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ROTC program wins national award



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Lt. Col. Greg Lane, executive officer of Austin Peay State University's ROTC program, always knew his cadets were among the best in the nation, and now they've earned the national designation that proves him right.

Earlier this year, the University's ROTC program was named a MacArthur Award recipient, placing it among the top eight programs in the country. APSU beat out some 272 other collegiate ROTC programs at schools such as Duke, Princeton and Virginia Tech for the distinction.

"The award signifies excellence in Army ROTC, and it's really given for excellence across the board," Lane said.

The MacArthur Award recognizes, among other things, the number of officers an ROTC program produces each year. Lane said their mission last year was to commission 14 officers at APSU. They ended up exceeding that number, commissioning 19 officers.

The program was also lauded for its distinction during the 2008 Warrior Forge – an intense ROTC summer training camp held at Fort Lewis, Wash.

"Our cadets did extremely well at that. We had 11 of 25 cadets get the top evaluation there, which is an 'e' for excellence."

— Lt. Col. Greg Lane

Lane credits the program's success to both the cadets, some of whom enrolled at APSU after serving in actual combat zones, and his dedicated staff of officers who work to best use the time of these busy students.

For more information, contact Lane at (931) 221-6133 or laneg@apsu.edu. -- Charles Booth

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