



# BEARKAT BATTALION



Push-up Crew (left to right): Watson, Knight, Gaus-Schmidt, Santiago, Mills, and Loya (in the back) with President White at the Battle of the Piney Woods.

CPT ROWDY INMAN  
5TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL  
**5K**

12 NOV 2022  
7:00 AM  
\$25 ENTRY

Come out and run with us!

This month began with a victory for the Bearkat Battalion. The first was the contracting of another cadet, Jack Boucher (more on page 3), and the second was a victory over rival school SFA at the Battle of the Piney Woods. Finally, after only participating virtually since COVID-19, the Battalion was overjoyed to send our very own team to the Army Ten-miler in Washington, D.C.

## Eat'Em Up Kats!



Cadets at the MOAA Dinner (Left to right): McMillin, Clement, Hyams, Smith, Monroig, Carson, and Dieck.

# CSM Comments: CDT Deena Stone

Bearkat Battalion,

It has been a great start to this year, with everyone putting in effort and working hard. Balancing academics, ROTC requirements, employment, and personal commitments is not an easy task, and your sacrifices for our program do not go unnoticed.

We are midway through the semester, and I want to encourage everyone not to lose steam. Keep pushing toward our goal of completing a successful semester and preparing for an even better one next year.

The MSIV cohort, along with cadre, has been working diligently behind the scenes to ensure training is above standard, and we prepare our cadets for success at Advanced Camp and make them successful future army officers. We still have many events to look forward to this semester, and I am excited to continue working with everyone as CSM of this battalion.

Leadership Excellence!



# Newly Contracted Cadet: Jack Boucher

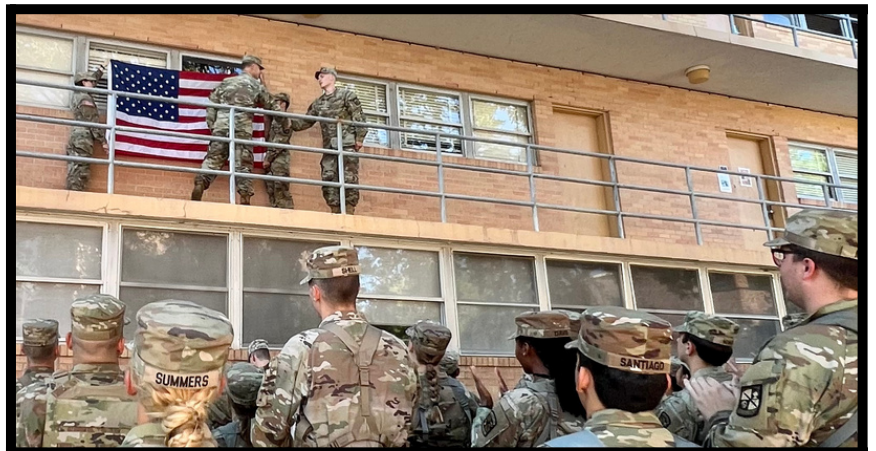


LTC Limberg giving the Oath of Enlistment for CDT Boucher contracting.

Howdy! My name is Jack Boucher. I just recently contracted into the Sam Houston State University ROTC program. Being a prior service and a Grad student here at Sam, I am fresh to the program. I was awarded the Guaranteed Reserve Duty Forces Scholarship, which is helping me through my Graduate Program. The few months I have been in this program have been life-changing. The Bearkat Battalion is one big family, and I would not hesitate to come to any cadets or cadre with questions about the Army or general life skills. ROTC and the United States Army are unique in that everyone comes from different cultures and customs, but we all come together to create the greatest fighting force in the world. The most rewarding aspect of the ROTC program so far has been the competitiveness in bettering myself during our ACFT, ruck marches, and lab leadership events. I joined the ROTC program as a two-year cadet to acquire knowledge regarding career progression in the Army while translating into the civilian sector. Growing up, I have always had a general sense of looking out for others and being a servant leader. I am a fourth-generation military service member and want to follow in my father's footsteps as I commission into the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant in May 2024.



