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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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FORT MONROE, Va.—Arden Tran, a senior at Army and Navy Academy, was one of four Army JROTC team members from his school in Carlsbad, Calif., chosen to attend the third annual George C. Marshall Junior ROTC Leadership Symposium on the campuses of Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., recently. The 144 team members participating in symposium activities represented almost 286,000 students presently enrolled in 1,645 JROTC units throughout the United States and overseas where our military are stationed.

The United States Army Cadet Command, headquartered here, hosted the event with the George C. Marshall Foundation in Lexington.

Marshall, namesake of the symposium, was the top cadet leader at VMI during his senior year and began his distinguished Army career after being commissioned a second lieutenant in 1902. He served in both world wars, most notably as Chief of Staff of the Army in World War II, as Secretary of State after that war and then Secretary of Defense during the Korean War. He is perhaps best known for developing the Marshall Plan, which ensured the economic recovery of war-devastated Europe. For this work, Marshall became the first career soldier to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

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The theme of this year's symposium was "The George C. Marshall Principles of Leadership—How They Apply to My JROTC Unit, School, Community and Life." Symposium organizers used Marshall's selfless service and leadership as an example for participating cadets.

Describing his experience at the event, Tran said, "I've enjoyed meeting cadets of different backgrounds." He added, "It was fascinating to watch the leaders interact. We may be of different backgrounds, but JROTC is the common denominator that unites us. Events like this reaffirm my decision to join JROTC."

Tran is the student leader, or battalion commander, of his school's JROTC unit. He is involved in the unit's Drill Team and Knowledge Team and participates in Service Learning projects, which involve community service. He is also captain of the school's football team and co-captain of the track and field team, as well as a member of Key Club, Outdoor Adventure, Cadets for Christ and Police Explorers. Tran is considering several options for college, including University of San Diego, VMI, College of William and Mary, Wheaton College and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

Other members of the Army and Navy Academy team included cadets Alexander Mui, Ron Ruangtragool and Cody Zoschak. They were selected based on how well they did in competition held last spring, in which they answered questions about leadership and leadership scenarios on line. They have all excelled scholastically while being involved in numerous extracurricular activities.

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During the symposium, cadets interacted with prominent leaders during presentations which sometimes put them in leadership roles. Participants also toured several local attractions, and each student earned one college credit hour in leadership and community service.

JROTC has a mission to motivate young people to be better citizens by teaching leadership skills and encouraging community service. It is not a recruiting tool for the Army and is open to all students in high schools that have a program.

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*For more information, contact Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class (Ret.) Veronica Parker-Davis at the Army Navy Academy JROTC Department at (760) 547-5187.*