



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

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WELCOME BACK!

On behalf of the entire Houston Battalion, we would like to welcome everyone back and extend a special welcome to new Cadets, returning Cadets, friends, and family. The new Cadet leadership is excited and ready to lead the Battalion into another great year!



MEET THE PROFESSOR OF MILITARY SCIENCE



LIEUTENANT COLONEL MELISSA C. COMISKEY

Greetings Friends, Families, and Supporters of the Houston Battalion Army ROTC Program! I am Lieutenant Colonel Melissa Comiskey, the Professor of Military Science for this awesome team. Before I begin a brief introduction, I must thank LTC Jimmy Ta for a great transition and for setting conditions to begin the Fall 2022 academic year at full speed. We continue to welcome Cadets to the University of Houston campus from all our cross-town schools: Texas Southern University, Rice University, Houston Christian University, University of Houston-Downtown, University of Houston-Clear Lake, University of St. Thomas, and Houston Community College. What a tremendously diverse group of young men and women attending college while simultaneously developing into leaders with confidence, pride, and character. I am an AG (Human Resources) Officer joining the Houston team from a tremendously broadening job at the Pentagon working within the Army G-1.

Over the past 18 years, I have been assigned to Germany, Belgium, Ft. Jackson SC, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ft. Hood TX, and the Pentagon. I am a native Houstonian, an ROTC graduate, a mom and stepmom, and a wife. My number one priority is developing Officers of character for the Total Army accomplished through my leader philosophy founded on three pillars: Do Good, Make Memories, and Have Fun. If there is anything I can do for any of you, please reach out to me anytime at mccomiskey@uh.edu. Additionally, our team of passionate, professional cadre and staff is available anytime to answer questions at armyrotc@uh.edu.

Houston Battalion Army ROTC

Vision:
A positive, cohesive team of professionals training the next generation of **Army Leaders** with pride and enthusiasm

Mission:
Houston Battalion Army ROTC recruits, educates, develops, and inspires the Greater Houston area Cadets in order to commission officers of character for the Total Army

How we do that:

<p>Do Good Serve our Cadets, Cadre, Army, and Nation with standards and discipline Develop leaders through compassion, communication, and leadership Facilitate active dialogue through active listening</p>	<p>Make Memories Be innovative and take initiative Exhibit Confidence and pride in self and organization lasting a lifetime Mistakes teach and humble us - learn, grow, and laugh</p>	<p>Have Fun Facilitate a positive work environment Mutual respect enables learning and growth amongst everyone Demonstrate resilience and maintain optimism</p>
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Logos for TSU, RICE, UH, HCC, UPD, HBU, UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS, and University of Houston Clear Lake.

MEET THE BATTALION COMMAND AND STAFF



BATTALION COMMANDER CADET LIEUTENANT COLONEL AARON LIN

I'm Cadet Aaron Lin, and I'm honored to be the Battalion Commander this school year. I'm originally from San Jose, California, and I'm currently a senior at Rice University majoring in Biochemistry and Cell Biology, hoping to go to medical school next year and serve as an Army Physician. While leading this program, my goal is to foster a culture of integrity, respect, and excellence within the program through our training, volunteering, and community service. I am humbled by the Cadets that have paved the way in this position before me, and I pray that I can make some positive changes for all the current and future Cadets in this program. Whatever it takes! - C/LTC Aaron Lin, '23

CADET COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR ALEXANDRA ORELLANA

My name is Cadet Alexandra Orellana, and I am currently a senior at the University of Houston, pursuing my Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology-Fitness & Sports. Upon graduation, I will commission as an Officer and hope to branch Medical Services Corps. Outside of work and school, I love powerlifting. GO UHPL! I also enjoy hiking, going on trips, trying new foods, and watching true crime documentaries. I am currently the Houston Battalion Command Sergeant Major, which means I am the senior advisor for the Cadets in the Army ROTC program. I enjoy developing and leading the Cadets as much as I enjoy learning from them as well. I look forward to another successful and memorable year with the Army ROTC program.