Jack Boucher  
Cypress, TX



LTC Limberg and CDT Boucher shaking hands after the Oath.



# Hispanic Heritage Month: CDT Arly Cruz



Arly Cruz  
South Houston, TX



CDT Cruz at Camp Swift for  
Advanced Individual Training.

Hi, everyone, my name is Arly Cruz Flores, and I am a Latina in the U.S Army. I am half Mexican and half Salvadoran and was born and raised in Houston, TX. Being in a Hispanic household meant that I had many rules to follow. During my junior year of high school, I decided that I wanted to join the military. My parents disagreed with me joining because it was “too dangerous,” I should be like the rest of my family and get a typical job with my degree. It took about a year to convince my parents to let me join, and I was able to sign my contract with the Texas Army National Guard at the age of 17. After going through basic training and AIT, I got put in the 551st Multi-Role Bridging Company as a Unit Supply Specialist (92Y). After training, I went to Sam Houston to finish my Criminal Justice degree and do ROTC to commission as an Army Officer. Being in a male-dominated environment has helped me challenge myself to be better and has shown me what I can achieve. Working with an Engineering unit and doing ROTC has been a fantastic experience. Eventually, I plan to branch Engineering as an Army Officer. Being a Latina in the military can be challenging, but beating the challenges is never impossible. I am proud to be Hispanic and be the first in my family to join the military.

**Leadership excellence!**



# Hispanic Heritage Month: CDT Kaleb Rios



**Kaleb Rios  
Round Rock, TX**



**CDT Rios at the Grand Canyon.**

In 1987 both my parents came to the United States, and in 1999 my Father joined the military at the age of 17 (still actively serving as a Master Sergeant). All of this was done not just in hopes of opportunity for themselves, but for their two children they would have years down the line together. Growing up, and seeing the great benefits and role models the U.S. Army has gifted me in my early childhood, I knew becoming an Army Officer was the career choice for me. Being a Latino in this program has offered me the multicultural perspectives and reach to my Latino peers, not just in our spanish language, but also in the similar morals and work ethic we were all raised with. Understanding the opportunities this military has gifted myself, my family, and learning to develop and lead others is what makes this journey worth all the late nights and early mornings. Being Hispanic is a blessing! Happy Hispanic Heritage Month!

**Train to Lead!**



# Tailgate



Tailgating at the SHSU V. Northern Arizona game.

The Bearkat Battalion tailgate's provide an opportunity to foster camaraderie within our current Cadet cohort, Alumni mentorship, and encourage community outreach and positive influence. Through our freshly cooked food, games, and connection outside of ROTC hours; we strive to enjoy our time spent together. Come out to an ROTC tailgate, and get to know the future leaders of America!



CDT Rios setting up the tailgate.



CDT LeBlanc at the grill.



# University Involvement: Football Games



CDT Barrera leading Color Guard in presenting the colors at Battle of the Piney Woods. CDT Slott and CDT Nitchse on the U.S. and Texas flags.



MSG Liberator and LTC Limberg standing with the SHSU/SFA integrated Color Guard.

The Color Guard has been an honored position in our military for generations, bearing and parading our nations colors in events and ceremonies. Our ROTC color guard has served the community for years and we pride ourselves on our ability to perform at a moments notice always representing our program to the school and city.



Push-up Crew at the Battle of the Piney Woods.

Push-up crew is an excellent opportunity for cadets to become more active in the program. When there is a game, the push-up crew cheers on and supports the players by doing push-ups for every touchdown they score.

The Cannon Crew is at the core of all SHSU games. Students have grown accustomed to associating Bearkat's success with the sound of boomer firing. The cannon crew cadets continue to perpetuate one of SHSU's oldest traditions. Through thorough training to operate the legendary SHSU cannon, Boomer.



