



CDT BN CDR Nathan Frye addresses the Battalion after Lab.

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Pursuing Excellence Strength and Honor!

After the New Year, the Bearkat Battalion has been busy adjusting to new faces and a new vision for the program, such as the new cadet chain command highlighted by CDT Nathan Frye on page 2. Scabbard and Blade, a once prestigious program in SHSU ROTC history, is returning as CDT Alex Dieck illustrates on page 4. We also had 3 Cadets earn prominent summer internship slots after Cadet Summer Training (page 8). We look forward to the New Year and what's to come for our Cadets!

Eat'em Up Kats!

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Comments from the Battalion Commander

Welcome to the Spring 2022 Semester at Sam Houston State University Bearkat Battalion! With a semester of training behind us, we look toward the Spring Semester to build off the classes, lessons, and knowledge we gained to propel our program to develop the best future Army Officers of this generation. Due to the generosity of our donors and Sam Houston State University, we have already awarded over 10,000 dollars' worth of scholarships to deserving underclassmen that exceeded the standard and led by example in the program. Congratulations!

Speaking of underclassmen, we have the majority of our MSIII Cadets in crucial leadership positions in our Battalion, which represents the largest cohort in our program being led by selfless leaders who embody the Army values. With this investment in our future, the next three commissioning classes of the Bearkat Battalion will be the largest in program history spanning two decades.

Below you will find our MSIV cohort's chain of command for the Spring 2022 Semester. I am looking forward to another semester of success, training, and development for our underclassmen. Thank you for the continued support!

Strength and Honor!

CDT BN CDR Nathan Frye

CDT BN CDR	CDT LTC Nathan Frye
CDT BN CSM/PAO	CDT CSM Noah Abramski
CDT BN XO	CDT MAJ Tim Dilworth
CDT BN S1/COVID OIC	CDT CPT Cody Weeks
CDT BN S2	CDT CPT Shawn Amiry
CDT BN S3	CDT MAJ Sam Brink
CDT BN AS3/Land Nav and OPFOR OIC	CDT CPT Sarah Brock
CDT BN AS3/BRM and Safety OIC	CDT CPT Christian Rodgers
CDT BN S4/Color Guard OIC	CDT CPT Colton Smith
CDT BN S6	CDT CPT Brent Garrett
CDT Company Commander	CDT CPT Austin Zirkel



Cadet of The Month – Avery Sitkowski (MSII)

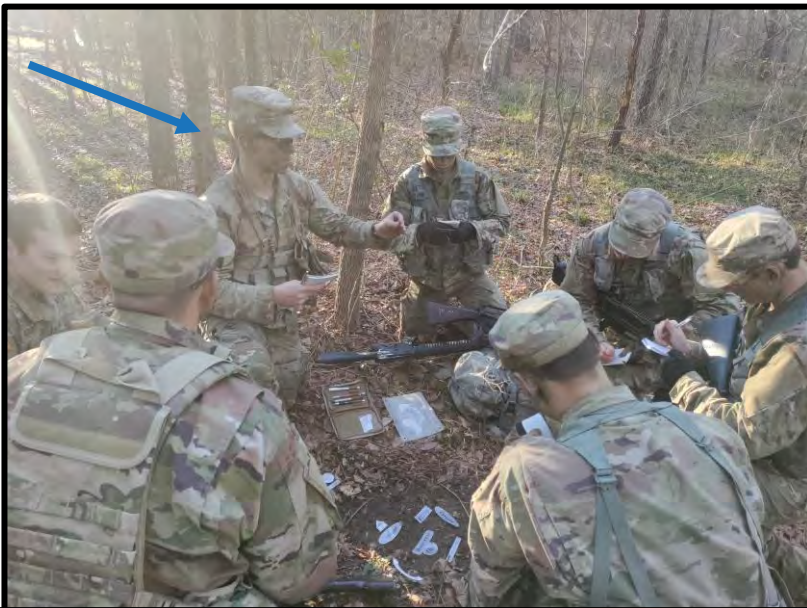
My journey in the Bearkat Battalion has been full of constant learning experiences, incredible new friendships, and constant growth as a person and leader. I have always aspired to enroll at Sam Houston State University (SHSU) and its ROTC program. As a member of the National Guard, I felt that becoming an officer would help me achieve what I wanted in my life.

I am in my sophomore year at SHSU, and I'm continuing to try and involve myself in as many things as possible for the program. Last semester I had the opportunity to contract and officially start my path towards becoming a future leader in the army. I had taken part in the program's color guard, cannon crew, push-up crew, and had the incredible opportunity to represent the program in the Ranger Challenge competition. This semester, I am participating in Ranger Company to gain vast amounts of knowledge and excel with my peers.

