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# HQ Gazette

Winter 2017

## From the Director

Let me start by wishing each of you and your families and very happy, healthy and prosperous 2017! As we reflect on this past year and all that was accomplished, I wanted to pass on a heartfelt and hearty "Thank You" to each of our instructors, MCJROTC Cadets and their respective school administrations. We are proud and privileged to be part of this incredible program and realize that without the commitment and teamwork exhibited by all, we would not enjoy the success and excellence that we enjoy today. It is truly a partnership of the utmost importance that makes a difference in the lives of all who touch and/or participate in the program. The work and dedication of all is positively impacting our nations, communities, and units all over the globe.

The year of 2017 will be full of sweeping change. From national level competitions, to a newly developed and more impactful curriculum and all those points in between, it will truly be an exciting and interesting year. I realize that with change comes friction and at times frustration. I also realize that what seems like a minor and insignificant change here at the Headquarters could have drastic and unplanned or unintended effects at the unit level. In the instances where those occur please run it up through your RD. No promises that result in the end state that you desire but at least know that as we continue to move forward we will use your feedback to inform our future decisions.

**Curriculum:** We are making progress. The Curriculum Steering Group (CSG) has provided, and I have approved, the curriculum map for MCJROTC. I want to thank Mark Newbold, Academic and Compliance Manager, and the CSG for accomplishing the first milestone of this project. There is still much to do but now that we have our map, it will just be a matter of



Bob Oltman, MCJROTC Director

putting the meat on the bone. The full curriculum will be a mixture of our own developed core curriculum and some off-the-shelf items that will work to enhance the core. The CSG is working to provide some cost estimates so we can submit through the current year deficiency process. We should be able to provide a more comprehensive update during the next newsletter.

**Accreditation:** In April of 2016, MCJROTC received the AdvancED program accreditation that fully accredits the program through 2021. I want to give a special thanks to Como Park, Atrisco Heritage, Heritage, and Churchland High Schools for their preparation and support in helping to host the review team during the unit visit portion of the evaluation. This independent evaluation provided the necessary confirmation that the MCJROTC Program is accomplishing its mission of developing honorable, courageous, character-driven young adults who possess the attributes of personal responsibility and accountability in order to become model citizens in service to the

(Continued from p. 1)

United States. As an FYI, AdvancED is the world leader in providing improvement and accreditation services to education providers of all types in their pursuit of excellence in servicing students. AdvancED serves as a trusted partner to more than 32,000 public and private schools and school systems -- enrolling more than 20 million students -- across the United States and 70 countries. So it is a big deal! Well done!

**Funding:** We continue to address shortfalls in the programmatic funding for 2018 and beyond. It has been a laborious process but I truly feel we have been able to make some progress. I will not bore you with the challenges associated with this process but I will unequivocally state that we are fighting for every penny to support your schools and this program. While we are doing our part, I need you to continue to do yours. Please continue to scrutinize your expenditures as though it were your own money. Be vigilant and prudent in the resources that you do expend in support of your unit. Don't think that it doesn't make a difference; every little bit helps.

**Reimbursements/PRD/Contracts:** I understand there is a growing frustration out in the field due to some changes in our business rules of how we handle appropriated funds in support of your units. I apologize for the short fuse change but some of this resulted from an internal audit that was conducted by our higher headquarters. Just know that understanding the new requirements and getting them mapped into our process is our number one priority. We fully understand the growing pains that will be associated with these process changes, especially since there is no grace period for their implementation. All I ask from you is your continued patience as we work through these. We will get the processes resolved as quickly as practical.

As I said at the workshops, I am your biggest fan. Thanks for all you do to make MCJROTC a game changer in the lives of our youth. I am committed to giving each and every one of you the best support we can. If you have any feedback for us, please route it up through your RD.

Semper Fidelis,  
DIRECTOR SENDS



### Deputy Director

"Farewell Rich Schafer!"

After ten premium years as the Region One Director, we are going to miss his leadership and mentorship across not only the Region One landscape, but throughout the MCJROTC community. As many already know, the Region Directors wear many hats. In every case, the hat always fit and we are truly rewarded by his impact on the cadets, instructors, and our educational partners that he positively influenced.

