



**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY**

NAVAL SERVICE TRAINING COMMAND  
2601A PAUL JONES STREET  
GREAT LAKES, ILLINOIS 60088-2845

April 22, 2011

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator  
509 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

As the Commander of Naval Service Training Command (NSTC), I have cognizance over the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC) program. This letter is in reply to your correspondence of March 15, 2011 to Secretary Mabus regarding the disestablishment of the NJROTC unit at Stephen Decatur High School in Berlin, Maryland.

Navy recognizes the great value of the NJROTC program to our cadets, their parents, and our schools. Our decision to disestablish Stephen Decatur High School's NJROTC program was a difficult one, and was made only after a careful review of their enrollment history and our projected budget for the NJROTC program.

In order to meet the expressed desire of school districts and communities to preserve citizenship programs for their students, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Garcia has approved the establishment of a Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) program. The NNDCC program, modeled after similar programs provided by the US Army and US Marine Corps, will provide qualifying schools that do not meet the criteria for a NJROTC unit the opportunity to conduct a similar course of military training.

The NNDCC program is modeled after the NJROTC program with the principal exception being the host school is responsible for the primary funding of the program, to include instructor salaries, student uniforms, and daily operational expenses. The Navy will supply curriculum material, selected equipment, and the forms and regulations required to conduct the program.

Stephen Decatur High School will be contacted shortly regarding their interest in joining the NNDCC program for the 2011-2012 academic year.

Thank you for your support of our NJROTC students and their families. We look forward to working with your staff and the community on this issue. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "David F. Steindl", is positioned above the printed name.

DAVID F. STEINDL  
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy