

# Cadets reflect 100 years of change

By Mary Jo Fitzl

This month commemorates the 100th anniversary of the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program on the UNL campus. But the days of uniformed cadets marching rigidly about in daily drill routines are long past for today's ROTC member.

"One hundred years ago, ROTC traditionally was drill and basic tactics," said Col. Lucien Rising, head of the UNL ROTC program. Modern-day ROTC differs from its forerunner in several aspects.

"The big difference is the youth we are dealing with," Rising said. "Students have changed. Drill has been reduced from its past use because it doesn't interest the average university student."

Today's basic ROTC program begins with a two-year enrollment, and the student is under no obligation to the U.S. Army except to take a freshman and sophomore ROTC course. In the freshman year, the student takes a leadership workshop, which includes survival techniques, self-defense, scuba diving, rappelling and first aid.

**Students sign contract**

During their junior and senior years, students in the program sign a contract with the Army. They have the option to be committed to three years of active duty as a commissioned officer plus three years in a reserve unit, or to be commissioned as a second lieutenant and continue their enlistment as a "citizen soldier", Rising said.

The Army provides all junior and senior ROTC students with \$100 a month and books for ROTC classes.

After graduation, the ROTC student can step right into a job.

"The modern-day military has need of a wide range of interests. The U.S. needs people educated in the liberal arts as Army officers, because their broader education better serves the country's needs," said Col. John Keller, executive officer of the Army ROTC program. Keller said the Army has 47 areas of specialization.

**Enrollment changes**

Enrollment in the Army ROTC program has changed significantly throughout the past 100 years. Until the early 1970s, ROTC was mandatory for every freshman and sophomore man at UNL. However, with the end of the draft and anti-Vietnam feelings running strong in America, the requirement was dropped, Rising said.

Consequently, overall ROTC enrollment also dropped. Last spring, the UNL program was put on probation because of an insufficient number of junior year students, Rising said. If that total is not brought up to the 20-member minimum, the UNL program could be terminated.

"I have every confidence the probation will be lifted," Rising said, adding that 16 juniors now are in the program.

This junior class includes the first three women at UNL to achieve a junior ROTC status.

"It's interesting to note that in the year of our (the ROTC program's) centennial we are signing the first women ever," Keller said. "I'd like to see what the program will look like when our bicentennial comes

around."

"Our biggest problem is informing people," Rising said. "There are so many myths; it's hard to communicate. Some of our best results come from word of mouth by our students."

The ROTC program is financed jointly by the federal government and UNL. The university supplies office space, storage room, classrooms, administrative support and hires professors.

The federal government pays the salaries of all military personnel and finances books, equipment, trips, junior and senior subsistence wages, and scholarships.

## calendar

1:30 p.m.—Scholarship and Financial Aids meeting, Nebraska Union 232.  
5 p.m.—Women in Communications, Union 222.  
7 p.m.—Intersarsity

Christian Fellowship, Union auditorium.  
7 p.m.—Rugby Club meeting, Union 232.  
7:30 p.m.—Mexican American Student Association, Union 222.

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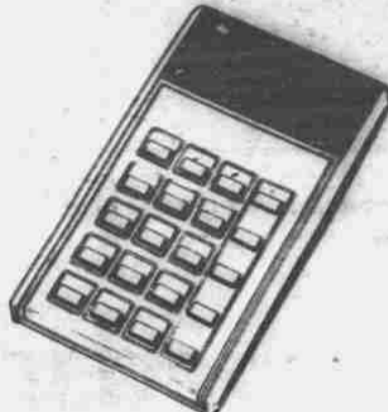
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## short stuff

Women in Communications will hold their first meeting today at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. Meeting room will be posted.

All Tassels that already have purchased football tickets must return their ticket to the Coliseum by Friday to return it for a Tassel ticket. Former Kernels who would like to sell their Kernel T-shirts, please call Barb or Melanie, 432-9995.

There will be a mandatory Tassel meeting Tuesday, Sept. 7, at 5 p.m. in the Nebraska Union. All Tassel members are asked to bring \$20 and their ID cards for football seats. Meeting room will be posted.

All veterans are invited to attend the first meeting of the UNL Student Veterans Organization at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 3, in Nebraska Union 338.

A watermelon feed for all past and prospective members of the Agronomy Club will follow its first meeting at 7 p.m. today in Keim Hall 244.

The newly formed UNL Actuarial Club will hold its first meeting to explain objectives and elect officers at 8 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 7, in Burnett Hall 319.

The 98th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society will be at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 4, at the Lincoln Hilton. Reservations can be made by contacting the Nebraska State Historical Society, 1500 R St., 432-2793.

Volunteer work can lead to job experience, career exploration and personal growth. For information contact the Student Volunteer Bureau, Community Involvement Services, in Nebraska Union 200 or call 472-2486.

The Campus Crusade for Christ will hold "College Life" night at 8 p.m. Thursday Sept. 2, in the University Lutheran Chapel.