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### ROTC Chancellor's Review

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*Syracuse University*

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# Syracuse University

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud  
Delivered on April 23, 2021  
Location: NVRC, Tan Auditorium  
Remarks: ROTC Chancellor's Review

*The Chancellor was introduced by Cadet Otasowie, Event Narrator*

Good afternoon. I want to extend a warm Syracuse University welcome to our cadets who are here in person as well as to the cadets, family members and friends and our community partners who are watching this event virtually.

This is the 104th year that the Chancellor of Syracuse University has recognized the Army and Air Force Reserve Officer's Training Corps. Last year, we were forced to cancel the review due to COVID-19. But the University opened again in person in August, and ROTC continued to carry on throughout this last year in amazing ways.

I want to thank the folks who have made this afternoon's event possible and meaningful. These individuals play a significant role in the lives of many of these fine cadets, including:

- Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Gotie, Professor of Military Science and Commander of Army ROTC;
- Lieutenant Colonel Matthew Reagan, Professor of Aerospace Studies and Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 525;
- Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, Executive Director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs;
- Laura Bates, Syracuse University Army ROTC Office Coordinator; and
- Virginia O'Connor, Syracuse University Air Force ROTC Office Coordinator.

In early 1917, Chancellor James Roscoe Day decided to make military training part of the Syracuse University curriculum. That April, the first review on campus took place in front of Carnegie Library. Syracuse became the first University in the U.S.

to offer a combination of military and college subjects. In 1919, the University established ROTC in cooperation with the War Department.

Today, more than a century later, we carry out the tradition of the Chancellor's review. And we are fortunate to do so in this beautiful facility on the Syracuse University campus. The Daniel and Gayle D'Aniello Building is home to our programs serving veterans and the military. It is a testament to our commitment to serve those who serve our nation.

At Syracuse University we are proud to have 200 ROTC cadets. Of those, 140 are in the Army ROTC program, including cadets from our partner schools, SUNY-ESF and LeMoyne College. In addition, our 60 Air Force ROTC cadets represent a 54% increase in enrollment over the last year.

First, let me recognize our Army cadets. Those receiving awards today have an impressive grade point average of 3.6. Beyond their academic excellence, our Army ROTC cadets played a crucial role in our COVID response over this academic year. These exceptional young people comprised more than half of the Volunteer COVID testers for the University. They recognized the need, and they stepped up. They are in large part responsible for over 300,000 tests conducted on campus this year.

These cadets also created a social media recruitment campaign to address the challenge of recruiting during the pandemic. Their channels now reach more than 10,000 people a month. This increased awareness was bolstered by their work to design and film the US Army Cadet Command's first ever virtual recruiting campaign to reach prospective cadets at the height of the pandemic. This campaign featured our own former cadet and Marshall Scholar, 2nd Lieutenant Bethany Murphy. In addition, the first two Army ROTC Cadets in Syracuse University history attended a Special Operations assessment and selection. They were chosen over one-third of the active-duty officers and non-commissioned officers who attended.

Turning to our Air Force cadets, those receiving awards today turned in a cumulative grade point average of 3.33. This detachment designed the first-ever virtual reality drill practice simulation. In addition, the detachment successfully executed Field Training Exercises, despite COVID-19 restrictions, and achieved a

100% cadet pass rate. Very few programs in the nation made it through this year without having to request training waivers. This achievement is truly exceptional.

One of our Air Force ROTC cadets will be directly commissioned into the Space Force. Two other Air Force ROTC cadets will be entering the Judge Advocate General program in the two-year accelerated program. This is a highly-selective and incredibly demanding program.

As we approach Commencement and the commissioning ceremony for this class of cadets, please know that Syracuse University and our partner schools are proud. Cadets balance rigorous academic programs and the requirements of ROTC training. Our ROTC cadets are consistently among our most accomplished scholars. They will go on to careers as pilots, cybersecurity experts, engineers, air traffic controllers and logisticians, all while serving our country.

I thank the many faculty, staff and administrators who are watching today. Thank you for supporting our cadets and your belief in their potential. They have demonstrated their capacity for greatness. They represent each school at its best. At Syracuse, there are more than 100 professionals dedicated to making this the best place in the country for veterans and military-connected students, faculty, staff and alumni.

To the parents and families of these exceptional cadets—thank you. Thank you for raising these cadets to value what it means to serve others. Thank you for trusting us with them during their time here.

We are all fortunate that these cadets are part of our communities. I recognize all of them for their discipline and dedication that have benefited us all this year.

To our cadets, congratulations. Thank you for all that you have done and will do to serve. You make us better. We are proud of you, we believe in you and we expect great things from you in the future.

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