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## PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSBURY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS  
134 YARDLEY AVENUE • P.O. BOX 338 • FALLSINGTON, PA 19058-0338  
www.pennsburysd.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**CONTACT: ANN LANGTRY**  
**215-428-4178**

### **Senior Aerospace Science Instructor Appointed to Lead Air Force JROTC Program at Pennsbury High School**

*Maj. (Retired) James G. MacEachern, Jr. to Launch New Unit Beginning This Fall*

(FALLSINGTON, PA – March 16, 2017) At the public meeting of the Pennsbury Board of School Directors held on March 9, 2017, the Board approved the appointment of Maj. (Retired) James G. MacEachern, Jr. to become the first Senior Aerospace Science Instructor (SASI) at Pennsbury High School. Working in tandem with PHS Co-Principals Reggie Meadows and Lisa Becker, Maj. MacEachern will lead the implementation of a new Air Force Junior ROTC student program beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

“We take a big step in anchoring the Air Force JROTC program here in the Pennsbury School District,” said Superintendent Dr. William J. Gretzula at the Board meeting. “Major MacEachern is a lifelong learner with 25 years of service in the Air Force, and we welcome him to our community. He has tremendous experience and models passion for the program and care for the students.”

The appointee currently serves as the SASI at the Swenson Arts & Technology High School in Philadelphia, where he has worked since 2014. He holds a Master of Science degree in Administration from Central Michigan University and a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from the University of Maryland. Maj. MacEachern is also a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Senior and Junior ROTC Academic Instructor Schools in Montgomery, AL. He is currently working toward his Master’s degree in Education at West Chester University.

Addressing the School Board after he was appointed on Thursday evening, Maj. MacEachern said, “It is an honor to be selected as the first SASI at Pennsbury High School,” he said. “This is a great program that allows students to do things that are very different. Sometimes students attending a school this large don’t always fit in. There’s a lot of camaraderie in a program like this, creating a family within a family. Our curriculum is world class. The students really love it.”

(continued...)

The idea of introducing a JROTC program at the high school level was inspired by School Director, John Palmer, who advocated for the initial research of similar programs in the Philadelphia area. With full Board approval, former Pennsbury Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Elliott Lewis, led the exploratory phase and the formal application to the U.S. Air Force for acceptance prior to his retirement from Pennsbury. Thanks to the continuing efforts of current Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Donna Dunar, the Air Force granted the School District a unit in 2016 for start-up in the fall of 2017.

"The administration is very pleased to be implementing the Air Force JROTC program for the 2017- 2018 school year," said PHS East Principal, Reggie Meadows. "After a long search we feel that Major MacEachern is the perfect candidate to start this program at Pennsbury High School. He comes to us with a background in leading ROTC and JROTC programs, and we feel that this program will hit the ground running. We eagerly look forward to the many good things that will be brought to Pennsbury High School and the Pennsbury community as a result of this program."

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