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### **Gardner-Webb Named a National Military-Friendly University for its ROTC Program**

Office of University Communications

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# Gardner-Webb Named a National Military-Friendly University for its ROTC Program

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Office of University Communications

October 11, 2013

## *Military Advanced Education's 2014 Guide to be Released in December*

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C. – Gardner-Webb University's Army ROTC program has been selected as a top institution across the nation in the Military Advanced Education's (MAE) 2014 Guide to Military-Friendly Colleges & Universities. This list is featured annually and will appear in the upcoming December issue.

In order to come up with their list, MAE, based in Maryland, conducted an extensive survey that included a record number of schools participating. The list was narrowed down after MAE's staff evaluated each participant under a strict list of criteria to reach their results.

"This honor inspires us to continue doing our business with courage and to remember who we are," said Master Sergeant Donnie DeVaughn, instructor and leader of the program at GWU. "We're thankful to be recognized by organizations like MAE as our cadets pursue their dream of becoming a future Army leader."

Started in 2005, the Gardner-Webb Army ROTC program has operated in connection with UNC-Charlotte's program. The two schools working together provide support in the way of recruiting, training, and resources. The GWU Army ROTC program has 14 cadets enrolled this semester and is committed to preparing them for the armed forces, while honoring those who have served and continue serving the nation today.

There are currently over 1,000 ROTC programs at universities and colleges across the United States. ROTC cadets go on to use their talents in various fields in the military, including infantry, engineers, tankers, military police, and even in health care such as nursing. Students can even sign up for courses without military obligation – since the program's purpose is to prepare future leaders for not only service to their country but also within public and private sector organizations. Students receive in-depth instruction in the art of leadership and the science of management, which is augmented by practical exercise on a weekly basis.

An average day for a cadet at GWU involves professional and personal challenges, as well as opportunities for growth. DeVaughn explains, "We begin our day early conducting physical training around campus to build cohesion and test their strength. They're given an hour to shower before coming to class for military science, where cadets are introduced to challenges and competencies that are critical for effective leadership (includes goals, critical thinking, and stress management)."

More information is available about the program by contacting DeV Vaughn at 704-406-4427 or by email at [ddevaughn@gardner-webb.edu](mailto:ddevaughn@gardner-webb.edu).

*Located in Boiling Springs, N.C., Gardner-Webb University blends a liberal arts core curriculum with more than 55 specialized major and minor programs, a comprehensive academic experience grounded in a Christian environment of service, leadership, and intellectual freedom.*