

BEARKAT BATTALION

NEWSLETTER



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EAT 'EM UP KATS!

Mighty Bearkat Battalion,

Welcome back to Sam Houston State University, and congratulations to all our Cadets who participated in Cadet Summer Training!

Your remarkable performance underscores the dedication and discipline you each bring to leading from the front. Although my family and I have only been with the Mighty Bearkat Battalion since the end of July, I have been deeply impressed and inspired by each of you. Your commitment to leading America's Soldiers in the greatest fighting force the world has ever known is truly exceptional.

As we embark on the new school year, I am excited about the opportunities and initiatives we have planned. With the continued support of the University and our community partners, I am confident that this year will be outstanding for the Bearkat Battalion.

I also want to extend my heartfelt thanks for the warm welcome into the Bearkat family. I am truly honored to serve as the Professor of Military Science for this esteemed organization. I challenge each Cadet to push yourself toward your goals while supporting and caring for one another.

Always remember, "Discipline Starts Here."

LTC Roger Hafford



**Introducing our new
SHSU Cadre.**

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**Cadet Taylor Knight's
Project GO experience.**

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New Professor of Military Science

LTC ROGER HAFFORD



LIEUTENANT COLONEL ROGER HAFFORD IS A MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WHO ORIGINALLY EARNED HIS COMMISSION AS AN INFANTRYMAN IN 2008 FROM FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY. OVER THE COURSE OF HIS CAREER, HE HAS SERVED IN NUMEROUS COMMAND AND STAFF POSITIONS IN LIGHT INFANTRY, MECHANIZED AND ARMORED UNITS AND MOST RECENTLY SERVED AS THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER FOR U.S. ARMY NEW YORK CITY RECRUITING BATTALION.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD HAS SERVED IN A VARIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND STAFF POSITIONS. HE SERVED WITH 1-508TH PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT, 4TH BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 82ND AIRBORNE DIVISION IN AFGHANISTAN. WHILE DEPLOYED, HE LED A SECURITY FORCES ADVISORY AND ASSISTANCE TEAM (SFAAT) TRAINING AFGHAN NATIONAL SECURITY FORCES (ANSF). UPON HIS RETURN, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS AN ASSISTANT BRIGADE S2 WITH 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION, 3RD SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE WHERE HE WOULD LATER DEPLOY TO AFGHANISTAN FOR A SECOND TIME. FOLLOWING HIS RETURN, HE SERVED AS THE BATTALION S2 FOR 87TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION. LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD THEN COMMANDED BOSTON RECRUITING COMPANY AND APPLIED HIS INTELLIGENCE BACKGROUND TO ESTABLISH USAREC'S PILOT FOR THE FIRST VIRTUAL RECRUITING STATION. AFTER COMMAND, LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD ATTENDED COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. UPON COMPLETION, HE WAS ASSIGNED AS THE BRIGADE S2 FOR 1ST ARMOR BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 1ST ARMORED DIVISION.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD'S CIVILIAN EDUCATION INCLUDES A BACHELOR OF ARTS IN FORENSIC PSYCHOLOGY FROM FLORIDA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND A MASTER OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY. HIS MILITARY EDUCATION INCLUDES BEING A GRADUATE OF THE INFANTRY OFFICER BASIC COURSE IN FORT MOORE, GEORGIA, MILITARY INTELLIGENCE CAPTAINS CAREER COURSE IN FORT HUACHUCA, ARIZONA, AND THE US ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE IN FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS.

LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL; ARMY MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (2OLC); ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (3 OLC); ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL; NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL; AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (3); GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM MEDAL, HUMANITARIAN SERVICE MEDAL, NATO MEDAL; PARACHUTIST AND AIR ASSAULT BADGES; BASIC RECRUITER BADGE.

AS THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL HAFFORD'S GOAL IS TO EDUCATE AND NURTURE FUTURE LEADERS WHO WILL GO ON TO BECOME U.S. ARMY OFFICERS

Discipline Starts Here.

New SHSU Cadre

MSG JAMES GREEN



MSG JAMES GREEN WAS BORN AND RAISED IN MESA, AZ AND GRADUATED FROM AGUA FRIA HIGH SCHOOL IN 2005. HE JOINED THE U.S. ARMY IN 2008, AND UPON COMPLETION OF TRAINING AT FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA HE WAS AWARDED THE MOS OF 13B CANNON CREWMEMBER.

