTERN at Fort Belvoir, VA.



CDT Brendan Smith – INTERN at Fort Bragg, NC.



CDT Melissa Barrera – INTERN at Stuggart, GM.



CDT Rashaad Hammond – Master Fitness Trainer at Fort Benning, GA.



CDT Cinnamon Wright-Burwinkel – Cadet Advanced Individual Training at West Point, NY.





CDT Deena Stone –  
Cadet Troop  
Leadership Training at  
Fort Lewis (JBLM),  
WA.



CDT Matthew Pilgrim –  
Cadet Troop Leadership  
Training at Fort Lewis  
(JBLM), WA.



CDT Rudy Rochat – Cadet  
Troop Leadership Training at  
Fort Hood, TX.



CDT Xiomara Santiago –  
Cadet Troop Leadership  
Training at Fort Lewis  
(JBLM), WA.



CDT Sam  
McNaughton –  
OPFOR at Fort Knox,  
KY.



CDT Carson Shell – OPFOR  
at Fort Knox, KY.



CDT Hunter Mills – OPFOR  
at Fort Knox, KY.



CDT Austin Sumner –  
Robin Sage at Fort Bragg,  
NC.



CDT Ford – MSIII Leader  
Trainer at Fort Knox, KY.



CDT Dieck – MSIII Leader  
Trainer at Fort Knox, KY.



## Cadre Memorial and Advocate Appreciation – Dr. R. A. Reiner, (LTC Retired) and Mrs. Leta Reiner

Raphael (Ray) Reiner was born in New Jersey on March 17, 1927. During World War II, he volunteered to serve in the United States Army as an Infantry private. He performed active federal military service in the United States Army for over 25 years, retiring as an Artillery Branched Lieutenant Colonel in 1970. At his retirement he was Director and Executive Officer of Plans and Operations for the US Army Air Defense Board, Ft. Bliss, Texas.

Awards received by LTC Reiner included the Army Commendation Medal, American Defense Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal, the National Defense Service Metal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Legion of Merit. During his ten years overseas, he served in the European Theatre, England, Turkey, and Korea. He graduated from the US. Army's Turkish language facility as well as the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College. He was recognized as an expert with a rifle and pistol.

During his career he earned, a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB), and while serving as a Professor of Military Science at Sam Houston State University, a BA and a MA in English and History. During his tenure, ROTC saw more than 2,000 cadets. After his retirement from the US Army, he received a Doctorate of Administration at New Mexico State University (outstanding Alumnus 1988). Following his doctorate in 1973, he was employed by the Office of Academic Affairs at Sam Houston State University. Dr. Reiner retired from Sam Houston State University in 1995 as Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (Associate Provost). He was recognized by the Texas State Senate for his service to Texas.

On his final Veteran's Day he wrote, "I should thank the United States Army...it has taught me the true meaning of service and love of one's country. Each morning I am proud to salute the beautiful American flag in front of our house and reaffirm what it represents to me, Duty, Honor, Country." Found among his military effects after his death was a personal note, he had written at his retirement from the Army that reads, "I take off this hat, 31 July 1970, with mixed pride and sadness. I have worn its eagle proudly for 25 years. God Bless My Country."

Leta Basham Reiner continues to honor her husband for his service to our Country and to our State. She is currently on the Veterans' Advisory board for the City of Huntsville as well as a board member for the HEARTS Museum of Walker County. Leta Reiner has been honored by deeds and words by the HEARTS Museum, The Veterans Resource Center of SHSU, The VFW, and the Mayor and City Council honored her by naming a day after her in appreciation of her work with veterans. She also has been instrumental in support of the Wounded Warrior Dinner and Fund Drive.

Leta is especially close to the Department of Military Science at SHSU. Whenever possible, she attends and supports these outstanding men and women of the Department. ROTC has recognized her numerous times for this support, and she has become something of a mom, or grandmom to ROTC.

But primarily she says it is her undying desire and privilege to help serve such courageous men and women as our VETERANS who love America. She states that she is fortunate to live in a community that understands service equates to a higher level of dedication. Leta has a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Education, and State Certification as a Reading Specialist, compliments of Sam Houston State University. She is an Alumni of SHSU life member and a Real Estate Broker with 35+ years of experience. When asked for a piece of advice for our cadets she replied, "When your life's choice become official perform with honor, integrity, and dignity in your professional as well as your personal life. But remember a touch of empathy is welcomed. May God guide each of you. America is at your back. Sincerely, Leta Reiner".