Thank you for your dedicated service to the MCJROTC Program and our great nation! Godspeed and all the best in future endeavors.

Semper Fi.

In the interim, I will serve as Region One Director.

Ralph Ingles  
MCJROTC Deputy Director

## Operations & Instructional Support Branch

Welcome to the first edition of the HQ Gazette! I'm sure some of you are wondering why we created the HQ Gazette and I will tell you it was during the Accreditation process that we realized we were not communicating with all of our stakeholders. We currently call, email, or use the U.S. Postal Services to contact Instructors and Administrators but fail to reach other stakeholders.

We hope this communication tool will assist in getting updated and useful information to you about all the things going on at the Headquarters, around the nation, and overseas within our MCJROTC units. You will find an array of news within for all and I encourage you to share it with cadets, their families, other instructors, teachers, school administrators, potential cadets, and anyone else to see what we do and to learn more about MCJROTC. HQ Gazette will also be posted to the MCJROTC website [www.mcjrotc.marines.mil](http://www.mcjrotc.marines.mil). Fill free to post it to your school or MCJROTC program page.

In other Operational news this section is changing; as with all organizations there comes a time when we must reorganize to ensure the best customer service can be provided. After 5 long years of being in a one man fighting hole in the very near future there will be additional support personnel to assist with Opera-

tions, Curriculum, Compliance, and Instructor support and records. The new section will be titled Operations and Instructional Support Branch (O&ISB). While you have been receiving excellent support it will only get better with the additional staff.

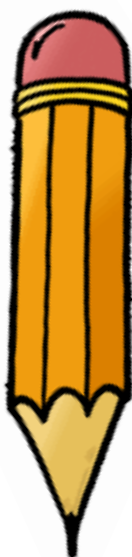
With the disestablishment of the portal; Orders, Directives, Policy Letters and other documents will be posted on the website [www.mcjrotc.marines.mil](http://www.mcjrotc.marines.mil) at the General tab, then Downloads tab.

There are a lot of events happening so please check the "2017 Dates to Remember" below and don't forget to save the dates on your calendar. The majority of these events will have Coordinating Instructions (CI) or Letters of Instructions (LOI) to explain the process and will be provided via email.

Please be sure your contact email is up-to-date with us and that you check your email often for information from Headquarters. We are proud of the MCJROTC Program and look forward to continue to improving together.

Semper Fidelis,  
Carmen  
Operations and Instructional Support Branch Manager

### 2017 Dates to Remember...



- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 9—11 February | Service Air Rifle Championship, Las Vegas, NV                  |
| 10 February   | Strength Reports due to Region Directors                       |
| 23—25 March   | Marksmanship National Championship, Anniston, AL               |
| 2—6 April     | CyberPatriot Finals, Hyatt Regency/Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD |
| 22 April      | National MCJROTC Drill Competition, Irvine, TX                 |
| 5—7 May       | Drill Nation, Daytona Beach, FL                                |
| 18—21 May     | National YPFT, MCRD San Diego, CA                              |
| 31 May        | Instructor Recertification Packages due to Region Directors    |
| 23—27 June    | JLAB, Catholic University, Washington, D.C.                    |
| 25—30 June    | Senior Leadership Camp Capstone, Missouri                      |
| 16—23 July    | New Instructor Orientation Training, Fredericksburg, VA        |

## Program Support Branch

The MCJROTC Logistics and Finance sections have been combined and are now called the Program Support Branch (PSB).

This branch is now reflective of what we all know as a one-stop-shop super store. Your banking (1105/1106), purchasing, accountability, and reconciliation all in one location; PSB.

We are still working on a few new processes, as the Director has stated, to ensure we continue to provide the quality of service you are accustomed to.

Sheila Warren  
Program Support Branch Manager



## Academics and Compliance

### Curriculum Revision

Work continues on revising the curriculum. The Curriculum Steering Group (CSG) and members of the Headquarters are working closely with possible vendors to identify hardware and software to support the changes to many of the current courses. It is too early at this point to say with any certainty what the ultimate outcome will be. One thing is obvious; a new curriculum will not be forthcoming for SY17-18.