MSG GREEN HAS SERVED AS A OPERATIONS SERGEANT, CANNON MASTER GUNNER, FIRING BATTERY 1SG, PLATOON SERGEANT, SENIOR DRILL SERGEANT, GUNNERY SERGEANT, AND HOWITZER SECTION CHIEF. HE HAS DEPLOYED IN SUPPORT OF OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM IX AND XII WITH THE 173RD IBCT (A).

MSG GREEN'S PRIOR ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDE HOWITZER SECTION CHIEF A BATTERY, 2- 321ST AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, FORT LIBERTY, NORTH CAROLINA; HOWITZER SECTION CHIEF AND GUNNERY SERGEANT BRAVO BATTERY 1-319TH AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT, FORT LIBERTY, NORTH CAROLINA; SENIOR DRILL SERGEANT, ALPHA COMPANY, 1-61ST INFANTRY REGIMENT, FORT JACKSON, SOUTH CAROLINA; PLATOON SERGEANT IN CHAOS! BATTERY, MASTER GUNNER, AND 1SG IN 4-319TH AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT; 1SG IN ARCTIC BATTERY, 246TH FSC IN 1-6 FAR, AND HHB 41ST FAB IN GRAFENWOER, GERMANY.

MSG GREEN IS CURRENTLY PURSUING HIS BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MILITARY HISTORY. HIS MILITARY EDUCATION INCLUDES THE U.S. ARMY AIRBORNE AND JUMPMaster COURSE, AIR ASSAULT, DRILL SERGEANT ACADEMY, INSTRUCTOR COURSE, FIELD ARTILLERY MASTER GUNNER, LONG RANGE MARKSMAN, CANNON ARTILLERY MECHANIC, SHARP FOUNDATION, MASTER RESILIENCE TRAINER, COMBATIVES LEVEL 1 & 2, AND COUNTER IED.

MSG GREEN'S AWARDS AND DECORATIONS INCLUDE THE MASTER PARACHUTIST, AIR ASSAULT, COMBAT ACTION, MASTER GUNNER, AND DRILL SERGEANT IDENTIFICATION BADGES. THE MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL (2 OLC), ARMY COMMENDATION MEDAL (4 OLC), ARMY ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL (4 OLC), MERITORIOUS UNIT CITATION (2 OLC), ARMY GOOD CONDUCT MEDAL (4 KNOTS), AFGHANISTAN CAMPAIGN MEDAL (2-SS), GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM SERVICE MEDAL, NATIONAL DEFENSE SERVICE MEDAL, ARMY SERVICE MEDAL, AND THE OVERSEAS SERVICE MEDAL (NUMERAL 5). HE HAS ALSO BEEN INDUCTED INTO THE HONORABLE ORDER OF SAINT BARBARA

New SHSU Cadre

MR. DANIEL NOVRESKE



MR. NOVRESKE GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL IN CHESTERTON, INDIANA. HE ENTERED THE ARMY IN JULY OF 2001 AS AN APACHE HELICOPTER ELECTRICIAN AND ARMAMENT. MR. NOVRESKE RECLASSIFIED TO MILITARY POLICE IN 2007. AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE AND EARNING THE RANK OF STAFF SERGEANT HE WAS ACCEPTED INTO THE GREEN TO GOLD ACTIVE-DUTY OPTION PROGRAM. HE COMMISSIONED IN MAY 2013 AS A MILITARY POLICE OFFICER. MR. NOVRESKE RETIRED AFTER 22 YEARS OF SERVICE IN DECEMBER 2023.

MR. NOVRESKE SERVED IN A VARIETY OF LEADERSHIP AND STAFF POSITIONS. HE SERVED AS A TEAM AND SQUAD LEADER WITH THE 978TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY, FORT BLISS, TEXAS. HE ALSO SERVED AS A TRAINING NCO WITH THE 42ND MILITARY POLICE BRIGADE AT JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD. MR. NOVRESKE DEPLOYED TO TIKRIT, IRAQ IN 2004 AND BAGHDAD, IRAQ IN 2008. AFTER COMMISSIONING, MR. NOVRESKE RETURNED TO JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD WHERE HE SERVED AS A PLATOON LEADER WITH THE 170TH MILITARY POLICE COMPANY AND A TRAINING OFFICER IN THE 504TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, JOINT BASE LEWIS-MCCHORD. HE THEN SERVED AS A TRAINING OFFICER IN THE 759TH MILITARY POLICE BATTALION, FORT CARSON, COLORADO. MR. NOVRESKE SERVED TWO COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS. HE SIMULTANEOUSLY COMMANDED THE 148TH MILITARY POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND THE 69TH MILITARY WORKING DOG DETACHMENTS AT FORT CARSON, COLORADO. HE ENDED HIS CAREER AS COMMANDER OF THE NORTH BAY RECRUITING COMPANY IN SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA. MR. NOVRESKE SERVED NINE MONTHS AS A POLICE OFFICER IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA BEFORE ACCEPTING A CONTRACTOR POSITION TEACHING MILITARY SCIENCE AT SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY.

