

# BEARKAT BATTALION

## NEWSLETTER



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### WELCOME BACK, BEARKAT BATTALION!

In February, we are thrilled to share inspiring updates and highlights from the Bearkat Battalion. This month, our program celebrated pivotal events, including the exhilarating Ranger Challenge competition and enlightening military conferences. These experiences not only showcased our Cadets' relentless dedication and hard work but also illuminated the unwavering support of our passionate community, which fuels their journey.

As the semester unfolds, our MSIV Cadets are seizing transformative opportunities that will shape their futures in the military, ready to embark on paths of leadership and service. Meanwhile, our MSIII Cadets are immersing themselves in rigorous training, preparing with determination and enthusiasm for the formidable challenges of Advanced Camp this summer.

We eagerly anticipate celebrating their achievements, illuminating the steadfast teamwork, resilience, and exceptional leadership that embody the Bearkat Battalion. Thank you for your continued support as we unite in our mission to make this semester not just memorable, but truly inspiring for every Cadet



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**Eat 'Em Up Kats!**

# President's and Dean's list

The Bearkat Battalion takes great pride in honoring Cadets for their remarkable academic achievements. Among these accolades are the prestigious President's Honor Roll and the Dean's List of Academic Honors. These awards not only recognize excellence in scholarship but also highlight the dedication and hard work of Cadets in managing their academic responsibilities alongside their military training

The President's Honor Roll acknowledges undergraduate students who have achieved a perfect grade point average (GPA) of 4.0 in all coursework attempted, along with receiving an A in every course taken during the term. On the other hand, the Dean's List of Academic Honors recognizes undergraduate students who attain a GPA of 3.5 or higher for the term, with grades of either A or B in all coursework attempted.

These recognitions demonstrate that Cadets excel not only in military training but also in their academic pursuits. They illustrate the ability of Cadets to balance the demanding commitments of ROTC with their studies, a vital quality for future leaders in the military. These honors reflect the core values of ROTC—integrity, discipline, and leadership—which are essential for success.

## President's Honor Roll



CDT Nitsche



CDT Clement



CDT Juarez



CDT Cannon



CDT Evans



CDT Mcmillin



CDT Brown



CDT McGinley



CDT Silva

# Dean's List of Academic Honors



CDT Clement



CDT Cooke



CDT Nitsche



CDT Juarez



CDT Wesnewski



CDT Ratliff



CDT Brown



CDT Cannon



CDT Evans



CDT Mcmillin



CDT Silva



CDT Prudencio



CDT McGinley



CDT Kellenberger



CDT Calhoun

# Ranger Challenge



From left to right: CDTs Rodas, Cannon and Risinger



From left to right: CDT Clement, Stone, and Huff

On Friday, February 7, the Bearkat Battalion Ranger Challenge team embarked on an exhilarating journey as they participated in the Apache Brigade competition at Camp Swift in Austin, TX. This event was more than just a competition; it was a true test of their mettle as they confronted the rigors of real-world combat scenarios. The Bearkat Team was challenged to push beyond their perceived limits, fostering resilience, honing leadership skills, and cultivating an unshakeable sense of confidence.

Ranger Challenge is a multifaceted competition that immerses cadets in a series of demanding physical and tactical exercises, mirroring the challenges faced in actual military operations. It's an opportunity for growth and development, where camaraderie and teamwork shine, and each participant learns the value of perseverance and grit.

This experience transcends the ordinary; it's a powerful transformation that shapes the character and spirit of future leaders in the military. Each obstacle conquered is a stepping stone toward a successful career, and every moment of struggle strengthens their resolve. We commend these dedicated cadets for their unwavering commitment to this program, recognizing that their hard work and determination not only contribute to their personal growth but also to the legacy of excellence within our ranks. Together, they are forging the path to a brighter future, one challenge at a time



Ranger Challenge Cadets at the Camp Swift competition

# Cadet Of The Month



CDT Kellenberger

CDT Steven Kellenberger has been honored as Cadet of the Month, a recognition earned through his unwavering dedication to both his peers and the program itself. As an MS2, Steven not only leads the barbell club team but also embodies the spirit of teamwork, motivation, and perseverance that we strive to cultivate within our ranks. His role involves more than just overseeing workouts; it's about inspiring fellow cadets to embrace a lifestyle of physical fitness and well-being, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive.

In addition to his leadership in the barbell club, CDT Kellenberger is deeply committed to his own academic and fitness achievements. He understands that success in these areas is not merely personal gain but a cornerstone of effective leadership. His relentless pursuit of excellence serves as a beacon for others, demonstrating that hard work and discipline can lead to remarkable outcomes.

This recognition shines a spotlight on the accomplishments of all our cadets. Whether they are excelling academically, pushing their limits in physical fitness, demonstrating leadership, or engaging in community service, each act of dedication reinforces the value of perseverance and commitment. The confidence gained from being recognized for their efforts is crucial as they prepare for their future roles as military officers.

By celebrating CDT Kellenberger's hard work, unwavering dedication, and continuous growth, we not only honor his achievements but also ignite a spark of motivation for all cadets to strive for greatness. This culture of recognition is essential in shaping leaders who will carry the virtues of integrity, honor, and courage into their future. As they embark on their military careers, these qualities will guide them through challenges, inspiring others along the way. Together, we are building a legacy of leadership and excellence that will resonate far beyond the walls of our program.

# Army Combat Fitness Test



As future military leaders, cadets are called to embody the spirit of physical excellence, showcasing the strength, endurance, and overall fitness essential for success in their training and future roles as officers. Physical fitness is not just a requirement; it is a crucial pillar of leadership in the military. Strong leaders must be able to face and conquer the challenges of demanding environments, inspiring their peers by setting the standard in resilience and tenacity.

