

# Press Release

To: District and Area New Media  
From: Kathy Kuddes, Director of Fine Arts  
CC: JROTC Instructors  
Date: April 3, 2009  
Re: Triennial Formal Inspection Results

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## **Plano JROTC Units Earn Top Designation**

All three of the Plano I.S.D. Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) Battalions underwent detailed formal inspections earlier this month. Such units undergo formal inspections by former military personnel under the direction of Headquarters 12th Brigade Western Region (JROTC), based at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, every three years.

Inspectors spent a full day at each senior high school campus in January. During this visit inspectors received a detailed briefing on each program's structure, operations and accomplishments by the student Cadet leadership. Individual Cadet Staff Officers reviewed records and required documentation related to their respective responsibilities with inspectors as well. Cadet Platoons underwent detailed uniform inspections and performed precision marching drills for additional points. While the instructors work closely with students in preparation for this inspection, the focus of the program review is on the student Officers and Cadets.

The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program is designed to prepare high school students for responsible leadership roles while making them aware of their rights, responsibilities and privileges as American citizens. The curriculum includes strategies to help students improve communications skills, enhance social and ethical values, promote character development and physical fitness, and help develop an "appreciation of teamwork through instruction in drill and ceremonies." Other events and activities may include parades, precision drill team competitions and other co-curricular activities. The course helps to prepare high school students for college, Senior ROTC, and life. The course also helps interested high school students in gaining admission into military academies or earning four-year ROTC Scholarships. It is important to note, JROTC is not a military recruitment program and students have no military service obligation after high school.

Plano I.S.D. is pleased to announce that all of our JROTC units earned the required points on this triennial inspection to be eligible for the coveted Gold Star. The designation of "Honor Unit with Distinction" is the highest possible designation for a JROTC unit and is indicated by the wearing of a gold star on the cadets' uniform. This designation also means each school is in the top 10% of all Army JROTC units world-wide. Currently there are 1645 Army JROTC units in U.S. high schools.

JROTC Instructors for each Battalion are: Plano East Panther Battalion – Lieutenant Colonel (R) Bernard Aikens, Command Sergeant Major (R) Michael Franklin and Master Sergeant (R) Darrell Crews; Plano Wildcat Battalion – Lieutenant Colonel (R) Barry Rhoden and First Sergeant (R) Nicholas Hill; Plano West Wolf Battalion - Major (R) John Napoli, Jr. and First Sergeant (R) Steve Ford. Major Napoli

also serves the ISD as the Director of Army Instruction. All are retired from active service with the U.S. Army.

Cadet Officers for each Battalion, who led their Cadets to a successful inspection, are show below.

#### Plano East Panther Battalion



**Front row (L to R):** Cadet Captain Kathleen Moen, Cadet Captain Lindsey Reed, Cadet Captain Stephanie Lozada, and Cadet Major Alexandra George. **Second row(L to R):** Cadet Command Sergeant Major James Untiedt, Cadet Captain Wade Cone, Cadet Captain Mark Miller, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Brett Donmoyer, Cadet Captain Jason Dill, and Cadet Captain Harrison Stone. **Not pictured:** Cadet Major Tyler Gittens.

#### Plano West Wolf Battalion



**Front row (L to R):** Cadet Captain Tyler Ford, Cadet First Lieutenant Andrew Walters, Cadet captain Kathy Bunch, Cadet Second Lieutenant Chris Dawson, and Cadet Second Lieutenant Julie DeSousa. **Second Row (L to R):** Cadet First Lieutenant Jesse Gomez, Cadet Second Lieutenant Jason Jeon, Cadet Captain Neel Desai, and Cadet First Lieutenant Matt Burnham.

## Plano WILDCAT Battalion



**Front row (L to R):** Cadet First Lieutenant Evan Brussel, Cadet Second Lieutenant David Hersh, Cadet Command Sergeant Major Nathan Ley, Cadet Second Lieutenant Sarah Moudy **Second Row (L to R):** Cadet Captain Jonathan Hager, Cadet Major Grayson Strakele, Cadet Second Lieutenant Tomek Tritt.