



Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

Report to Congress
April 19, 2024



U.S. Coast Guard

Foreword

April 19, 2024

I am pleased to present the following report, “Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps,” prepared by the U.S. Coast Guard.

The Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 directs the submission of estimated costs associated with implementing the expansion of the Coast Guard’s Junior Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (JROTC) Program.

The Coast Guard JROTC was established in 2020, formalizing and providing oversight to our legacy Junior Leadership pilot program. JROTC is a community-level partnership focused on developing service-minded citizens of character that positively impact the world around them. The programs foundation is rooted in our service core values and a commitment to the COAST framework– Citizenship, Operations, Advancement, Service, and Teamwork. We are poised for smart program growth bolstered by total workforce engagement, effective collaboration with our Department of Defense counterparts, and continued Congressional support.



Pursuant to Congressional requirements, this report is provided to the following members of Congress:

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

I am pleased to answer any questions you may have, or your staff may contact my Senate Liaison Office at (202) 224-2913 or House Liaison Office at (202) 225-4775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "L L Fagan".

Linda L. Fagan
Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commandant



Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

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I. Legislative Language

This report responds to the language set forth in Section 11247 (b) of the Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022 (Pub. L. No. 117-263), which reads:

SEC. 11247. EXPANSION OF COAST GUARD JUNIOR RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 320 of title 14, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d);

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “subsection (d)”; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) SCOPE.—Beginning on December 31, 2025, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall maintain at all times a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program with not fewer than 1 such program established in each Coast Guard district.”

14 U.S.C. §320. Coast Guard Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may establish and maintain a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps, organized into units, at public and private secondary educational institutions.

(b) Applicability.—Except as provided in subsection (d), the provisions of chapter 102 of title 10 shall apply to a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps established and maintained under this section in the same manner that such provisions apply to the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps of each military department. For purposes of the application of such provisions to this section—

(1) any reference in such provisions to a "military department" shall be treated as a reference to the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(2) any reference in such provisions to a "Secretary of a military department", a "Secretary concerned", or the "Secretary of Defense" shall be treated as a reference to the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(c) SCOPE.—Beginning on December 31, 2025, the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall maintain at all times a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program with not fewer than 1 such program established in each Coast Guard district.

(d) Exception.—The requirements of chapter 102 of title 10 shall not apply to a unit of the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps established by the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating before the date of the enactment of this section unless the Secretary determines it is appropriate to apply such requirements to such unit.

(b) COST ASSESSMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to Congress an estimate of the costs associated with implementing the amendments made by this section.

II. Background

The Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) program aims to instill values of citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment in students at United States secondary schools. To accomplish this objective, the Coast Guard's JROTC program focuses on developing cadets and guides students' learning in five pillars: Citizenship, Operations, Advancement, Service, and Teamwork (COAST).



The JROTC program, a joint effort between the Coast Guard, local communities, and schools, aims to foster personal and civic growth in high school students. The program encourages high school graduation, offers valuable experiences, and prepares students for potential careers in the Armed Forces. Graduates gain skills and knowledge that are beneficial for future challenges.

In 2023, the Coast Guard established four new JROTC units, the program's most significant expansion, increasing the total number of units to 10. New units are in Saraland, AL; Clinton, MS; Chicago, IL; and San Diego, CA. Expansion provides a Coast Guard JROTC Program in the Fifth, Seventh, Eighth, Ninth, and Eleventh Coast Guard Districts. The Coast Guard continues to engage with school and community leaders in the First, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Seventeenth Districts to establish JROTC units. The Coast Guard remains committed to establishing a JROTC unit in every Coast Guard District by December 31, 2025.

III. Report

To comply with statutory requirements to maintain a JROTC program with no fewer than one unit in each Coast Guard district, the Coast Guard must establish at least four more JROTC units.

The Table shows Coast Guard JROTC units by District and how many new units are required for statutory compliance.

Table 1: Coast Guard JROTC units by Coast Guard District

| Coast Guard District | Number of JROTC units (2023) | Minimum number of new units required for statutory compliance |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| First | 0 | 1 |
| Fifth | 3 | 0 |
| Seventh | 3 | 0 |
| Eighth | 2 | 0 |
| Ninth | 1 | 0 |
| Eleventh | 1 | 0 |
| Thirteenth | 0 | 1 |
| Fourteenth | 0 | 1 |
| Seventeenth | 0 | 1 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 4 |

The Coast Guard estimates approximately \$2.75 million annually to implement Section 320 of Title 14 U.S. Code, as amended, and to sustain a total program strength of at least 14 JROTC units, based on a cost of \$125,000 per unit annually and staff support at Coast Guard Headquarters.

IV. Conclusion

The Coast Guard JROTC Program focuses on *Developing Service-Minded Citizens of Character*. Cadets participate in community service, team building, and leadership roles, often graduating at higher rates than their peers. The JROTC experience gives cadets a foundation in discipline and service, benefiting their communities and the nation. The Program's alignment with the Coast Guard's humanitarian ethos enables sharing Service traditions, missions, and values.