- C/CSM Alexandra Orellana, '23



EXECUTIVE OFFICER CADET MAJOR REVA CATHOLIC

Hello Houston Battalion! My name is Reva Catholic and I am your Battalion Executive Officer. I attend the University of Houston- Downtown and am majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with a minor in Military Leadership. I graduate in May 2023 and look forward to serving my country as a Commissioned Officer. I am so excited to work with all the new and returning Cadets! I'm looking forward to serving as one of the student leaders in the program. It is my desire to make Houston Battalion better than its ever been!- C/MAJ Reva Catholic, '23



MEET THE BATTALION COMMAND AND STAFF

S-1 Personnel/Administration
C/CPT Annissa Currey



S-3 Operations
C/MAJ Andrew James



S-4 Logistics
C/CPT Jonathan Silva



S-5 Civil/Public Affairs
C/CPT Andrew Vilaysane



S-6 Communications
C/CPT Elias Reyes



ALPHA COMPANY

Commander
C/CPT Rashia Slaughter



Executive Officer
C/CPT Barron Kirchgessner



First Sergeant
C/1SG Kenneth Richardson



RANGER CHALLENGE

Commander
C/CPT Maximus Furtado



BRAVO COMPANY

Commander
C/CPT Kevin Campbell



Executive Officer
C/1LT Melody Robinson



First Sergeant
C/1SG Justin Jorski



SUMMER TRAINING

CADET SUMMER TRAINING - ADVANCED CAMP



Cadet Shaw manning a M240B

MS-III Cadets from the Houston Battalion traveled to Fort Knox, Kentucky for Advanced Camp. The Cadets went through 35 days of training that spanned eleven regiments over the course of the academic summer. The training completed by Cadets is essential for rising Army Second Lieutenants as they teach Cadets basic Soldier knowledge and essential leadership skills. Training included individual events such as day/night land navigation, M4 weapons' qualification, rappelling, and tactical combat casualty care. Moving on to the second phase of camp, Cadets participated in three field training exercises (FTX), each lasting three days. Cadets conducted missions such as platoon attacks, raids, react to contact, and patrol bases at night. At the end of the final FTX, Cadets must complete a 12-mile ruck march. Congratulations to the following Cadets for successfully completing Advanced Camp:



(Right to left) Cadets Silva, Chatman, and Vilaysane after 5th Regiment Graduation



Cadet Kirchgessner after completing the 12-mile ruck

- CDT **Avendano, Curt** | University of Houston
- CDT **Blacksmith, Matthew** | University of Houston
- CDT **Campbell, Kevin** | University of Houston
- CDT **Catholic, Reva** | University of Houston- Downtown
- CDT **Chatman, Imari** | University of Houston
- CDT **Crayton, Anthony** | University of Houston
- CDT **Currey, Annissa** | University of Houston
- CDT **Flores, Matthew** | University of Houston
- CDT **James, Andrew** | University of Houston
- CDT **Kirchgessner, Barron** | University of Houston
- CDT **Lin, Aaron** | Rice University
- CDT **Loyall, David** | University of Houston
- CDT **Meyer, Lauren** | University of Houston
- CDT **Opoku, Chad** | Houston Baptist University
- CDT **Orellana, Alexandra** | University of Houston
- CDT **Payne, Christopher** | University of Houston- Downtown
- CDT **Paulson, Kyle** | University of Houston
- CDT **Reyes, Elias** | University of Houston
- CDT **Robinson, Melody** | Texas Southern University
- CDT **Rodenbaugh, Alec** | University of Houston
- CDT **Shaw, Adam** | University of Houston
- CDT **Silva, Jonathan** | University of Houston
- CDT **Slaughter, Rashia** | University of Houston
- CDT **Vilaysane, Andrew** | University of Houston

