Unit History

Army ROTC at the Island University began in South Texas at Texas A&M University in 1951. The program expanded to then Corpus Christi State University in December 1978 as the Javelina Battalion's Charlie Company. The company later expanded its Basic Course instruction to Del Mar College in the spring semester 1984.

In 1993, the university changed its name to Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. In September 2006, in recognition of its outstanding contributions and potential to the U.S. Army, Islander ROTC was formed.

Even though the names have changed, the mission of ROTC has remained constant: to develop the future leaders of our military and this great nation. To this day, just over 200 cadets have commissioned as second lieutenants from Corpus Christi. The officers being commissioned today stand ready to continue this outstanding tradition.
Program of Events

National Anthem

History of Islander ROTC

Welcome from Dr. Kelly M. Miller
President/CEO, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi

Message from US Army Senior Leaders

Guest Speaker Ronald “Win” Burkett II
Brigadier General, U.S. Army

Oath of Office

Pinning

Presentation of Distinguished Military Graduate
2LT Andrew John Peter

Silver Dollar Salute

Army Song
Dr. Kelly M. Miller assumed the role of President of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in August 2017. She previously served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. She earned her Ph.D. in Communication from Pennsylvania State University in 1994, joining the Texas A&M-Corpus Christi faculty that same year. She is active in the community, serving as a board member for the Art Museum of South Texas, the Corpus Christi Symphony Orchestra, the South Texas Botanical Gardens and the Harbor Playhouse.

Prior to becoming Provost, Miller served as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Director of the School of Arts, Media & Communication, as well as Chair for the Department of Communication and Theatre. She was a professor of communication for 16 years, teaching courses in Business & Professional Communication, Teamwork & Leadership, Organizational Communication, Public Relations and Public Speaking. Additionally, Miller worked as a consultant and corporate trainer in the Coastal Bend. Clients include: HEB, CHRISTUS Spohn, CCISD, the City of Corpus Christi, CCAD, the Port, the YWCA, to name a few. Over the years, Miller has received awards for her teaching, service, advising, and scholarship.

Although she loves her many academic roles, her favorite role is being mom to Logan, her teenage daughter.
Brigadier General Win Burkett currently serves as the Assistant Division Commander-Operations for the 36th Infantry Division, Camp Mabry, Texas.

BG Burkett graduated and received his ROTC commission from Southwest Texas State in 1989. He holds a Master of Arts from Eastern Kentucky University in Safety, Security, and Emergency Management, and a Master of Science from the National Defense University in Campaign Planning and Strategic Studies. Additionally, he completed an Executive Leader Study Program at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in International and National Security. Over the course of nearly 30 years, including five deployments, BG Burkett commanded units at every grade from Captain to Colonel, and completed numerous tactical, operational, and strategic level staff assignments.

BG Burkett’s key assignments include: Commander, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, Texas State Aviation Officer, Director, NGB J55 Strategic Plans, and Deputy Director, NGB Joint Action Control Office, battalion Commander National Support Elements in Pristina, Kosovo, and Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Company Commander Division HHC, Army Reserves, Battalion HHC Texas Army National Guard, and two Attack Aviation Companies while on active duty.

Brigadier General and Mrs. Burkett (Molly) live in Austin, Texas. They met as students at Southwest Texas State, married in 1986, and have three amazing children: Maggie graduated from the University of Texas at Austin, Cassie graduated from Texas State University, and Pearce graduated from James Madison University in Virginia.
Second Lieutenant Ryan Ingram was born in Grapevine, Texas and raised in Justin, Texas. He graduated in May 2010 from Gunter High School in Gunter, Texas. He enlisted in the Army May 12, 2011 as an 11B (Infantry) and conducted his basic training in Fort Benning, Georgia. Following basic training, his first duty assignment was Fort Lewis, Washington 2-1IN, where he did one deployment to Afghanistan from March 2012 to January 2013. In August 2014, he left active duty to attend college and continue his service in the Army Reserves as a 92W (Water Purification Specialist) until joining ROTC in fall 2018.

While enrolled in ROTC, 2LT Ingram participated in the Norwegian Ruck March, multiple FTX’s, and Islander Challenge. He held various leadership and staff roles ranging from Team Leader, C/ Platoon Sergeant/Assistant S3/ S2/ S4 Supply Tech.

2LT Ingram is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in political science. He has been branched Ordnance and will be reporting to Fort Lee, Virginia to attend Basic Officer Leader College (BOLC). Upon graduation from BOLC, he will report to his first duty station at Fort Carson, CO to Support 24I - 2nd Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), 4th Infantry Division.
Second Lieutenant Andrew Peter was born in San Angelo, Texas and raised in Abilene, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 2016. While enrolled in ROTC, 2LT Peter participated in Ranger Challenge for three years. He also completed Air Assault School during his time in ROTC. 2LT Peter held various leadership positions, such as Team Leader, C/1st SGT, C/CSM, and C/S4.

2LT Peter is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in health sciences. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate (DMG), a designation by the US Army Cadet Command reserved for the top 20% of graduating cadets nationally. DMG status is based on several criteria, including grade point average, strong performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test, college athletic participation, and performance during college ROTC training and Advanced Camp at Fort Knox, Kentucky.

2LT Peter has been branched Medical Services and will be reporting to Basic Officer Leader College (BOLC) August 26. Upon graduating BOLC he will report to his first duty station at Fort Carson, Colorado.
Second Lieutenant Enrique Ruiz was born in San Antonio, Texas and graduated in May 2016 from Lehman High School in Kyle, Texas.

While enrolled in ROTC, 2LT Ruiz participated in Ranger Challenge, Bataan Memorial Death March, Color Guard, and Drill Team. He held various leadership and staff roles ranging from team leader, squad leader, C/First Sergeant, and C/Company Commander.

2LT Ruiz is graduating with a bachelor of science degree in nursing. He has been branched Nursing and will be reporting to Fort Sam Houston to attend Basic Officer Leader College (BOLC). Upon graduation from BOLC, he will report to his first duty station.
2LT Zachary Russell was born in Ansbach, Germany on July 3, 1993. He graduated from W. B. Ray High School in Corpus Christi in June 2011. While in high school he was on the swim team, where he was the captain of the team his junior year and senior year.

After graduating high school, he joined the United States Army Reserve in October 14, 2011 as a water pump mechanic. There he reached the rank of Sergeant before enrolling in the ROTC program at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in fall 2018. He is graduating with a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice. With that degree he plans to join the U.S. Marshals. Zachary plans to serve in the United States Army Reserve as a Quartermaster Officer for the 812nd Supply Company in Kingsville, Texas.
Second Lieutenant Jada Washington was born and raised in Austin, Texas. She graduated in May 2015 from Ann Richards School for Young Women Leaders in Austin.

While enrolled in ROTC, 2LT Washington participated in the Simultaneous Membership Program and actively drilled as a member of the Texas Army National Guard. She held various leadership and staff roles ranging from Team Leader, Squad Leader, Company Executive Officer, and Public Affairs Officer.

2LT Washington is graduating with honors with a bachelor’s degree in nursing, and upon graduation she will be branched Quartermaster in the Texas Army National Guard.
The Warrior Ethos

I am an American Soldier.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States and live the Army values.

I will always place the mission first.
I will never accept defeat.
I will never quit.
I will never leave a fallen comrade.

I am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills. I always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

I am an expert and I am a professional.

I stand ready to deploy, engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.

I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I am an American Soldier.
Video from this ceremony will be available at rotc.tamucc.edu.

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