To prepare for the rigors of Cadet Summer Training (CST), taking diagnostic Army Combat Fitness Tests (ACFTs) serves as an invaluable tool for our cadets. These tests not only assess physical capabilities but also foster a mindset geared towards achievement and perseverance.

Recently, the Bearkat Battalion undertook a series of ACFTs, and the results were nothing short of impressive. Many cadets demonstrated outstanding performance, pushing their limits and exhibiting unwavering dedication. To keep the momentum high and celebrate their achievements, those who scored 560 or above were awarded special incentives, recognizing their hard work and commitment.

Join us on the next page as we proudly highlight the top ACFT scores. Congratulations to these cadets for their remarkable accomplishments! Your determination and spirit pave the way for future leaders and inspire us all!



CDTLopez and CDTKilgore



CDTSummers



CDTCoatin

# Army Combat Fitness Test

## TOP SCORES

Top 5 male scores:

Top 5 Female scores:



Moore (600)



Knight (574)



Cannon (589)



Evans ( 571)



Stone (587)



McMillin (569)



Ratliff (581)



Summers (566)



Clement (580)



Sanchez (535)

# MOAA Dinner

On the evening of February 21st, LTC Hafford, accompanied by six MS4 cadets, attended a dinner hosted by the Military Officers Association of America (MOAA). This esteemed organization, which has supported military personnel and their families since its founding in 1929, plays a crucial role in advocating for their rights and interests. As the largest and most influential association representing all branches of the U.S. military—active-duty, reserve, and retired officers—MOAA is essential in shaping policies and providing vital support services. Its core objectives include robust advocacy, comprehensive support, valuable networking, and scholarships and grants tailored to the needs of military families.

The dinner was a lively gathering, uniting military officers, veterans, their families, community leaders, and distinguished speakers. It served as a platform to recognize the sacrifices and achievements of those who have served, while also providing critical networking opportunities that can lead to lasting professional relationships.

During the event, Bearkat Cadet Battalion Commander William Ratliff had the honor of briefing attendees on the battalion's mission, emphasizing the crucial need to successfully commission Second Lieutenants for the military's future strength. The MS4 cadets left the event not only with valuable new connections but also with a deeper understanding of military traditions and their battalion's high standards of excellence. This experience enhanced their appreciation of the military community and reaffirmed their commitment to developing the next generation of leaders who will serve with integrity and dedication.



MS4 Cadets at the MOAA Dinner.



# Alumni spotlight

## 2LT Kenneth LeBlanc



This month, we are proud to spotlight 2LT LeBlanc, a dedicated leader in the military whose journey embodies a strong commitment to service and law enforcement. He celebrated his graduation in May 2024 from Sam Houston State University, earning a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. During his time as a Cadet, he thrived in the challenging role of Battalion S4, where he showcased his remarkable organizational skills and leadership potential, laying the groundwork for his current position in the Military Police.

2LT LeBlanc's military path commenced when he enlisted as a 92A (Logistics Specialist) in June 2019. He undertook basic training at Fort Gregg-Adams in Virginia, where he immersed himself in the foundational aspects of military life. After completing Advanced Individual Training (AIT), he pursued higher education at Lonestar College, earning an Associate of Arts degree, before successfully transferring to Sam Houston State University to complete his Bachelor's degree.

In August, he stepped into the next phase of his career by attending the Military Police Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC), where he honed his skills and developed a keen understanding of leadership in complex environments. Following BOLC, he received a Permanent Change of Station (PCS) to Fort Riley, Kansas, where he played a vital role in supporting the southern border mission. 2LT LeBlanc's unwavering dedication and relentless pursuit of excellence make him a valuable asset to the military and an inspiring figure in the field of law enforcement.

# AMOPS Conference

The Association of Military Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons (AMOPS) conference is a prestigious gathering designed specifically for the dedicated medical professionals of the U.S. Army, encompassing a diverse array of healthcare personnel such as doctors, dentists, nurses, and other specialists.

This annual conference serves as a vital platform for military medical officers, where they can converge to share invaluable insights, engage in thought-provoking discussions on emerging healthcare issues, and pursue their professional growth in an enriching environment.

At the memorable February 21, 2025 event, CDT Evans had the distinguished honor of commanding the color guard, standing proudly alongside Cadet Karli McMillin, Cadet Joshua Lopez, and Cadet Jorge De La Rosa-Hernandez. Together, they presented and retired the colors with a sense of reverence, embodying the spirit and legacy of their service.

The atmosphere buzzed with energy as they connected with remarkable leaders from across the Armed Forces, representing the Army, Navy, and Air Force. Among the memorable encounters was a meeting with LTG Lzagarre, who graciously presented them with a commemorative coin. His inspiring words encouraged them to pursue their ambitions relentlessly and aspire to reach their fullest potential.

In addition to the senior leaders, they also engaged in meaningful conversations with several junior officers, including the insightful 2LT Calhoun, a former enlisted officer. He shared practical advice and empowering encouragement, lighting the way for their future endeavors as they prepared to embark on their respective journeys within military medicine.



From left to right: CDTs De La Rosa, Lopez, Enderli, Evans, and McMillin.

# UPCOMING EVENTS!



01MAR: 3RD ANNUAL SCHUDER'S JROTC RANGER CHALLENGE INVITATIONAL



01MAR: JROTC OUTREACH EVENT AND MILITARY APPRECIATION BASKETBALL GAME



10-14MAR: SPRING BREAK CADET TIME OFF



20MAR: BAATAN DEATH MARCH



03-06 APR: MULTI-PROGRAM FIELD TRAINING