

NEWS RELEASE

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Air Force JROTC and Air Force Cadet Leadership Award Winner

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala.

Colonel Stephen Sanders, Director of Air Force JROTC, is proud to announce the selection of Cadet Laityn Tippy from Westside High School/AFJROTC, Unit #AR20061, in Jonesboro, AR, as the Overall AFJROTC and AFA Cadet Leadership Award Winner for 2019-2020.

Cadet Tippy was selected from 890 AFJROTC Units and over 125,000 AFJROTC cadets in the United States and on military installations overseas. The selection process started with each unit nominating their top cadet for the award. From there, 48 State/Area winners were selected, followed by eight Regional Winners and then finally, one Overall/National Winner, recognizing the most outstanding AFJROTC cadet in the world.

Cadet Tippy excels in academics and physical fitness. She maintains a 4.0 GPA, ranking her at the top of her graduating class going into her senior year, despite a demanding schedule with mostly "advanced" or "college level" classes and an extracurricular schedule that includes National Honor Society, Student Council, Track and Cross Country. She holds the unit record in every category of the AFJROTC Physical Fitness Test, including the mile run, push-ups and crunches. She finished first, from over 100 female competitors, in two local physical fitness competitions with other JROTC units from Arkansas, Tennessee, Missouri and Mississippi.

Earlier in the school year, Cadet Tippy was one of only 200 AFJROTC cadets, from over 3000 applicants, to be selected to attend the AFJROTC Flight Academy, a summer scholarship program valued at over \$25,000, which allows cadets to earn their private pilot license during a 10-week course at a college or university. Because of the COVID19 pandemic, this course has been postponed until the summer of 2021. She is in the process of applying for the Air Force Academy and plans to be an Air Force officer and pilot.

Major Scott Norman, the AFJROTC Instructor at Westside High School said "Cadet Tippy is more than deserving of this award and we are so proud to have her as the leader of our unit and our school. As great as she is as a AFJROTC cadet, she is even a better person. If you ask the school administrators, teachers, counselors and most importantly the other students, you will find that they feel the same way. As the Air Force has recognized with this honor, she is the best!"

Cadet Tippy will serve as the Cadet Commander of Westside High School Air Force JROTC for school year 2020-21. The Westside High School AFJROTC program was recognized by the Air Force Association as the top AFJROTC program in the state of Arkansas, and received the Distinguished Unit with Merit Award this past school year, based on their "Exceeds Standards" rating on a HQ AFJROTC inspection visit in November of 2019.