



WHITE PAPER

JROTC: A Character Development and Citizenship Program

Background. The US Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) is one of the largest character development and citizenship programs for youth in the world. As congressionally mandated by Title 10 United States Code, Section 2031, each military service must have a JROTC program to “instill in students the values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment.” JROTC’s mission, To Motivate Young People to Better Citizens, is the guide post for the program's success.

The Army's JROTC program currently operates in approximately 1,700 public and private high schools, military institutions, and correctional centers throughout the United States and overseas. Forty percent of JROTC programs are in inner city schools, serving a student population of fifty percent minorities. As JROTC students (Cadets) progress through the program, they experience opportunities to lead other Cadets. A major component of the JROTC leadership and citizenship program is female Cadets. Female Cadets make up forty percent of the Cadet population. The JROTC faculty is led by nearly 4,000 Instructors who are retired from active duty Army service. Instructors are trained and qualified in accordance with the National Defense Authorization Act 2007 to teach and mentor approximately 314,000 JROTC Cadets. Since 2005 Instructors have been using curriculum accredited by AdvancED to teach and mentor Cadets.

Curriculum. JROTC curriculum provides equitable and challenging academic content and authentic learning experiences for all Cadets. All lessons are designed using a four part model to motivate the Cadet, allow the Cadet to learn new information, practice the competency and apply the competency to a real-life situation. Moreover, the four part model requires Cadets to collaborate, reflect, and develop critical thinking skills, and integrate content with other disciplines. JROTC curriculum includes lessons in leadership, health and wellness, physical fitness, first-aid, geography, American history and government, communications, and emotional intelligence.

The curriculum is rigorous and relevant to 21st Century Education. In fact, many high schools grant core credits for some of the subjects taught in JROTC. Our curriculum meets the standards of Common Core State Standards and in many states it aligns with Career and Technical Education clusters. Cadets learn and apply the curriculum using technology in the classroom.

Instructors use technology in the classroom as an instructional strategy to engage Cadets in their learning. Examples of Instructors using technology can be observed at the schools when they use our learning management system, Curriculum Manager (CM). Our partnership with *Turning Technologies* enables Cadets to engage in JROTC lessons using an interactive student response system (clickers) and a mobile interactive whiteboard (MOBI). Cadets use these technologies to complete summative and formative assessments, present presentations, and play educational games. Outside the classroom Cadets can extend their use of technology. When Instructors register their Cadets with the *Conover Company* using Conover Online, Cadets are able to assess their emotional intelligence and complete skill enhancement lessons using any mobile device. Cadets must participate in integrated curricular activities to reinforce what is learned in the classroom.

Integrated Curricular Activities. Cadets participate in integrated curricular activities to demonstrate their attainment of lesson outcomes. Some of the integrated curricular activities include military drill competitions, air rifle competitions (optional), JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl, and a physical fitness competition known as Cadet Challenge. Cadets who complete four years of JROTC integrated curricular activities and its challenging curriculum will be college and/or career ready.

College Opportunities. With assistance from an organization working independently of JROTC, the *College Options Foundation* can help Cadets locate colleges offering credits for completing JROTC. Additionally, Army ROTC (not JROTC) offer college scholarships to Cadets who qualify for their scholarship program. For more information visit www.collegeoptionsfoundation.net or www.goarmy.com/rotc/high-school-students.html.

Impact. Arguably, JROTC is the most successful and has the most significant impact on America's youth than any other youth oriented program. JROTC's five Quality Indicators—attendance, graduation, indiscipline, drop out, and GPA—are used to measure the effectiveness of the program in high schools. JROTC exceeds schools' averages in each of these categories:

Quality Indicators		
CATEGORY	SCHOOL	JROTC
Attendance	90.29%	93.54%
Graduation	83%	93.9%
Indiscipline	5.2%	1.7%
Drop Out	8%	<1%
GPA	2.72	2.91

For information on how to establish a JROTC program in your school, please visit our website at www.usarmyjrotc.com or email usarmy.knox.usacc.list.hq-jrotc-training@mail.mil. For information specific to the curriculum taught in the JROTC program, email usarmy.knox.usacc.list.hq-jrotc-education@mail.mil.