

# TPI

The Patriot Informer

Message from  
Colonel & Chief  
*Page 2*

Photo Gallery  
*Page 4*

Seniors' Page  
*Page 5*

Staff Positions  
*Page 9*



## Area 5 Drill Championships



(Meet results: 3rd in armed exhibition; 4th in unarmed ex., color guard, drill; and 4th overall)

On March 18th we had our last drill meet of the year and I am very proud how our team did. A big thanks to all the people who stuck with the team through thick and thin. Even though we had a rough beginning to our season we still managed to come together and finish the season strong. My year as Drill Team Captain was memorable and I will never forget my time in the unit.

-EJ Assurian

### Content

Messages from Colonel and Chief	Pg. 2
News	Pg. 3
- Teams	
- Field Trip (Permission slip on Pg. 7)	
- NJROTC Yearbook Order(Flyer on Pg. 8)	
- Community Service	
- Q&A for Advancement	
Photo Gallery	Pg.4
Seniors' Page (Interviews)	Pg. 5
Meet the Staff	Pg. 6
Cadet Staff Application Form	Pg. 9

APRIL 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	1	2	3	4	5

14

#### SCHOOL CLOSED

Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Frederick, MD

17

#### SPRING BREAK

No School

24

#### BOOSTER GENERAL MEETING

Governor Thomas Johnson High School, Frederick, MD

25

#### ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY FIELD TRIP

Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA

### TEAMS

21

#### ORIENTEERING TRIP TO WEST POINT

United States Military Academy, West Point, NY



---

# MESSAGES

*from Colonel and Chief*

---



Hello Cadets!

We are getting close to the end of the school year. Now is the time focus on grades and end the year with a strong finish. The recent Cadet Ball and the Appalachian trail hike were great events and I was impressed by many of you who helped plan and assist in these events.

Next fall we have quite a large group of new cadets joining the unit so we will need plenty of good leaders to help training and leading them. We should all congratulate those seniors who will graduate soon! We have several who have gotten scholarships for colleges next fall. We have several who will be attending Military Schools as well as the Naval Academy. We also have several who will be entering the Military right when they graduate. Don't hesitate to congratulate them!

- LtCol Lyon



As we move into the last months of the academic year, I want to highlight a few final opportunities.

I wanted to personally thank all cadets and Julie Heckert for the outstanding planning, turnout and conduct at our annual military ball. It gets better each year, and I was happy to see everyone have a good time in each other's company. Without a father daughter dance on the calendar, I was excited to share that evening with my 9-year old daughter, Hannah. Thank you for making her feel comfortable and welcome.

Our final field trip of the year will be on Tuesday, April 25th to Arlington National Cemetery. As with all trips, the first 40 are guaranteed a spot on the bus. Unfortunately, as we have consumed most of our fundraiser dollars, this trip will cost \$10 per cadet to offset the transportation fee. (Permission slip with all of the details is included in this newsletter).

I jumped the gun with our planned orientation trip to Virginia Beach. After securing available dates with T.J. administrators, we were unable to secure a bus or barracks style lodging for the size group we hoped to bring. While we bounced around different ideas from smaller groups and parents driving cars, in the end, we decided to cancel this trip. The cost of hotel rooms and rental vans is simply too much compared to the savings a bus and barracks would offer with a bit more planning time. We will re-introduce our annual trip at the start of the next academic year. I apologize for putting the word out before having these items finalized.

From July 9-15, we will be participating in the annual Wilderness Challenge ("Mini Boot-Camp") at Camp Mountaineer, West Virginia. Used as our basic leadership training event, it includes daily fitness and a large variety of activities from rafting to rappelling while competing as a team against other NJROTC units. This camp is all inclusive (transportation, food, lodging and activities) at \$355.00. This is the actual camp cost, and our unit will cover transportation out and back. More detailed information from the host unit will be published soon, but I wanted to get it on your calendars.

## CADET STAFF

As our unit numbers continue to rise, we will start next year as a Battalion vice a Company. This change allows for more leadership opportunities on the cadet staff and within each school and classroom. From platoon and company commanders to our officer staff in training, supply, etc., we need motivated and able cadets to take on the challenge. If interested in one of the many available positions, please complete the attached application and return it to Chief Rodrigues by April 15th.

- Chief Rodrigues

## NEWS

### TEAM

Orienteering – The Orienteering Team is going on a trip to West Point Military Academy to compete and train between *April 21<sup>th</sup>* and *April 23<sup>th</sup>*. Last practice is *April 26<sup>th</sup>*. Cadets who are not going to West Point need to return the team uniform at the *April 12<sup>th</sup>* meeting.

### FIELD TRIPS

Our final field trip this year is planned for *April 25<sup>th</sup>* to Arlington National Cemetery. The permission slip is attached on *Pg. 7*.

### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Volunteer opportunities for April and May - Sign-up sheets are/will be posted at Chief's room. For questions, contact our Volunteer Coordinator Chris Henry at [cmh62@comcast.net](mailto:cmh62@comcast.net).

*April 1<sup>st</sup>* - Rails to Trails

*April 15<sup>th</sup>* - Racine Athletics, Hagerstown

*April 29<sup>th</sup>* - Rebuilding Frederick

*May 13<sup>th</sup>* - Antietam National Cemetery Cleaning-up

*May 20<sup>th</sup>* - Placing Flags at Mt. Olivet Cemetery

*May 27<sup>th</sup>* - Racine Athletics, Ft. Ritchie Community Center

### Q&A

**Q: Where can I get help with my advancement needs?**

**A:** Our advancement system is based on merit. To advance, cadets must demonstrate they have the knowledge, fitness, grades, and zero conduct issues at school, etc. For requirement, study cards and help, you may use the following resources.

1. Instructors and Cadet Training Officer/Assistant Training Officer
2. Patriot NJROTC website – Go to Cadet Information and then Advancement
3. NJROTC Cadet Field/Drill Manual
4. For ranks PO2 to Chief, go to <https://quizlet.com/ChiefRodrigues> to see the particular study set needed.

### 2016-2017 PATRIOT NJROTC YEARBOOK

Deadline is approaching. Order today your copy of the Yearbook filled with photos of individual cadets and teams activities (See the flyer on *Pg. 8*).

For questions, please contact our Yearbook Coordinator Hongwei Xu at [hwxu@comcast.net](mailto:hwxu@comcast.net).



## PHOTO GALLERY



Patriot NJROTC Drill Team Competing at Area 5 Drill Championships Held at Bowie High School



Cadets Hiking 10 Miles on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail from Harpers Ferry, WV to Gathland State Park, MD

**Military Ball** – This year 95 people attended the military ball at the Morningside Inn. There were food, guest speaker, cake, DJ, and dance. It was a blast! Additional photos will be posted in the 2017 NJROTC Yearbook and a few personal ones can be obtained from Mrs. Buckman.



Left: Mission 10 Miler Cadet Volunteers Cheering for Runners  
Right: Cadet Volunteers Sorting Food for Blessings in a Backpack



### Junior Olympics Rifle Match

**Team** – 2nd Place in Sporter Class

**Individual** – (for age group)  
McCormick 3rd  
Dirndorfer 1st  
Xochilt 2nd

## SENIORS' PAGE

In this section of the newsletter, we introduce two of our outstanding seniors [Jaxon Harris](#) and [Alexei Severnyak](#), both of whom joined Patriot NJROTC in Fall 2016, and both have been accepted into military programs and both are committed to military service.

If any of the seniors who would like to be interviewed and share their stories, please contact *Robert Xu* at [monocacyx1@gmail.com](mailto:monocacyx1@gmail.com).



Jaxon Harris  
Walkersville High School

[Cadet Jaxon Harris](#) is a senior from Walkersville High School (WHS). He said he was interested in the Navy after attending the Naval Academy's Summer Seminar in 2016. He joined Patriot NJROTC in Fall 2016 and has been in the program for two semesters. According to Harris, his best memory of Patriot NJROTC is the air rifle training in the gym.

In addition to Patriot NJROTC, he plays football (4 years) and does track (2 years) at WHS. Last year his school football team won 2A State Championship. Recently Harris has been accepted into United States Naval Academy. He was really surprised when he found out, but he acknowledged that his hard work has paid off and he is making the commitment to have a successful career in the naval service.

For all cadets in the program, his advice is "It helps a lot to know your knowledge. Keep up your grades, and take it seriously when you need to, but definitely make sure you are having fun."



Alexei Severnyak  
Governor Thomas  
Johnson High School

[Cadet Alexei Severnyak](#) is a senior at Governor Thomas Johnson High School (GTJHS). He said that he joined Patriot NJROTC in Fall 2016 to "expose himself to a military branch other than the Air Force" and has been in the program for two semesters. According to him, his best memory of Patriot NJROTC was "serving as a squad leader" in class drill and inspection.

In addition to Patriot NJROTC, Severnyak participates in Civil Air Patrol (rank of Lt.Col), karate, and swimming (4 years) at GTJHS. His career goal is to become a U.S. military fixed wing combat pilot. Severnyak hopes to attend the United States Air Force Academy. If it doesn't work out, he plans to attend either Texas A & M University or The Citadel, two military colleges that he has been accepted to with his ROTC scholarship and pursue a ROTC commission.

For all cadets in this program, he advises them to "Look after your uniform. Don't fall back on your promotions. Most of all, do your best."

