

APRIL 2024

# BEARKAT BATTALION

## NEWSLETTER



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## EAT 'EM UP KATS!

In the month of April 2024, Sam Houston's ROTC Cadets demonstrated excellence, resilience, and commitment to serve by engaged in a range of activities showcasing their dedication and skills.

Highlights include a sneak peek into Air Assault Training, Cadets at Model UN in New York City, our Spring Multi-Program FTX, the 2nd Annual Schuder's Challenge, the 2024 Super Lab, remembering the fallen Bearkats at Raven's Call ceremony, and much more.

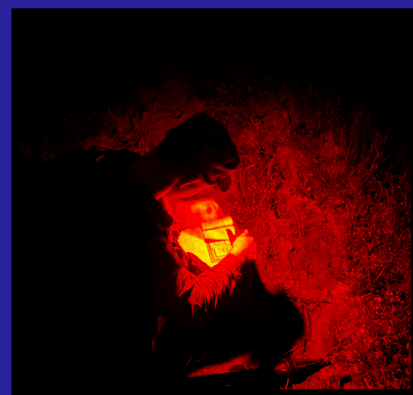
These events encompass leadership, recognition, training milestones, diplomatic engagement, tactical exercises, and testing for elite Cadet status.

Cadet Katelyn Nitsche



**Read more about Cadet Kaleb Brown graduating from Air Assault.**

**Read More - Page 4**



**Check out the Results of the Spring 2024, Ranger Board Cadets.**

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# Cadet of the Month

## CADET MADISON EVANS



**Cadet Battalion Commander Avery Sitkowski handing Cadet Madison Evans her award**



**Congratulations Cadet Evans, you deserve the Cadet of the Month after a semester of hard work**

“I am very thankful for the opportunity to be recognized as cadet of the month. I have continued to learn and grow throughout my time in the battalion. I continue to strive towards being a better leader in and out of the program. I am looking forward to what the future offers and the positive impact I can leave to benefit the program.”

Cadet Madison Evans  
Commencement NCOIC



**Cadet Madison Evans with her Family**

# Air Assault Graduate

## CADET KALEB BROWN

From March 11th through 22nd, 2024, MS2 Cadet Kaleb Brown attended Air Assault School at Fort Moore, GA where he successfully completed the rigorous course and earned his Air Assault Badge. This opportunity is a highly competitive 10-day course. The school tests immense physical and mental strength, as well as competency in a variety of skills. The course begins with Day Zero where soldiers go through a full-inspection of their packing list, an obstacle course, and a 2-mile run in under 18 minutes. The course then moves the student into three phases focusing on combat air assault operations, aircraft safety, pathfinder operations, sling-load operations, and rappelling. The course's final phase is a 12-mile foot march, which must be completed in under 3-hours. Upon completing the course, graduates are finally awarded the Air Assault Badge which may be worn on their uniform.



**Cadet Kaleb Brown proudly wearing his Air Assault Badge.**

"I'm incredibly thankful for the opportunity to attend Air Assault School and I can honestly say that I gained a ton of really useful knowledge that I've already been able to put to practical use at my Reserve unit, an Assault Helicopter Company utilizing UH-60 Blackhawks. I have to say my favorite part of the course was Phase 1, where I got to learn all the nomenclature and operations around helicopter assets. Don't get me wrong, rappelling was cool too, but Phase 1 was the most interesting to me. The hardest part for me was how fast you had to learn all the various numbers and facts, and the sheer amount of it all. Other AA schools give you weekend breaks to rest and study, but at Ft. Moore you don't get that, so you have less time to study all the material."

Cadet Kaleb Brown  
MS2



# Model U.N. Conference

## CADETS OUTSIDE THE PROGRAM

This April, the Sam Houston State University Model United Nations team represented the Republic of the Philippines where three exceptional Cadets were given the opportunity to travel to New York City for the prestigious 2024 National Model United Nations Conference. This year's Cadets Mason Kizer, Taylar Russell, and Steven Kellenberger engaged in the intricate art of international diplomacy, mirroring what would occur in the United Nations. Tasked with the responsibility of formulating and advocating for policies addressing pressing global issues, such as protection of children in conflict zones to the safe transportation of nuclear waste, these students were able to apply theoretical knowledge to complex real-world situations.

Their participation at the conference facilitated invaluable opportunities for cultural exchange and networking. Interacting with students from diverse corners of the globe, as well as esteemed figures like the chairman for the Philippines United Nations and the Taiwanese United Nations advocates. Dr. Dennis Weng, Professor of Political Science and overseer of the United Nations team expressed his enthusiasm for the ongoing collaboration with the ROTC program. He emphasized the importance of educating future Officers on international politics while providing them with the chance to forge meaningful connections with individuals from varied backgrounds and cultures. This initiative reflects a broader educational philosophy that values the application of knowledge, cross-cultural engagement, and the development of soft skills such as diplomacy and negotiation. As these Cadets move forward in their careers, the experiences and connections forged through the Model United Nations conference will undoubtedly serve as a solid foundation for their roles in international relations, diplomacy, and beyond.

