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Georgia Southern University ROTC Program Named One of the Best in the Nation

APRIL 1, 2011

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Georgia Southern University's Army ROTC program has been named one of the best in the nation by the U.S. Army Cadet Command and the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation.

The Eagle Battalion has been honored with the MacArthur Award. The award is given to only eight ROTC battalions nationwide every year. This is the second year in a row that the Eagle Battalion has received the award.

The U.S. Army says the MacArthur Award recognizes the ideals of "duty, honor and country." The Eagle Battalion represented the Cadet Command's Sixth Brigade, which is made up of 39 ROTC programs in the southeastern United States and Puerto Rico.

The MacArthur Award is based on a combination of factors including cadets' performance and how well the ROTC program fulfils its commissioning mission. The Eagle Battalion has contracted 200 members since the spring of 2008.

Eagle Battalion members were told about the honor at their annual awards ceremony on March 31st. During that ceremony, 88 cadets were recognized for having a grade point average of 3.0 or higher. The ceremony also recognized cadets who achieved "Iron Eagle" status by scoring 300 or higher on three consecutive Army Physical Fitness tests.

The Eagle Battalion is comprised of students from Georgia Southern University, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic State University, the Savannah College of Art and Design, and East Georgia College.

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George Fredrick Promoted to Colonel

Georgia Southern University ROTC Battalion Commander and U.S. Army Officer George Fredrick has been promoted to Colonel as part of a ceremony held in Statesboro.

Colonel Fredrick's official promotion ceremony was held just one day after Georgia Southern's ROTC program received one of eight prestigious U.S. Army MacArthur Award recognizing the nation's top ROTC programs. This is the second year in a row that Georgia Southern and the Eagle Battalion was honored as one of the top programs in the country.

Prior to joining Georgia Southern, Fredrick held numerous staff and command positions most recently serving as Joint Planning Group (JPG) Chief at Joint Task Force Civil Support, Ft. Monroe, Va.

"Colonel Fredrick epitomizes what it means to be a leader. He commands respect and he has not only built Georgia Southern's ROTC program into one of the best in the country, but is developing future generations of U.S. Army officers," said Brooks Keel, Ph.D., president of Georgia Southern University. "I can think of no one that could serve as a role model for leadership than Colonel Fredrick and we couldn't be more proud of his promotion."

Presiding over the ceremony was Brigadier General Leslie Smith, Commander, U.S. Army 20th Support Command which supports chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and high yield explosives at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. Smith, who is a distinguished military graduate of Georgia Southern, returned to Statesboro to be a part of the ceremony.

"It is an honor and privilege to be a part of today's ceremony," said BG Smith. "Since taking over command of the ROTC program, Colonel Fredrick has made incredible strides and has built it from 60 to nearly 300 cadets and is now recognized among the nation's best."

Fredrick, a native of Fairfax, S.C., is a recipient of the Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (3d OLC), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (3d OLe), Army Good Conduct Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Humanitarian Service Award, and the Korean Service Medal.

Georgia Southern University ROTC is also the host institution for the ROTC programs at Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah State University, Armstrong Atlantic State University and East Georgia College.

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