



THE PHILADELPHIA MILITARY ACADEMY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds Awarded the “Gold Star,” or Honor Unit with Distinction Award.

March 19, 2010— **Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds** under the leadership of Principal William C. Wade, today received the highest honor awarded to JROTC programs, after its annual inspection. **PMA received the Honor Unit with Distinction**, entitling them to the prestigious “**Gold Star**,” granted by **The Fort Dix 2nd Brigade headquarters, Army JROTC**. This award also grants PMA Leeds the status of being one of very few schools in the Philadelphia area to have been awarded this distinction, and the only one this year.

There are three possible designated achievements given by the nation wide Army JROTC. They are: **Merit** (85-90 percentile), **Honor Unit** (91-95 percentile) and **Honor Unit with Distinction (HUD)** (96-100 percentile). Most units are awarded **Merit** status, some **Honor**, but only a very few in the nation are ever able to achieve **HUD**.

Being designated an Honor Unit with Distinction authorizes the Senior Army Instructor, Colonel Ramon Ramos, to nominate an unlimited number of cadets to the United States Military Academy, five nominations to the Air Force Academy, and three nominations to the Naval Academy, thus marking PMA Leeds as a direct channel to these prestigious and highly selective institutions.

The HUD status was achieved by PMA Leeds after much hard work and preparation by the cadet corps and their dedicated Army Instructors, Colonel Ramos, Sergeant Major Pagan and Sergeant Matthews and First Sergeant Hampton. After inspecting the ranks, the Platoon Drill Division and the Color Guard, and after giving a Curriculum Knowledge Evaluation, a Battalion Staff Unit Status Brief and an inspection of the Staff Functional and Administration Area, the Department of the Armies JROTC division evaluated PMA Leeds to have earned a final tabulation of 97 percent, the highest score ever earned in the Philadelphia region.

The Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds is located at 1100 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave. in Mt. Airy. PMA is a Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) themed public school committed to promoting academic excellence through sound educational principles and practices, conjoined with leadership education training and character building.