

HOUSTON MSTC  
ARMY JROTC



# THE BLACK KNIGHTS' SWORD



**JUNE 2023**

## **ON THE NATIONAL STAGE**



Major General Munera of United States Army Cadet Command lauded the exhibition performance by the Black Knights and awarded senior Cadet Captain Sabrina Obregon with a coin of excellence. He was impressed with the performance and wanted to take a picture with the team and cadre.

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

## **HOUSTON MSTC ARMY JROTC**

To quote the great professional wrestler, Nature Boy Ric Flair, “To be the man, you have to beat the man!” The Sam Houston Army JROTC 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Black Knights set out this year to dethrone the champions from last year, and they have now been proven to be successful.

24 JROTC programs all started the SY 22-23 with a clean slate, all knowing the path to being crowned the champion. The Black Knights planned and executed a masterful campaign to be the best they could possibly be in every competition. With support from drill coaches, the American Legion Post 586, the VFW Post 581, AUSA, the Field Force representing the United States Military Academy at West Point, and of course Dr. Linares and his administration, the Black Knights locked in with a common goal, and then accomplished that goal.

The goal for next year is repeat as champions and work with other programs to elevate all HISD’s JROTC programs.

### **SY 22-23 DISTRICT RESULTS**

1. Armed Drill: #1
2. Unarmed Drill: #2
3. Primary Color Guard: #1
4. Secondary Color Guard: #1
5. Flag Folding: #1
6. Male Physical Fitness: #1
7. Female Physical Fitness: #1
8. Marksmanship: #1

### **OVERALL: DISTRICT CHAMPIONS**

**Above: C/Major and incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion Commander Jai Nava smiles as she now inherits the responsibility to defend the Superintendent’s Cup for SY 23-24.**

**Right: Dr. Diego Linares, Sam Houston MSTC Principal, accepted the Superintendent’s Cup along with Cadet Staff Sergeant Angel Bustillo, SFC (Ret) Barry Page and MAJ (Ret) Micah Ray.**

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**THE BLACK AND GOLD MILITARY BALL 2023**

The Black Knights hosted the annual Military Ball at the VFW Post 581 near the high school. Dr. Diego Linares was invited to be the guest speaker and he delivered a solid message about his immigration process coming from the bottom only to rise to the position of high school principal with advanced degrees and a small business owner. “Anything is possible!” Many cadets received their earned recognition for the year of hard work and dedication to education and the mission of JROTC which is to “MOTIVATE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE BETTER CITIZENS.”

**FAREWELL SENIORS**

The Black Knights awarded long serving cadets with plaques. From Left to Right: Benjamin Benavides, Arianna Saenz, Erik Jimenez, Dakota Chavez, Sabrina Obregon, Marco Montes, Moises Perez and Tremaine Franklin all served four years with the program demonstrating the highest standards of the program. They live by the Cadet Creed to always be held accountable for their actions and deeds.

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# THANK YOU MISS CANDACE WATSON MACK

## THE SPECIAL TOUCH

The Black and Gold Ball was a great success thanks to Sam Houston's own, Ms. Candace Watson Mack. Ms. Watson went far beyond anyone's imagination in turning the VFW into a fine dining and dancing venue. During the ball, she was formerly thanked by the executive officer, C/MAJ Arianna Saenz, with the support of the Black Knights.

Ms. Watson Mack stated she wanted to make sure the cadets had a wonderful experience with their military ball, and she provided that experience with professional decorations.

The Black Knights sincerely thank her for her contributions and wish for a continuous partnership over the next many years.

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**LIVING THE LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE**

Recent Sam Houston MSTC graduate, Esteven Compean Garza left for the United States Army in November of 2022 to train to become a generator mechanic. He signed for a \$40,000 cash bonus. He stays in touch with his former Army JROTC battalion and wants them to know he is doing great things for a great country. He wishes the battalion well in their future endeavors.

**SEEKING THE SKILLS**

Cadets are encouraged to seek as many opportunities as possible. Barbara Jordan Career Center is a school where young people can apply to attend part time to learn either a trade or focus on a career path. CSM Dakota Chavez is a senior focusing on politics at Barbara Jordan and she welcomed fellow Black Knights during their tour to the facility.

**Cadets Blanca Corrales and Zurady Chavez with CSM Chavez  
Cadet Staff Sergeant Krystal Ramirez at Barbara Jordan**

**THE BARBER'S SHOP**

Prior to the military ball, SFC (Ret) Page opened the storage room and prepared young men with fresh haircuts. Service with a smile...

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**TO THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE!**

**THE BUSINESS**

Army instructors train cadets to always present themselves in a professional manner when dealing with partners. Dr. Linares was quite impressed with the professionalism of this young team comprised mostly of 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

**THE SQUEAKY WHEEL GETS  
THE OIL**

The incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion administration met with Dr. Linares to present to him their budget priorities for school year 2023-2024. Their priorities include the military ball, 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade Drill Meet in San Antonio, the Army National Drill Meet in Daytona Beach, FL, local drill meets, uniform maintenance, and media equipment. Dr. Linares explained to them he will do whatever he can to make sure the JROTC department has what they need to succeed. The cadets look forward to servicing Sam Houston MSTC over the summer and all next year. Let's go Tigers!

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## **THE WEST POINT CONNECTION**

**It is official. Erik Jimenez has been accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point. He will depart for New York in late June to begin the next chapter of his life which is earn his way to a commission in the United States Army. Congrats!!**

## **ACTION**

**Above:** Unarmed Drill Coach with a birthday card from his team

**Upper Right:** Unarmed Drill Team gathered at a park on a Saturday

**Right:** Angel Bustillo received trophy for placing 3<sup>rd</sup> place at an academic **competition**

**Far Right:** Samanta Mendez in cosmetology

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