



THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**Office of Public Relations**

1834 Kongens Gade, Charlotte Amalie \* St. Thomas \* U.S. Virgin Islands 00802-6746  
Telephone: 340.774.0100 Ext. 8136 (STT/STJ) 340.773.1095 Ext. 7064 (STX)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**April 12, 2025**

**0407-25**

**For More Information Contact:**

Shayla S. Solomon  
Director, Public Relations & Communications  
[robert.ferrell@vide.vi](mailto:robert.ferrell@vide.vi)  
[www.vide.vi](http://www.vide.vi) ~ [www.facebook.com/usvi.vide](https://www.facebook.com/usvi.vide)

**VIDE Congratulates CAHS Cadet Julissa John for Earning Top Placement in U.S. Army JROTC Essay Contest**

The Virgin Islands Department of Education (VIDE) proudly congratulates Cadet Julissa John of the Charlotte Amalie High School (CAHS) for achieving first place in the Annual U.S. Army Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Command Essay Contest for the 6th Brigade.

Competing against cadets from Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana, Cadet John's essay rose to the top among dozens of entries submitted across the Southeastern United States. Her powerful and compelling writing earned her the distinguished honor of being selected as the 6th Brigade essay winner for 2025.

As a result of her outstanding accomplishment, Cadet John will receive a 6th Brigade Certificate of Achievement and a Brigade Commander's Coin in recognition of her excellence. She has also earned an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. this June to represent the 6th Brigade at the prestigious JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) National Championships.

"Cadet John exemplifies the spirit of excellence and leadership we strive to cultivate in all our students. We are tremendously proud of her achievement and the positive light she shines on the Virgin Islands and the Charlotte Amalie High School JROTC program," said Dr. Dionne Wells-Hedrington, Commissioner of Education.

The VIDE extends its heartfelt congratulations to Cadet John, her instructors, and the entire CAHS family for this remarkable accomplishment.

For more information about the JROTC, 6<sup>th</sup> Brigade, please contact Mrs. Mary Carothers at [mary.f.carothers.civ@army.mil](mailto:mary.f.carothers.civ@army.mil)

###