



PRESS
RELEASE

In late January, Command Teams from the United States Army Cadet Command (USACC) and the 8th Brigade conducted a multi-day (26-29 Jan) visit to the American Samoa JROTC Program. This marked the first time senior leaders from USACC traveled to American Samoa to engage with our cadets and instructors personally.

The purpose of the visit was to meet with students and instructors, observe program operations firsthand, and recognize the outstanding efforts of our instructors and cadets. During their visit, members of both the USACC Command Team (CSM Darrell Walls) and Brigade Command Team (COL George Plys and CSM Keneti Pauulu) presented official command coins to deserving cadets and instructors in recognition of their hard work, leadership, and dedication.

The Command Teams expressed how impressed they were with the growth and progress of our local JROTC programs—particularly in STEM and in high JROTC enrollment numbers at each school, which stand out compared to many programs across the nation. They also took time to share their leadership experiences and discuss the way ahead for USACC, providing valuable insight and motivation for both cadets and instructors.

This visit also served as the 8th Brigade Command Team’s farewell engagement, as they are scheduled to change command later this year. Fagaitua High School honored the distinguished guests by hosting a traditional Ava ceremony, showcasing our culture and hospitality while reinforcing the strong partnership between our community and the United States Army JROTC program.

The Command Teams culminated their visit with a meeting with ASDOE Leadership (Deputy Director Mauga, Deputy Director Lance Glodowski, COL(R) John Tulifua, EA Teofilo, and Executive Assistant Rosita Leoso), during which they shared their overall impressions and experiences from their visit and time in American Samoa.

They appreciated the opportunity to engage with our students, instructors, school faculty and staff, and ASDOE leadership. It was truly a pleasure for them to witness firsthand the dedication, professionalism, and pride displayed throughout the program.

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