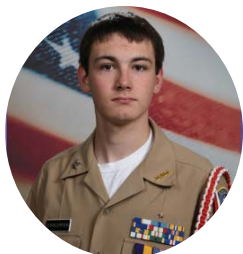


## MEET THE STAFF

The following are the exclusive interviews with some of our staff. The staff were asked about their positions, length of the positions, job responsibilities, accomplishments, suggestions to improve unit performance, and hobbies and/or extracurricular activities.



My name is [EJ Assurian](#). I am a senior from Governor Thomas Johnson High School. I am the Executive Officer and I've been in that position since May 2016 to the present. My responsibilities are to make sure all the other officers are doing their jobs correctly and efficiently. My biggest accomplishment thus far in this year is keeping the drill team together. To improve unit performance, we need to get more people that will care about the unit. I enjoy listening to my records when I'm not doing NJROTC.



My name is [Matthew Dirndorfer](#). I am a junior from Governor Thomas Johnson High School. I have been Training Officer since May 2016. I am in charge of rank advancement and training cadets in areas where they need help. My biggest accomplishment so far has been the rewriting of the rank requirements and organizing the cadet training summaries. As a whole I think we need to put more focus into good leadership and followership skills. I am in Boy scouts of America and I enjoy reading, Muay Thai ( Thailand combat sport), and Brazilian jiu-jitsu.



My name is [Julie Heckert](#). I am a junior from Governor Thomas Johnson High School as of January 24, 2017. I have been Operations Officer since May 2016. My responsibilities include keeping track of events, creating award orders for cadets to receive ribbons, and planning the military ball.

To improve unit performance, I think we need to increase our drive to improve as a whole. For extracurricular activities, I just participate in the drill team.



My name is Ryan Wiscovitch, and I'm a junior from Governor Thomas Johnson High School. I am the assistant to the Operations Officer and I've been in this position for almost a year now. I help out with setting up and organizing sign-up and keeping track of events and color guards. I also help out with awarding cadets with ribbons they have earned doing said events.

As a unit I think we should push our cadets for better academics and to become role models to the school. One of my favorite things to do is collecting military surplus from other countries.

### **Gregg Lyon**

Senior Naval Science Instructor  
LtCol, USMC (Ret)  
[Gregg.Lyon@fcps.org](mailto:Gregg.Lyon@fcps.org)  
(240) 236-8257

### **Michael Rodrigues**

Naval Science Instructor  
HMC, USN (Ret)  
[Michael.Rodrigues@fcps.org](mailto:Michael.Rodrigues@fcps.org)  
(240) 236-8257



# PATRIOT NJROTC

Governor Thomas Johnson High School  
1501 North Market St.  
Frederick, MD 21701  
(240) 236-8257



## PARENT/TEACHER APPROVAL FOR FIELD TRIP

Teacher: LtCol Lyon / Chief Rodrigues

Program: NJROTC

Trip Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Destination: Arlington National Cemetery

Field Trip Objective: All NJROTC cadets are welcome to join us for a walking tour of Arlington National Cemetery.

Departure Time: 0645 Approximate Return Time: 1400

### REQUIRED:

- Cost: \$10.00 (To offset the extra cost of the chartered bus)
- Lunch is not provided or available on site. Pack a lunch to eat on the bus during our drive back.
- ALL cadet forms (school physical, health risk questionnaire, and waiver) and \$25 unit maintenance fee must be submitted.
- Cadets will wear the issued Navy uniform with jacket.
- Muster at 0630 at the T.J. front entrance
- The first 40 cadets to return this form to Chief Rodrigues will be added to the list. We will not have a 2<sup>nd</sup> bus for this trip, so don't delay.
- Deadline to register: Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup> by 1430.

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Print

I give permission for this student to go on the stated field trip.

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent telephone number in case of emergency: \_\_\_\_\_

.....  
**TEACHERS' SIGNATURES:** Signature implies passing grades and consent to miss a day of school. Advance assignments should be provided.

