



# HOUSTON BATTALION



## Army ROTC

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON MAIN / DOWNTOWN / CLEAR LAKE  
RICE UNIVERSITY \* TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY \* ST. THOMAS UNIVERSITY \*  
HOUSTON CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY \* HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

### WHAT HAPPENED THIS SEMESER!

- PMS WELCOME
- FALL FTX
- SPECIAL GUESTS
- NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH
- RECOGNIZING CADETS
- CONNECT WITH US

### WELCOME BACK!

This fall semester has been nothing short of exhilarating for the Houston Battalion. Filled with numerous exceptional opportunities, it's been a season marked by growth and achievement. We invite you to enjoy our newsletter, where we capture and highlight the significant moments that have defined our journey over the past few months. From engaging events to noteworthy accomplishments, it's a testament to the dynamic and vibrant experiences that shape our community at Houston Battalion.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE

## LIEUTENANT COLONEL MELISSA C. COMISKEY



Greetings Houston Battalion Army ROTC friends, families, and supporters! I hope this newsletter finds you and your loved ones looking forward to a bright New Year after a holiday season full of memories and surrounded by those that mean the most to you.

Fall semester 2023 was a whirlwind of training, leader development, recruitment, and football. Our cadre and cadets volunteered over 1,500 hours supporting local JROTC programs, recruiting across the Greater Houston footprint, and sharing opportunities and making memories at our University of Houston Big XII home football games. I am incredibly proud of the selfless service and dedication of our cadets to impact the future generation of cadets and share their Army stories with everyone they meet.

Congratulations to our Ranger Challenge / Cullen Rifles team for their phenomenal finish at the Task Force Ranger Challenge Team. They improved from 7th place in 2022 to 3rd place this year. Also, a huge thank you to the Training and Doctrine Command Commanding General, GEN Gary Brito, for taking time to visit our program, meet our cadets, and provide inspiring words of leadership to our future leaders.

We had a great branch night on 30 Nov – congratulations to our future active-duty Aviation, Chemical, Nurse corps, 3x Cyber, 4x Quartermaster, and 2x Signal officers. The spring semester is always great fun as our MSIVs begin looking more deeply into their branches and roles of second lieutenants in various Army organizations, MSIIIs become laser focused on small unit tactics and leadership in preparation for Cadet Summer Training and start leaning into the accessions process, and the MSIIIs and MSIs build relationships, refine the Army basics, and become more comfortable with college life nested with Army ROTC activities and opportunities.

Thank you so much to our Houston Battalion alumni that have reached out offering to donate and support our cadet initiatives. I'm looking forward to not only growing our cadet scholarship opportunities but also expanding extracurricular opportunities for cadets such as the Norwegian Foot March completed in December, the Bataan Death March in March, and possibly the Army Ten-Miler in October.

• AUGUST-DECEMBER 2023 •

# THIS SEMESTER AT A GLANCE



# FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

## FUN IN THE FIELD

In our Fall Field Training Exercise (FTX), cadets immersed themselves in diverse activities, dedicating unwavering effort to master pivotal military skills, such as rappelling, weapons qualifications, and land navigation. This holistic training provided valuable hands-on experiences beyond theoretical knowledge, fostering personal and collective development.

The comprehensive nature of this training served as a dynamic platform for cadets, enhancing their understanding of military practices and contributing to their growth.

It acted as a crucible, testing resilience, adaptability, and teamwork. Through these exercises, cadets not only expanded technical expertise but also gained a profound understanding of interconnected facets crucial for success in military service.



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# FALL FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE

## FUN IN THE FIELD



# SPECIAL GUESTS



Esteemed special guests, General Brito (Commanding General of TRADOC) and Colonel Leitner (Special Forces), made a visit to the Houston Battalion, interacting with cadets and imparting their invaluable experiences and knowledge. During General Brito's visit, three cadets were identified and gifted a challenge coin. Their visitation provided a great learning opportunity for cadets to interact with distinguished military personnel.



# NORWEGIAN FOOT MARCH



Our cadets enthusiastically undertook a remarkable journey by participating in the arduous Norwegian foot march. This demanding challenge, covering a substantial distance of 18.6 miles, proved to be an authentic assessment of their endurance and unwavering determination. The exceptional dedication demonstrated by both cadets and cadre throughout this strenuous endeavor not only strengthened each individual's resilience but also played a pivotal role in fostering a deep sense of camaraderie within our ranks. Beyond a mere physical feat, the Norwegian foot march became a shared experience that bound our community together, showcasing the collaborative spirit that defines our commitment to excellence at Houston Battalion.

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# RECOGNIZING CADETS



Fastest 6 mile ruck times (from left to right) CDT Hernandez, CDT Wilson, and CDT Marquez.



Cadet Brangman holding the highest ACFT score with 600 points.



Newly contracted cadets swearing in at a University of Houston basketball game.



Cullen Rifles, during their Ranger Challenge Competition, finishing third overall.

# RECOGNIZING CADETS

## DISTINGUISHED MILITARY GRADUATES

The title of Distinguished Military Graduate signifies the pinnacle of achievement within the ROTC program. Awarded to the cadets who rank within the top 20% on the National Order of Merit List, the DMG title recognizes individuals who exhibit exceptional leadership, academic excellence, and unwavering commitment to service. These outstanding cadets demonstrate exemplary character, embodying the core values of integrity, leadership, and dedication to duty. This year, all of our DMGs ranked in the top 10% on the National OML. Congratulations to this year's 4 DMGs!



**Cadet Jorge Barahona**



**Cadet Maximus Furtado**



**Cadet Justin Jorski**



**Cadet Emme Jennings**

# BRANCH DAY



On November 30th, a significant milestone was reached as our MS4 cadets officially received their Active Duty branches. This marks a proud moment as they commence their chosen paths, demonstrating their commitment and preparedness for active service. Congratulations to each cadet for this notable achievement, and we eagerly anticipate observing their ongoing success in their military endeavors.



**Aviation**

Emme Jennings



**Nurse Corps**

Juan Bravo



**Chemical**

Randall Slaughter



**Signal**

Daniel Durham  
Demetree Marion



**Cyber**

Maximus Furtado  
Aidan McKenna  
Davud Sablak



**Quartermaster**

Jorge Barahona  
Cheyanne Francois  
Nancy Meza  
Kenneth Richardson



# CONNECT WITH US!



<https://www.instagram.com/houston.bn.rotc>



<https://www.facebook.com/houstonarmyrotc>



<https://twitter.com/houstonarmyROTC>



<https://www.uh.edu/class/military-science/>

**armyrotc@uh.edu**

**713-743-3883 or 713-743-8460**



# Steps to Join Army ROTC

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## Step 1

Register for the Military Science course through  
respective university/college course catalog  
(No obligation trial period)

**Have a  
desire to  
serve?**

## Step 2

Meet eligibility requirements  
(We will help you get there)

**Want  
money for  
college?**

## Step 3

Sign a contract to become an Army Cadet  
(This starts all benefits and scholarships)

## Step 4

Commission as an Army Officer  
(Active Duty, Reserve, National Guard)

## Scholarships Available

2 & 3 year full tuition and fees scholarships  
\$600 a semester for Text Books  
\$420 a month stipend