




San Diego Unified School District

EUGENE BRUCKER EDUCATION CENTER
4100 Normal Street, Room 2140, San Diego, CA 92103-2682

(619) 725-7237
Fax: (619) 725-7236
E-mail: nmeyer@sandi.net

Nellie Meyer
Assistant Superintendent of High Schools
Office of the Superintendent

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Board of Education
FROM: Nellie Meyer via Terry Grier 
DATE: April 18, 2008
SUBJECT: JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS
TRAINING CORPS (JROTC)

Attached you will find a summary and a detailed packet of our Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program (JROTC). Within the packet, you will find an overview, activities of the program, and information about the air rifle marksmanship facilities. The packet will provide general information to questions raised and includes artifacts such as administrative procedure, student permission slip information as well as the rifle range safety check off sheet.

The four specific board inquiries made are addressed in this cover document. The inquiries include information about the location of rifle ranges, the cost of the JROTC program, the JROTC's impact on education, as well as the process for enrollment in the class.

Location of Rifle Ranges

In response to the board inquiry regarding the location of rifle facilities, the rifle facilities are located at the following high school campuses:

Crawford (not in use)
Hoover
Kearny
Lincoln (both the former campus and the newly constructed campus)
Madison
Mission Bay
Morse
Point Loma

JROTC Programs without rifle ranges include:

Henry
Mira Mesa
San Diego
Scripps Ranch
Serra

April 18, 2008

Cost of JROTC program

In response to the cost of this program, see attached finance report.

Instructional Impact

In response to the instructional impact of the program, paragraph C.5. of SDUSD Administrative Procedure No. 4196 specifies that "Credit applicable toward graduation is granted for completion of each semester of military science courses. Credit may be granted equally and in lieu of physical education credit or as an elective credit in addition to physical education." JROTC is an elective course that students choose or take in lieu of the mandated two years of high school physical education.

Student Placement

In response to the inquiry as to whether students are placed into the program without consent, student participation in the JROTC program is entirely voluntary. District policy requires that parents or guardians complete and sign a parental consent form in order for their son/daughter/ward to participate in the JROTC program.

For your review, I have attached a principal survey to share site by site information regarding individual programs.

If you have any other questions or would like to refer any questions to this office, we can be reached at 725-7237. Thank you for your work on behalf of our students.

NM

mv

Enclosures (6)

c: Grier
Flores
Phillpott
Ward
Eves
Janus

**Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program
Principal Survey Results
April 14, 2008**

Site	Type of Program	Rifle Range	Location	Comments
Crawford	Army	yes	900 Building	rifle range not in use
Henry	Navy	yes	ROTC room	
Hoover	Army	yes	Building 800	
Kearny	Army	yes	Building 100	
Lincoln	Army	yes	1400 Building/Room 1416	
Madison	Army	yes	Room 206	
Mira Mesa	Air Force	no		
Mission Bay	Marines	yes	Room 162	
Morse	Army	yes	ROTC room	
Point Loma	Navy	yes	Gym/Locker Building/ROTC room	
San Diego	Army	yes	ROTC room	
Scripps Ranch	Air Force	no		
Serra	Navy	yes	Room 415	

San Diego Unified School District

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program

Program Overview

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) boasts a thriving Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program that serves approximately 2,000 students in 13 of our comprehensive high schools. Since 1919, the JROTC program has benefited many district students, helping them achieve academically, socially, and personally. The program fosters participants' personal confidence and pride in self, encouraging them to avoid negative peer pressures and to develop life skills that contribute to success after graduation. Moreover, the program is structured with many opportunities for public recognition that motivate students to excel in school and to participate in activities that benefit the community. The mission of the JROTC program is, quite simply, to motivate young persons to become better citizens. The Army JROTC course is divided into section sections, or units:

- Citizenship in Action
- Leadership Theory and Application
- Foundations for Success
- Wellness, Fitness and First Aid
- Geography, Map Skills and Environmental Awareness
- Citizenship in History and Government
- Air Rifle Safety and Marksmanship

Graduation Rates

In June 2005, 96.4 percent of senior year students participating in the Army JROTC programs graduated from high school. These students had an average GPA of 2.8 and an average SAT score of 984.

JROTC Activities

The JROTC program offers participants a rich variety of competitive, as well as collaborative, activities, including: school service and community service activities, athletic and academic competitions, service learning projects, drill competitions, color guards, cadet ball, parades, Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge and the annual Junior Cadet Leadership Camp.

Safety and Air Rifle Marksmanship

The Air Rifle Marksmanship and Safety program within the SDUSD has existed since 1919. Participation is entirely voluntary. All instructors are tested and certified yearly. Participating cadets are classroom trained and tested prior to ever being allowed to touch an air rifle. We have a perfect safety record in the SDUSD over the past 88 years. Last year San Diego High School's air rifle team was the California State Champion and was invited to participate in the 2007 Junior Olympics.

San Diego Unified School District

Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps Program

2007 - 2008

Program Overview

The San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) boasts a thriving Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) program that serves approximately 2,000 students in 13 of our comprehensive high schools.¹ (See Table 1.) Since 1919, the JROTC program has benefited many district students, helping them achieve academically, socially, and personally. The program fosters participants' personal confidence and pride in self, encouraging them to avoid negative peer pressures and to develop life skills that contribute to success after graduation. Moreover, the program is structured with many opportunities for public recognition that motivate students to excel in school and to participate in activities that benefit the community.

Table 1: JROTC Enrollment, 2007–2008, September 2007

School	JROTC Enrollment	Number of Instructors	School	JROTC Enrollment	Number of Instructors
Crawford	112	2	Mira Mesa (AF)	165	3
Henry (Navy)	158	3	Morse	254	4
Hoover	151	3	Pt. Loma (Navy)	113	2
Kearny	184	2	San Diego	186	2
Lincoln	158	2	Scripps Ranch (AF)	100	2
Madison	168	3	Serra (Navy)	161	3
			Mission Bay (USMC)	97	2
Cumulative totals	Students (2,014)	Instructors (33)	-----	-----	-----

The mission of the JROTC program is, quite simply, to motivate young persons to become better citizens. JROTC seeks to fulfill its mission by concentrating on the achievement of several interrelated objectives:

- To promote and encourage informed and responsible citizenship, by giving students insight into the ethical values that underlie it, including integrity, responsibility, and respect for constituted authority
 - To strengthen participants' self-reliance and self-esteem
 - To develop participants' leadership potential with the attendant skills to live and work cooperatively with others
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- To improve participants' physical fitness by requiring their participation in physical training and promoting maintenance of good health
- To promote participants' completion of high school
- To provide incentives for participants to live drug-free
- To provide instruction to enhance participants' life skills as well as skills in oral and written communications, mathematics and science

Army JROTC, Navy JROTC, Air Force and Marine Corps JROTC programs are available to male and female students in SDUSD and may be taken in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 in lieu of physical education or in addition to physical education as an elective credit. **JROTC does not recruit students for military service, and students are under no obligation to serve in the military after graduation.** Instead, JROTC focuses on developing mature, responsible young men and women and preparing them positively for whatever field in life they might choose.

JROTC Curriculum and Evaluation

The JROTC program teaches the student first to be a good follower and then to be an effective leader. Students are provided with leadership skills training opportunities on a daily basis; these opportunities and the resultant responsibilities increase as students progress through the second-, third-, and fourth-year programs. JROTC also helps students develop and apply many of the basic skills taught in other school courses.

The JROTC curriculum, taught by retired military professionals who are school district employees, encompasses a variety of subjects including communication skills, leadership, wellness, fitness, first aid, drug abuse prevention, history, geography, earth science and citizenship. Students receive academic grades for JROTC courses.

Each cadet is evaluated by the teacher and the cadet leaders. Evaluation is based on classroom performance, physical training classes, drill and ceremonies, and extracurricular activities. The program's success can be measured by the students that it motivates to stay in school and graduate.

Each year the JROTC school units are inspected, and based on their performance, awarded with honorary designations. There are three parts to the inspection:

1. **Formal Inspection:** Inspectors from an active duty Headquarters spend the day at the school. They receive a briefing from the school unit cadets and then inspect every cadet in every JROTC period. The administration and supply activities of each school are thoroughly examined.
 2. **Unit Report:** The instructors prepare an annual report detailing every activity in which the unit has participated.
 3. **Unit Visit:** The next higher headquarters visits the school and thoroughly reviews the administration of the unit and its supplies.
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JROTC school units must score 96 percent or higher to maintain their designations as honor units with distinction (Army) or to receive distinguished unit awards (Navy) or commander's unit awards (Air Force). Last year, all 12 San Diego Unified School District JROTC units received the top honors in their most recent annual inspections.

JROTC Activities

The JROTC program offers participants a rich variety of competitive, as well as collaborative, activities.

Competitions

During each school year the following competitions are conducted:

- Riflery
 - Varsity and Junior Varsity: Among the seven Army and three Navy JROTC schools in the San Diego Unified School District
 - San Diego Invitational: Among 18–20 JROTC schools from California, Arizona and Guam
 - Civilian Marksmanship Program – Junior Olympics
- Best-drilled first-, second-, third-, and fourth-year cadet competition
- Best-drilled squad and platoon
- Best school in physical fitness
- Best-drilled color guard
- Best fancy drill teams

In the San Diego area varsity and junior varsity riflery competition, students may earn varsity or junior varsity letters and individual awards. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to compete at the varsity or junior varsity levels. In JROTC riflery, cadets may earn ribbons, medals, and trophies. In all other JROTC competitions, cadets may earn ribbons, medals, and trophies, or a combination of these. Many of our schools were constructed with indoor air rifle ranges.

Joint JROTC Brigade

The JROTC units of SDUSD are organized as a joint brigade. The Joint JROTC Brigade consists of a brigade headquarters, seven Army units, three Navy units, two Air Force units and a Marine Corps unit. Each of the 13 JROTC programs nominates two cadets to be interviewed for seven brigade headquarters staff positions. Their selection is based on the following criteria:

- GPA
- Participation in JROTC activities
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Community service
- Physical fitness
- General knowledge
- Ability to express oneself
- Bearing/presence

The average GPA of the candidates appearing before selection board in 2006–2007 was 3.6.

Junior Cadet Leadership Camp (JCLC)

During the Spring or Summer, on a voluntary basis, JROTC cadets may participate under the supervision of their JROTC instructors in a four-day encampment at an active military installation. These encampments are considered by the cadets to be an important part of the JROTC program within the SDUSD. The purpose of the camp is to provide an environment that is conducive to practical application of good citizenship and leadership techniques and to introduce cadets to life in the military setting. Camp objectives include the following:

- To enable cadets to practice leadership in an unfamiliar environment
- To allow cadets to participate in citizenship building exercises
- To give cadets the opportunity to experience living and interacting with their peers in a military setting
- To allow JROTC cadre to instruct military skills in a hands-on military environment
- To allow for participation in adventure training not available on the cadets' campuses
- To take advantage of the recreational facilities available at the installation and to have fun

Cadets participate in rappelling, land navigation, rope bridge, obstacle and confidence courses. The cadets also have competitions in company drill, individual drill, a company skills race, and motivation drill. Trophies are presented to team and individual winners.

JROTC Ethnic and Gender Distribution

The Center for Strategic and International Studies report concludes that the JROTC program benefits disadvantaged youth and students of color the most.² Table 2 shows the ethnic distribution for the San Diego Unified School District JROTC program for the school year 2004-2005. JROTC is particularly popular among the Hispanic student population. The program serves to counteract forces that lead to that population's having the highest multi-year (grades 9-12) dropout rate among district students identified by ethnicity (see Appendix B).

Table 2: JROTC Ethnic Distribution, October 2007

Hispanic	46.7%	African American	16.6%
Asian	10.9%	Pacific Islander	1.6%
Caucasian	23.4%	Am. Indian/Alaskan	0.8%

In October 2007, the cadet corps was 47 percent female and 53 percent male.

Benefits of JROTC

Through its many programs, awards, and decorations and its commission and appointments process, JROTC supports learning, encourages students to perform, and keeps students achieving. "JROTC builds self-discipline, teamwork, motivation, and confidence in young

² Center for Strategic and International Studies, "Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps: Contributions to America's Communities," Final Report of the CSIS Political-Military Studies Project on the JROTC, May 1999, pp. 24, 34.