### End of Year Testing

For the first time, all units in the program will participate in the subject testing. During April, each unit will be given a short twenty question test for every cadet enrolled in the program. Each LE level will be given a

test based on core courses. The tests will be graded by the instructors using the answer sheet provided. All testing must be completed no later than 28 April with scores reported to the Region Director. Region I units will report scores to the Academics & Compliance Manager.

### Compliance

The formal inspections (IGs) have begun. With the departure of Rich Schafer, Director, Region I; IGs scheduled for that region are going to be handled by three other Region Directors along with the Operations & Instructional Support Manager and the Academics & Compliance Manager.

Mark Newbold, A&C Manager



## Drill Meet at Parkview High School

December 10, 2016, Region Two Drill Meet, Parkview HS, Lilburn, GA. - This was the first of three Regional drill meets to take place this year for Region Two. Maj Tootle and GySgt Erwin did a great job in orchestrating this event: from judges, to scheduling, and outstanding Booster Club support with chow, it was a class act. The overall winner and the first of three teams designated to attend the MCJROTC National Drill Meet was North Forsyth HS.



## La Cueva JROTC does STEM

Region Four. Submitted by First Sergeant Griego

At the end of the school day most students leave to get started on their homework assignments or to participate in extracurricular activities/athletics. For the La Cueva High School Marine Corps Junior ROTC, the end of the school day means the beginning of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Projects. When students are asked about what the JROTC Program does, the first response that comes to their mind is that the JROTC Cadets are usually marching (drill) or shooting

(marksmanship) and running (fitness). Little do they know that the JROTC Program at La Cueva does more than just that! The La Cueva JROTC Program has students who are aspiring future designers, engineers, and builders.

The cadets here at La Cueva are involved in several STEM related projects. One project that the cadets are involved in is known as SeaPerch, which requires design-

ing, engineering, and building an underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV). This ROV is required to maneuver through various underwater obstacles to acquire points at each obstacle, not to mention there is a time restraint to which they need to be faster than their competitors. Senior Cadet Lieutenant Saquoia Padilla joined the SeaPerch Team because a friend asked her to. In her first year with SeaPerch, she competed state-side which led her and her teammate to compete at the Nationals at Dartmouth University. Students build the ROV from a kit comprised of low-cost, easily accessible parts and by following a curriculum that teaches basic engineering and science concepts with a marine engi-

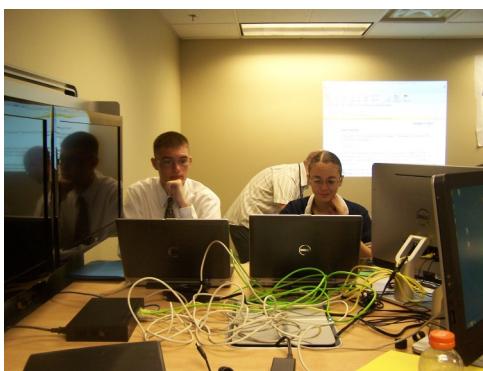




(La Cueva continued from page 5)

neering theme. The SeaPerch Program provides students with the opportunity to learn about robotics, engineering, science, and mathematics while building an underwater ROV as part of a science and engineering technology curriculum. Throughout the project, students will learn engineering concepts, problem solving, teamwork, technical applications, and to be able to present their project to a panel of judges. Most cadets love to be involved in activities especially when they can get hands-on experience building and sharing their ideas. Sophomore Geoffrey Suter decided to get it involved with the STEM projects to better understand engineering for a later career in life.

When one day ends for SeaPerch, the next day's activities involve Team America Rocketry Challenge (TARC). TARC is the world's largest student rocket contest and a key piece of the aerospace and defense industry's strategy to build a stronger U.S. workforce in STEM. Sponsored by the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the National Association of Rocketry (NAR), TARC was created in the fall of 2002 as a one-time celebration of the Centennial of Flight, but by popular demand became an annual program. Senior Cadet Captain Ashleigh Namm says that she got involved with STEM projects as a form of relaxation from the academic day. While some students find it tiresome and time consuming, it allows her to focus and to be excited about creating something with her own hands. For some students building and having hands-on experience is a way to relax and refocus before going home to start on their home-



work. Being able to change your thought process from academics to design and build provides a sense of relief and motivation for the cadets.

