

Chapter 1

Lesson 2

The Past and Purpose of Army JROTC



Key Terms

conflict resolution
culturally diverse
leadership
National Defense Act

What You Will Learn to Do

- Analyze the purpose of the Army JROTC program

Linked Core Objectives

- Apply Critical Thinking Techniques

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Describe the U.S. congressional act that created JROTC
- Identify the JROTC program outcomes
- Explain significant historical events that combined military training and education
- Define key words contained in this lesson

Military And Education: Historical Connections

Junior ROTC's (JROTC) mission "To motivate young people to be better citizens," has changed very little since 1916 when Congress passed the **National Defense Act**; however, the tradition of combining formal education with military studies goes back as far as the ancient Greeks. Centuries before JROTC existed, the Greeks, Romans, feudal Europeans, and Japanese had their own versions. In the United States, JROTC had its beginnings in Norwich, Vermont.

In 1819, Captain Alden Partridge, a former Superintendent of the United States Military Academy at West Point, founded the American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy in Norwich, Vermont. This academy is now known as Norwich University. Military studies were a major part of the academy's course work. Captain Partridge felt that if his cadets were not prepared to defend their country's rights, their education was incomplete.

In addition to extensive drill practice and physical training (including marches of up to 50 miles per day), the cadets studied Latin, Greek, Hebrew, French, English, ten types of mathematics, five types of law, and military history dating back to biblical times.

Captain Partridge's Academy was so successful that the idea of combining military studies with regular classes spread to other schools in the United States.

Where Army JROTC Is

Army JROTC is active in more than 1,550 high schools worldwide: in all 50 of the United States, the District of Columbia, Asia, Europe, the Caribbean, and other locations where the United States has an extended presence.

Purpose of JROTC

JROTC prepares high school students for responsible **leadership** roles while **making them aware of the benefits of citizenship**. Classroom and outside activities, including service learning projects, become opportunities to acquire the knowledge, discipline, and sense of responsibility that are necessary to take charge of one's future. The result is responsible cadets who are sure of themselves, can think on their own, and can express their ideas and opinions clearly and concisely.

Desired Goals

Leadership education and training goals are for cadets to:

- Graduate from high school.
- Be good citizens by knowing and exercising the rights, responsibilities, privileges, and freedoms of good citizenship.

Key Note Term

National Defense Act – Enacted in 1916, this act officially created the Reserve Officers' Training Corp of which Junior ROTC is a part.

Key Note Term

leadership – the ability to influence, lead, or guide others so as to accomplish a mission in the manner desired.

Key Note Terms

conflict resolution – the solutions utilized by a society to settle disputes in a cohesive manner.

culturally diverse – the presence of multiple and different cultural groups and their behaviors within an organization or institution.

- **Gain leadership potential and the ability to live and work cooperatively with others; demonstrate leadership in situations involving conflict resolution.**
- **Achieve positive self-esteem and winning behavioral concepts in a culturally diverse society.**
- **Learn the ability to think logically and to communicate effectively, with emphasis on effective oral communication.**
- **Learn the importance of diet and of physical fitness in maintaining good health and appearance.**
- **Gain an understanding of the history, purpose, and structure of Army JROTC.**
- **Acquire proficiency in basic military skills (such as drill and ceremonies, first aid, and map reading) that are necessary for working effectively as a member of a team.**
- **Learn the importance of citizenship through American history as it relates to America's culture and future from the Revolutionary period to the present.**
- **Learn about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of mental management, including goal setting and positive self-talk.**

Conclusion

Junior ROTC cadets are part of a proud tradition. Similar to their predecessors at Captain Partridge's American Literary, Scientific, and Military Academy, today's cadets are learning to lead and to motivate others while preparing to take part in today's competitive world.

Lesson Review

1. Where is Army JROTC active?
2. What is the purpose of JROTC? Choose one purpose and discuss how it pertains to you.
3. Name two desired goals from leadership education and training.
4. Discuss the National Defense Act.