Cadet Taylar Russell  
MS2



**Cadets Taylar Russell, Steven Kellenberger, and Mason Kizer at the United Nations Building in NYC**



**Cadet Mason Kizer talking with a Peace Core Representative**



# 2024 Spring MPFTX

## CAMP BULLIS

This month, the Bearkat Battalion MS3 Cadets traveled to Camp Bullis in San Antonio, TX to conduct a Multi-Program Field Training Exercise (MPFTX) in conjunction with Texas A&M University and the University of Houston.

Here, the Cadets had the opportunity to utilize their individual soldier skills such as land navigation and also their teamwork skills with platoon sized battle drills and tactics they've learned over the course of this semester. While in a new environment with new Cadets to lead, this presented new challenges, yet our Cadets proved to themselves they were able to adapt and overcome any mission and task given to them.

Great work Cadets! We are proud to see how you demonstrated your leadership skills. Now we can't wait to see how well you do at camp! And a special thank you to the MS4 Cadets and Cadre who attended and helped make this mission successful! Strength and Honor!

Cadet Nicholas Watson  
Battalion S3



**Cadets Ratliff and Huff taking a Breather after Conducting a Mission**



**Cadet Nitsche acting as Radio Telephone Operator**

# 2nd Annual Schuder's Challenge

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF CADETS



**The Cypress Spring, Ridge Point, and Willis High School JROTC Cadets.**

The event, held on April 6th, 2024, was a comprehensive test of both physical and mental endurance, offering a range of challenges that mimicked the rigorous demands of military training. This was the second annual Schuder's Challenge, hosted by Sam Houston State University's ROTC program. The day started with a stress hike, where participants navigated a tough course carrying a weighted litter and kettlebell, a trial designed to assess their strength and teamwork under pressure. This was followed by a memorization test conducted under stressful conditions to evaluate the Cadets' ability to retain information despite fatigue.

The competition also featured a rope bridge that tested the teams' coordination and problem-solving skills, an obstacle course that challenged their physical agility, and a hand grenade assault course aimed at assessing their tactical proficiency and accuracy. The series of events concluded with the Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT), measuring physical fitness through various rigorous exercises.

Participating High Schools included Cypress Spring, Ridge Point, and Willis High, with a total of seven teams competing. Known as a replication of the Raider Challenge, this annual event is a significant part of the Army JROTC calendar, culminating in a national championship at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

By organizing this event each year, Sam Houston State ROTC Program aims to nurture a competitive spirit among various JROTC programs, providing a platform for Cadets to demonstrate their skills in a challenging setting. It also serves as an introduction to Army ROTC at the collegiate level, preparing participants for potential university life and offering them a taste of future military education and leadership training.

We at Sam want to thank all participating High Schools for attending and we look forward for the 2025 3rd Annual Schuder's Challenge.

Cadet Ryan Coker  
Schuder's Challenges OIC



**Cadets making their way across the One-Rope Bridge.**

# Super Lab

## TRAIN TO LEAD



**Cadets preparing for the next Mission**

During the last tactical lab of the Spring Semester, the Bearkat Battalion has conducted the annual Super Lab, extending beyond the normal lab time and into the night. With this opportunity, Cadets ran two consecutive battle drill lanes to simulate missions at Cadet Summer Training. With additional time to plan and execute their mission, Bearkat Cadets had a final opportunity to learn and develop their leadership skills before the semester ended.

Once the battle drills were completed, Cadets enjoyed dinner provided by the program and built camaraderie before stepping off for their final event of the lab, night land navigation. With the completion of night land navigation, the tactical labs for the Spring Semester concluded. The Bearkat Battalion did an amazing job this semester, and many Cadets developed into the true leaders they were meant to be.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Battalion and Cadre for the opportunity to lead as Battalion Commander, to the MS3s for allowing me to teach them during their class, and to my MS4 class for all the help and support throughout the semester. Strength and Honor!

Cadet Nicholas Watson  
Battalion S3



**Cadets in the prone position waiting for orders to attack**



# Sam Houston Raven's Call

## GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN



**Commemorative Sign**

Raven's Call is a revered tradition at the Ron & Ruth Blatchley Bell Tower, established in 2012 to honor faculty and students who have passed away. This year, the ROTC Color Guard participated in the ceremony, enhancing the solemn occasion. Bearkat families were invited to attend the event on Friday, April 12, 2024, at 12:00 p.m.

Gone but not forgotten.



