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## Money, education, training cause more to join ROTC

By Pat Carraher

Officials of all three ROTC branches agree that enrollment is up this year because of four reasons: experience, money, education and a general change in attitude toward the military.

Maj. Ned Crisicimagna of the Air Force division said enrollment in that division has risen sharply this year.

"In 1976, we had about 80 Air Force cadets, in '79, we had 85 or 90, and this year we're up to 120 cadets," Maj. Crisicimagna said. "We hope that the trend will continue. Our goal is by the beginning of the 1982 year to have 150."

Capt. Stuart Goldstein of the Army division reported similar statistics.

"We've got around 25 more students than last year," he said. "I think they will continue to come in. It seems to be a national trend."

Capt. James Leblanc of the Navy had more of the same to report.

"We've done very well. We've had significant increases since last year," Leblanc said.

The three officers agreed on the reason for the increase.

"The nation's attitude is causing more people to look at the service. I think people are becoming more patriotic," Leblanc said. "We've had a lot of people just drop by who were interested in the program and wanted to take a look at it. They know it's a good program."

### Good image

Goldstein said he also thinks the nation is looking more favorably at the Army.

"One reason the enrollment is up is that our national image is becoming really good," he said.

Crisicimagna said it seems that more people are willing to try ROTC today than they were a few years ago.

"We also find that once people try it, they usually like it," he said.

The three officers said money is a big attraction for getting students to enroll in a

ROTC program. Each of the three mentioned programs which allow students to receive such financial aids as free tuition, fees, books, up to \$100 a month in cash, and bonuses in the thousands of dollars if the student decides to stay in the program after college. They said that because money is hard to come by in today's economy, the financial aid offered is a big attraction.

Another reason for the increase in ROTC enrollment, according to the officers, is the experience and education offered through the military programs. While there are some ROTC students in the liberal arts, apparently the majority are involved in technical work.

### Growing field

Leblanc mentioned engineering as a growing field.

"Right now, we're really interested in engineering," he said, "with a special view toward nuclear-powered industry. There is currently a shortage of nuclear managers, and industry people are out there saying 'Let's find some trained people'."

Leblanc said the Navy offers a great deal of experience in nuclear power because it currently has more than 40 ships which are nuclear powered.

Now that students are enrolling, the officers are trying to keep them. Crisicimagna said, "We've got a lot of activities for the students and a number of social functions." UNL senior Larry Lucas, who was with Crisicimagna, said "We've had a lot more social activities, we're getting more each year."

Goldstein said that the Army has a unique program which allows students to belong to the National Guard or Reserve as well as the Army, and the student could receive financial aid from both.

"We like to keep all avenues open," he said.

## short stuff

The University of Nebraska Varsity Men's Glee Club will present its fall concert Friday at 8 p.m. in the East Campus Union. Appearing with the glee club will be the University Women's Chorale and the Kansas State Men's Glee Club, as a part of their concert exchange program.

In addition to traditional glee club numbers, a variety of songs will be performed, from Broadway tunes to classical and baroque.

Tickets are \$2 for adults, \$1.50 for students and may be purchased at the door.

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The UNL Chess Club meets Monday from 6:30 to 11 p.m. in the South Club.

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Persons interested in playing badminton can play Monday night from 6-7 p.m. in 313 Mabel Lee Hall. Equipment is provided. For more information, call 472-1264.

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