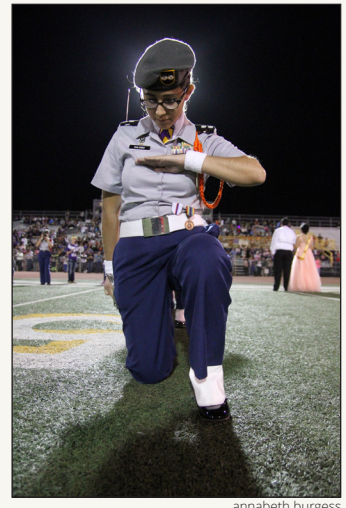




SUPERMEN
Practice before the district drill meet at Irvin prepares senior Marcus Olivas and his teammates for the armed drill team competition. "Our presentation wasn't very flashy," Olivas said. "We didn't do a lot of tossing and twirling with our rifles. Instead, we had more of a technical show because we stayed in sync with one another." They placed fifth at the meet. (photo by annabeth burgess)

PRECISE PRESENTATION
Junior Alicia Salcido helps present the homecoming queen while doing their clean and salute. "After awhile, performances get a bit tedious," Salcido said. "You just go through the motions not really feeling anything. On certain occasions, I get somewhat nervous." Salcido earned the rank of captain.



annabeth burgess

"People think JROTC is harsh because our leaders are sergeants and colonels, but when they've experienced what we have, they'll find that our leaders are admirable and love to joke with us."
-cynthia flores-11



annabeth burgess

COLOR CHECK
Before the color guard presents the flags for the early college ceremony, junior Kathryn Lemon's uniform is checked by Sgt. Jose Hernandez. "To stay steady, I usually block people out," Lemon said. "Sometimes I find a funny person to look at because there is always someone in the audience."

shoot for the top

by victoria aguilar

Noticing some drill and rifle members getting frustrated with their homework, junior Mayra Villalobos sits in the classroom and helps them with it. Villalobos' solution to fix this situation was to work as a team. The students organized their own tutoring session in the JROTC room. "This was a great idea," Villalobos said. "I started tutoring sessions because we were starting to have a repeat of a previous situation. I personally didn't have any problems with my grades, but there was always at least one person who had trouble in a class. We were able to keep our grades up for eligibility. It also helped us in competitions because we had more people to compete with." Study sessions worked, as the entire team was able to compete in district competition. It was a close match, so close it came down to the ninth and final round. They needed to make nothing but dead center shots to win. In the end, they were only a few bull's eyes away from bringing home the trophy. The team left in defeat placing second to Jefferson. "I knew I could have done better," senior Carlos Rubio said. "I wasn't concerned, but I was nervous enough to lose focus. We have three firing stances and each one is more intense because you know it'll come down to the wire. That thought stuck with me throughout the competition. We were disappointed not winning, but we still qualified for Houston where we placed first." On top of that achievement, three of five rifle members made All-District. Sophomore Ron Norman was a top finisher. He also won the novice division in orienteering. "This came as a shocker," Norman said. "I didn't expect to do as well as I did since it was my very first time competing in any contests or competitions. When I was orienteering, I felt that I was going kinda slow, but when I finished no one else was there. That was when I realized I was the first to finish. I honestly don't know how I did it, but I felt highly accomplished."

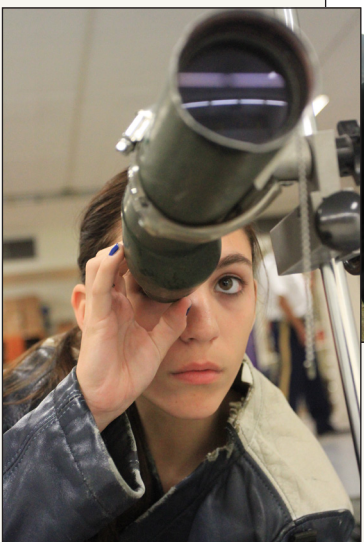


genesis barraza

LOST, THEN FOUND
On a crisp Saturday morning, sophomore Freddie Cervantes and a fellow Austin cadet decide what direction to head during the annual orienteering exercise, held Nov. 15 in the Franklin Mountains. "We plotted points on a map," he said. "We followed the coordinates to find the markers using only a compass and our map." The team finished second.



mikey provenghi



annabeth burgess



jaret hernandez-12 joshua hernandez-11



gissell carrera-10



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