

# HOBART HIGH SCHOOL

## Ho-H Life

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### Four JROTC cadets attend national symposium

By Cara Soria

Four HHS JROTC students attended a weeklong leadership symposium for outstanding JROTC cadets nationwide on the campuses of Washington and Lee University and the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington, VA, sponsored by the George C. Marshall Foundation.

The students were Cadet Captain Erick Pistello, Cadet Command Sergeant Major Anthony Gilyan, Cadet Lieutenant Darrell Clark and Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Mitchell Weidinger. Cadet First Sergeant Martha Montoya and Cadet Major Darren Bood were alternates for the symposium.

The theme for the symposium was "the application of the George C. Marshall principles to my JROTC unit, school, community and life." It focused on the principles of leadership, integrity, selfless service and character as emphasized by Gen. Marshall, who was the chief of staff of the army during World War II.

He became the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State, and was presented the Nobel Peace Prize for engineering the Marshall Plan for the revitalization of Europe after WWII. There were about a dozen excellent speakers from

of their different leadership ideas.

To be invited to the symposium, the cadets had to compete in an academic-bowl-style series of on-line tests over leadership theory and application, personality inventory theory, brain function and thinking maps, and classroom automation and presentation.

The competition is broke down into regions, and the top schools from each region are invited to the symposium. Hobart beat all the students from Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin.

More than 250,000 cadets from over 1,600 high schools were eligible to take the test, which is supposed to reinforce the material the cadets are taught all year. Only 136 cadets from 34 schools were able to attend the symposium. At the symposium there were about a dozen speakers from the military, education and industry that have different aspects of leadership in the group. Then a smaller group of cadets discussed and prepared presentations of their different leadership ideas.

Lt. Col Scott Buhmann, the senior Army instructor, said the Army doesn't expect a new JROTC program to win. "It is unheard of," he added. So

However, he added, "But, from the perspective of trying hard and knowing their stuff, I was not shocked. The cadets worked hard to do well, and they did do well. No one here or anywhere else really thought any new program could actually win."

Lt. Col. Buhmann added, "I was bursting with pride for the cadets. Most of them have never had the opportunity to distinguish themselves like this. It is not everyday that any organization can represent Hobart on the regional or national level, so I was and still am very proud of them. They got the chance and made the most of it."

Speaking of the symposium, Gilyan said, "I was lucky and to learn how to become a leader." He said he went on to notes, and had a mission at

Weidinger said he was because he didn't think the school got enough score. Since he has already been up for the National Guard and completed his basic training, Weidinger said the symposium helped him with his self-motivator. Pistello said he was just he was selected to attend, but C he was worried about the flight