



THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



FEBRUARY 2022



**Associate Principal Federico
Hernandez, PhD**

THE LEGACY CONTINUES

Associate Principal Federico Hernandez PhD is a home-grown product of Sam Houston and a former JROTC Cadet/Drill Team Commander. The Black Knights' Sword sat down with him to discuss his path to success and how JROTC contributed. Cadet Sergeant Rebecca Pereira conducted the interview in his office...



**Cadet Major Federico Hernandez, 1990 Black
Knights Drill Commander, Sam Houston High**



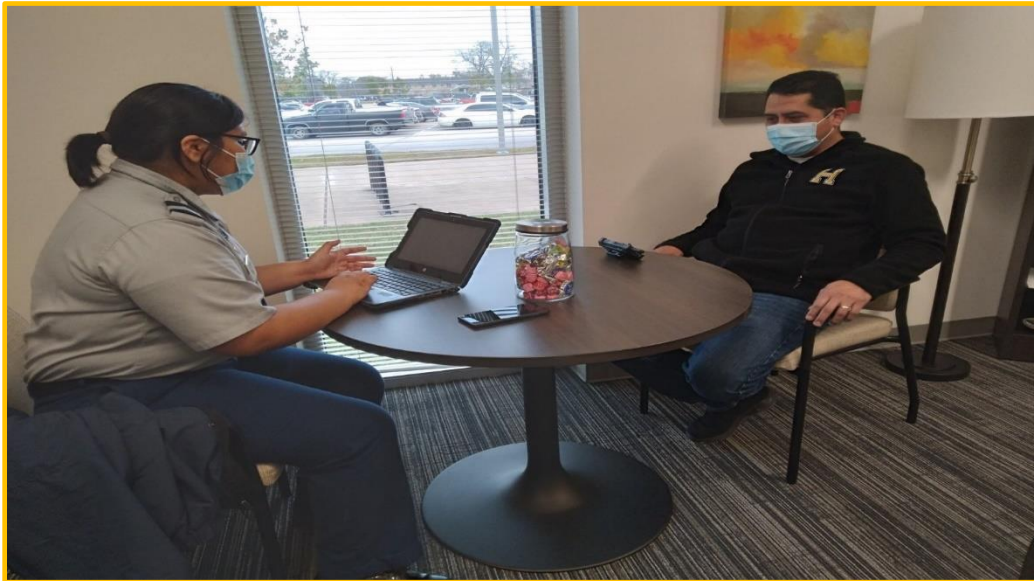
**1st Battalion Commander, MAJ Jimenez, giving a
robotics brief to Dr. Hernandez at lunch**



"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

**SAM HOUSTON MSTC
ARMY JROTC**

Cadet Sergeant Rebecca Pereira of the Public Affairs Teams takes copious notes while conducting the interview with Dr. Hernandez



Dr. Hernandez granted access to the JROTC Public Affairs team for a sit-down interview in his office

Q: What were your first genuine impressions of the JROTC program?

A: My first genuine impressions of the program were positive. I really liked it because whenever I came in, of course, as a cadet, but I also went straight into color guard. The color guard were national champs at the time. I had high hopes. I knew I was coming into a really good program with a record of success.

Q: Was becoming Drill Commander a natural goal of yours, or was it something that you were inspired to achieve by others?

A: I don't know if it was a goal, but it was something that just happened. When I came into color guard, I was color guard commander. Then, right after color guard commander, I got placed into drill team. And the way I became drill team commander, I was the platoon sergeant, and my drill team commander failed, so he was unable to participate. Then, I was moved up to drill team commander. After that, I stayed drill team commander all the way through it.

Q: What type of impact did your instructors have on you?

A: They had a very positive impact. Of course, they put responsibility on you, so they teach you how to responsible. And more importantly, how to be a follower and then a leader. But overall, they teach how to be a good person and to help people out. Which I think is part of the program's might.

Q: Do you wish to have that same impact with students at this school?

A: Yes. I hope that it has the same impact – same or better.

Q: What life skills or habits did you acquire from the program and how did they aid you in pursuing a PhD?

A: It taught me responsibility, of course. And how to own up to your mistakes, and at the same time, how to take credit for what you do. And how to be a team player and lead a group of people to have a common goal. I guess it also taught me persistence, which is something that you really need to get a PhD.