So far, Ranger Company has been physically and mentally taxing and has required a great deal of mental flexibility. However, I am more than ready to push myself to grow and learn. I know all my peers, joining me every day are ready to match each other's hard work! I am incredibly thankful and excited to be a part of the Bearkat Battalion here at SHSU. All the lessons learned, knowledge gained, and guidance from my friends, peers, and the cadre are something that I am grateful for. I believe that I would not be the person I am today without being a part of this giant family.

I am constantly being pushed to do better and try harder in everything I do and strive to put my best foot forward. I am excited to rise to the challenges of the semester. Continue to push yourselves and get better!

Eat'em Up Kats!



CDT Sitkowski briefing an Operations Order (OPORD) during Ranger Company.



CDT Sitkowski (middle) with the BN CSM Abramski (left) and the BN CDR Frye (right).



Scabbard and Blade National Honor Society – Alex Dieck (MSIII)

The National Honor Society of Scabbard and Blade (S&B) is a college military honor society open to all ROTC Cadets regardless of branch. S&B prides itself on a body of Cadets who abide by the "five-star" qualities: honor, leadership, professionalism, officership, and unity.

The mission of S&B is to empower the next generation of military leaders through advanced developmental programs. S&B's honor society members must be in the top 20% of their military class or have a 3.5 GPA and be classified as a junior or senior. There is also a program within S&B that allows Cadets who are not upper-classmen to be a part of the team under its senior program if they are at least a contracted second-semester freshman and encompass the five-stars.

The Bearkat Battalion has been granted the unique opportunity to become the S&B Senior Headquarters and lead schools around the nation as they launch and operate their own companies. Big things are in the works for those participating in the program and an opportunity graduate ROTC a better and more knowledgeable leader.

I am honored to lead S&B at Sam Houston State University and will continue to live up to the SHSU Motto: "The measure of a life is its service."

“Let’s Go!”



CDT Dieck outlining the purposes of S&B in the first interest meeting of the semester.



Scabbard and Blade being created in 1932 in Madison, WI.



Freshmen Academic and Fitness Scholarship

My name is Isaac Siekas, and I am currently an MSI here at the Sam Houston State University (SHSU) Bearkat Battalion, I grew up in Spring, Texas where I spent all 4 years of high school at Klein High School. During High School, I lived my passion of serving in the Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (AFJROTC). During my time in AFJROTC, I participated in the Armed Drill Team, Color Guard, Unarmed Drill Team, and the PT team. I rewardingly given the opportunity to be the Corps Commander, Flight Commander, and Armed Drill Team Commander.

Since age 16, I always have taken pride in my work ethic. I started working as a teenager at Windrose Golf Club where I worked for 2 years, and then transitioned my employment to Discount Tire where I am currently employed. When I am not studying or participating in ROTC-related activities, I spend my time at work, the gym, the library, any local track, or playing disc golf.

At the beginning of the spring semester, the MSI cohort was offered the opportunity to take a physical assessment for a scholarship that included academic requirements. The test consisted of two minutes of hand-release push-ups and a 2-mile run, with an added GPA ranking component. I was one of the cadets who earned \$1,000 scholarship along with my fellow cadets Wes Wisnewski, William Ratliff, Jacob Clement, Tanner Stone, Joshua Homes, Ramon Lopez, and James Cooke. I am extremely excited for the start of this new semester with my peers and the rest of the Bearkat Battalion Cadets!



Pictured left to right: Ramon Lopez, Jacob Clement, Isaac Siekas, Tanner Stone, Joshua Holmes, William Ratliff, Wes Wisnewski, and James Cooke receiving the MSI scholarship during the Spring 2022 Intro Lab.



CDT Siekas during a Simulated Training Exercise (STX) at Gibbs Ranch.



Bataan Death March - Matthew Pilgrim MSIII

This spring, the Bearkat Battalion will compete in the Bataan Memorial Death March located at White Sands, New Mexico. The event consists of a marathon-length foot march (26.2 miles) with a 35lb rucksack. The Bataan Memorial Death March honors the 80,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war that the Japanese Imperial Army forcibly transferred over 60-miles during World War II.

The cadets of the Bearkat Battalion will go through a 10-mile ruck tryout completed to the standard of 15 minutes per mile. After the teams' individuals are selected to compete, they will begin a physically intensive training program to maximize its potential national placement.

Those chosen to compete will travel to White Sands, New Mexico to complete the ruck march on March 20th. The last time the Bearkat Battalion competed in the Bataan Death March was in 2019. The prior team of cadets finished the competition in just over 6 hours and 30 minutes, and this year we will train to complete in 6 hours 15 minutes.