MR. NOVRESKE'S EDUCATION INCLUDE A BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN CRIMINOLOGY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE FROM MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY AND A MASTER OF ARTS IN BUSINESS AND ORGANIZATIONAL SECURITY MANAGEMENT FROM WEBSTER UNIVERSITY. HE HAS GRADUATED THE COMMON FACULTY DEVELOPMENT – INSTRUCTOR COURSE, MILITARY POLICE CAPTAINS CAREER COURSE, MILITARY POLICE BASIC COURSE, MILITARY POLICE ADVANCED LEADERS COURSE, WARRIOR LEADERS COURSE AND ARMY MASTER RESILIENCY TRAINER COURSE.

MR. NOVRESKE HAS BEEN MARRIED TO HIS WIFE, TRACY NOVRESKE, FOR 17 YEARS. THEY HAVE TWO CHILDREN: ANASTASIA, AGE 15, AND AVERY, AGE 11.

New Command & Staff

2024-25 MSIV COMMAND & STAFF



Battalion Commander
CDT Jacob Clement



**Command Sergeant
Major/Legacy Project OIC**
CDT Olivia Sanchez



Executive Officer
CDT William Ratliff



**Alpha Company
Commander**
CDT Thelma Gurrola



**Bravo Company
Commander**
CDT Hagui Cardona
Sanchez



**Battalion S1/Color Guard
OIC/Awards Ceremony
OIC**
CDT Katelyn Nitsche



Battalion S2
CDT Erin Juarez



Battalion S3
CDT Tanner Stone



**Battalion S4/Barbell Club
OIC**
CDT John Wisnewski

New Command & Staff

2024-25 MSIV COMMAND & STAFF



**Battalion
AS4/ACE/Tutoring OIC**
CDT Joseph Bozic



**Battalion S8/Ring
Ceremony OIC**
CDT Isaac Siekas



**Battalion Historian
OIC/Land Nav
OIC/Running Club OIC**
CDT James Cooke



**PT & Remedial
OIC/Mentorship OIC**
CDT Michael Kilgore



**BRM OIC/Newsletter
OIC/Army 10-Miler
OIC/Rowdy Inman 5K OIC**
CDT Michael Huff



PAO OIC
CDT Catherine Benton



**Cannon Crew
OIC/Intramural OIC**
CDT Joshua Vogt



Tailgate OIC
CDT Matthew Bilke

Advance Camp Experience

CDT ISAAC SIEKAS

My time at CST was an excellent way to close an invaluable chapter in my journey toward becoming an Army Officer. Immersed in a challenging yet supportive environment, I grew in ways I never anticipated.

One of the most impactful experiences was the STX (Situational Training Exercise) lanes. These lanes weren't just about executing missions; they were about learning to think critically under pressure and make decisions with limited information. Working closely with my squad, we tackled each scenario with determination, learning to communicate effectively and trust one another. The STX lanes taught me the importance of teamwork and adaptability—qualities that are crucial both in the military and in everyday life.

Basic Rifle Marksmanship was another significant highlight. Initially, it was a huge challenge for me, as I knew I would struggle with shooting due to my limited experience. However, it wasn't just about honing technical skills; it was also about discipline and patience. Every shot required focus, and every missed target was an opportunity to learn and improve. This experience emphasized the value of perseverance and the understanding that mastery comes with time and effort.

For those about to embark on this journey, my advice is simple: embrace every challenge. The skills and lessons you'll gain at CST will stay with you long after camp ends, not just in your military career but in life. Remember, it's not about being perfect; it's about showing up, giving your best, and being open to learning.

I'm proud of the person I became at CST, and I'm excited to see how this experience will continue to shape me as a leader. To the incoming MS3s, thank you for being part of this program that profoundly impacts our development as leaders.



