



SAM HOUSTON MSTC  
ARMY JROTC



# THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD

May 2022

## FINAL REVIEW



Black Knights Battalion posing with all 25 awards they have won this year.

**“TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS”**



View from the stands.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> of April, fifty cadets visited the HISD Delmar Fieldhouse for the Final Review. The Final Review is a yearly celebration of the accomplishments of all battalions through the year.

The Final Review consisted of a practice period and the real event. A color guard team from every school presented their JROTC battalion colors and Honor Unit with Distinction Flag.

The Black Knights were part of the First Brigade and won four awards: three 1<sup>st</sup> place and one 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

While color guard and staff were on the floor, the rest of the cadets were in the stands.

Pictured left: 1LT Romero, 2LT Saenz, and Color Guard saluting during the presentation of colors for the Final Review.



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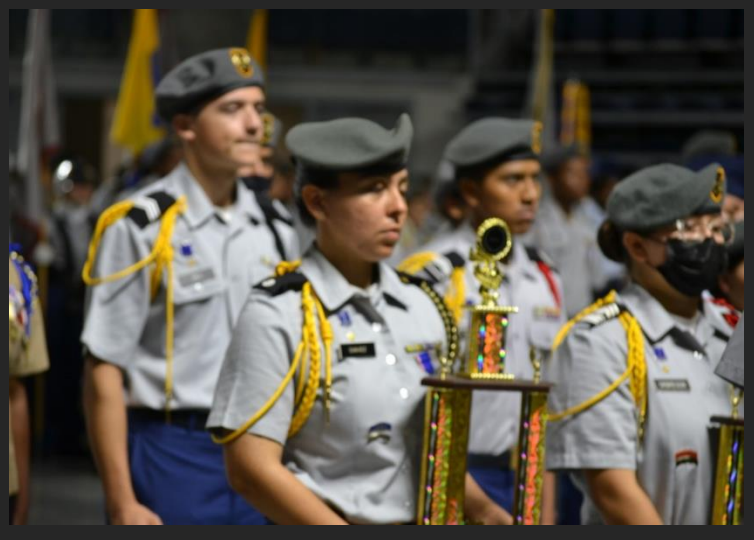
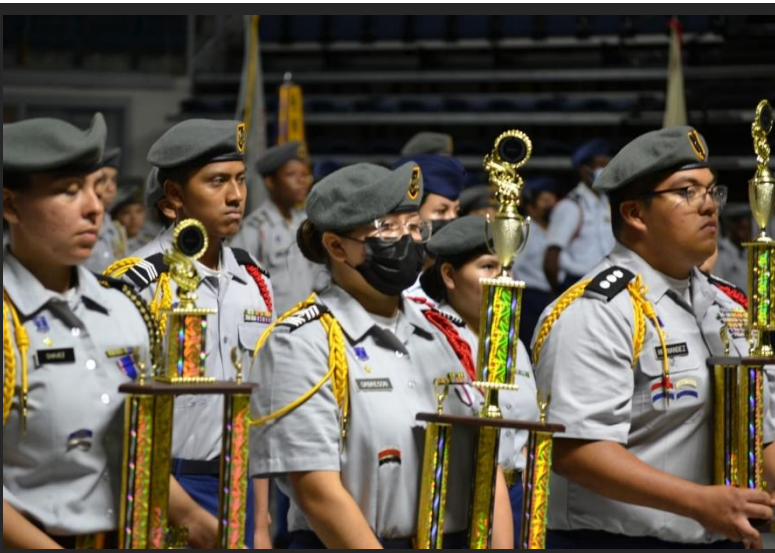


**Top Left:** C/SGT Jada Olagoke accepting the award for Secondary Color Guard Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**Middle Left:** C/1SG Sabrina Obregon accepting the award for Drill Team Service Weapon Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place.

**Middle Right:** C/1LT Dakota Chavez accepting the award for Drill Team Unarmed Overall 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

**Bottom Left:** C/SGT Alondra Torres accepting the award for Drill Team Non-Service Weapon Overall 1<sup>st</sup> place.



**Next year, the Black Knights Battalion intends to win more awards. Go Black Knights!**

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# RECOMMENDING THE BEST



Recently, Battalion Commander, C/MAJ Erik Jimenez, received a letter of recommendation to United States Military Academy West Point from General Paul E. Funk (pictured center left). He and several other cadets visited representative LTG Gervais to receive the letter.

Paul E. Funk (pictured left) is a four-star general in the United States Army who serves as the commanding officer of the Army Training and Doctrine Command. He previously served as the 60th Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood, Texas, and as the Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve.



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# CELEBRATING A YEAR OF SUCCESS



Crowd, consisting of cadets and guests, applauding during the program.

Major Ray taking over the DJ booth after the formal portion of the event concluded.



On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Black Knights held a Military Ball at the Westin Galleria Hotel for cadets and guests. The program consisted of the presentation of colors by the Color Guard, a three course meal accompanied by showings of past events, several awards, and the announcement of new staff. After the formal portion, the court winners were announced, drinks and a photo booth were available for cadets.

**Bottom Left: C/SGT Jasmine Nava accepting an award from Major Ray.**

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CSM(R) Canalda is a native of Rome, New York and began his career in October of 1996. His initial Military Occupational Specialty was as a Military Police Specialist and his early assignments include the 212th Military Police Company, Kitzigen, Germany, and 511th Military Police Company Fort Drum, New York.

