

ORANGE City News

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IN OUR SCHOOLS

Cadets drill down for success

Orange High School has a popular Marine Corps JROTC program, with more than 100 students participating each year since its inception in 1997.



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Contributing Columnist

This year, the cadets — under instructors Maj. Ian Santos and Sgt. Maj. Ed Aguilar, both retired Marines — have won numerous awards at competitive drill meets.

At the Southwest Regional JROTC Drill Meet in Henderson, Nevada, one of the two color guards, commanded by Cadet Sgt. Natali Flores, took first place overall, and the Unarmed Team, commanded by Cadet Capt. Kelly Banderas, received first place. The Armed Team, under the command of Cadet Staff Sgt. Patrick Raras, received a third place for



COURTESY OF ORANGE HIGH SCHOOL JROTC

From left, Donald Vu, Michael Woodland, Jeremy Cruz, Gabriel Honore, Kelly Banderas, Jacob Lorenzo, Natali Flores, Arianna Mejia, Danny De La Cruz, Angelica Alvarez, Alinne Rivera and Reyna Sanchez.

regulation drill.

At the Sweetwater High School Drill Meet for JROTC units throughout Southern California,

the Orange High team took first place trophies for color guard, individual drill and the highly cov-

SCHOOLS » PAGE 2

Schools

FROM PAGE 1

eted armed regulation drill. The teams also earned second place trophies for unarmed inspection, its second color guard unit, and a third place trophy for unarmed regulation drill.

The JROTC program aims not only to provide exposure to the military but develop leadership skills, character and self-discipline. Ethics, responsibility, self-reliance, teamwork and discipline are emphasized. Orange High's cadets also participate in community service activities throughout the year. Students learn rappelling, marksmanship, physical fitness and problem-solving techniques.

The elective program provides credits, a higher rank for cadets who enlist in the armed forces after graduation, the opportunity for college ROTC scholarships or ROTC credit at colleges, and possible nomination for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy for outstanding cadets. The Marine Corps provides ba-

sic funding for the program at Orange High, but it relies on donations to fund drill meets and field trips.



The combined OHS Marine Corps JROTC Drill Teams at the Southwest Regional Drill Meet: Major Ian Santos, Lance Cpl. Donald Vu, Staff Sgt. Patrick Raras, Lance Cpl. Michael Woodland, 1st Sgt. Jeremy Cruz, PFC Erwin Ramirez, Cpl. Jacob Lorenzo, 2nd Lt. Alinne Rivera, 2nd Lt. Gabriel Honore, Capt. Kelly Banderas, Pvt. Danny De La Cruz, 1st Lt. Vanessa Flores, Sgt. Natali Flores, Pvt. Alexandra Arcelles, 1st Lt. Arianna Mejia, 2nd Lt. Angelica Alvarez, Pvt. Mya Moreno, 2nd Lt. Samuel Wilson, Pvt. Amy Castillo, Pvt. Alondra Granillo, Sgt. Reyna Sanchez, Cpl. Tanya Azpeita, and 1st Lt. Kaila Saole. (Courtesy of OHS JROTC)



The Orange High Marine Corps JROTC Unarmed Drill Team won the championship at the Southwest Regional Drill Meet, from left: Lance Cpl. Donald Vu, Lance Cpl Michael Woodland, 1st Sgt. Jeremy Cruz, 2nd Lt. Gabriel Honore, Capt. Kely Baneras, Cpl. Jacob Lorenzo, Sgt. Natali Flores, 1stLt. Arianna Mejia, Pvt. Danny De La cruz, 2nd Lt. Agelica Alvarez, 2nd Lt. Alinne Rivera and Sgt. Reyna Sanchez. (Courtesy of OHS JROTC)



The OHS Marine Corps JROTC Southwest Regional Drill Meet Championship Color Guard includes: Sgt. Reyna Sanchez, Sgt. Natali Flores, Capt. Kelly Banderas, and 2nd Lt. Angelica Alvarez. (Courtesy of OHS JROTC)



The third place Orange High Marine Corps JROTC Armed Drill Team pose with their trophy at the Southwest Regional Drill Meet: Lance Cpl. Donald Vu, Lance Cpl. Micahel Woodland, 1st Sgt. Jeremy Cruz, PFC. Erwin Ramirez, 2nd Lt. Gabriel Honore, Staff Sgt. Patrick Raras, Cpl. Jacob Lorenzo, 1stLt. Arianna Mejia, 1stLt. Vanessa Flores, Pvt. Danny De La Cruz, 2nd Lt. Alinne Rivera, 2nd Lt. Samuel Wilson, 1st Lt. Kaila Saole. (Courtesy of OHS JROTC)