CDT Coker commanding the shooting of the cannon.



## Summer Training Internships: CDT Ben Dene



CDT Dene with others touring the Pentagon with his internship group.

After my time at Cadet Summer Training, I left for follow-on training with the United States Army Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (C5ISR) at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. I had a phenomenal experience seeing the great work our civilian engineers and military contractors do. I was attached to the research and development of a few projects that the software engineers were working on and was exposed to many fascinating programs. It was an immense pleasure to see some of what the future of our Army looks like. I was immersed in testing different night vision and infrared systems, as well as learning how to evaluate a targeting algorithm. I also participated in some ride-along on a Blackhawk helicopter at night time and a helicopter tour of D.C. during the daytime, all with the doors open. It was an incredible experience. I learned so much in such a short time and met a lot of great leaders as well! They taught me a lot about being a good leader and how to inspire soldiers. I thoroughly enjoyed my time at Ft. Belvoir with C5ISR, and I hope many other cadets get the opportunity to attend an internship with them in the future.





## Summer Training Internships: CDT Brendan Smith

This summer, I attended the Innovation on the Edge Internship with the 3rd Special Forces Group in Ft Bragg, North Carolina. It was an exceptional experience, and I am grateful for being selected to attend. I was also exceedingly lucky to have my wife, Emma, join me for the duration of the internship. The internship lasted four weeks; we spent the first two weeks seeing a wide range of the technical information support company's capabilities (TISC). The technical training cell (TTC) within the TISC was the focus of the last two weeks.

We began with explosive ordnance disposal training, where we got hands-on with some of the inner workings of simulated IEDs, similar to what US forces would encounter in the middle east. Then, we went on to a ground signs course that taught us some ways to identify IEDs on roads with small explosions on the sides of the road whenever we would accidentally trigger any pressure plates or wires.

We had a workout with the strength and conditioning coach at the Tactical Human Optimization Rapid Rehabilitation and Reconditioning (THOR3) gym. Next, we listened to presentations from their performance psychologist and nutritionist and a professional development session from the group's CSM. Finally, we learned how to pick locks, piloted some drones, met the principal cyber advisor to the Secretary of the Army, Dr. Michael Sulmeyer, and learned how psychological operations and civil affairs support SF missions. Each of these parts of the first two weeks was very interesting, and all along the way, everyone was helpful and answered all the questions I could think to ask.

The last two weeks focused on cyber methods supporting Special Force operational detachments. We concentrated on defensive force protection but covered other subjects: cloud computing management, penetration testing, and network security infrastructure. During this Internship, I learned an astounding amount of information, and the team there was very supportive and answered all of my questions. I am grateful for all these experiences; they will shape my leadership as I enter the force after commissioning in the spring.



Executive Officer Smith and his wife Emma in Fayetteville.





CDT Smith and other at the Tactical Human Optimization Rapid Rehabilitation and Reconditioning (THOR3) gym.



CDT Smith learning how to pilot a drone.



CDT Smith and others listening to a professional development presentation.



# Basic Rifle Marksmanship: CDT Matthew Pilgrim

The Bearkat Battalion prides itself on quality training in everything we do. During the semester, our cadets are trained on their weapons systems through a series of classroom and live fire instructions; this includes preliminary marksmanship instruction, where cadets are taught the fundamentals of firearm safety, disassembly, and marksmanship technique. The cadets then get an opportunity to practice the qualification on our smokeless range before moving on to live fire. Finally, the cadets go through an entire run through the Army's Table VI qualification to become proficient and comfortable before going to Cadet Summer Training.



CDT Barrera helping with BRM at the Huntsville Police Department Range.



CDT Pilgrim leading the BRM training at the Huntsville Police Department Range.



