



BEARKAT BATTALION



Bearkat Battalion Spring 2023 New Cadet Orientation.

Welcome back to another semester with the Bearkat Battalion! We started the semester by welcoming new Cadets during Cadet Orientation and the contracting of CDT Thille (page 3). Cadets excelled in both ROTC and academics last semester; this semester, we aim to surpass our accomplishments from last! Finally, the Bearkat Battalion wishes to congratulate COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan on her retirement this winter.

Eat'Em Up Kats!



LTC Limberg with recent graduates (left to right): 2LT Rogers Christian and 2LT Cody Weeks.

PMS: Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Limberg

"Welcome to the Spring 2023 Semester with Sam Houston State University Bearkat Battalion! We have quite a semester planned with everything from a Multi-Program Field Training Exercise with Stephen F. Austin State University to a Junior ROTC event/competition later in the semester. Most of our Seniors (also known as MSIVs) have received their branches and are anxiously awaiting their Basic Officer Leader's Course dates while our Juniors (also known as MSIIIs) are preparing for Cadet Summer Training this summer where they will be evaluated against over 5000 other MSIII Cadets. The Bearkat Battalion remains over a hundred strong and that could not have been accomplished without the support of our friends and alumni and the hard work the Cadets put into growing the Battalion and building a positive culture. We have a busy semester ahead of us and I look forward to sharing what our Cadets accomplish!"



LTC Limberg at the December Commissioning Ceremony

Professor of Military Science

Lieutenant Colonel Joshua Limberg

CDT Battalion Commander: MSIV Monroig, Julian

"With the first three weeks of the spring semester under our belts, I can confidently say I am very excited for all that is in store for the Bearkat Battalion. Returning to campus, it has been amazing to see Cadets of familiar and new faces and hear about their lives away from school. It has also been great to meet the many new and eager Cadets joining our Freshman (MSI) cohort. Through the winter break, the Senior (MSIV) team has continued to work diligently for all one hundred plus of our future leaders. Putting together innovative training that stimulates both their mind and body to best prepare them for all the uncertainties of life.

Our long standing spring programs such as Ranger Company and Color Guard along with more new programs such as the Cadet Intramural League (CIL) and Barbell Club are beginning to execute their meetings and events adding yet another opportunity for Cadets to hone their skills and expand their scope of influence. Cadets, keep striving to better yourself each and every day. Take on every challenge with a positive attitude and your best effort. This semester will be over before you know it and I cannot wait to see just how much you have develop."

CDT Battalion Commander

Julian Monroig



BC Monroig speaking at the First Lab of the semester



Newly Contracted Cadet: Michael Thille



CDT Thille receiving the Oath of Enlistment given by LTC Limberg.

"Hello, my name is Michael Thille and I am currently pursuing my B.S in Criminal Justice. I am thrilled to have recently contracted into the U.S Army ROTC program here at Sam Houston State University. I joined the Program during the Fall semester of 2022, and have enjoyed every aspect of training, learning, and recreation that the ROTC program has been able to offer me and my fellow cadets. Becoming an Army officer and following in my forefathers' steps has actually been my long-term goal ever since I started high school back in 2013; and the three years that I spent training in an active duty infantry unit only managed to strengthen my resolve to continue serving in the Army. Overall, I can confidently state that I have witnessed some truly spectacular leadership qualities exhibited by both the cadre and cadets during my time in ROTC, and that I consider myself very fortunate and privileged to train and eventually serve alongside such a high caliber of soldiers."



Michael Thille
Humble, TX



CDT Thille (left) and LTC Limberg (right) after receiving the Oath of Enlistment.



Volunteering: CDT Britney Loerwald

"This year, our Cadets went far above any volunteering expectations, with events in support of our community as well as neighboring towns. The Bearkats participated in Veterans Day events, holiday festivals, helping at the SHSU Food Pantry, along with student mentoring at the Westmoreland Academy, to name a few. The Battalion provided 998 hours of community service this semester alone!

The most significant program our Battalion supported is our participation in the mentoring of students at the Westmoreland Academy. These students come from a variety of backgrounds and can be struggling with issues teachers may not be able to see. We provide each student with mentorship and guidance for their future endeavors and hope to inspire them to change their lives.

Cadets even racked up the miles during support to the Huntsville Lions Club on Labor Day. They ran over 6 miles along the streets of Huntsville to put up flags in the morning and retire them in the evening.