Circled in the image above, CDT Isaac Siekas poses with a few of his peers at Densberger, the location for refit days.



CDT Siekas pictured with his family after his CST graduation.

Basic Camp Experience

CDT JACOB RISINGER

This summer, I attended Basic Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky, as part of the 2nd Regiment, Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon, 4th Squad. I learned a lot from my time at Fort Knox, which was once an armor military base but is now primarily used to train cadets through programs like Cadet Summer Training and Basic Camp. Basic Camp is similar to basic training, but it lasts only a month, unlike the longer, more intense basic training for enlisted soldiers. At Basic Camp, cadets live in barracks, work with drill sergeants, learn the history of the Army, and receive basic military training.

I highly recommend Basic Camp, especially for cadets with no prior military experience. The cadre are very supportive, care about your well-being, and push you to complete tasks. While they instill discipline, they do so with a genuine concern for your development. The drill sergeants, in particular, may seem intimidating at first, but I assure you that they are deeply committed to everyone's growth. As long as you follow the rules and do as you're told, you'll be fine. The drill sergeants might yell, but it's all part of building discipline, and there's a reason behind everything they ask you to do, even if it seems unnecessary at the time. Despite their tough exterior, drill sergeants can be quite funny, and you can tell they truly care about the cadets and love their country. They were always willing to answer questions, share stories, explain different branches, and provide guidance to help us succeed.

In addition to the drill sergeants, we had classes led by civilians, veterans, and current service members. These classes covered leadership, tactics, OPORDS, Army history, drill, and more. We also had a Branch Day, where we could explore different branches by visiting various tents and speaking with representatives. I visited the chaplains, infantry, transportation, military police, military intelligence, and special forces and rangers. Branch Day was incredibly informative, and it helped me narrow down my choices for the branch I want to pursue in the Army. We also participated in many exciting activities. We got to fire some amazing weapons, like the M4, 240, 249, grenade launcher, sniper rifles, and even a .50 cal! We tackled obstacle courses, where I climbed a rope for the first time, and we navigated a ropes course that had us 100 feet in the air, climbing walls and walking across ropes. We went on an FTX and did land navigation, which included camping outside for the night. It was a blast!

While the activities were great, the best part of Basic Camp was the bonds I formed with the amazing people I met. I still keep in touch with many of them. Basic Camp is definitely worth it, and I recommend it to anyone entering ROTC without military experience.



CDT Jacob Risinger ran into 2LT Emily Slott, an alumna, while at Basic Camp.



CDT Risinger poses in front of a tank at the Patton Museum at FT Knox.

Air Assault

CDT KARLI MCMILLIN

Attending Air Assault in San Luis Obispo was one of the most challenging yet rewarding experiences thus far. The intensive training not only tested my physical and mental endurance but it instilled valuable lessons and wisdom that I will carry on within myself and will share with future soldiers. The journey through this rigorous course taught me the importance of discipline, the power of teamwork, and the necessity of mental resilience.

Discipline is the cornerstone of any successful military operation, and at Air Assault school, it was drilled into us from day one. The training was demanding, it required us to be precise in everything we do. From ensuring a complete packing list to spotting out deficiencies under pressure. There was no room for error, the smallest mistakes could cost you your wings, and could be dangerous in a real-life scenario.

The strict adherence to discipline taught me that success is built off small consistent actions. The Big victories come from the small actions in everyday life. This lesson has transcended my military environment and influenced how I approach any challenge in my personal life. Whether it is sticking to a strict workout routine, managing my time correctly, maintaining good habits, the discipline I learned at Air Assault school will continue to guide me.

Air Assault School emphasized the importance of teamwork in every aspect of training. Whether it was working together to dump and stuff each other's rucks, motivate others when they have self-doubt, or sharing equipment with others so they could have a full packing list, we quickly learned that no one could succeed alone. The bonds formed with my fellow soldiers were built on trust, mutual respect, and a shared commitment to completing the mission.

This experience reinforced the idea that success is rarely achieved in isolation. In any endeavor, the ability to work effectively with others is crucial. The trust and camaraderie developed during Air Assault School have made me a better team player and leader. I learned that leading by example and supporting those around you are essential qualities for any successful team. Perhaps the most significant lesson that I learned at Air Assault was the importance of mental resilience. The training pushed us to our limits, physically and mentally. There were many moments where exhaustion and doubt crept in, but in those moments, I discovered the true strength of my mind. I pushed through pain, fear, and self-doubt, whilst focusing on the task at hand and refusing to give up.