When not building ROVs or rockets, the cadets turn to the next project known as CyberPatriot which is a cyber security competition. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Defense Competition. The competition puts teams of high school and middle school students in the position of newly hired IT professionals tasked with managing the network of a small company. In the rounds of competition, teams are given a set of virtual images that represent operating systems and are tasked with finding cyber security vulnerabilities within the images and hardening the system while maintaining critical services in a six-hour period. Teams compete for the top placement within their state and region, and the top teams in the nation earn all-expenses paid trips to Baltimore, MD for the National Finals Competition where they can earn national recognition and scholarship money.

Three years ago La Cueva finished third in the Nation behind two other Marine programs. The competition between programs has gotten very intense and has driven the cadets to do better each and every year. Cadet Cameron Mayo says that he enjoys the STEM projects as they give him the skills that he can use in life outside of the classroom. The cadets develop the skills needed to be successful in life and to feel what it is like to be an engineer or IT manager or even a rocket scientist. What we try to do here in the JROTC program is challenge the cadets not only in the classroom but outside the classroom. The JROTC program still participates in drill, color guard, orienteering, fitness, and rifle but there are other challenges out there in which the cadets can participate. The program does not shut down at the end of the school day but rather we begin phase two of the JROTC program; STEM. Cadet First Sergeant Adam Winters (Senior) says, "These activities are great team building and problem solving activities. There may be one big group of cadets working on a common goal but it's a lot of smaller groups of cadets working on different projects that all fit together in the end." Bottom line is when the cadets are involved and excited about learning, the JROTC Instructors owe it to them to give the cadets the opportunity to excel and follow their dreams.





## Kapolei Cadets Support Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Events

Region Four. Submitted By Colonel Jason Seal

Kapolei High School cadets have been heavily involved in recent Veteran's Day and December 7, 2017 Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary events as well as the Raider Challenge.

The photo below was our celebratory picture from the recent Punahou Adventure Challenge. This event is a combination Raider/Recon event and a Land Navigation/Orienteering event. We placed 1st: sub-categories in Land Nav/Orienteering, Rope Bridge, and Pull-Up challenge. Altogether ten schools throughout Hawaii competed.

The picture (above left) of our cadets in Deltas was taken during December 7 Remembrance event at Ewa Field (one of the airfields struck on the 7th). In attendance (and in the picture) were the Governor's wife and survivors/veterans.

Also in attendance were state Senator Gabbard and state Representative Tupola, two hundred plus visitors from the WWII museum in New Orleans, and many local folks. Cadets performed superbly as Color Guard in front of the VIPs and dignitaries, as Flag Detail at the center of the airfield, and as

assistants to the WWII veterans and the Governor's wife.

The picture of the cadets in Kapolei black polo shirts (above right) was taken at the famous Ford Island tower. The cadets supported the Pacific Aviation Museum which was part of a recently released movie/documentary of the attack Pearl Harbor, with Tom Selleck providing commentary. Approximately eight hundred people attended along with many WWII vets. Cadets provided parking support, set-up and break down of chairs, assistance to veterans, and other general support. They performed exceptionally well.



## Granbury MCJROTC Rifle Team Competes

Region Five. Submitted By LtCol Scott Casey & Jeff Meador

Granbury Marine Corps JROTC rifle team members excelled at the Winter Air Gun (WAG) Championship at the U.S. Olympic Complex in Colorado Springs, Colorado on December 2-4, 2016.

Leading the Granbury Rifle team in the three-day competition was Cadet Kayla Hitsheew ranking 34 out of a field of over 180 female competitors and posting a personal best on first day of the contest, which featured over 375 of the best competitors across the nation – including current and former Olympians.