We also helped provide food and other services to the SHSU Food Pantry throughout the semester, along with other events happening in the community, such as the Fair on the Square and Winter in the Park. We provided assistance to the churches in our community, food drives, and some of our Cadets were part of building the newest playground apparatus at Eastham-Thomason Park.

On Veterans Day, a few of our cadets traveled to the New Waverly High School in support of honoring our veterans. We delivered a speech and were able to talk with students about what the military could offer them, as many of them had mentioned they did not know if they would be able to go to college. We also had multiple engagements throughout the semester to talk with the SHSU student body about what the ROTC program can do for them.

Seeing our impact on the community and all the people we have helped has been excellent. We are even more excited to see how the Cadets will continue to do more and support more events in this new semester."



Cadets Clement, Ratliff and Thille (left to right) helping at the Food Pantry.





Cadets Wright-Burwinkel (Left) and Loerwald (right) at an organization fair.



Cadets Stone and Mills volunteering at the Winter in the Park Event.



Cadet Hyams giving a speech at New Waverly High School.



Cadets (left to right) Loerwald, Slott, Hilzendager, Calma, Watson, Wright-Burwinkel, and Kizer putting up flags during Labor day.



Cadets giving JROTC students a tour of the campus.



Cadet interviews: What are you looking forward to this semester?



Diego Paez
Spring, TX

"I am looking forward to the new tasks given and the challenges that the Bearkat Battalion and I are going to face this semester. I look forward to Ranger Company, lab, Color Guard, volunteering events, Cadet Intramural League (CIL), and PT. I am most excited to be working with my fellow cadets in and outside of class again."

-CDT Paez



Corry Morrison
Austin, TX

"This semester, I am looking forward to see myself grow my leadership skills and confidence while out at Gibbs, running lanes, and doing land nav with my fellow MSIII classmates. This upcoming summer I will be attending Advanced Camp and am ready to go to Ft. Knox, Kentucky. I also look forward to improving my physical training score and wellness. Overall, I am just looking forward to a healthier and good semester."

-CDT Morrison



Erin Juarez
Dallas, TX

"I am a sophomore at SHSU and an MSII in the ROTC program. What I look forward too is going to New York with my Model United Nation team this semester! Not only that, but I will be studying for my LSAT, so I can hopefully secure a law school before graduation in 2025. Last but not least, I am very excited about the Multiprogram FTX; I look forward to all the knowledge and training am going to gain from it."

-CDT Juarez



Cadets Academic Excellence: Fall 2022 Semester

Cum Laude (3.5 - 3.66 GPA range):

Boucher, Jack R. ♦
Davis, Princeton
Dene, Benjamin ♦
Juarez, Erin ♦
Loya, Joshua E. ♦

Magna Cum Laude (3.67 - 3.85 GPA range):

Davee, Haley F. ♦
Dieck, Alex ♦
Mills, William H. ♦
Mitchell, Lindsay ♦
Nitsche, Katelyn A. ♦
Rios, Kaleb
Silva, Lauren N. ♦
Smith, Brendan ♦
Watson, Nicholas A. ♦
Wright-Burwinkel, Cinnamon ♦

Summa Cum Laude (3.86 - 4.00 GPA range):

Bahr, Ethan ♦ ★
Barrera, Melissa ♦ ★
Broussard, Brianna L. ♦ ★
Calma, Faith ♦ ★
Clement, Jacob C. ♦ ★
Cooke, James B. ♦ ★
Kizer, Mason A. ♦ ★
Mcmillin, Karli E. ♦ ★
Mendez, Destiney ♦ ★
Monroig, Julian D. ♦ ★
Olatunji, Oluwasegun ♦ ★
Paez, Diego G. ♦ ★
Pogue, Bailey P. ♦ ★
Ratliff, William D. ♦ ★
Thille, Michael C. ♦ ★
Towouh, Yatta ♦ ★
Wisnewski, John W. ♦ ★

