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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Southern High School's Army JROTC Program Earns "Honor Unit with Distinction" Designation"

Tiyan, Guam – The U.S. Army Command's 8th Brigade has bestowed the "Honor Unit with Distinction" (HUD) award upon the Knight Battalion, Southern High School's JROTC program, on Monday, January 29, 2024. This recognition is based on the outstanding performance of the cadets and instructors during the JROTC Program of Accreditation (JPA) inspection, which is conducted by an external evaluator. Mr. Mark Pratt, an inspector from the 8th Brigade, assessed the program and gave it a score of 95.66%, indicating a high level of excellence and achievement. The GDOE congratulates the Knight Battalion for this remarkable accomplishment and thanks them for their dedication and service.

Southern High School's JROTC program has earned the distinguished title of an "Honor Unit with Distinction" by scoring 95.66%. This is an outstanding achievement, as only about 10% of the over 1,700 Army JROTC programs in the private and public high school in the nation and abroad reach the standard score of 95% of excellence. The JPA inspection assesses the program's curriculum, cadet performance, instructor qualifications, and school support. The previous inspection for Southern High School was in 2017, and the 2020 inspection was delayed due to Covid-19.

Superintendent Erik Swanson, Ph. D. expressed his admiration for the Southern High School's Army JROTC program, which earned the prestigious "Honor Unit with Distinction" award. He praised the cadets and M. Wade Paul, Senior Army Instructor, for their relentless commitment to excellence and their outstanding performance.

The evaluator assessed the battalion's performance on various aspects and gave a final score of 95.66%. The cadet leaders and staff officers presented their Continuous Improvement Project and Service Learning Project for the year. The evaluator then interviewed ten cadets from different grades on the 78 JROTC academic lessons that cover topics such as leadership, management, planning, resume writing, education planning, government, civics, first aid and map reading. The interviewed cadets scored 97% on average, with the freshmen and sophomore cadets scoring 100%. The JPA inspection also included a uniform inspection and a Color Guard inspection by the University of Guam's Senior ROTC cadre and cadets.

The "Top Three" cadet leaders for Southern High School's "Knight Battalion" are the Battalion Commander, Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Ursula Ziegler, the Battalion Executive Officer, Cadet Major Cheyoung Ahn, and the Battalion Cadet Command Sergeant Major, Jude Cruz. The instructors for Southern High School's Army JROTC program are retired Army personnel, Lieutenant Colonel M. "Wade" Paul, Lieutenant Colonel Carl Q. Cruz and Sergeant First Class Juan T. King



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Cadets and instructors from Southern High School's Army JROTC Knight Battalion's 6th period class surround Mr. Mark Pratt (center back row) after being informed by Mr. Pratt that their Army JROTC program earned the coveted "Honor Unit with Distinction" designation because of scoring 95.66% on their triennial JROTC Program of Accreditation (JPA) inspection.



Southern High School's Army JROTC program cadets will now be able to wear "The Gold Star" on their uniform, identifying the cadet as a member of an Army JROTC program that has earned the designation as an "Honor Unit with Distinction."

For more information, please contact M. Wade Paul, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), U.S. Army, Senior Army Instructor, Army JROTC Southern High School at (671)300-5281 or (671) 482-5230, email at MWPaul@gdoe.net or Tes Reyes-Burrier at mtreyes@gdoe.net.

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