His last assignment was the Senior Special Operation Command (JSOC)

CSM Canalda gave a speech at the Military Ball.

In his speech **(pictured top left)**, he recalled his high school experience and compared to his Army career.

Bottom Center: CSM Juan Canalda being awarded Guest Speaker for Sam Houston JROTC Ball.

Recruiting, Assessment, and Selection detachment, Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

CSM(R) Canalda served as the Houston Recruiting Battalion Command Sergeant Major from February 2018 to April 2020

CSM(R) Canalda's deployments include Bosnia and Herzegovina (Operation Joint Forge) Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom), and Operation Inherent Resolve.



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**Top Left:** Kimberly Benavides being awarded Parent of The Year for her contributions through the Parent Booster club.

**Middle Left:** C/SGT Jada Olagoke was awarded Color guard Female Cadet of the Year for her outstanding leadership.

**Middle Right:** Adam Obregon being awarded Coach of the Year for coaching the Drill Team into winning various awards.

**Bottom:** All award winners.



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# THANK YOU, MS. WATSON!



The Black Knights are sending a great thank you to Ms. Watson for helping set up the Military Ball. She used her time to set up decorations, not only to make the ball appear great, but to also ensure a fantastic experience for cadets, staff, parents, and guests.

Ms. Watson was gifted a card signed by parents and staff and a plant.

If you see Ms. Watson, make sure to thank her for her contributions.



Ms. Watson helped set up flower center pieces on every table.



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## ADVICE FOR GREATNESS

Former cadet, and current sergeant with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, Rigoberto Lomeli sat down with Public Affairs Officer C/SGT Rebecca Pereira for an interview. He spoke about his current employment, his time in JROTC, and provides advice for any aspiring officers.

**Q: To introduce you to our cadets, what is your current occupation and what does it entail?**

**A:** My current occupation is that I am a sergeant with the Harris County Sheriff's Office. My current assignment is transportation and hospital security. What that entails is that I assign a deputy to watch guard over an inmate who is receiving medical care at a nearby hospital. We do everything from Harris County to Montgomery County, all the way down Galveston County.

**Q: How would you describe your time in JROTC? Are there any memories you kept from JROTC?**

**A:** I enjoyed it. It was one of the most fun and best times I've ever had, but at the same time, the scariest. From the get-go, I didn't know what JROTC had to offer. But, I learned a lot about myself, and I learned a lot about what I wanted to do in the near future. We were always competing with a nearby high school, Reagan Highschool, but I guess you know it as Heights High school. And they were always the champ of the Drill team. But one year, we had gotten the furthest to beating them – we were one point away from being district champions. That was one of the best times I've had in JROTC.

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**Q: How did the program shape you or your habits to support a good work ethic?**

**A:** Well, they taught me that if you're not fifteen minutes early, you're late. And I still live by that creed. When I went to join the military, I knew how life worked and how to excel. Then when I got out of the Army, I became a police officer. I decided to join the Harris County Sheriff's Office. And as my time in being a deputy here, I was a part of the Explorer program where we trained and taught young adults to prepare for a career in law enforcement. That had to be the best job I ever had with the

Sheriff's Office. And I was teaching my young explorers the same lessons my Army instructors taught me. A good portion of them are now police officers and some work with me now.

**Q: What would you say were some challenges you faced throughout your career and how did you overcome them?**

**A:** A lot of the time when I tried to get promoted, I wasn't always the first pick or the second pick. I had to re-evaluate myself and try to figure out what I was missing, what my weak points were and to build on it. And if I really wanted a certain position, I had to keep hammering away. So, it told me not to give up. And if you give up, it truly wasn't what you really wanted.

**Q: Do you have any advice for cadets that wish to go down a similar career path as you?**

**A:** If you really want to do this career, do as much research as you can. We have other police departments that will offer Youth Services that help others to know what careers are like. But, you must figure it out. You don't just take parts of it. You must take the whole sum of it. And realize, this is a part of you. This is what you want to be, then you're nothing is going to stop you from trying to achieve it. It doesn't mean law enforcement. It is just basically being a professional and all-around decent person, being a person with a good moral compass. But if you really want it, go for it.

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# BLACK KNIGHTS VISIT FONVILLE



Recently, the Black Knights Battalion visited Fonville Middle School. While there, they held an exhibition for the Drill Team and a push-up competition with the Physical Training Team. After both sub-events, the Drill Team spoke with and taught several Fonville students who were interested in several components of the exhibition.

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# A WORD FROM THE TOP



"Good afternoon cadets and esteemed patrons, as the year comes to an end we must prepare for the upcoming year. We have worked hard this year and will continue to do so with pride. This school year has been great, we started from literally rock bottom and built ourselves up to be champions. I assure all of you that we will accomplish greater feats, but in order to do so our program will need each and every cadet to work hard and put in effort. We are the Black Knights and we stand strong together. **GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!!!**"



"Hello to all of those that are trying to better themselves in our battalion and thank you for putting in the work during a time of doubt and uncertainty. I have been in this battalion for 4 years and I must say that you are in great hands. My words to you all are 'Don't stop when you're tired, stop when you're done.' My best wishes to all. Your Sire with the Fire signing out."



"Good afternoon cadets. I am glad to say that we are coming to a close in the year and we appreciate everyone's help within the battalion. Next year will be a better and more straight forward year with our cadets and new staff and personnel in lead. I want to say good luck on studies and keep up the good work. **BLACK KNIGHTS!!!!**"

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