**President Elisa White making a speech**



**Attendees at Ravens Call**

# 2024 Spring Military Ball

## A NIGHT OF DANCING AND FUN



**Cadets on the dance floor and having a good time.**



**The Senior Cadet Leadership and their dates.**

On April 13th, 2024, Sam Houston State University's Lomen Student Center was the venue for the distinguished ROTC Military Ball, an evening dedicated to honoring our nation's military traditions and the valor of its service members. The ROTC Military Ball not only served as a solemn tribute but also provided a wonderful opportunity for the Cadets to foster camaraderie in a relaxed and celebratory setting. Away from the usual rigors of training and academic responsibilities, Cadets relished the chance to see each other dressed in their formal military attire, adding a sense of pride and tradition to the friendly atmosphere.

The event was a perfect venue for them to connect on a personal level, share experiences, and create lasting memories. Engaging in dances, enjoying the banquet, and participating in the evening's festivities, the Cadets built stronger bonds with their peers and their sense of community within the ROTC. For many, it was a unique experience to interact with their colleagues and superiors in a non-formal context, which enhanced their understanding and respect for one another. The Military Ball proved to be an enriching experience, significantly contributing to the personal and social development of the Cadets.

Cadet Taylor Russell  
Military Ball

# Ranger Board

## RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

Ladies and Gentlemen, it's that time of year again! Schuder's Rangers have conducted their culminating exercise, The Board, upon completion of their training regimen this year. Ranger Company Candidates work all semester long in preparation for the exercise, as it evaluates their growth and development, specifically their leadership capabilities and intestinal fortitude. The Board is roughly a 36-hour exercise where Candidates execute multiple events with little to no rest in between. Candidates are tested on their Land Navigation abilities, leadership in Squad Tactical Exercise lanes, and physical fitness through ruck marches and various other exercises. Many who begin the journey of Ranger Company do not make it to the infamous board.



**Ranger Company Candidates conducting a movement under the cover of darkness**



**Ranger Company Candidates Conducting a Movement through Hostile Territory**



**Ranger Company Candidates never leaving a fallen comrade**



# Ranger Board

## RANGERS LEAD THE WAY

This year, we observed a 40% attrition rate, showcasing the perseverance and dedication of the remaining candidates. We were thrilled this year to execute The Board with 9 Candidates starting. After it was all said and done, we had 5 Candidates complete the exercise and exceed the standard we set before them. Upon completion of the Board, meeting the requirements set before them, and passing their formal board, these select 5 received the coveted Schuder's Rangers Scroll. This signifies the elite level to which these Cadets were trained and their potential to contribute significantly to the Bearkat Battalion and our Army. There is a long, rich, and cultured history of Schuder's Rangers, and the addition of new Scrolls to the Company will continue to uphold the Vision and Mission of the Company. Words cannot describe how proud we are to share this accomplishment with the Scroll Class of 2024. Please join us in congratulating Cadets Alexander Cannon, Diego Paez, Jacob Risinger, Cailyn Whitner, and Caleb Rodas!!

Cadet Tanner Stone  
Schuder's Ranger Commander



**Class of 2024 New Scrolls**



**2024 Ranger Company Cadets**

# Alumni Spotlight

## SECOND LIEUTENANT JORDAN PERRY

Greetings Bearkats, my name is Second Lieutenant Jordan Perry, and I commissioned as an Officer into the US Army Reserve Military Intelligence branch in August of 2022. Since then, I've acquired a wealth of knowledge and experience in a relatively short period with my unit. On the Reserve side, particularly in my branch, there's an expectation that starting out may take some time.

My desire to join the Army Reserve stemmed from wanting to balance my civilian life with a commitment to serve, allowing me to pursue personal endeavors like my rock band, Blood Rose Eclipse, while still fostering my development as a military leader. Our band is currently recording in Houston and performing live, with encouraging support from my command and unit—a level of support one might not anticipate in many careers, especially in the military.

Despite the slower pace in the Reserve and Military Intelligence, I am readying myself for BOLC, where I am slotted to go later this year. Nevertheless, my time as a "pre-BOLC" 2nd Lieutenant has been productive. Beyond the monthly drills, I've seized opportunities to attend Army schools, like the HAZMAT course at Ft. Cavazos, and engaged in meaningful training during Battle Assembly/Drill Sessions. My first Annual Training in Mississippi, where I served as the acting S4 at the Battalion level, was a formidable challenge. This role, filled with its fair share of errors, taught me the importance of humility and the invaluable guidance experienced NCOs offer. They expect mistakes; it's through these that we learn and grow, not just as leaders but as individuals. Maintaining a confident and positive demeanor is crucial, particularly in the eyes of your enlisted soldiers who look to you as a model of resilience and leadership, even as you navigate your learning curve.

**To any Cadet,** I'd advise embracing humility and the wisdom of your NCOs, and no matter the circumstances, always project confidence and positivity.



**Second Lieutenant Jordan Perry with his mom after graduating from Advance Individual Training (AIT)**



**Second Lieutenant Perry love for music extends to his passion in the Army.**