Two other standouts in the competition were Cadets Clarissa Layland and Tamara Peters, who both shot in their first national-level match. “Both ladies were shooting neck-and-neck with college shooters,” commented LtCol Scott Casey, the Senior Marine Instructor. “It was fun to watch them compete at such a high level.”

The action took place at the USA Shooting Range on complex as well as temporary ranges inside different U.S. Olympic Training Center facilities. The competition included three separate match days in Men’s and Women’s Air Rifle and Air Pistol, to include junior competition as well. This match was part one of Junior World Team Selections as well as an evaluation of possible candidates to compete in the first International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup match in India next year.



“This was the first time for Granbury to compete at the Winter Air Gun Championship, and we were the only high school team to participate,” Casey said. “This was a great experience for our shooters to shoot shoulder-to-shoulder with the best in the nation.”

Other Granbury shooters competing at the WAG were Cadets John Broughton, Trinity Hathaway, Freeman Hawker, Alie Henry, Brittney Pinckard, Elizabeth Plecity, and Jakob Rankin.

The rifle team will next participate in the State Junior Olympics at Texas Christian University in January.

## Hendrickson High School’s “5 Mile” Hike

Region Five. Submitted by LtCol Carey Weston

Hendrickson High School is located in Pflugerville, just to the north of Austin, TX. The Hendrickson MCJROTC unit in its seventh year of existence. The community of Pflugerville has been very supportive of this unit which has greatly enabled the unit’s



success. Hendrickson High School MCJROTC has enjoyed the recognition of being named a Naval Honor School for the past five years.

One major event enjoyed by the unit every year is the unit “5 mile” hike. This hike is conducted every year to celebrate Veteran’s Day as well as our Marine Corps birthday. The 5 mile route is conducted through neighborhoods and designed to bring remembrance for those that have served as well as to showcase the cadets with the community. Over the years, a significant number of parents and friends within the community have participated by either hiking or setting up for the post-hike party. Police, firefighting and military tactical vehicles have also joined our previous hikes. Following the hike, the cadets and community come together to enjoy a celebration in unity.



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## Michigan City High School Gives Back

Region Three. Submitted by Major Thomas McGrath

With the high commercialization of Christmas, the most important aspect of the holiday; the spirit of giving, is often lost. The cadets of the Michigan City High School (MCHS) Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC ) demonstrated unselfishness by giving of their time and talents to Michigan City Area Schools (MCAS) and the surrounding community. Cadets helped set up, work, and clean up for the “One City, One Sound” concert on December 1. This concert involved every school in MCAS and was well attended by the community.

Although the MCJROTC Drill Team had a competition in Chicago on December 3, some non-drill team cadets helped the Salvation Army with their Stuff-A-Bus project. A number of cadets returned to the Salvation Army the following Saturday to do bell-ringing at a number of Michigan City stores. On the statistically busiest shopping day of the holiday season, the Color Guard participated in the Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Greenwood Cemetery on December 17. After the ceremony, wreaths were placed on veteran graves. The Color Guard also presented the colors at the home basketball games on December 2, 3, and 15.

“Our cadets know that there are many members of our community who are struggling financially,” said Senior Marine Instructor Major Tom McGrath. “They are always willing to help out, particularly during this time of the year.”

Marine Instructor, Master Sergeant Jeff Benak, commented on the time management skills of the cadets. “During the hustle and bustle of Christmas, our cadets still find time to support school activities and the needs of our community.”

The MCHS Drill Team will be practicing over the Holiday break in preparation for their next competition at East Aurora High School in Aurora, IL, on January 14 and for their presentation to the MCAS middle schools on January 25. The cadets will also be providing the Color Guards for all of the remaining home basketball games.

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## Selma High JROTC Takes Top National Award

Region Four. Submitted by First Sergeant Romero

Selma High School can now boast that they have the best of all Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (MCJROTC) units in the country. The Selma High battalion of cadets were recognized with the distinguished Marine Corps Commandant's Award for being the Most Outstanding Unit through the Marine Corps Reserve Officers Association (MCRA) for the year 2015-2016, the second consecutive year in a row and the third time in its 21-year history at Selma High School.