Period 1 \_\_\_\_\_

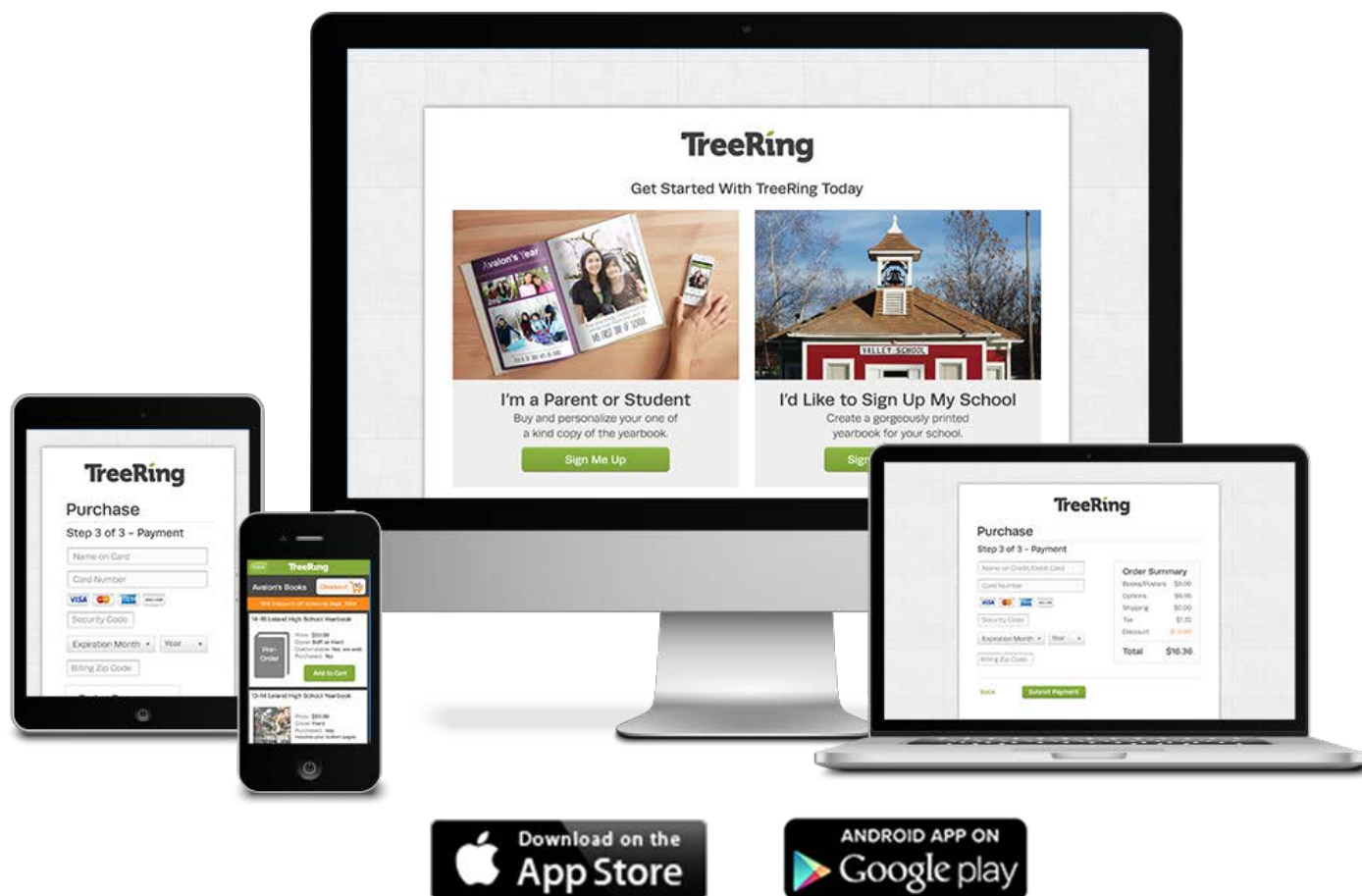
Period 3 \_\_\_\_\_

Period 2 \_\_\_\_\_

Period 4 \_\_\_\_\_



# Easily Purchase This Year's NJROTC - Governor Thomas Johnson High School Yearbook from Anywhere!



To Purchase Your Yearbook:  
Go to [www.treering.com/101443707995128](http://www.treering.com/101443707995128)  
Yearbook Price: **\$17.94**  
Purchase Deadline: **May 8**

**TreeRing**

Patent Pending © 2016 TreeRing Corporation

## **PATRIOT NJROTC CADET STAFF APPLICATION**

RANK/NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CURRENT NAVAL SCIENCE COURSE: \_\_\_\_\_ CURRENT GRADE: \_\_\_\_\_

JOB LEVEL INTEREST: (Select all that apply)

- ☐ COMMAND LEADERSHIP STAFF (C.O. / X.O. / Command Master Chief)
- ☐ EXECUTIVE STAFF (Supply, Administration, Operations, Training, Public Affairs)
- ☐ COMPANY LEADERSHIP (Company Commander's / Company Senior Chief's / Platoon Chief's)
- ☐ ENLISTED LEADERS (Company Senior Chief's / Platoon Chief's)
- ☐ ASSISTANT (Executive staff assistants)

PREFERENCES: (LIST SPECIFIC JOB DESIRED)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS JOB EXPERIENCE / DATES:

---

---

---

---

---

COMMENTS (WHY YOU?):

---

---

---

---

---

CONFLICTS (SPORT SEASON/ACTIVITY):

---

If assigned, I agree to commit sufficient time and effort to complete my tasks effectively. Major billets will be served for the entire school year while assistants and Company billets are one semester.

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_