

Citizens Serving Citizens With Pride & Tradition

Washington Military Department



Washington Youth Academy Update Briefing

For the Joint Committee on Veterans and Military
Affairs

Director Larry Pierce
Sep 17, 2014

WASHINGTON'S NEEDS

- Up to 17,000+ Washington State high school students dropout every year (OSPI/DOE)
- High School Students At-Risk?
- Statewide High School Graduation Rates traditionally ~75%
- Increasing number of 5th year seniors
- Increasing applicant pool at Academy, selective process
- WYA has limited capacity to serve additional dropouts w/o additional capital investment

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- More than 120 cadets complete the program per session; graduated our 1,000th student last winter.
- Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) gains average 2.5 grade levels.
- 85% of graduating cadets earn all 8 credits possible.
- Average GPA of 2013-2 completers was 3.46 (WYA classes); average incoming GPA was 1.20 (high school). This represents an average increase of 52.4%.
- Service to community averages ~40 hours per cadet (valued at nearly \$200k to the community per session)
- Rand Study (2012) of the National Challenge program indicates there is a 166% return on investment (\$2.66 for every \$1 spent on the program)

NGB CORE Evaluation Results for WYA (2012):

Functional Area	Washington	Nat'l Average
Overall Average	96%	82%
Operations	93%	90%
Resource Management	98%	77%

CLASS 2014-02 COMPOSITION

- 151 Cadets currently:
 - 44.5% -- 16 years old
 - 41% -- 17 years old
 - 14.4% -- 18 years old
- Ethnic diversity of the class:
 - Hispanic 39%
 - Caucasian 34%
 - Multicultural 10%
 - African-American 6%
 - Asian 5%
 - API 4%
 - Native American 2%.
- 49% live with a single parent, 46% live with both parents, 4% live with a friend or other family member, and 1% live on their own
- 20 Washington counties represented in the cadet population, including King, Pierce, Yakima, Kitsap, Clark, and Snohomish Counties .
- Family income:
 - $\geq \$45k = 30\%$
 - $\$35-45k = 14\%$
 - $\$25-35k = 13\%$
 - $\$15-25k = 16\%$
 - $\leq \$15k = 27\%$
- 77% have smoked pot, 3% used crack, 4% abused medications, and 3% used Ecstasy (all down from previous classes). Other drugs reported: Meth, Spice, Mushrooms, Heroin/Opiates, Oxy, and LSD

EXPANSION CONSIDERATIONS

Program Options/Construction Requirements/Expansion

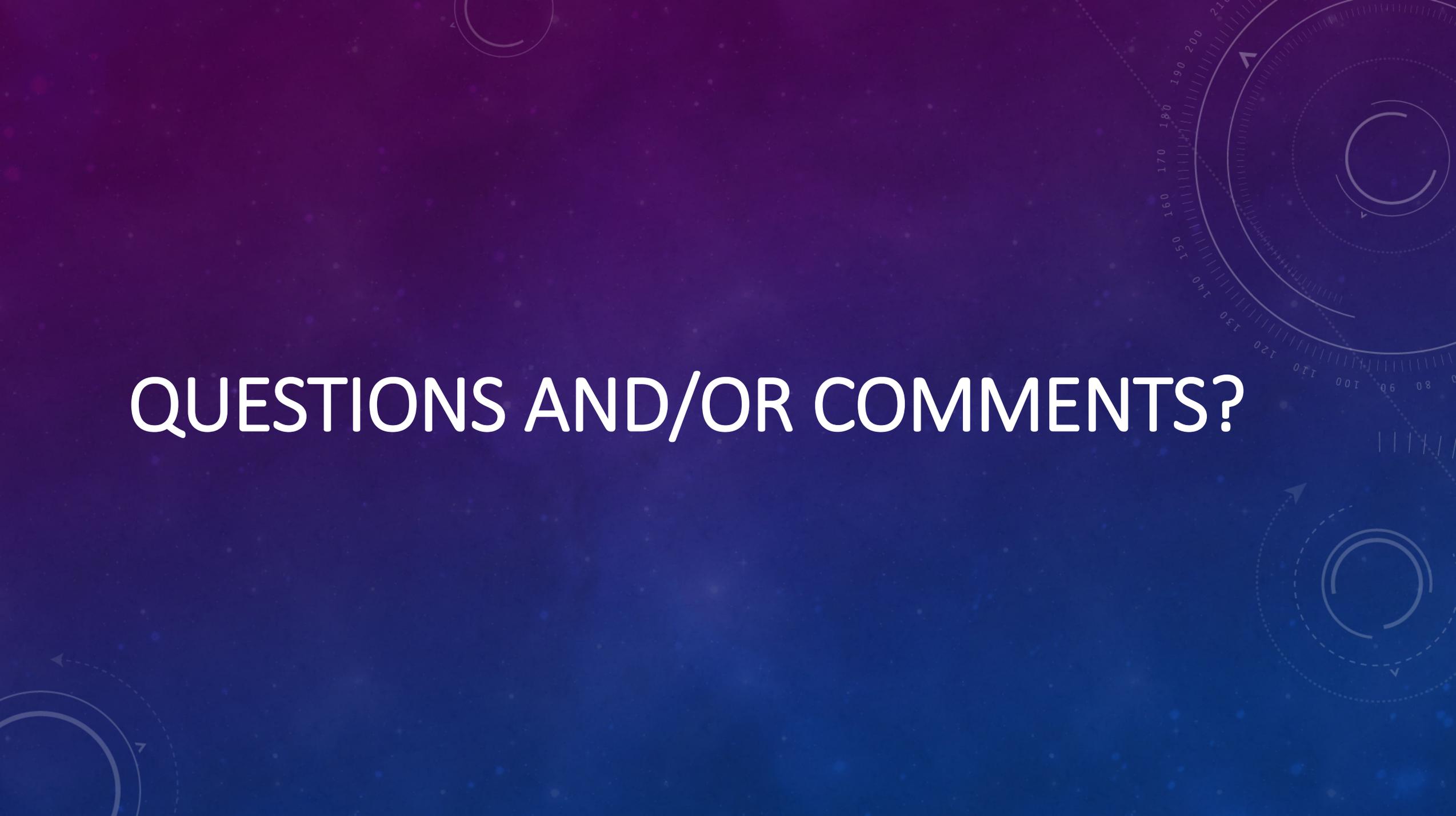
- Design Future MILCON (Military Construction) NG Readiness Centers with Academy Expansion (Tri-Cities, 2025+/-)
- New Construction vs Cost of Remodeling Existing Facilities
- Single Site Expansion
- Expansion into Multiple Sites
- Western and Eastern Washington Site Considerations

“JOB CHALLENGE”

POTENTIAL FEDERAL PILOT PROGRAM OPPORTUNITY

Joint Departments of Labor/Defense Pilot program

- 3 State Pilot Programs – 100% Federally-funded – 3.5 yrs (6 months for start up)
- Non-violent convicted juvenile cadets
- Must complete Youth Challenge Program (22 weeks)
- Followed by Job Challenge (20 weeks)
- May team with “Year Up” or other partners

The background features a dark blue gradient with a subtle pattern of white stars and technical diagrams. On the right side, there are several circular diagrams resembling gauges or dials with numerical scales (e.g., 100, 110, 120, 130, 140, 150, 160, 170, 180, 190, 200, 210) and arrows. On the left side, there are dashed circular arrows. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern, typical of a professional presentation.

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS?