



THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



NOVEMBER 2022

WHEN THE COUNTRY CALLS



WHO WILL ANSWER?

Most Army JROTC cadets across the country do not enlist in the military. But for those who do, there are good benefits. Recent 2022 alum, Estevan Compean, and current Cadet Command Sergeant Major Dakota Chavez both enlisted in the military in October. Estevan enlisted into the Army at an advanced pay grade earning a \$40,000 cash bonus. Dakota enlisted in the Navy earning a \$10,000 cash bonus. Both qualify for the GI Bill. Congrats to both!

Right: CSM Chavez with Congresspersons Sheila Jackson Lee and Al Green at Navy Ceremony at the Mayor's Office
Below: MAJ Ray administers oath to Black Knights



"TO MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS"

**SAM HOUSTON MSTC
ARMY JROTC**

CADETS MEET THE MINORITY LEADER



The World Affairs Council requested a color guard presentation at their annual awards luncheon at the Post Oak Hotel ballroom. Business leaders from Houston with an international network were recognized and the current Minority Leader of the House of Representatives was on hand to deliver comments to the over 700 guests. Leader Kevin McCarthy then had a separate meeting with the youth who were invited which included the Black Knights. He answered questions from students concerning government business.



Left: Black Knights with Ms. Sandija Bayot (far left) after the Q&A with Leader McCarthy



Right: Black Knights color guard team enjoying Butternut Squash as the appetizer.

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CADETS IN ATHLETICS

Army JROTC encourages cadets to be well rounded students to include academics as well as athletics. A well-rounded student has better chances at success as they are investing in their futures. The Black Knights support Tiger sports.



Cadet Sergeant Angelita Brown and Cadet Ellis Ringo after he completed his one mile run in 4:55 which was his personal best. Brown plays varsity basketball for the Lady Tigers and Ringo ran for the varsity cross country team. Both PT Team members.



The physical fitness team competed at Heights High School against five other district schools in October.



Left to Right: Cadet Corporal Tremaine Franklin, Cadet Matthew Jiminez, and Cadet Elijah Rocha on the sideline of a home junior varsity game.

CADETS IN ACADEMIA

Annually, the entire JROTC department visits the Go Center where Ms. Dooley introduces everyone to scholarship and employment opportunities. They create an account where they receive emails on opportunities that are specific to their profiles. This year, multiple cadets signed up for the "IGNITE" program where they will receive individual counseling sessions about their academic progress.



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COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES



October was a busy month for service. The Color Guard presented the colors at the annual alumni baseball game, helped veterans at Ellington Field on the annual veteran support day, and helped Ms. Dooley in helping colleges set up for career day in the gym. **LEAD THE WAY!**



Community service is a cornerstone of what Army JROTC is about whether it is supporting the school, civic minded groups, or military veterans' groups. The color guard has been invited to present the colors on Veterans Day at Houston NW Hospital in November. The American Legion requested the service, and the Black Knights will serve with pride.



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THE WEST POINT CONNECTION



Army Captain K. Odocha deployed from New York from the Military Academy at West Point to talk to the Black Knights during classes. C/LTC Erik Jimenez has been applying to the academy for two years now and he has secured a letter of assurance from the school to attend pending a grueling physical fitness exam in December. District #29 has not had a successful applicant go forward to the academy is several years and CPT Odocha along with Sam Houston MSTC aims to change that this year and for the next several years. He told cadets how to apply and to look to Erik and the Army instructors to help. Several cadets spoke with CPT Odocha after his presentation and interest has hit new levels. Stay tuned to the develops over the next month. More to come.



C/ILT Jasmine Nava and C/SGT Diego Roldan are current 11th graders who qualify for the academy, and they spoke with CPT Odocha along with 11th grader Henry Valerio. Also, immigration status is not a deterrent for admission to the school. Just ask!



THE FIELD FORCE

Earning an appointment to the US Military Academy at West Point is a difficult challenge. On top of being an excellent student, you must be a physical student. The field force is a group of parents of current academy cadets or alumni of the academy who help young people realize their dream of attending this institution. John Polsini is on a personal crusade to help Erik Jimenez pass his physical fitness exam even coming to Sam Houston on Sundays to help train him. It does take a village to raise a child and the field force is here to raise Erik to the next level. Stay tuned!



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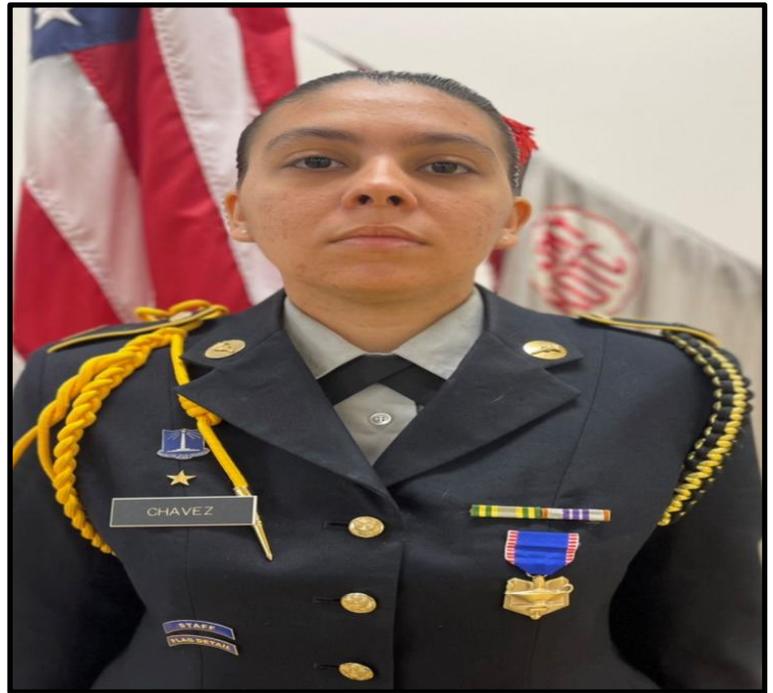
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ARMY JROTC**

A WORD FROM THE TOP



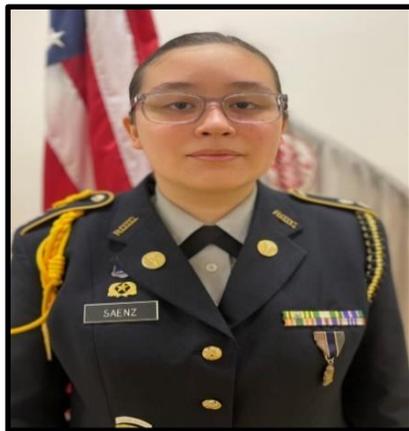
BATTALION COMMANDER JIMENEZ

Good day cadets and patrons, it has been a great month for our battalion. We have completed countless activities ranging from fundraising to competing in our annual district competition, the "Fall Classic". We aim to take home the "Superintendent's Cup" and finally solidify our name as the greatest battalion in the Houston Independent District. Now that our competitive season has begun, expect to see more trophies pile up as we charge through each competition with ease. Thank you all for your continued patronage and expect many more victories to come. **GO BLACK KNIGHTS!!!**



**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CHAVEZ**

Greetings everyone,
I want to highlight our cadets during this month. They put in their time and dedication to not only fundraise but also for competition. They are doing excellent things and are continuing to keep it that way. **HOOAAH!!!**



EXECUTIVE OFFICER SAENZ

Greeting cadets and readers alike, I would like to congratulate participants of Fall Classic for their hard work to show what this battalion is made of! On November 12, we have a competition in Pasadena, Texas for another display of the Black Knights' power! In addition, the Day of Giving for Veterans and Soldiers will be held at the American Legion Post 586 on November 19th, look forward to more information and ways you can help your community. We will also have our annual Thanksgiving Potluck happening on November 24, look forward to bonding as a family Black Knights!! I would also like to recognize staff and other amazing cadets that will be inaugurated in National Honor Society on the 4th of this month. Let's keep up the pace!!

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