

HOW JROTC HAS PREPARED ME
TO BE A BETTER CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

by

Cadet Lieutenant Angie Quezada

East Hall High School NJROTC

My transformation to being a better citizen of the United States began on my first day of high school. This was also my first day in the Navy Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (NJROTC) program. I never expected to learn citizenship, self-motivation, self-discipline, self-respect, and the other valuable life lessons I discovered by practicing the Navy's core values of honor, courage, and commitment. No other course has done that for me. Through NJROTC, I have not only grown more mature, but I have also grown wiser, stronger, and better. Those well acquainted with me are aware of the changes NJROTC is making in me. They perceive me as the hardworking, well-mannered person that I reflect in my uniform. They know that I have high goals and that I am determined to work hard to achieve them.

As a high school freshman, I started off as a regular Cadet Seaman Recruit. I was terrified of public speaking, had low self-esteem, did not have the courage to stand up for myself, and was unsure of who I really was or what I wanted for myself. As the weeks went by, I learned new things that made me feel good about myself. Wearing my uniform was one of the first things that helped me raise my self-esteem. Although I had no ribbons to wear upon my uniform, I wore it with pride and the hope of someday being just like my Cadet Commanding Officer. She was outgoing, smart, helpful, caring, and successful. If America is to stay strong, it needs as many of these dedicated people as it can get, and I wanted to be one of them. My cadet officers and Naval

Science Instructors, to whom I have always looked up, have been my greatest motivation in NJROTC.

With each semester completed I grew more confident. If I wanted to become a successful leader, I knew that I first had to be a successful follower and believe in myself before I could encourage others to believe in themselves. I learned how to be tactful in speaking to others. My shyness slowly vanished as I climbed the ranks and assumed different leadership responsibilities; and even more after delivering many oral presentations designed by my instructors to increase each cadet's public speaking abilities. I was discovering the hidden leader inside me.

Today, I am a junior in high school and have completed five semesters of NJROTC. I have been Supply Chief, Command Master Chief, Administrative Officer, Executive Officer, and Special Projects Officer. Through these leadership positions, I have learned the importance of teamwork and that being a leader is not about ruling a team, but guiding a team. I have also learned that a good leader must lead by example. If you want your followers to be successful, you must push yourself towards success and show that quitting is never a choice. I actually learned this lesson from our physical training sessions every week. Pushing myself to run that extra mile not only taught me that I could run better than before, but it also taught me that I could push myself to do anything else and achieve much more simply by trying harder. From my experience, I have discovered that you can reach any goal you set for yourself. I always try to pass this on to others.

I am very thankful to have the opportunity to be part of the NJROTC program because of the growth it revealed to me. If it were not for the commitment and the motivation it gave me, my grades in other school subjects would definitely not be as high as they are now. I want to help other young students so that they can see that it is possible to become a better, more confident

person. NJROTC has made me a better person and I strongly encourage my younger siblings to join and let it bring out the best in them, too. That would make our parents even prouder of the good citizens we are becoming by living the Navy's core values: honor, courage, and commitment.



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Mr. Roscoe McMillan
National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution
4808 High Aston Court
Flowery Branch, GA 30542

Subj: Recommendation for NSSAR Outstanding JROTC Cadet Competition

Dear Mr. McMillan,

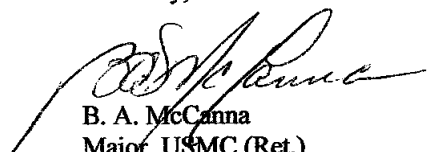
I recommend Cadet Lieutenant Angie Quezada for the NSSAR Essay Competition with the utmost enthusiasm. Angie is an extremely talented performer who is active in all aspects of the NJROTC program. She has been a member of the Viking Navy academic team and has earned numerous awards for unit service, unit participation, fitness, drill team, orienteering, and color guard, among many others. She has also earned a varsity letter for drill team. Angie maintains a high A average in Naval Science, and ranks 20th in her class of 164 with a 3.9 GPA. She is also a member of the National Honor Society.

Cadet Quezada graduated from NJROTC Basic Leadership Training last summer, where she did an outstanding job as a Platoon Commander. She did an equally superb job as the unit Executive Officer last semester. When the unit was asked by the school superintendent to produce a Veterans Day video last April, she stepped forward as one of the key cadets who planned and filmed interviews with over 30 veterans. Some of them can still be seen at www.hallco.org/veteransday. She was recognized at a school board meeting last month for her part in producing this moving tribute to local Veterans.

This semester Cadet Quezada is serving as my Special Projects Officer. Her first mission was to oversee our 13th annual Navy Ball, earlier this month. She did such a fine job that all I had to do was sit back and observe. That is the first time that has happened.

Cadet Quezada has already been selected as the unit Commanding Officer for next year. I have no doubt that she will help us earn high marks on our annual inspection in the Fall. She has unlimited leadership potential and her total dedication and strong commitment make her a tremendous asset to the NJROTC program.

Sincerely,


B. A. McCanna
Majr USMC (Ret.)
Senior Naval Science Instructor