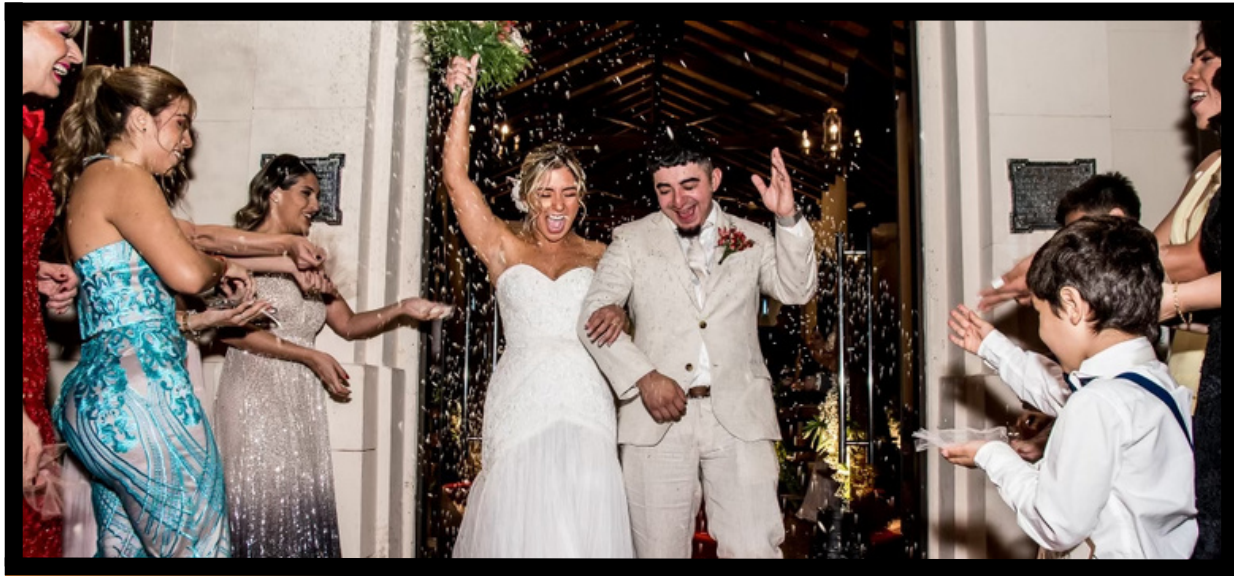
★ **President's Honor Roll:** President's Honor Roll are undergraduate students who have achieved a 4.0 grade point average in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than twelve (12) semester hours and have earned a "CR" in all developmental coursework.

◆ **Dean's List of Academic Honors:** Dean's List of Academic Honors are undergraduate students who have achieved a grade point average of at least 3.5 in all work attempted while enrolled in not less than twelve (12) semester hours

- Emswiler, Isaiah ♦
- Lopez, Izabelle N ♦



Winter Travels: CDT Giuliana Greco-Casas



CDT Greco-Casas and her husband Mariano exiting the church as newlyweds!

"On December 9, 2022, after a tiring semester, I packed up my suitcases. I headed for the airport for my long flight to Paraguay, my home country. It had been four years since I had returned home. Now, I return as an adult who is engaged and ready to use the next four weeks to plan and organize my dream wedding. My then fiancé, Mariano, joined me in Paraguay on December 28 as the preparation for our wedding continued. The process was hectic and, at times, stressful, but thankfully we had a great support system. My mother, aunties, uncles, friends (including those who could not make it to Paraguay), and of course, my best friend, Lindsay (who was also my maid of honor), were all there to help me with whatever I needed to make the process go more smoothly. The wedding went on beautifully! The music, food, and decorations were all wonderfully executed, and I saw all my nieces, nephews, and family I had not seen in a while. I went to Paraguay as Giuliana Greco and left as Giuliana Greco-Casas, and I could not be happier!"



CDT Greco-Casas and CDT Mitchell at the wedding reception.



From left to right: CDT Greco-Casas with her brother, mother, uncle, and niece.



Cadets on Winter Break



Cadets Mendez (in red) and Dang-Fouty (in black) sky diving in Dallas, TX.



Cadets (left to right): Karli McMillin, Taylor Knight, Jackson Hyams, and Loerwald spending quality time on New Year's Day at Moody Garden.



CDT Stone (left) and CDT Ratliff (right) built a Ranger Company workout log.



CDT Mason Kizer in Egypt visiting the pyramids.



CDT Arly Cruz Flores got to see her boyfriend after six months since her boyfriend is stationed in Fort Bragg, North Carolina.



CDT Taylor Knight at her sister's wedding as a bridesmaid.



