

Key words

ferrule:

A decorative metal cap attached to the end of a shoulder cord to prevent fraying; a metal ring or cap attached to the end of a staff or handle to give strength or to protect it against splitting

military awards:

Recognition given to individuals for participating in JROTC-sponsored activities, or for leadership excellence

If you are wearing a special medal with one or more marksmanship badges, equally space all awards (but not more than three) from left to the right on the left pocket flap. Place the upper portion of the medals one-eighth of an inch below the top pocket seam. Wear the special medal to your right of any marksmanship badges.

These same rules apply for female Cadets, except wear medals and/or marksmanship badges one-quarter of an inch below the bottom row of ribbons.

MISCELLANEOUS UNIFORM ACCESSORIES

The instructor staff may authorize you to wear shoulder cords for participation in certain JROTC activities, including the color/honor guard, drill team, and rifle team. Wear one cord by itself on the left shoulder, and any other cord on the right shoulder. When wearing cords with a **ferrule** (metal tip), keep the ferrule to the front; otherwise, wear these cords based on the procedures of your local unit.

Components of Individual Award Categories

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

Each Army JROTC unit can award various types of individual awards to its Cadets for recognition of excellence, outstanding achievement, or superior performance. There are two main categories of individual awards: institutional and national awards.

Institutional Awards

Superintendents, principals, and Army instructors can present institutional awards to individual JROTC Cadets for reasons of academic excellence, military and athletic achievement or performance, participation in community parades, excelling in recruiting programs, and other reasons that are determined by your instructors. You have the opportunity to earn as many of these awards as you possibly can.

The following is the order of merit (or importance) for these awards along with the number of ribbons available for each type. Within each category, you wear these awards (or ribbons) in their numerical order.

1. Academic Awards – 10 ribbons
2. **Military Awards** – 15 ribbons
3. Athletic Awards – 5 ribbons
4. Miscellaneous Awards – 5 ribbons

National Awards

National awards recognize individual JROTC Cadets for heroic, distinguished, meritorious, and other commendable acts and achievements.

Army JROTC Awards

JROTC offers numerous awards to those who are willing to go above and beyond the minimum effort asked of them. As mentioned earlier in this lesson, these categories include academic, military, athletic, and

miscellaneous, plus you can also receive national awards. The following sections offer you more detail on each award and what it takes to earn them.

Award Criteria

ACADEMIC AWARDS

Figure 1.2.31 shows the various types of academic awards that you can earn.

Award	Awarded By	Criteria
Distinguished Cadet Award for Scholastic Excellence (N-1-1)	Superintendent	Awarded annually to one Cadet who exhibits the highest degree of excellence in scholastics.
Academic Excellence Award (N-1-2)	Principal	Awarded annually to one Cadet in each LET level for maintaining highest school academic grades.
Academic Achievement Ribbon (N-1-3)	DAI/SAI (Awarded by DAI, except for in single units, then awarded by SAI)	Awarded annually to those Cadets who maintain a grade of "A" in all academic subjects.
Perfect Attendance Ribbon (N-1-4)	SAI	Awarded to Cadets with no unexcused absences during each quarter/semester.
Student Government Ribbon (N-1-5)	Principal	Awarded to Cadets elected to student government offices.
LET Service Ribbon (N-1-6)	SAI	Awarded to Cadets successfully completing first quarter/semester of training of each LET year.
N-1-7 through N-1-10	DAI/SAI	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by region commanders.

Figure 1.2.31

MILITARY AWARDS

Figure 1.2.32 shows the various types of military awards that are available to you through hard work and effort.

Award	Awarded By	Criteria
DAI/SAI Leadership Ribbon (N-3-1)	SAI	Awarded annually to one Cadet per LET who displays the highest degree of level leadership.
Personal Appearance Ribbon (N-3-2)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who consistently present an outstanding appearance.
Proficiency Ribbon (N-3-3)	DAI/SAI (Awarded by DAI, except for in single units, then awarded by SAI)	Awarded annually to those Cadets who demonstrated an exceptionally high degree of leadership, academic achievement, and performance of duty.
Drill Team Ribbon (N- 3-4)	SAI	Awarded annually to Drill Team members.
Orienteering Ribbon (N-3-5)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who are members of the Orienteering Team.
Color/Honor Guard Ribbon (N-3-6)	SAI	Awarded annually to members of the color/honor guard.
Rifle Team Ribbon (N-3-7)	SAI	Awarded annually to members of the Rifle Team.
Adventure Training Ribbon (N-3-8)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who are members of adventure training units.
Commendation Ribbon (N-3-9)	SAI	Awarded to Cadets whose performance of duty exceptionally exceeds that expected for grade and experience.
Good Conduct Ribbon (N-3-10)	SAI	Awarded annually to the Cadets who have demonstrated outstanding conduct and participation.
Summer Camp Participation Ribbon (N-3-11)	SAI	Awarded to those Cadets who participate in summer camp.
N-3-12 through N-3-15	DAI/SAI	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by region commanders.

Figure 1.2.32

ATHLETIC AWARDS

Athletic awards are achievable through JROTC. All you need is an attitude geared towards success (see Figure 1.2.33).

