



Cadet Times

Winter Newsletter

by Public Affairs Officer Dennis Argueta

Quote of the Winter

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

— Hal Borland

Upcoming Events

- Superior Instructor 2/9
- Blood Drive #3 2/12
- Bluebonnet PT Test 2/21
- HISD Blue Bonnet Drill Championship 2/28
- Spring Break 3/9-13
- Military Ball 4/2
- 5th BDE Drill Championship 4/10-11
- Spring ASVAB 4/21
- Blood Drive #4

Battalion Commander's Corner



Hello Cardinals, I hope you all had a fun and well-deserved break! We are now back starting second semester to finish the 2026 school year. Thank you to those who came out to volunteer for the Houston Marathon. I can't wait to see the turnout for this semester with the events we have in line. Let's start this year off right for all that is to come for us!

-C/MAJ Genesis Mendieta BN CDR

Fall Classic



Fall Classic was an experience that I will always remember because it pushed me outside of my comfort zone in a good way. Being part of such a large event showed me how important teamwork and communication are, especially when everyone has a role to play. There were moments that were challenging, but working through them helped me stay focused and responsible. I also enjoyed being able to support others and contribute to something bigger than myself. Overall, Fall Classic was a meaningful experience that helped me grow and made me proud to be involved.

-C/PFC Alvaro Lemus

Federal Inspection JPA

On November 12th, the 20th Cardinal Battalion held its annual DAV/JPA inspection. Cadets had practiced the JPA questions for weeks leading up to the event, preparing them for when the inspectors reached them. Along with the battalion inspection, the National Color Guard team and a platoon of cadets ran through their routines as part of the federal inspection. Being part of the Battalion Staff this year meant that—for the first time— I also took part in the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) brief portion of the inspection. I, alongside the battalion's top three and the rest of the staff led LTC (Ret.) Charity and SMJ (Ret.) Valcin through the CIP. Afterwards, the Battalion S6, C/CPT Sergio Cortez, led a group of cadets through the Battalion's Service Learning Project brief. To round out the day, a pair of cadets from each LET level completed the Cadet Portfolio portion of the JPA/DAV. In the end, the battalion received an overall score of 98%. Congratulations to all of the cadets who took part!

—C/MSG Dennis Argueta, BN S5



Snowfest Parade



At the 2025 Snowfest Parade, the 20th Cardinal Battalion arrived and formed up the cadets. Before the parade began, cadets were taught a new marching cadence to use along the route. Once the parade started, the battalion stepped off and began marching. During the parade, C/Jocelyn rotated out of the color guard formation so she could lead the formation by calling cadences. Overall, the parade went very well, and the battalion represented itself well. Thank you to everyone who participated!

-C/CPT Sergio Cortez, BN S6

Project Santa



"I attended Project Santa and annually for JROTC we dress up as people from the North Pole to take photos with the kids who attend the Project Santa event. I was dressed up as Mrs. Claus, and I sat in a chair and handed out candy canes to the people who came to take photos with me. I spent a few hours taking photos and interacting with the children in the Bellaire community, for a quote you could say that " I love being able to serve my community and it made me feel fulfilled to know that I was a part of something that brightened a kids holiday season.

-C/MAJ Camilla Flannigan BN XO

Houston Marathon



“On January 11, on a chilly morning, well before the sun had risen. Me and other volunteers were up and ready at our designated place. The excitement was palpable; everyone was ready to cheer on the runners. Seeing other people arrive with awesome handmade posters for their loved ones was heartwarming. I vividly recall a family with a small toddler holding up a poster with a colorful star that read “push for power” Seeing runners eagerly run to it, and the little girl’s enthusiasm was adorable. The Houston Marathon left indelible memories in my heart in such a short time. This experience was truly memorable due to all the support, motivation, and warmth shown. “

-C/PFC Zaira Oralde

AI Semester Reflection



My first semester as a JROTC Army Instructor at Bellaire High School has been nothing short of incredible and personally rewarding. Watching our cadets grow through experiences like the Fall Classic remind me how powerful it is when young leaders step outside their comfort zones, rely on teamwork, and rise to challenges with confidence. Seeing their discipline and pride during the DAV/JPA inspection – culminating in an outstanding 98% reinforced how preparation, trust, and shared purpose create excellence. Our community events, from Project Santa to the Snowfest Parade and volunteering at the Houston Marathon, highlighted the heart of our program: service, connection, and representing something bigger than ourselves. Each event allowed cadets to lead, support one another, and positively impact the Bellaire community, and it has been inspiring to witness their maturity and commitment firsthand.

As our Raiders Team now prepares for the National Competition in April, I see that same determination, unity, and resilience driving them forward. Their willingness to train hard, support one another, and embrace challenges reflects the character and leadership we strive to build every day. This semester has reaffirmed why I value JROTC; it is about developing confidence, discipline, and purpose while creating meaningful experiences that shape young leaders. I am grateful to be part of this journey and proud of what our cadets continue to accomplish together.

-MSG(Ret.) Richard Queen BN AI