This mental toughness has been invaluable in all areas of my life. It has helped me navigate difficult situations, whether in the military, at work, or in personal challenges. The ability to stay focused and maintain a positive attitude, even when things get tough, is a skill that I attribute to my time at Air Assault School.

Air Assault School in California was a transformative experience that left a lasting impact on me. The lessons of discipline, teamwork, and mental resilience have shaped who I am today. These are not just military principles but universal truths that apply to all aspects of life. The wisdom I gained from this experience has not only made me a better soldier but also a better person, capable of facing life's challenges with confidence and determination.



CDT Mcmillin posing at Air Assault graduation.



Cadet Mcmilin showing off her new wings.

Summer Training Internship

CDT WILLIAM RATLIFF

The opportunity to visit a foreign country through the Army's CTLT program was truly a once in a lifetime experience. When I first landed in South Korea, I wanted to try and immerse myself in the local culture as much as possible, starting with an Onigiri, a local rice dish filled with tuna.

Throughout the rest of my training, I participated an assortment of other traditions local to South Korea that enriched my experience. I had the opportunity to train with Alpha Company, 2nd Battalion of the 35th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. My unit specialized in the Patriot SAM (Surface-to-Air Missile) system, in which I was tasked as PL for the Launcher Platoon, overseeing 8 Patriot systems. On a routine basis I would supervise the PMCS operations on the Launchers, PM&E (Pickup Move & Emplace) Drills, and Reload Drills. I was also given the special opportunity to visit the Republic of Korea Army (ROKA) Academy, where the ROKA trains its own Cadets. I was immersed in the Cadets formation for three days, learning the ins and outs of a ROKA Cadet and their life while at the Academy.

Overall, the time I spent in South Korea, as well as the military personnel I trained under and alongside, gave me a different perspective that will allow me to better lead throughout my Army career.



CDT Ratliff poses with fellow cadets in Korea.



CDT Ratliff far left posing for a selfie.

Sage Eagle

CDT KALEB BROWN

AS A CADET, I'VE HAD MANY EXPERIENCES THAT HAVE HELPED ME TO SEE HOW THE ARMY FUNCTIONS AND PREPARED ME TO BE A LEADER IN IT. MY TIME IN A REMOTE FOB OUTSIDE OF THE FT. BLISS TRAINING COMPLEX WITH ODA 3214, WITHIN THE 3RD SPECIAL FORCES GROUP, WAS SOME OF THE MOST EXCITING AND EDUCATIONAL I'VE HAD YET.

AS THEY WERE PREPARING FOR AN UPCOMING DEPLOYMENT, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR TRAINING. THEIR JOB IS TO TEACH PARTNER FORCE NATIONS (OUR ALLIES) HOW TO CONDUCT BASIC COMBAT AND TACTICAL OPERATIONS AND ASSIST THEM WITH OPERATIONAL READINESS. IN THE SAGE EAGLE OPERATION, THEIR JOB IS PRACTICE BY TRAINING US, 20 CADETS OF VARYING EXPERIENCE AND BACKGROUNDS, MEANWHILE OUR JOB IS TO EXECUTE THREE SIMULATED MISSIONS, WITH THE ODA BEING GRADED BY THEIR HIGHER LEADERSHIP ON HOW WELL WE RAN THE MISSIONS.

I WAS LUCKY ENOUGH TO BE SELECTED AS A CELL LEADER; SO, WHEN MY GROUP WAS DIVIDED INTO TWO CELLS, I WAS IN CHARGE OF BRAVO CELL. WE TRAINED ON A NOCTURNAL SCHEDULE, UTILIZING NIGHT VISION GOGGLES. WE BECAME WELL-VERSED IN CQB, TACTICAL MEDICAL CARE, MOUNTED/DISMOUNTED COMBAT, DRONE & IED PROTECTION MEASURES, AS WELL AS HOW TO PLAN AND BRIEF A MISSION TO GREEN BERET STANDARD, AND SO MUCH MORE. MY CELL, "THE BRAVO BEAVERS" AS WE CALLED OURSELVES, WERE VERY PROUD OF NOT JUST OUR ABILITY TO COMPLETE THE MISSION, BUT HOW WELL WE INTEGRATED AS A GROUP IN ORDER TO GROW, BOTH PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY. IT WAS TRULY AN EYE-OPENING EXPERIENCE THAT HAS PREPARED ME FOR ROTC TRAINING IN A WAY THAT NOTHING ELSE I'VE DONE YET HAS. SHSU'S RANGER COMPANY ESPECIALLY HELPED PREPARE ME FOR THIS EXPERIENCE BY GIVING ME SMALL-UNIT TACTICS EXPERIENCE AND THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO CONFIDENTLY PLAN A MISSION AND EXECUTE UNDER SUB-OPTIMAL CONDITIONS.

