

"A Sense of Pride"

AJROTC students value unique class experiences

Every year, students from the AJROTC program decide to make the ultimate sacrifice and join the American military. Central's AJROTC program offered one of the best leadership opportunities in the district for students regardless of their plans for after high school.

"I am going to the military to get new experiences. I would feel a sense of pride to serve my country. JROTC helps me develop a leadership position to aim for this achievement," said **Kevin Kurth ('17)**.

Students agreed that JROTC helped them develop their leadership abilities and that this would help them later in life. "I decided to be involved in this class to develop my leadership skills. I am interested in the military and I would like to connect my life with it. That's why JROTC is a valuable experience for me," said **Eric Gaines ('17)**.

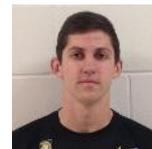
In addition to important skills, JROTC provided new friends, a lot of fun and an elective credit. JROTC was not just a military class; it also focused on career and financial planning, conflict management, social issues and

respect in society. "This class helps me figure out how I should behave in different hard situations. The thing I enjoy the most is that we are taught to respect people. I also like the topics about social problems," said **Armando Chavez ('19)**.

Just like in the American military, many young women became involved in JROTC. "I heard from many of my friends that this class was interesting and fun. I decided, 'why not?' It doesn't matter that I'm a girl," said **Demara Field Thorpe ('19)**.

JROTC served as a valuable experience for anyone interested in the military but also promoted strong personal skills regardless of the student's future plans. "I like JROTC because it promotes your personal growth and makes you a better person. Also it will help in the future as I am going to USMC," said **Nate Kunce ('19)**.

AJROTC provided students with a unique class experience and skills to take with them for the rest of their lives, whether that involved the military or other future plans. (A. Kobal)



Kevin Kurth



Eric Gaines



Armando Chavez



Demara Field Thorpe



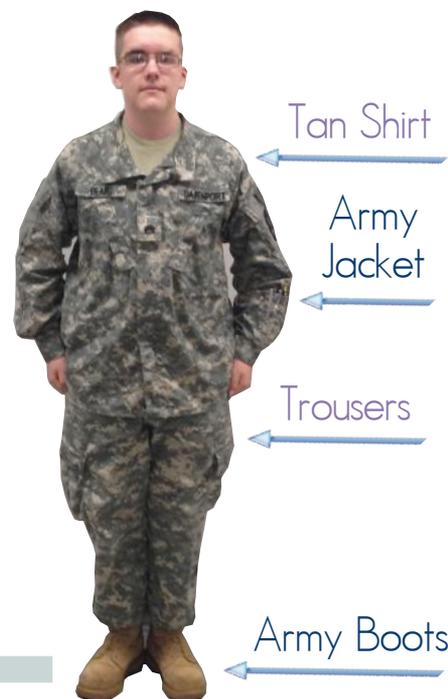
Nate Kunce

Army Service Uniform "Class B" Uniform Cordell Patrick ('18)



ON
Wednesdays,
WE
WEAR
OUR
Uniforms

ACU Army Combat Uniform Joey Beard ('18)



Optional: Tie (male), Tab (female)
Beret only worn outdoors



1. **National Pride** In the Veterans' Day parade, Cordell Patrick ('18), Evan Lebs ('17), Dominic Mathias ('19) and Doniel Greiner ('20) march in formation. Many students joined JROTC to prepare for the military, which became somewhat of a family tradition for some cadets. "I am going into the military because my dad and my grandfather were involved in the military, too. I know from them that it is hard but it is the most interesting part for me. I would like to be a marine engineer, so JROTC classes are very helpful for me," said Lebs. (J. Jurgenal)

2. **Friday Fun Day** In class, JROTC cadets Elizabeth Barfels ('20), Kevin Wayt ('20), Jimiela Hodges ('20), Shawn Lee ('19) and the rest of the company complete a few stretching exercises. Every Tuesday and Friday involved some form of Physical Training, or PT, for the student cadets. "PT is really fun. On Tuesdays we do exercises and on Fridays we have a game day," Lee said. (S. Ford)

GIRLS IN AJROTC

Female cadets discuss gender differences



"JROTC tests leadership skills. As a female, your skills are seen differently, but the result is greater."
-Shelby Ford ('18)



"Females have to work harder. We also have more to memorize on our uniforms, such as placement."
-Tabitha Olson ('18)



"I feel like I have a connection with all the guys. They're super supportive."
-Victoria Moore ('20)