Q: Which university did you attend? What is your background of education in?

A: I attended the University of Houston for all three of my degrees. My undergraduate is mathematics, so I majored in mathematics. I went into a master program for Master of Mathematical Education. And then a doctoral in mathematical education as well.

Q: What advice would you give to cadets that wish to be in a similar position as you, whether it be as a former Drill Commander or as someone with a higher education?

A: I would say to make sure you have goals. And you're going to run into obstacles, but don't allow those obstacles deter you from your goal. Be persistent. Break it up into little goals if you have to do so. Make sure that you have a plan, make sure you have goals. And once you have those plans and goals, stick to them. You'll get there before you know it.

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COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE



Left to Right: Sergeant Nava, 2nd Lieutenants Montes and Benavides, Private First-Class Perez, and Corporal Cortez. Major Ray is the head coach.



DISCIPLINE. CONTROL. COMMITMENT.

The *Stealth Knights* are the battalion's competing marksmanship team. 3-4 days every week, the team arrives over an hour before school begins to practice their craft. At around 7:25, cadets arrive, draw their individual rifles, and prepare for 45 minutes or so of quiet time. The firing range is completely silent similar to a library. The only sounds heard are those of the rifles blasting away. At the start of the new year, the team grew by one member, Cadet Sergeant Nava, and she is quickly becoming a sharpshooter.

There are three more competitions scheduled for the remainder of the year starting February 11, 2022. Wish your Stealth Knights good luck as they take on the district and beyond.

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ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS



ARMY RECRUITER LEADS TRAINING FOR CADETS

Staff Sergeant Rodriguez is the active duty and Army Reserve recruiter assigned to Houston MSTC. He is often located in the cafeteria area during lunches talking to fellow Tigers about a possible future in the United States Army.

SSG Rodriguez has developed a relationship with the Black Knights Battalion and has started conducting light physical training with the cadets every other Thursday for each class period in JROTC. Cadets are encouraged to change clothes and also bring water to the workouts which last around 20 minutes. The workouts are designed to be fun, competitive, and an opportunity for cadets to get to know him as the school's Army recruiter. He often gives out Army "Swag" to motivated cadets who are happy to get their bodies moving while having a little fun.



Cadet Corporal Brown enjoys physical training of any kind. She is an assistant class leader for 3rd period, a high achiever in her academic career, and a three-sport athlete (volleyball, basketball, and Soccer). She is also a member of the Black Knights' Physical Training Team.

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ARMY JROTC**

A WORD FROM THE TOP



Hello cadets, hope you are doing well in this new semester. To start things off I'd like to say that we will be very busy this semester, we'll be having competitions, school events, fundraisers. Look forward to this semester as we will be selecting our most outstanding cadets to be the future leaders of this program. Cadets, this is your chance to demonstrate your skills and abilities. Show us what you stand for and who you are, for this is now the time to develop and learn in order to obtain the most prestigious positions in JROTC. **GO BLACK KNIGHTS!**

Good day cadets, It has come to my attention that a good handful of you have not been wearing the uniform. This behavior is unacceptable for a cadet. Our program is ran by us, the cadets. We all have an image to uphold as the faces of this program. I expect better from those who have not been active in our program. We want to build a legacy of excellence. This all starts with the discipline of our cadets. Be better, have a great day.



XO's Corner
GOOOOO Black Knights!!!

"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

AROUND THE BATTALION



PREPARING FOR THE TRANSITION

Just before the semester finals in January, the Black Knights took a field trip to the **GO Center**. Every cadet was formally introduced to Ms. Dooley and the staff. Ms. Dooley was kind of enough to help every cadet grade 9-12 set up accounts so they can receive weekly information on new opportunities for their futures. Every senior was given special attention from Ms. Dooley to start their Financial Aid packet and be made acutely aware of scholarships they qualify for, and the seniors were thankful.



2nd Lieutenant Arianna Saenz competed in the second-round district Speech competition in Jersey Village on January 8. She placed third in a very tough competition sponsored by the American Legion.



The Physical Training team warming up before practice.



Drill Team Duck Duck Goose

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