CDT Pilgrim walking CDT Wright- Burwinkel (on the ground) through the shooting positions for the Table VI qualification



# Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP)

## Overview

The purpose of the SMP Program is to give eligible enlisted members of the Reserve Component an opportunity to participate in the Advanced ROTC Program and to provide Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty scholarship, Military Junior College scholarship, Dedicated Army National Guard (ARNG) or United States Army Reserve (USAR) scholarship, and non-scholarship students an opportunity to serve in a Reserve Component unit while participating in Advanced ROTC.

The SMP Program is a volunteer Officer training program designed to increase the number of ROTC Officers accessed for Reserve Forces Duty. It encourages enrollment and participation in the ROTC Advanced Military Course and provides the future Officer with leadership and reserve unit experience.

## Who can join?

A National Guard/Reserve Soldier or ROTC Cadet that has completed basic training, or an equivalent qualification. A Cadet who is an academic sophomore can join the SMP Program and earn a commission as an Officer in the United States Army while completing their college degree.

## Scholarships

- Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty (GRFD)- Cadets may choose to have Tuition and Fees or Room and Board paid for along with a \$420 monthly stipend and an annual \$1,200 book stipend
- Dedicated ARNG/USAR Scholarship- Cadets are offered either full tuition and fees or a room and board flat rate of \$10,000 per year and cover up to 3 years/6 semesters of benefits. This also includes a \$420 monthly stipend and an annual \$1,200 book stipend
- Advanced Designee Scholarship (AD)- Those Cadets who are interested in obtaining a GRFD scholarship while a senior in High School, may apply for a 3-yr Advanced Designee scholarship. Cadets may either have full tuition and fees or a room and board flat rate of \$10,000 per year and cover up to 3 years/6 semesters of benefits. This also includes a \$420 monthly stipend and an annual \$1,200 book stipend



These are just a few of our SMP Cadets.



## Simultaneous Membership Program (SMP) Cont.



Sergeant first class Matthys with CDT Barba, Javier (right) and CDT Russell, Taylor (left). Both enlisted SMP last Month. CDT Russell will be joining the program next semester.

Sergeant first class Matthys has been a Texas Army National Guard recruiter for the past six years and is now the Texas Army National Guard Officer Candidate Recruiter (OCR) for SHSU ROTC. He has a master's degree in Homeland Security and has served in the military for 18 years. For more information about the SMP Program contact SFC Matthys at: Cell: 832-367-0534 email: Clayton.a.Matthys.mil@army.mil



# Army Ten-Miler: CDT William Mills

## History

The Army Ten-Miler (ATM) is an annual race held in Arlington, Virginia, and Washington, DC. As the name implies, it consists of a 10-mile long route starting at the Pentagon, across the Potomac River, and through DC before returning to the start. It was started in 1985 by fitness staff at the Pentagon as a “Family and Morale, Welfare, and Recreation (MWR) event open to the public,” according to the website. Since 1985, over 443,685 runners have participated, along with over \$8 million in proceeds that benefited other MWR programs.

## Training

My name is Hunter Mills, and I was selected as the ATM OIC. When I first heard that I would be leading the ATM, one of my first thoughts was, “How are we going to train for this thing?”. This was the first time since 2019 that the Bearkat Battalion would be sending a team to participate in the race, and because there were no previous members from the last team, we were essentially starting from scratch. After doing a little research, I decided we would implement a plan of working out and recovery. The idea came from the fact that the team only consisted of four guys plus a backup. We were also not trying to win the ATM but rather represent the Bearkat Battalion as best we could. For this, we did group runs every Tuesday morning, yoga during Thursday PT, and individual weekend training. Our goal was to be able to run the ATM at a 7:45 pace. Two runners were also involved in Ranger Challenge, so there was no point in trying to do anything too heavy if it meant increasing the risk of losing some runners.



**William Mills**  
Conroe, TX

## The Trip and The Race Itself

We traveled to DC on Friday, 7 October, and spent the next day sightseeing. It was a cool experience; we visited Arlington cemetery, where we watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Then, we walked to DC, where we visited the Lincoln Memorial, the Washington Monument, and war memorials, and even walked up to the White House!

