

The Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) was established in Ashe County in 1968 at Beaver Creek High School. The Beaver Creek Battalion suffered the normal growing pains experienced by any new program establishing its' identity and its' role within the Ashe County School system and the community. JROTC is a citizenship program intent upon making "young people become better citizens". Using the structure and organization of the U.S. Army as a tool retired Army officers and non-commissioned officers instill in cadets the Army values of duty, honor, integrity, loyalty, courage, and selfless service. As the Beaver Creek program matured it established itself as one of the premier programs in North Carolina. Under the leadership of LTC (R) Bob Carroll and MSG (R) Norm Osborne the Beaver Battalion became known for the extraordinary amount of community service undertaken by cadets each year, a tradition which continues today. Cadets average nearly 5000 cadet hours of community and school service each year. With consolidation in 1999 the Beaver Battalion became the Husky Battalion and continued the traditions established in the previous 31 years.

JROTC battalions are inspected on an annually. The highest rating any battalion can achieve is Honor Unit with Distinction. The Ashe County JROTC Program has been rated as Honor Unit with Distinction continuously for over 30 year. This accomplishment is indicative of the quality and dedication of the cadets and the support and respect the battalion receives from the community.

Although many former cadets have served with distinction in the various branches of the armed forces recruitment is not one of the missions of JROTC. Cadets are schooled in life skills which will serve them well in the future as a productive citizen in any field of endeavor. Diversity, conflict resolution, critical thinking and character building are but a few of the many areas emphasized in the JROTC curriculum.

In School Year 2006-2007 the Ashe County High School Husky Battalion was selected for a visit by the Training and Doctrine Command Commander. This honor is bestowed upon only the very best that JROTC has to offer and is an indication of how highly regarded the Husky Battalion is at the highest levels of the command.