

NEVADA

Churchill County JROTC Cadets Earn Scholarships Awarded to Top U.S. Students

By Steve Ranson

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Two Churchill County High School Junior ROTC students have each received \$200,000 college scholarships to the universities of their choice.

Cmdr. Almond Smith, commander of the U.S. Navy Talent Acquisition Group in Portland, Oregon, recognized Natalie Carrero and Jade Beland before their fellow cadets at the Churchill County High School (CHHS) auditorium. Carrero is this year's JROTC commanding officer, and Beland is serving as the executive officer. "The top students from across the nation apply to this scholarship program and ROTC," Smith said.



From left are Cmdr. Almond Smith and Command Master Chief Roy Neal, U.S. Navy Talent Acquisition Group (NTAG) in Portland, Ore.' JROTC cadets Natalie Carrero and Jade Beland, each a recipient for a \$200,000 Navy ROTC scholarship; and military science instructors Chief Petty Officer Keith Bryska and Capt. Robert Kerman.

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The 32-year Navy veteran said the Navy looks for successful students who have demonstrated leadership and athletic skills and achieved academic excellence. He said the scholarships may be used at any university that offers Navy ROTC. Smith said it's rare when both the unit's commander and executive

office receive scholarships in the same year. "They show a great propensity to go on and do many great things," he added.

Smith also praised the CCHS program and cadets. "Your team has done such a great job, and a lot of their ability to lead is reflective of the folks you have here, who have supported them," he said, adding the program leads to successful leaders.



Churchill County Junior ROTC cadets Natalie Carrero, left, and Jade Beland, were recently notified they have each received a \$200,000 Navy ROTC scholarship.
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