



THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD

FEBRUARY 2024

DAYTONA BEACH BOUND!



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The Black Knights competed in San Antonio in January to earn the right to compete in Daytona Beach, FL in the month of May at the Army and All Service National Drill Meet.

"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

THE ROAD WARRIORS

The drill competition in San Antonio is not just about competition. Cadets must learn how to adhere to a packing list, conduct themselves as semi-professionals traveling across the state, hotel stay, and dining out. They had the opportunity to mingle with cadets from over various states and get exposure to other cultures.

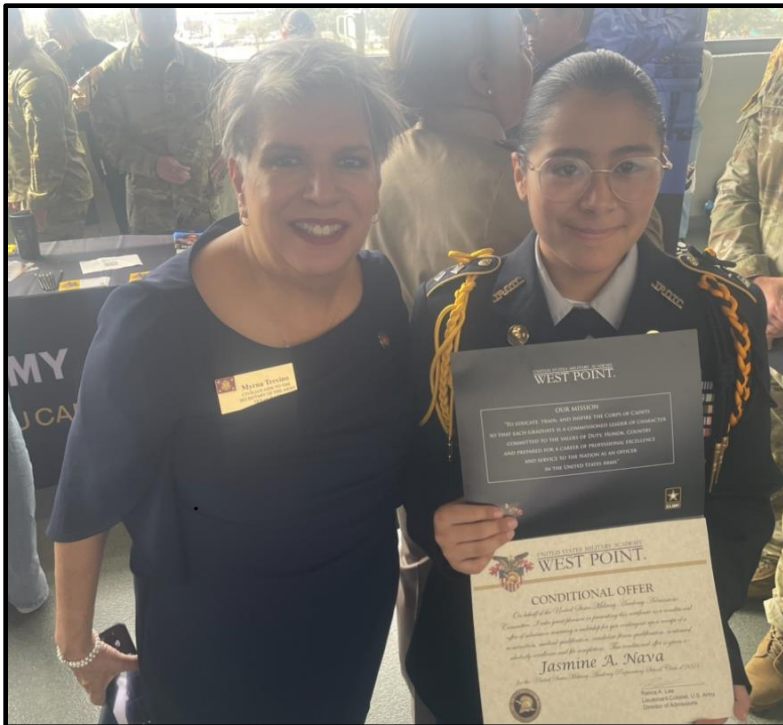
In competition, the Armed drill team returned from last year earning a 4th place overall position, while the first time appearing Unarmed drill team posted a 5th place finish, both are qualifying for an Army Cadet Command sponsored trip to the national competition in Daytona Beach, Florida.

The JROTC instructors are greatly enhanced by drill coaches Adam Obregon (Sam Houston Alum) and Zach Enriquez (Heights Alum). Without these two gentlemen, the teams would not be in the best position to compete.



The booster club, led by Ms. Torres and Ms. Amanda, made sure every cadet had enough food and drinks during the trip. They were there to make sure cadets could focus on the task at hand, DRILL.

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LETTER OF ASSURANCE AWARDED AT HISD'S MILITARY CAREER DAY

Cadet Lieutenant Colonel, Jai Nava, was awarded a conditional offer from the United States Military Academy at the district's inaugural "Military Career Day." This offer is one final step before she receives an appointment to the prestigious institution in upstate New York. She has earned her way into the institution being ranked #3 in her senior class, playing varsity volleyball, and becoming the battalion commander who also leads and competes on the marksmanship team, unarmed drill team, and the physical fitness team. She will be the first person in her family to attend college.



Sam Houston MSTC was called to present the colors at the inaugural "Military Career Day." It was an honor to serve.

In January, the Houston Independent School District hosted the inaugural "Military Career Day" where juniors from all high schools could come out and meet members of the armed services. The goal was to give current 11th graders knowledge of ALL their options which include service to the country in uniform. The Black Knights saw several juniors line up for this great activity to learn more about a possible future.

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MORE FROM MILITARY CAREER DAY

READY FOR THE CLOSE UP

While at the “Military Career Day,” “members of the Black Knights participated in an interview by the media team at the Houston ISD headquarters. The line of inquiry surrounded the newly announced Cullen Military Academy.

The Black Knights shared that Army JROTC is a solid program that helps young people become better citizens and more confident in themselves. Cadets Angel Bustillo, David Barajas, and Maria Lopez have all signed contracts or enlisted in the United States Army. Major Ray also shared his views on how much the JROTC structure has helped young people become more confident while focusing on physical fitness.

The Black Knights are excited that middle school students in the district will have a similar program that will prepare them for the rigors of high school while also introducing them to a possible career option along with college, and the trades.



RIGHT: Mr. Odion Mowoe conducted the interviews with Cadet Sergeant Maria Lopez (senior), Cadet 2LT Elizabeth Rigney (junior), Cadet Master Sergeant David Barajas (senior), Cadet 2LT Angel Bustillo (junior), Cadet LTC Jai Nava (senior, not pictured), and Major Ray.



ABOVE: 11TH grader, Allan, is considering becoming a Marine. He spoke with a recruiter at Military Career Day at Delmar Arena, HISD.



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EARNED \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP

Cadet 2LT Rigney advanced in December to round two of the American Legion's Oratorical competition. In round two, she won and earned another \$500 to make a total of \$1,000. The competition was held in Jersey Village's city hall. Her speech was over the 5th amendment focusing on due process.



ROUND 3

Rigney advanced to round three which was held in Madisonville, TX at another American Legion post. The competition was much fiercer as Rigney placed 3rd. She was told she could come back to compete next year and still win more scholarship money for college.