The ATM took place on the morning of 9 October. The weather was perfect: clear blue sky, high 40s temperature, etc. We ran together as a team rather than individual release. The route was incredibly flat, with the major elevation changes mainly relegated to the bridges. The team completed the run at roughly 1:16:40 at about a 7:36 pace, exceeding our goal of a 7:45 pace.

## Future of the Team

Our main difficulty this year was that we were starting from scratch on everything, so we were not focused on trying to be competitive. I would love to see this team become competitive among other ROTC programs that attend this event.



# Army Ten-Miler Team



These are the following individuals representing SHSU ROTC at the Army Ten-Miler: Avery Sitkowski, Ryan Coker, William Mills, James Cooke, and Nicholas Watson.



Major General Antonio (Andy) Munera of US Army Cadet Command (In Black) and SHSU Battalion Command at the Army Ten-Miler.



# Land Navigation with JROTC



**Ethan Bahr**  
New Caney, TX

"Providing land navigation training to JROTC cadets has thus far been one of the most rewarding experiences for me. Starting as complete beginners, I got to develop them with theory on paper and then put them to the test with practical application. I was blown away by their ability to effectively measure azimuths and distances, as well as their ability to terrain associate. This culminated in them successfully passing their land navigation lane despite it being their first time."



Shepherd High School JROTC Cadets practicing land navigation with CDT Dene.





## Highlighting Alumni: 2LT Samuel Brink

One of the biggest accomplishments and greatest honors of my life thus far has been graduating from Sam Houston State University and earning a commission as an army officer through the Bearkat Battalion. My experiences in the months since commissioning have given me an even greater appreciation for the excellent training I received through our program. In May of 2022, I was commissioned as a field artillery second lieutenant, and I began the Basic Officer Leader's Course (BOLC) at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in June. As my graduation from BOLC is only a few weeks away, I can now look back and appreciate how well Sam Houston State's ROTC program prepared me to excel. One of the common frustrations among cadets throughout many ROTC programs in the United States is that "running around in the woods playing army doesn't prepare you to do most real jobs as an Army officer." While it is true that I have not needed to conduct the classic "L-shaped ambush" like I did at the wonderful Gibb's ranch, the lessons I learned as a cadet have undoubtedly helped to set me apart from many of my peers as an artillery officer. I believe that confidence and overall people skills are some of the most important lessons taught through ROTC, and the ways that the program strengthened these skills within me have exponentially benefited me as a lieutenant.

The biggest takeaway I had after leaving the Bearkat Battalion was that I was capable and able to withstand the spotlight. Lieutenants are leaders, and leaders are not effective if they are not able to step out of their comfort zones and take charge. SHSU possesses the advantage of being a small and yet incredibly effective ROTC program that forces cadets to be in positions of significant leadership, which is an opportunity not often afforded to cadets at much larger programs.

Whether it was leading a stressful lane at Gibbs Ranch or simply having to sing the Army Song in front of LTC Contreras and my classmates, SHSU ROTC taught me that I was able to be in the spotlight. Secondly, ROTC taught me the importance of understanding and communicating with other people. Not everyone learns or behaves in the same manner, and it is important to tailor your leadership approach to the needs of those you are interacting with. Stepping into situations requiring leadership in the Bearkat Battalion provided me with plenty of time to practice this skill, and I was able to observe the examples of many leaders within the program. Overall, I believe that there are very few programs in the United States that prepare their cadets to be effective leaders as well as Sam Houston State. I hope that every past, present, and future member of the Bearkat Battalion has the same pride in the program that I do.

### Eat 'Em Up Kats!





2LT Brink returning from loading a round on a M777A2 howitzer.



2LT Brink using an Lightweight Laser Designator Rangefinder (LLDR) to spot targets.



2LT Brink with his gun crew firing the 777. He is the one bending down covering his ears.



Now 2LT at graduation with his parents.