This national award comes immediately after being designated a Naval Honor School, standing in the top 20 percent of all high school Marine Corps JROTC programs in the United States and territories. Selma has garnered this recognition 17 times over the 21 years of its existence.

The battalion of 109 cadets was recognized for performing well over 80 hours of community service on average for each cadet this past year and accomplishing excellence in overall inspections as the top regional JROTC unit in the western United States, from Montana and New Mexico to Japan, Guam, and Hawaii.

Locally recognized for their leading the Selma Rotary Marching Band Festival on the last Saturday of October, the nationally recognized Color Guard continually amazes the Selma community with their poise and precision in presenting the American and Marine Corps flags with rifle armed guards as they march in programs including the Caruthers Fair, the Fresno Veterans Day Celebration, and the Fresno Hall of Fame. The Selma JROTC Drill and Color Guard teams both reached national standing this past year in taking the top Western Regional competitions.

The marksmanship team and individual cadets also performed admirably with air rifle shooting with three placing in the top 15 in the American Legion National Air Rifle Championships at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center.

The Commandant's Award was presented during a monthly Morning Colors ceremony where cadets are usually promoted in rank and award recognitions are presented at sunrise. For this particular award, Senior Marine Instructor First Sergeant Mike Romero will be seen bursting with pride.

"I knew the cadets could improve in various areas, but as the inspection reports came in with glowing colors, there was something in store for those returning who only just dreamed of the MCRA Trophy," remarked 1stSgt Romero.

Marine Instructor Master Sergeant Reynaldo Cruz, in his first year with the program, remarks, "I knew the cadets had it in them, but to be their instructor as they are named the best of the best is almost unremarkable. Amazing work they all have in them!"

Names of each cadet in the program are inscribed on a trophy, and the "oohs" and "aahs" by returning students, just bubbling with excitement over the Unit's second award.

The Selma High Marine Corps JROTC was founded in 1994 by Major Greg Hand to promote leadership education using the Marine Corps as a model of excellence. Nationally, the Marine Corp JROTC will celebrate 100 years of Leadership Education training this year.



## Congratulations to the Culpeper Marine Corps JROTC Cadets!

Region One. Submitted by SgtMaj Tanner

Competition held on Saturday October 1, 2016 at Loudoun County High School. Culpeper High School received a total of 11 trophies and 3 individual awards; the competition consisted of drill and ceremony events and physical fitness. Individual standouts were Gregory Kaczor, Eber Martinez and Radley Mosher who received individual awards for making the final ten in the knockout competition. Knockout competition is a practical application test of a JROTC student's knowledge of drill and ceremony. For the physical fitness events highest number of push-ups was James Newton and Janine Wright and highest the number of sit-ups was Eber Martinez and Breanna Means.

The Unit leaders were: Breanna Means, Landon O'Briant, Gregory Kaczor, Eber Martinez, and Nathan Martin.

Culpeper JROTC Cadets present opening Color Guard in support of valued community service project for Alzheimer's.



Off stage: J Pettyjohn and Instructor SgtMaj Tanner.

On stage: G. Kaczor, N. Martin, B. Karns, E. Martinez

## Raider Challenge at North Forsyth High School

Region Two. Submitted by GySgt Snook

On September 10, 2016 North Forsyth MCJROTC hosted their fifth annual Coal Mountain Raider Challenge. There were 10 schools in attendance, and 30 teams competed. The meet involved 400 plus Army and Marine Corps cadets. North Forsyth's male varsity team ran a very successful meet. The events consisted of a 3-mile cross country rescue, a one-rope bridge crossing, a gauntlet event, an obstacle course that is an exact replica of the one recruits train on aboard Parris Island, a biathlon combat course, and a tire flip.

Gunny Snook commands the Raider Team at North Forsyth.





What are you  
doing at your  
school?...

Region One, Culpeper HS



Region Two, Coal Mountain Raider  
Challenge hosted by North Forsyth HS



Wreaths Across America  
Region Five, Atascocita HS



Region Five, Alvin HS  
1st place Brenham PT Competition



5 Mile Hike  
Region Five, Hendrickson HS



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