In Madisonville, the other two competitors came as far as Glenbury, Texas and Katy, Texas. Houston's own represented the school, city, and family quite well. She learned a few pointers from the other more seasoned competitors and will implement some of those strategies next year. Wish her good luck.

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AMERICAN LEGION JUNIOR SHOOTING COMPETITION

In January, the Black Knights Excalibur marksmanship team competed in a national competition sponsored by the American Legion. Commander Dwight Rumph, leader of the American Legion Post 586, was there to observe the competition at Sam Houston MSTC while instructors administered the actions. Commander Rumph and Post 586 are set to award a \$500 scholarship to the top marksman.

Annually, the competition is held with shooters all over the country with several rounds of competition. The Black Knights Excalibur will have to wait until the cards are processed and scored at the national level.

The next marksmanship competition will be a district match against HISD JROTC programs.



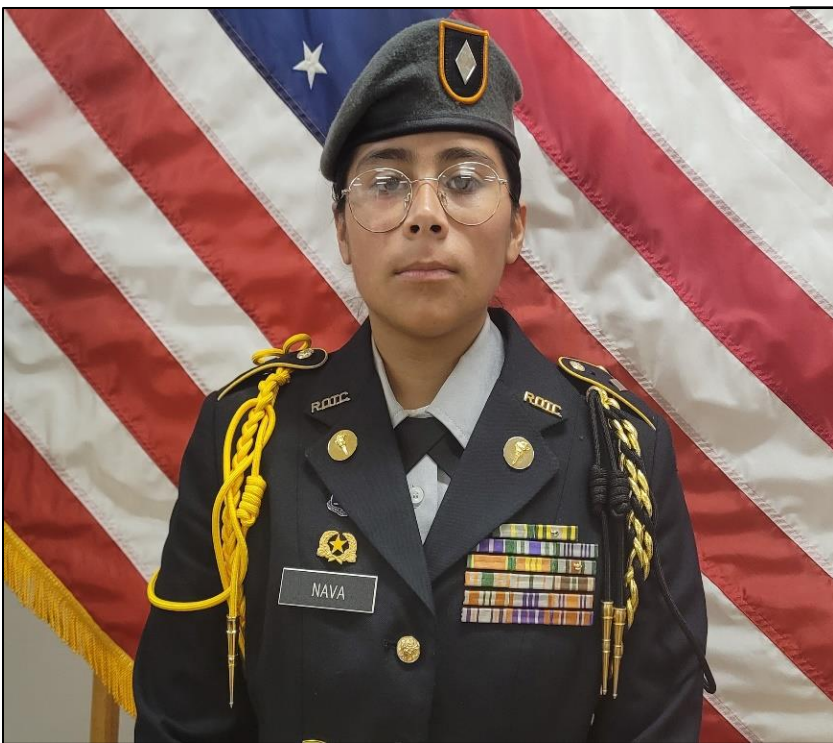
Pictured:

- MAJ Ray
(assistant coach)
- Jose Lazo (9th Grade)
- Julissa Vergara (10th Grade)
- Nayeli Davila (9th Grade)
- Jai Nava (12th Grade)
Battalion Commander
- Dwight Rumph (Post 586 Commander)

Head Coach: SFC Barry Page (not pictured)



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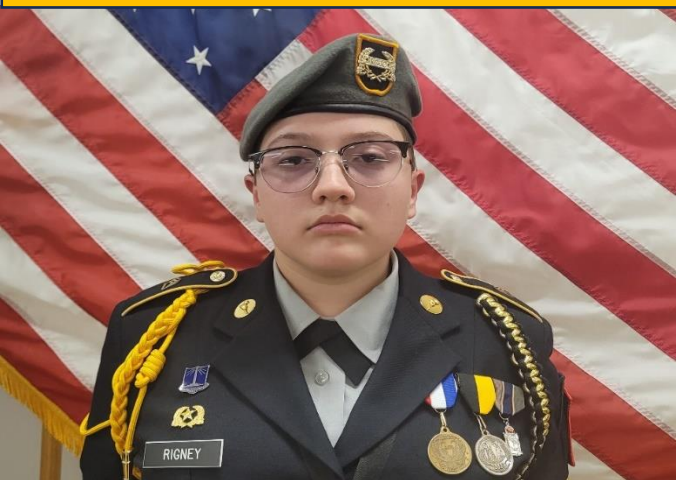
BATTALION COMMANDER

Greetings to all, as time continues to run so will we. Each time getting faster and stronger pushing through the hard winds that may blow along the way. Leading to the achievements and awards awaiting at the end whether big or small. Our Battalion Black knights will continue to demonstrate their determinations and dedication to show that ANYTHING is possible. As we strive to open opportunities for our cadets to receive the best whether it's an award or the chance to grow our abilities, skills, and knowledge. We are eternally grateful to the teachers, parents, administrators, and everyone else who has supported our Battalion thus far. WE will carry on giving back and keeping standards high to lead towards EXCELLENCE.



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Greetings to all, as the Black Knights continue to lead the way and set the example at our school as they represent Sam Houston MSTC at the annual 5th Brigade Competition in San Antonio TX. Our unarmed drill team placed 5th overall and our armed team placed 4th overall leading them to a guaranteed trip to Daytona Florida where they will compete for national title. Our cadets continue to improve in many ways and continue to lead the way. GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!!!



EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Greetings to all. In our newsletter, we proudly highlight the dedication and outstanding achievements of our exceptional cadets. Their commitment to excellence not only reflects their personal growth but also symbolizes the enduring legacy of our esteemed battalion. As we navigate the challenges of the new year, these cadets stand as beacons of inspiration, embodying the core values that define our battalion. We have much more to accomplish and to achieve. With our staff as the heart of our battalion, continuing to push us forward, we will continue to push towards our goals. GO BLACK KNIGHTS!

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