

## **Joint Base San Antonio**

**Lackland AFB – Randolph AFB – Fort Sam Houston**

**Destination – Tomorrow’s Leaders**

*“when just being yourself can change the future”*

### **MISSION**

Destination – Tomorrow’s Leaders (DTL) program will provide the framework for positive relationships between the military, schools community and the community at-large. These relationships will allow the student to make positive connections between the world of the military, school and their community. The mission of the Destination – Tomorrow’s Leaders program is to improve the academic achievement, self-esteem, social competence, and avoidance of problem/high-risk behavior by providing a relationship with a caring adult friend who works to help youth achieve their potential.

This partnership program offers an opportunity for Joint Base San Antonio and a local school to work together in a collaborative fashion for the benefit of both parties. The long-term partnerships are reciprocal in nature and both JBSA and the school benefit from the relationship.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To provide positive relationships with caring adults.
2. To provide a framework for positive future growth and decision making skills.
3. To help develop effective problem solving skills and effective communications skills.
4. To help an individual develop his/her own vision for the future.
5. To encourage individuals to develop to their fullest potential.
6. To help meet student’s needs as communities provide resources and expertise to schools.
7. To build a sense of community (classroom, school, town / country, state....global)
8. To create more opportunities for:
  - a. Positive connections between the military, schools and their communities.
  - b. Career awareness and exploration.

### **PROGRAM COMPONENTS**

The DTL will be a multifaceted program impacting the 23 Independent School Districts 20,000+ federally impacted youth and their civilian counterparts. The components include the Adopt-A-School or Classroom Program and a Mentoring program. The DTL Program contributes Military resources and services to schools in order to nurture the intellectual, emotional, social, and physical growth of children in the San Antonio area, to increase public awareness of the Joint Base San Antonio’s mission, and to foster good relations.

Constant involvement at all levels of command is encouraged and Unit Commanders should be personally involved with the leadership of their adopted schools in identifying requirements and providing support for these schools and our students.

**Adopt-A-School/Classroom Program** fosters a better understanding of the community's school system, strengthens and improves school programs and curricula, and creates a sense of personal involvement and interaction between JBSA and our schools.

Adopt-A-School programs do not require financial support from the sponsor. Neither party in the adoption is the sole beneficiary. The squadron/organization derives a sense of satisfaction in service and benefits from excellent public relations throughout the community. The adoptee reaps benefits when the squadron/organization makes a commitment to assist in the development of the full educational potential of a school.

In an “Adopt-a-School” program individuals or groups generally work with a school to provide volunteers or financial resources to support instruction in the classroom. It may be focused on a single classroom or program within a school or it may be a school or even system-wide initiative. Likewise, support may be furnished by a single individual, or a larger group.

**Mentoring Program** mentors spend time with young people encouraging positive choices, promoting high self esteem, encouraging academic achievement and introducing new hobbies and experiences. Mentors and youth will develop their relationship at the child’s school, when the mentor visits each week to talk, play games, and assist with schoolwork. All mentors develop a relationship with a child reinforcing the values and cultural heritage that parents have instilled. Mentors share the importance of these values with youth through fun activities and exposure to new experiences. A mentor can play many roles including coach, teacher, advocate, friend, cheerleader and opener of doors. A mentor’s goal should not be to make the student like them, but rather help the student develop their talents to reach their own goals.

### **What You Can Do When you Adopt a School/Classroom (some ideas)**

- **Academic Enrichment/Career Awareness:** Provide readers for classes; host job shadowing opportunities; conduct interview skills workshops; participate in career days; provide newspapers for classroom instruction; conduct tours, site visits and excursions; serve as resource speakers or tutors; assist with student research projects; teach them about their community and heritage; to have lunch with student(s); to work at field day; to act as story teller, field trip chaperone, sewing instructor, computer instructor, chess coach, etc., be a mentor for a student through the Mentorship Program.
- **Student Motivation:** Provide recognition for bringing up grades, most improved student, perfect attendance; sponsor recognition banquets, citizenship projects, students of the month.
- **Improving School Environment:** Donate time to participate in clean up days or beautification projects at school, and participate in the Principal for a Day Program at your adopted school.

- **Faculty Support and Recognition:** Recognize staff during national recognition weeks such as American Education Week, Teacher Appreciation Week/Day, Counselor Appreciation Week/Day Administrative Professionals Week/Day, Bus Driver Appreciation Week/Day.
- **Community Service Projects:** Help students realize that they have something to offer their community by leading a student volunteer project: helping them make something for a nursing home, paint homes or community buildings; doing whatever it takes for them to make a contribution.

## **Benefits from Involvement**

By participating in the DTL program, you are investing in the future of our Society, our profession and our nation. Participation will also increase the visibility of our professions and our military culture. Students and teachers in the program will grow in their understanding of the military and its positive contributions to our way of life. Together everyone will gain from their sense of accomplishment, teamwork and enjoyment.

A strong public school system is basic to the health and growth of a community. Quality schools attract people to live in the area. New businesses locate there to provide services, jobs, and an increased tax base. The community is a good place to live because the schools are good schools.

The successful military-education partnership program proves that our military and our school systems can work cooperatively to make a positive impact in our community.

As you consider whether the DTL program is right for you, remember some of the phrases from “Children Learn What They Live” by Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.

- ♥ If children live with sharing, they learn generosity
- ♥ If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.
- ♥ If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence
- ♥ If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.
- ♥ If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.
- ♥ If children live with recognition, they learn it is good to have a goal.