

"Obedience is the most important of the attitudes that good leaders should strive to instill in their personnel." – 3rd year Navy JROTC textbook, page 4

You Expected Union Solidarity? – *Not from JROTC Teachers!*

From the start of the San Diego teachers' strike, all of the district's 21 JROTC classroom teachers continued working!

They refused to respect picket lines even though:

- They have the same employee status as other teachers in the district.
- They enjoy the benefits of SDTA membership, just like other teachers.
- Unlike other teachers, they would have continued receiving their monthly military retirement pay of \$1 600-\$2500 even if they had joined the strike!

Contrary to what some people have been told, JROTC instructors face no greater risk than other teachers if they strike.

Though the JROTC curriculum is dictated by the military, the Pentagon's agreement with the school district specifies that JROTC teachers are school district employees.

Except for their military retirement checks, which cannot be cut off, their paychecks come from the school district.

"One of the most well-known instances of using the Army in labor disputes was when the Army put an end to the railroad strike of 1894." – 3rd year Army JROTC textbook, Page 187

Previously, the SDTA has been reluctant to join others in questioning the appropriateness of subsidizing a military training and recruiting program in our schools. It should be clear now that even though JROTC teachers belong to the SDTA, their true loyalty is to the military with its historical strike-breaking role.

(over)

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Some Facts About JROTC

- The JROTC curriculum claims to teach subjects like history, civics, English and health science, even though the instructors do not have credentials to teach these subjects.
- JROTC teachers are not required to have a college degree to receive their California special subjects credential.

"Fortunately for the Army, the government policy of pushing the Indians farther west then wiping them out was carried out successfully." –3rd year Army JROTC textbook, page 185

- The value of JROTC credits is so worthless that they do not count toward entrance requirements for California state colleges and universities. Students' JROTC grades are excluded in computation of g.p.a. for student aid eligibility.

"Americans generally place a high value on human life. This may not necessarily be the case in other cultures or countries . . . for example certain of the terrorist-sponsoring nations of the Middle East." –4th year Navy JROTC textbook, page 141

- JROTC has never produced valid data to substantiate its claim that it helps keep students in school and out of trouble. In fact, students with academic or disciplinary problems are excluded from the Navy JROTC program.

"Modern advocates of gun control, registration and the banning of gun ownership should at least be aware that their efforts...are probably unconstitutional." –AFJROTC text, Careers in Aerospace, page 76

- The military-style leadership JROTC teaches is inconsistent with the goals of our schools. More important to students are the cooperative, democratic leadership and self-discipline already taught through other programs like music, student government, and sports.
- JROTC is a military recruiting program, plain and simple. This is reflected in the textbooks and stated in official JROTC documents. Dept. of Defense statistics indicate that almost 50% of students who pass through the program join the military, the vast majority entering in the bottom ranks.

"The mark of a true soldier has always been loyalty and obedience to leaders. It is the same for NJROTC cadets . . ." –1st year Navy JROTC textbook, page 24

- JROTC propagandizes students with politically-biased lessons and historical material that is often distorted and sometimes false. This conclusion was supported by a District-appointed committee when it reviewed the Air Force JROTC textbooks a few years ago.
- JROTC discriminates in hiring: teachers must be "physically fit"; less than 1% of JROTC teachers are women; and gays and lesbians are automatically excluded from the pool of retired officers who are eligible to teach.

"Among the traits of a good follower, loyalty is at the top of the list. This means loyalty to those above us in the chain of command, whether or not we agree with them." –1st year Navy JROTC textbook, page 24

- JROTC teaches students rifle marksmanship and drills them with mock weapons. This is the wrong message when we are trying to convince young people to stay away from guns and avoid violence.

"Take the religion you know best, for instance. . . It speaks of one God who is the Father of all mankind. . . the idea of one Universal Father is stressed." –2nd year Air Force JROTC textbook, page 67

- The JROTC program is not cost effective. While a partial federal subsidy is received for staff salaries, extra staff, including an administrator, must be hired. In 1993, the District discovered that JROTC teachers were costing \$301,000 more than regular classroom teachers!