Award	Awarded By	Criteria
Varsity Athletic Ribbon (N-2-1)	Principal	Awarded annually to Cadets who excel in varsity sports.
Physical Fitness Ribbon (N-2-2)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who maintain excellent physical fitness: male Cadets must run one mile in 8:30 minutes and female Cadets in 10:45 or less.
JROTC Athletic Ribbon (N-2-3)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who excel in JROTC athletics.
N-2-4 through N-2-5	DAI/SAI (Awarded by DAI, except for in single units, then awarded by SAI)	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by region commanders.

Figure 1.2.33

MISCELLANEOUS AWARDS

There are several miscellaneous awards that you can earn (see Figure 1.2.34).

Award	Awarded By	Criteria
Parade Ribbon (N-4-1)	SAI	Awarded to Cadets who have participated in local community parades (such as Veterans or Memorial Day parades).
Recruiting Ribbon (N-4-2)	SAI	Awarded to Cadets who recruit students into the JROTC program.
N-4-3 through N-4-4	DAI/SAI (Awarded by DAI, except for in single units, then awarded by SAI)	Awarded based on criteria developed locally and approved by region commanders.
Superior Cadet Award (N-4-5)	SAI	Awarded to Cadet staff officers for outstanding performance.
Service Learning Ribbon (N-4-6)	SAI	Awarded annually to Cadets who participate in service learning projects.

Figure 1.2.34

NATIONAL AWARDS

With your eye on success, you can also earn national awards (see Figure 1.2.35).

Award	Criteria
Medal for Heroism	Awarded to any JROTC/NDCC Cadet who has been distinguished by an act of heroism.
Superior Cadet Decoration	Awarded annually to the outstanding Cadet of each LET level.
Legion of Valor Bronze Cross for Achievement	Awarded annually to a LET 3 Cadet for achievement of scholastic excellence in military and academic subjects and development of leadership.
Sons of the American Revolution Award	Awarded to a Cadet enrolled in ROTC for meritorious achievement.
The Military Order of the World Wars Award	Awarded annually for overall improvement in military and scholastic studies.
Daughters of the American Revolution Award	Awarded annually to a Cadet at each institution for outstanding ability and achievement.
Association of Military Colleges and Schools of the U.S. Award	Awarded annually to a full-time Cadet who has completed at least two full years of JROTC.
American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary Awards	Awarded annually to outstanding Cadets at each institution for general military excellence and scholastic achievement.
The National Sojourners Award	Awarded annually to an outstanding Cadet at each installation who contributed the most to encourage and demonstrate Americanism.
U.S. Army Recruiting Command Award for JROTC	Awarded annually to a Cadet at each school in recognition of their outstanding achievement and contribution to the JROTC program.
Association of the U.S. Army Award	Presented at the discretion of the DAI/SAI and the local AUSA chapter according to criteria that best suits the school's program.

Figure 1.2.35

ARMY JROTC RIBBONS AND AWARDS



Ribbons and Awards

(Order of Precedence)

 Medal of Heroism	 Superior Cadet	 Distinguished Cadet N-1-1	 Academic Excellence N-1-2
 Academic Achievement N-1-3	 Perfect Attendance N-1-4	 Student Government N-1-5	 LET Service N-1-6
 Optional by SAI N-1-7	 Optional by SAI N-1-8	 Optional by SAI N-1-9	 Optional by SAI N-1-10
 DAI/SAI Instructor Leadership N-3-1	 Personal Appearance N-3-2	 Proficiency N-3-3	 Drill Team N-3-4
 Orienteering N-3-5	 Color Guard N-3-6	 Rifle Team N-3-7	 Adventure Training N-3-8
 Commendation N-3-9	 Good Conduct N-3-10	 JCLC N-3-11	 Optional by SAI N-3-12
 Optional by SAI N-3-13	 Optional by SAI N-3-14	 Optional by SAI N-3-15	 Varsity Athletic N-2-1
 JROTC Physical Fitness N-2-2	 JROTC Athletic N-2-3	 Optional by SAI N-2-4	 Optional by SAI N-2-5
 Parade N-4-1	 Recruiting N-4-2	 Optional by SAI N-4-3	 Optional by SAI N-4-4
 Optional by SAI N-4-5	 Service Learning N-4-6	 Excellent Staff Performance N-4-7	

Figure 1.2.36



Figure 1.2.37

Conclusion

The Cadet battalion structure is set up to ensure a quick and clear flow of commands. Each individual Cadet has a job to do, which is part of a squad task that then proceeds up the chain of command until that individual task is a part of the battalion's overall mission.

What this means is an effective JROTC organization. Each Cadet knows what he or she is responsible for and what added responsibilities come from advancement in rank.

How far you climb in rank is up to you. Each Cadet battalion, depending on unit requirements, has opportunities for advancement. You will receive the necessary training and have the opportunity to demonstrate excellence in the skills and knowledge you have learned. Your actions and abilities ultimately will let your battalion leaders know if you are ready to move up.

Content Highlight:

LEADERSHIP

Taking on added responsibility in a leadership position is part of what JROTC is all about. Moving up in JROTC takes three things—desire, time, and work. JROTC will give you the time, but you must have the desire and be willing to put in the work.

The JROTC Awards Program has much to offer. It can give you the chance to be recognized either individually or as a member of a unit for your accomplishments and excellence. To earn these awards, you must be as competitive as your abilities and skills will allow. Often, you must put forth an extra effort to be in competition for them. The result, however, is self-satisfaction and sometimes public recognition for your accomplishments.