

JROTC cadet has award winning essay

Maame Bassaw, a Baumholder High School senior wrote her own ticket to success with her essay titled “JROTC Builds Character and Leadership” which was recently selected as the best among entries from 200 schools in Europe and the northeastern United States. She submitted her essay in the annual essay contest held by the 2nd Army ROTC Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command for JROTC cadets. Bassaw’s essay has been submitted to Cadet Command for competition at that level.

She is the daughter of Chaplain (Maj.) Nana and Mrs. Bassaw, of the U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder.

Below is Bassaw’s winning essay.

By JROTC Cadet Maame Bassaw
Baumholder American High School

Since the beginning, the JROTC program in American high schools has provided its cadets with life changing skills which strengthen the attributes of character and leadership. Within the program, cadets are given the opportunity to discover their true abilities and to utilize them in every day life to succeed in their future goals and to brighten and improve the world around them.

Character is a significant quality that is molded and illuminated through the JROTC program. The importance of upholding military bearing is stressed by teaching cadets the importance of respect, obedience, trust, and many other character traits that are needed to live as an individual and to contribute positive benefits in society. Through insightful lessons of self discovery, the ambition to change one’s flaws and maintain successful habits for educational needs becomes one of the main goals to achieve. Prominent positions also motivate cadets to behave accordingly and confidently so they exemplify what it means to be a JROTC cadet and encourage others to emulate their behavioral ways and skills.

Leadership is emphasized as the most important character trait in JROTC. Through its definitive representation of principles such as loyalty, duty, and respect, cadets are allowed to learn and demonstrate the ability to take charge and guide



Photo by Ignacio “Iggy” Rubalcava

Maame Bassaw, JROTC cadet, receives a certificate of excellence from Maj. (Ret.) David Schwab, senior Army instructor at Baumholder American High School, for her accomplishments in the JROTC essay competition.

a group to accomplish specific tasks. The art of patience and cooperation are key factors that are found to be essential for leadership positions in JROTC for the purpose of making sure that each subordinate is able to make a contribution to the team to achieve a goal. Learning how to distinguish the difference between “leading” and “controlling” separates the competent leaders from the incompetent ones. The skill of taking heed to what will benefit “the group” than “oneself” is a belief that epitomizes leadership and brings success and respect from others.

In the ever-changing world we live in, the JROTC program gives positives contributions to society for our youth. The need for influential leaders for the future is important for our world to progress with the values of leadership and character; we have the ability to expand our horizons through the JROTC program.