CDT Kaleb Rios and his uncle LTC David Rios during an 8 miler in New Jersey around Tourne County Park.



Winter Travels: CDT Lindsay Mitchell



CDT Mitchell with younger brother Ethan, New Mexico Military Institute graduates Shawna Mitchell, and LTC (R) James Mitchell.

"Over the winter break, my family and I decided to travel to Germany and Austria during Christmas time. It has always been on our bucket list to experience the Christmas markets, mulled wine, and giant bratwurst has always been on our bucket list! We traveled all over the place visiting many towns in Germany, such as Frankfurt, a major city in the country. I traveled to Hohenschwangau, which had the famous Neuschwanstein castle that the Cinderella Disney castle is based on, and we got to tour it. Then we stayed in Munich for a while, known for having the largest Christmas markets and even medieval markets. My favorite town was Heidelberg which had the country's oldest university and a massive castle we got to tour. When we went to Austria, we went to this cute tiny town Zelle Am See where we got to ski in the Swiss Alps on Christmas Day. I had a wonderful two weeks in these countries and hope to visit again."



CDT Mitchell in Zelle Am See, Austria.



CDT Mitchell at the top of the Swiss Alps.



CDT Mitchell inside Heidelberg Palace.



New Cadet Interview: CDT Gianna Caria



CDT Caria with fellow members of Student Government Association.



Gianna Caria
League City, Texas.

"I chose to go to Sam Houston State University because I wanted to major in Criminal Justice, and when I was researching schools, I learned that SHSU is one of the top schools for Criminal Justice. At Sam Houston, I'm the Director of Council of the Student Government Association as well as the treasurer of Kats for Casa. I have been interested in the military, specifically the Army, since high school. I have heard good things about the Bearkat Battalion and thought it could be an excellent stepping stone to getting into the military. I look forward to learning more about the military, meeting new people, and creating new experiences."



CDT Caria at the Firefighter Academy.



CDT Caria wearing a Lake Conroe Fire Department (LCFD) hat.



Winter Holiday Fitness Challenge

Before the winter break, MSG Liberatore issued this scholarship challenge to the Battalion:

I am introducing you to an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship while working on your physical fitness during the holiday break. Below are the details.

- Dates for start and finish: 12-12-2022 to 1-13-2023
- Running scholarship goal 30 miles layer one scholarship
- Running scholarship goal 60 miles layer two scholarship
- Lifting/functional fitness 20 hours layer one scholarship
- Lifting/functional fitness 45 hours layer two scholarship

You must log and prove your workouts once you return to school. You can use multiple means to prove you worked on your fitness. There are a variety of apps, including Mapmyrun, Nike+ Run Club, Garmin Connect, Strava, Apple Activity, and a few others. You can also take a photo with a time/date stamp for when you entered and left the gym.

On January 24, during the first Battalion PT of the semester, the winners of this challenge were announced!



Congratulations to Cadets: Broussard, Espinoza, Gurrola, Huff, Monroig, Pogue, Salinas, Smith, Wisniewski, Barerra, Cooke, Mills, Paez, Pilgrim, Clement, Gaus-Schmidt, Kizer, Slott, Watson, Mendez, Ratliff, Sitkowski, Stone



CDTs at the first Battalion PT of the semester.



LTC Limberg speaking to the Battalion.



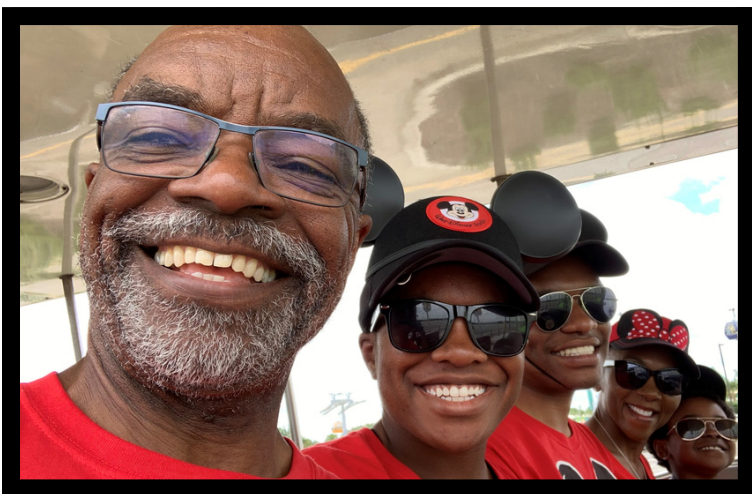
Alumni Spotlight: COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan

COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan, a 1994 Sam Houston State University graduate and former Bearkat Cadet Battalion Commander, retired on December 16, 2022, after 35 years of service. After returning from Operation Desert Storm, she and her twin sister LTC (R) Vanessa Hicks-Callaway, joined the Bearkat Battalion, excelled as Cadets, and were commissioned as Second Lieutenants in this great Army. Throughout their careers, they continued to look back at their time as young Bearkat Cadets striving to make a difference in their lives. They both wanted an education and wanted to continue to serve this nation.

Upon graduation, COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan was stationed at Ft. Hood, where she became a Postal Platoon Leader. From then on, she and her family moved across the southeast, living in Mississippi and Virginia twice, where she worked at the Jackson Recruiting Battalion and the Pentagon. Additionally, while in Mississippi for the second time, she had the awesome opportunity to command at the Jackson MEPS and be a PMS at Jackson State before ultimately becoming the G1 at The United States Military Academy at West Point.

Her daughter, CPT Emily McGowan, states, “If not for Sam Houston State and this Bearkat Battalion, I (along with my two brothers and two cousins) would not be here today trying to follow in their footsteps.”

The Bearkat Battalion would like to thank COL (R) Hicks-McGowan and LTC (R) Hicks-Callaway for their many years of service!



The McGowan Family



Left to Right: COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan, CPT Emily McGowan, LTC (R) Vanessa Hicks-Callaway.





COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan, at field training.



The McGowan Family at COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan Retirement Ceremony.

THE MILITARY SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
of
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
announces
THE COMMISSIONING OF
VANESSA FAYE HICKS
and
JENNIFER KAYE HICKS
2:00 p.m. August 12, 1994
CRIMINAL JUSTICE AUDITORIUM

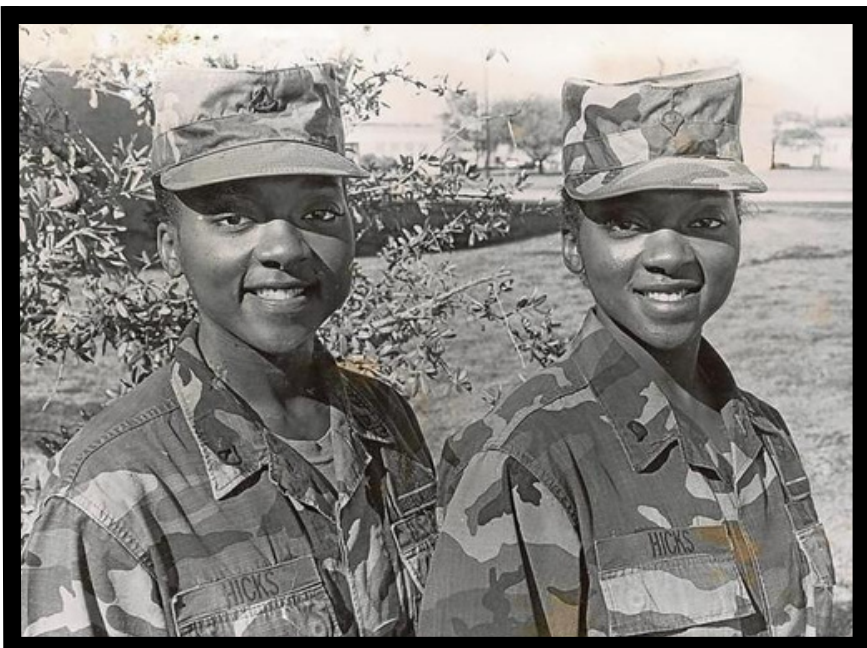


COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan



COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan, guest speaker? Looks like a AF GEN of sorts, Ms. Viola Hicks (Mom), LTC (R) Vanessa Hicks-Callaway.





Hicks Twins as Soldiers



MAJ Jennifer Hicks-McGowan at her promotion to MAJ (2006).



Hicks Twins after promoting to LTC (2011).



COL (R) Jennifer Hicks-McGowan, LTC Dickens, LTC (R) Vanessa Hicks-Callaway.