SUMMER TRAINING

CADET SUMMER TRAINING - ADVANCED CAMP



Cadet Vilaysane on the rappel tower



Cadet Robinson after the 12-mile ruck



Cadet Catholic receives a coin from a LTC Jendrey



Cadets Catholic and Robinson with Delta Company, 1st Regiment Guidon



Cadets Silva and Vilaysane arrive at Ft Knox for Advanced Camp

SUMMER TRAINING

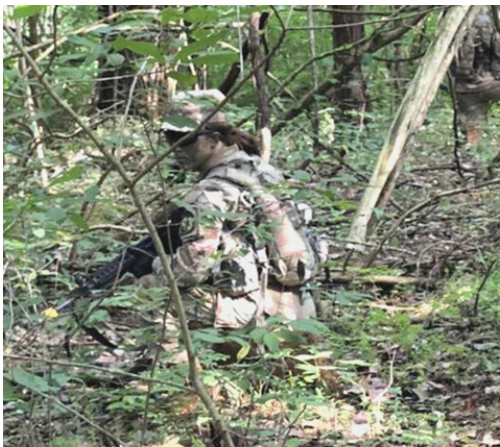
CADET SUMMER TRAINING - BASIC CAMP

This summer, three MS-II Cadets from the Houston Battalion went to Fort Knox, Kentucky to attend Basic Camp. Basic Camp provides Cadets with skills that will develop their junior leadership skills. Throughout 32 days, Cadets are expected to lead teams of three to four Cadets and squads ranging anywhere from 9-13 Cadets. Some Cadets are given the opportunity to lead a platoon of approximately 50 Cadets. Basic Camp Cadets are trained by drill sergeants in basic Soldier skills including drill and ceremony, basic rifle marksmanship, day/night land navigation, and movement tactics. Basic Camp is aimed at lateral entry Cadets and freshmen. "Lateral Entry Cadets typically decide to join ROTC in their sophomore year of college, thus require Basic Camp to learn what normal-progression Cadets have learned in their first two years of military science classes, during their freshman and sophomore years of Army ROTC" (Cadet Command). If you would like to know more about the Lateral Entry Program into Army ROTC please feel free to contact our Recruitment and Enrollment Office at armyrotc@uh.edu. Congratulations to the following Cadets for completing Basic Camp:

CDT Jennings, Emme | University of Houston- Downtown

CDT Meza, Nancy | University of Houston - Downtown

CDT Thomas, DeBorah | University of Houston



Cadet Jennings reacting to contact



Cadets Jennings, Thomas, Meza departing for Ft Knox



Cadet Meza (top, second from right) with barracks roommates



Cadet Thomas (top, right) with platoon

SUMMER TRAINING

CADET SUMMER TRAINING - AWARDEES AND RECONDO

While at CST, Cadets are not only evaluated against their peers but also recognized for various awards given at graduation. Advance Camp Cadets also have the opportunity to earn RECONDO. Congratulations to the Cadets who were recognized for their outstanding efforts at CST!

Reserve Organization of America Award

This award is presented to the Cadet who demonstrates the best reflection of the characteristics of Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness by demonstrating resilience and the lifelong pursuit of enhanced performance to cope with adversity, and best perform in stressful situations, and thrive in life.

CDT Orellana, Alexandra | 3rd Regiment | Advanced Camp



Cadet Orellana is awarded the Reserve Organization of America Award



Military Officers Association of America Award

This award is presented to the Cadet who demonstrates superior dedication to duty by accepting accountability for self and assigned unit through the employment of team members while applying the fundamentals of leadership.

CDT Jennings, Emme | 1st Regiment | Basic Camp



Cadet Jennings receives the Military Officers Association of America Award



RECONDO

Cadets must get a first-time go on all events including day/night land navigation, rifle marksmanship, tactical combat casualty care, CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear), and the 12-mile foot march.

