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$100,000 Grant from Ed Rachal Foundation Provides Merit-Based Scholarship Assistance for ROTC Islander Battalion Cadets

CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas – The Islander Battalion at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has received a $100,000 grant from the Ed Rachal Foundation to award merit-based scholarships to eligible ROTC students.

The two-year grant, which provides funds based on a combination of academic (grade point average) and physical training (Army Physical Fitness Test) performance, will help undergraduate ROTC students with tuition and fees, or room and board expenses not covered by financial aid. All ROTC students who meet the basic requirements are eligible for the funds.

“This generous grant from the Ed Rachal Foundation will help offset the rising cost of higher education for motivated students with a strong desire to serve their country,” said University President Flavius Killebrew. “Performance based scholarships encourage cadets to maintain high grade point averages and excel in mandatory Army physical training tests.”

Since its formation in 2006 the Islander Battalion has experienced dramatic growth and currently has 98 members, a 56 percent increase since 2009. By their junior year, almost 40 percent of Islander Battalion cadets contract to become commissioned second lieutenants in the U.S. Army Reserve or National Guard after graduation. To date, 168 Islander Battalion cadets have received their commissions.

For more than 35 years the Ed Rachal Foundation has been awarding grants that benefit charitable, scientific, literary and educational purposes within the State of Texas. Last year, the foundation provided $60,000 to the Islander Battalion for construction of the ROTC Field Leadership Reaction Course on the University’s Momentum Campus.

-A&M-Corpus Christi-