

Title Page & Abstract

An Interview with Lt. Lauren Carthan

Part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library
Education is Key-Alternatives in Education Oral History project

Interview # EA-A-L-2018-001

Lauren Carthan, the Senior Naval Science Instructor for the East Aurora Naval Junior ROTC program, was interviewed on the date listed below as part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Education is Key-Alternatives in Education* Oral History project.

Interview dates & location:

Date: Jan 9, 2018

Location: East Aurora High School, Jr. Naval ROTC Office, Aurora IL

Interview Format: Digital audio

Interviewer: Philip Pogue, ALPL volunteer

Transcription by: _____

Edited by: _____

Total Pages: _____ Total Time: 1:15 / 1.25 hrs.

Interview being
processed

Accessioned into the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Archives on July 10, 2018.

The interview is archived at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library in Springfield, Illinois.

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Abstract

Lt. Lauren Carthan, *Alternatives in Education*, EA-A-L-2018-001

Biographical Information Overview of Interview: Lauren Carthan was born in Chicago, Illinois in March 1966 and grew up in the western Chicago suburbs of Maywood and Summit, graduating from Proviso East High School in 1984. She enlisted in the Navy on December 16, 1987, and attended the Navy's Hospital Corpsman 'A' School and later the Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy 'C' Schools. During her active duty career, she served at naval facilities at San Antonio, Great Lakes (North Chicago), and San Diego. In 1999, she earned a BS Degree in Healthcare Management from Southern Illinois University. Carthan received a commission in the U.S. Navy under the In-Service Procurement Program on June 1, 2000. Her first assignment as a commissioned officer was at the Naval Dental Center at Great Lakes, where she oversaw the operation of five naval dental clinics. In May 2010, Lieutenant Carthan retired from the Navy. (Her active duty career included a deployment to Afghanistan in 2007.) In 2011, Lieutenant Carthan was hired as the first female Naval Junior ROTC Instructor at East Aurora High School, Illinois. In the fall of 2015 she became its Senior Naval Science Instructor. The East Aurora NJROTC is the largest unit in the country.

Lt. Carthan discusses the history of the East Aurora High School NJROTC program, which ranges in size from 600-750 cadets. Receiving many national and regional awards, the unit's mission is to develop the cadets' citizenship, service, work ethic, and personal discipline. She discusses the program's curriculum, the role of service learning, opportunities for cadets to serve on the color guard, rifle team, drill team, athletic events, academic competition, and physical training. She also talks about the NJROTC program's role in the total high school experience and discusses the cadets' involvement in various service projects. Roughly ten percent of graduates enlist in the military, while a far higher percentage attend technical schools, colleges, universities, or community colleges upon graduation. East Aurora High School has recently undergone major school renovations and additions, allowing the expansion of NJROTC.

Subject Headings/Key Words: East Aurora High School Naval Junior ROTC program; Naval Junior ROTC competitions in Chicago area; NJROTC Booster program; service projects conducted by NJROTC cadets for school and community; financing the NJROTC program;

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