CDT Shaw, Adam | 11th Regiment | Advanced Camp

CDT Silva, Johnathan | 5th Regiment | Advanced Camp



Cadet Silva

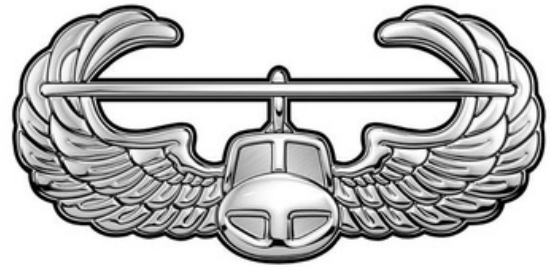


Cadet Shaw (left)

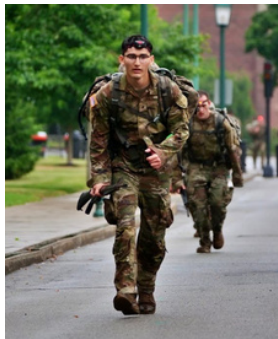
SUMMER TRAINING

AIR ASSAULT SCHOOL

Few Soldiers from all over the nation are afforded the opportunity to go to Air Assault School. It is one of the more challenging military schools to attend. Houston Battalion sent three MS-II Cadets to Air Assault School in Westpoint, New York this past summer. Air Assault School teaches Soldiers how to conduct airmobile and air assault operations. This includes aircraft orientation, combat assault operations, sling load operations, rappelling, and must complete a 12-mile ruck prior to graduation. Congratulations to these Cadets for completing Air Assault School and earning their wings:



- CDT Furtado, Maximus** | University of Houston
- CDT Richardson, Kenneth** | Texas Southern University
- CDT Sablak, Davud** | Rice University



Cadet Sablak during the 12-mile ruck march

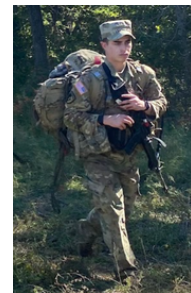


(Right to left) Cadets Richardson, Furtado, and Sablak receive their Air Assault wings

CADET TROOP LEADER TRAINING

Often the best training is done with hands-on experience. CTLT gives Cadets the opportunity to shadow a Lieutenant in their day-to-day duties while allowing Cadets to experience the Army outside of ROTC. The following Cadets participated in CTLT this summer:

- CDT Campbell, Kevin** | University of Houston | Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington
- CDT Paulson, Kyle** | University of Houston | Fort Polk, Louisiana
- CDT Reyes, Elias** | University of Houston | Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington



Cadet Paulson in the field



Cadet Campbell and Reyes at the Seattle Aquarium



Cadet Reyes (left) atop a CH-47 Chinook

SUMMER COMMISSIONING

NEW SECOND LIEUTENANTS!

From long nights of studying to early morning PT, Cadets look forward to a day when they will commission as Officers in the United States Army. On 19 August and 30 September, Houston Battalion commissioned five Cadets to the rank of Second Lieutenant. These individuals have completed all physical, academic, and leadership requirements to commission as an officer in the United States Army. Commissioning marks the end of their tenure as Cadets and begins their careers as Army Officers. Congratulations to the following individuals for commissioning as Second Lieutenants:

- 2LT Blacksmith, Matthew** | Quartermaster Corps | Active Duty
- 2LT Foulk, Jace** | Armor | Texas National Guard
- 2LT Narinesingh, Victoria** | Army Nurse Corps | Reserves
- 2LT Rodenbaugh, Alec** | Transportation Corps | Reserves
- 2LT Stamm, Michael** | Armor | Active Duty



(Left to right) 2LT Blacksmith, 2LT Foulk, and 2LT Rodenbaugh



2LT Narinesingh and 2LT Stamm





CONNECT WITH US!



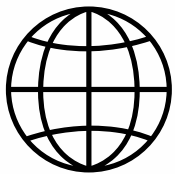
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<https://twitter.com/houstonarmyROTC>



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

armyrotc@uh.edu

713-743-3883 or 713-743-8460



Steps to Join Army ROTC

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