I COULD NOT SPEAK ANY MORE HIGHLY OF THIS EXPERIENCE, MAINLY BECAUSE IT GIVES CADETS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GROW AND DEVELOP WHETHER THEY ARE FRESH MS1'S WITH ABSOLUTELY NO ARMY EXPERIENCE WHATSOEVER (AS SOME WERE), OR AN ALREADY INFANTRY BRANCHED, AIR ASSAULT QUALIFIED MS5 (WHO WAS THE ALPHA CELL LEADER). THE GREEN BERETS WERE SOME OF THE MOST PROFESSIONAL NCOS I'VE EVER WORKED WITH, AND I TRIED MY HARDEST TO BE A SPONGE FOR ALL THE WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE THEY HAD TO SHARE. IT WAS AN OPPORTUNITY I AM EXTREMELY GRATEFUL FOR, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SHARING SOME OF MY TRAINING WITHIN THE BATTALION FOR THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR IT AND WANT TO EXPAND THEIR KNOWLEDGE BASE.



CDT Kaleb Brown with his platoon at Sage Eagle.



CDT Brown conducting night operations.

Project GO

CDT TAYLOR KNIGHT

HI, I AM CADET TAYLOR KNIGHT, THE FIRST SHSU ARMY ROTC PROJECT GO ALUMNI. PROJECT GO IS A LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL IMMERSION PROGRAM, WITH OPPORTUNITIES BOTH DOMESTICALLY AND ABROAD. I CHOSE THE ABROAD PROGRAM TO FURTHER MY ARMY CAREER. I WAS SELECTED, ALONG WITH 19 OTHER STUDENTS, TO GO TO MOROCCO, NORTH AFRICA.

THE JOURNEY TO MOROCCO WAS AN ADVENTURE IN ITSELF. I HAD A LAYOVER IN PARIS, WHERE I MET THREE OTHER STUDENTS. DESPITE BEING TIRED, WE MADE THE MOST OF OUR DAY IN PARIS, VISITING THE EIFFEL TOWER AND GETTING A TOUR OF THE CITY. THESE WERE FRIENDSHIPS AND MEMORIES I COULDN'T HAVE MADE ANYWHERE ELSE. IN MOROCCO, I MET OUR ADVISOR, A RECENT GRADUATE WHO HAD BEEN LIVING THERE FOR TWO YEARS. WE WERE INTRODUCED TO OUR HOST FAMILIES, WITH WHOM WE WOULD STAY FOR THE NEXT TWO MONTHS. THE GROUP WAS DIVERSE, WITH STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS ACROSS THE U.S. AND VARIOUS MILITARY BRANCHES, ALL AT DIFFERENT LEVELS OF ARABIC PROFICIENCY. WE WERE PLACED IN CLASSES BASED ON OUR EXPERIENCE. MY CLASS HAD FIVE OTHER STUDENTS, AND WE HAD THREE DIFFERENT TEACHERS EVERY DAY. THE COURSE INVOLVED THREE HOURS OF STANDARD ARABIC AND ONE HOUR OF MOROCCAN DIALECT, MONDAY THROUGH THURSDAY, WITH A QUIZ OR EXAM EVERY FRIDAY. TUTORING WAS REQUIRED EVERY OTHER DAY, TOTALING THREE HOURS A WEEK, PLUS TWO REQUIRED MEETINGS WEEKLY.

WHILE THE ACADEMIC PART WAS INTENSE, THE REWARDS WERE IMMENSE. LEARNING SO MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME AND BEING ABLE TO INTERACT WITH PEOPLE ACROSS THE WORLD WAS INCREDIBLY FULFILLING. NOW, LET ME SHARE THE FUN PARTS!

DURING ONE HOLIDAY WEEKEND, WE COULDN'T LEAVE THE CITY, SO WE WENT TO A NEWLY OPENED WATER PARK. OTHER WEEKENDS WERE EITHER PLANNED EXCURSIONS WITH THE SCHOOL OR FREE WEEKENDS, WHERE THE ONLY RULE WAS NOT TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. WITH THE AMAZING FRIENDSHIPS I MADE, I VISITED OVER SIX BEAUTIFUL CITIES IN MOROCCO. SOME PLACES HAD STUNNING BEACHES WHERE YOU COULD SEE SPAIN ACROSS THE WATER, OTHERS WERE IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS OR THE SAHARA DESERT. I RODE CAMELS TWICE, WENT CLIFF JUMPING, MADE PEANUT BUTTER IN THE ATLAS MOUNTAINS, AND EVEN RODE A HOT AIR BALLOON DURING SUNRISE. THE EXPERIENCES WERE SURREAL.

NOT ONLY DO I NOW HAVE FAVORITE PLACES IN MOROCCO THAT I'D LOVE TO REVISIT, BUT I ALSO HAVE MADE UNFORGETTABLE FRIENDSHIPS. EVERY TEACHER AND STAFF MEMBER AT THE SCHOOL WAS INCREDIBLY SUPPORTIVE AND TRULY WANTED THE BEST FOR US. THERE WERE ALSO OTHER PROJECT GO PROGRAMS AND NUMEROUS OTHER GROUPS, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN, CREATING CONNECTIONS I COULD NEVER HAVE MADE ELSEWHERE.

THIS PROGRAM IS NOT ONLY FINANCIALLY REWARDING, AS YOU CAN GET PAID FOR THE LANGUAGE CLASSES, BUT IT ALSO OFFERS 10 CREDITS AND NUMEROUS SCHOLARSHIPS. I CANNOT RECOMMEND PROJECT GO ENOUGH. IT HELPED ME GROW IN MY EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE, AND ALSO AS A PERSON.



CDT Taylor Knight riding on a camel.



CDT Knight riding in a hot air balloon.



CDT Knight posing with friends at the sand dunes.

7th Annual Rowdy Inman 5k Run

CDT MICHAEL HUFF

ROWDY INMAN
5K
-7TH ANNUAL-

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CPT ROWDY INMAN MEMORIAL 5K ON NOVEMBER 9TH!!

THE SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC PROUDLY INVITES YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ANNUAL CPT ROWDY INMAN MEMORIAL 5K, TAKING PLACE ON NOVEMBER 9TH.

THIS EVENT WAS ESTABLISHED TO HONOR THE LEGACY OF CPT ROWDY J. INMAN, A DISTINGUISHED SHSU ARMY ROTC ALUMNUS WHO COURAGEOUSLY GAVE HIS LIFE IN DEFENSE OF OUR NATION. AS THE FIRST ROTC ALUMNUS FROM SAM HOUSTON TO MAKE THIS ULTIMATE SACRIFICE, CPT INMAN'S MEMORY HOLDS A SPECIAL PLACE IN OUR HEARTS.

THIS 5K RUN IS MORE THAN JUST A RACE; IT IS A GATHERING THAT UNITES CADETS, PARENTS, SPONSORS, VETERANS, ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS, AND THE BROADER COMMUNITY IN A SHARED MOMENT OF REMEMBRANCE AND SUPPORT. THE INMAN FAMILY, WHO HOLDS THIS EVENT CLOSE TO THEIR HEARTS, WILL ALSO BE IN ATTENDANCE, MAKING THIS A TRULY MEANINGFUL OCCASION.

PROCEEDS FROM THE 5K WILL DIRECTLY FUND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE CADETS AT SAM HOUSTON ROTC, PROVIDING THEM WITH THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT THEY NEED TO PURSUE THEIR GOALS OF BECOMING LEADERS IN THE U.S. ARMY. BY PARTICIPATING, YOU'RE NOT ONLY HONORING A HERO BUT ALSO INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF OUR NATION'S DEFENDERS.

WHETHER YOU'RE A SEASONED RUNNER OR JOINING US TO SUPPORT THE CAUSE, YOUR PRESENCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE. FOR MORE DETAILS ON HOW TO REGISTER, PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE ON THE EVENT FLYER OR REACH OUT TO CADET MICHAEL HUFF AT MJH091@SHSU.EDU. LET'S COME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE CPT INMAN'S LEGACY AND ENSURE THAT HIS SPIRIT OF SERVICE CONTINUES TO INSPIRE FUTURE GENERATIONS.



CPT Rowdy J. Inman

