

Remarks by Chancellor Kent Syverud

Delivered on March 25, 2022

Location: JMA Wireless Dome

Remarks: 2022 ROTC Chancellor’s Review

*The Chancellor was introduced by Lieutenant Colonel Jennifer Gotie*

Thank you, Lieutenant Colonel Gotie. Welcome to the 105th year of the Chancellor’s Review. I am proud to continue this long-standing tradition to recognize the Army and Air Force Reserve Officer’s Training Corps.

I would like to thank several leaders in the lives of our cadets, who model a commitment to service every day and helped organize today’s event. In addition to Lieutenant Colonel Gotie, who is Professor of Military Science and Commander of Army ROTC, I want to acknowledge:

* Lieutenant Colonel Ryan Lippert, Commander of Air Force ROTC Detachment 535, and Professor of Aerospace Studies;
* Retired Army Colonel Ron Novack, Executive Director of the Office of Veterans and Military Affairs;
* Laura Bates, Army ROTC; and
* Virginia O'Connor, Air Force ROTC.

I am grateful to family, friends, and community partners attending in person and virtually. Your support for both our Army and Air Force cadets is inspiring.

These cadets are part of a strong tradition of military service here at Syracuse University. I salute Chancellor James Roscoe Day who in 1917 made military training part of the curriculum at Syracuse University. He presided over the first Chancellor’s Review in April 1917 in front of Carnegie Library. Thus began the longest continuously running Army ROTC program in the country.

I also salute Chancellor William Tolley, who following World War II, expanded the University’s connection to the military when he ensured all military veterans’ admission to Syracuse. The US Air Force ORTC, now known as the Air Force ROTC Detachment 535, was established in 1946. That same year Syracuse admitted 9,464 veterans, nearly doubling the student body overnight.

In 2022, we strive to be the best University – private or public – for veterans and military-connected students and their families. That goal – to be the best – is why we have invested in expanding programs for military-connected communities and have over 100 employees who staff those programs. That goal to be the best is why we’ve seen a more than 200 percent increase in enrollment of military-connected students in the last seven years. That goal to be the best is why we created the National Veterans Resource Center at the Daniel and Gayle D’Aniello Building as a home for military programs and a home-away-from-home for our ROTC cadets. The NVRC stands as a physical testament to this University’s commitment to be the best for those who serve.

This year our Army ROTC features 114 cadets, and our Air Force wing features 47 cadets. This year they and all of us are all more distinctly aware of the importance of the decision to serve our country. Threats of war, and threats to freedom around the world are no longer just threats – they are very real.

Into that challenging world, just seven weeks from today, we will commission about 40 new Army and Air Force officers to defend our country. Our Army ROTC will commission 26 officers, eight of whom have earned the distinction of distinguished military graduate. Two are in the top 10 percent of the Army’s 2022 officers, and eight Army cadets are also student-athletes.

Our Air Force ROTC will commission 12 officers, including cadets graduating from Syracuse, SUNY Polytechnic, and LeMoyne College. These new officers will have earned competitive posts, including one who will be a special agent with the Office of Special Investigation, one who is a finalist in the Air Force Language Enable Airman Program, and eight who are entering rated career fields.

The cadets we honor today have made our community a better place in so many ways. They were the backbone of this University’s successful COVID response. Tomorrow, twenty-one of our Army ROTC cadets will conduct a 26.2-mile ruck march along the Erie Canal to honor the service members who defended the Philippine Islands during WWII’s Bataan Death March. These cadets also organized several Afghan Refugee donation drives and helped coordinate our Operation Orange Warm Up winter clothing drive. And, our Air Force ROTC cadets showed their leadership through service to our community, dedicating 360 volunteer hours to organizations on and off campus.

In short, we owe a lot to these students and future officers. Thank you for all you have given to Syracuse University. Thank you for all you will give to our country. We believe in you, and we expect great things from you in the future.

Thank you.