The Bearkat Battalion would like to thank each of our sponsors for making this opportunity possible for our cadets. This unique experience is a fantastic way for the cadets to honor those who have come before us and work together through adversity to become closer as a team.



The 2020 Bataan Death March Team who unfortunately did not participate in the march, due to COVID



CDT Pilgrim at the Range receiving BRM instruction from MSIV CDT Rodgers.



The Month in Photos



MSIII Cadets Britney Loerwald (Recruiting OIC) and Benjamin Dene at a recruiting table.



Ranger Company candidates at first formation for their Day Zero event.



SHSU Alumnus CPT Bionat (MI) providing the MSII cohort a Leadership Development Class (LPD).



CDT Stone, T.(Left) and CDT Ford(Right) Conducting EPW during an Attack Lane.



Summer Internships - Melissa Barrera (MSIII)

When I applied for the internship opportunities last semester, I didn't think I had a shot. I had been told how competitive these internships were, and simply did not believe I could make the cut. I applied for three internships; two in New York and one in Germany. I applied to the best of my ability but was not confident in receiving either New York or the Germany EVIP internship. When LTC Contreras shook my hand and told me I was going to Germany, I was floored.

The internship itself takes place at the Patch Barracks in Stuttgart, Germany, which is also home to Kelley Barracks, Panzer Kaserne, and Robinson Barracks. The EVIP internship stands for EUCOM Volunteer Intern Program, EUCOM being the headquarters for United States European Command. I will be working with EUCOM for 8 weeks during the summer, during which, I will be assisting a senior staff member. As of now, I could be assigned to any geographical region of EUCOM. The decision will be based on potential branch choices, major, and determinations by special staff. I will gain valuable specialized experience, as well as general education about the Army, branches, life as a lieutenant, and potential functional areas. I also look forward to the opportunity to tour different installations and areas of Germany.

In conjunction with mine, 2 of my peers received summer internships as well. CDT Brendan Smith will be going to Fort Bragg with the 3rd Special Forces Group for the Innovation on the Edge Internship and CDT Benjamin Dene will be going to Fort Belvoir for the Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Center Internship. I am genuinely ecstatic and honored to receive this internship. I know what an amazing opportunity it is to improve our leadership skills and learn more about the Army!



MSIII CDTs receiving the news of their internship from LTC Joe Contreras. Pictured left to right: CDT Brendan Smith, CDT Melissa Barrera, and CDT Benjamin Dene.



Cadre-Alumni Spotlight – SSG (R) Raymond Schuder

As a Cadet at SHSU ROTC, I have been given the honor and privilege to be the Ranger Company officer in charge (OIC) this semester. Ranger Company first began when retired Army Ranger Raymond Schuder graciously offered his time to teach Cadets advanced tactics. Raymond “Jack” Schuder was a Ranger during WWII in the European theater and was involved in both the invasion of Tunisia and Italy.

Mr. Schuder and A Company of the 3rd Ranger Battalion began with a harassing, raiding, and reconnaissance mission near Sened Station, Italy. His company then made a difficult march through rough terrain thought to be used by the Italians. For these prestigious actions, the Company was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation. Mr. Schuder was transferred to F Company for the invasion of Sicily. Mr. Schuder made two successful assaults with F Company with the third assault resulting in most of the 3rd Ranger Battalion being listed as MIA.

Mr. Schuder, along with other POWs, were marched through the streets of Rome, moved to Florence, and eventually ended up in Stalag 3B located in Furstenberg, Prussia. Mr. Schuder unsuccessfully attempted to escape imprisonment five times. He was so persistent that the commander of the camp offered special treatment for collaboration and cooperation. He refused every advance and was beaten honor and courage. Mr. Schuder was approaching a predetermined execution date from death by firing squad when he was freed by the allies.

Mr. Schuder was honorably discharged on the 21st of October 1945. He returned home and worked both in the oil fields and with cattle, loving the remaining time with his wife, Vernon Fitzgerald. During his available charitable work, he created an intense training regimen for the SHSU ROTC program. The strict training not only helped better prepare cadets to be great leaders in the Army, but the Schuder’s gave scholarships to the top-performing cadets in Ranger Company. Later the program would be renamed in his honor, and is now known as Schuder’s Rangers, and after 70 years, the program is still running strong.

I may have never met Mr. Schuder, but the legacy that he left and the impact that he made on this program can be felt many years after his passing. Thank you to the Schuder family for leaving this program better than you found it.



The 2020 Ranger Company Scrolls pictured left to right: Melissa Barrera, Noah Abramski (2021 Ranger Company OIC), Austin Sumner (2022 Ranger Company OIC), Benjamin Dene.

