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ROTC...

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Palensky said all the programs work on a two-year minimum and a four-year maximum.

Some cases pay a total of \$4,800 in tuition and \$10,800 in stipends awarded to the enlistee for education assistance for a total package of \$15,600.

Further incentives to join up include cash bonuses of \$1,500 to \$5,000 part of which is paid at time of enlistment and the rest at the end of the tour, he said.

It must be remembered Palensky said, "Not only do you receive bonuses and educational assistance, but at the end of tour you come with a marketable skill as well."

There are also loan forgiveness programs, where a college student with outstanding Guaranteed Student Loans or the National Direct Student Loans may have them "forgiven" by Uncle Sam in exchange for duty. Palensky said the loans would be paid off at a rate of 33 and one-third percent per year or \$1,500 per year of service, whichever is greater.

These programs are for those who tried college and found it wasn't for them or decided they would rather go into the military branch as an enlisted serviceman or a non-commissioned officer, Palensky said. The loan forgiveness programs also apply to reservists but at a rate of 15 percent reduced each year or \$500, whichever is greater.

Currently there are 650 ROTC programs operating in the United States. Recruitment through the ROTC program since its initiation in 1945 has reached a total of 328,000 graduates serving in the armed forces.

Most officers Palensky said, are recruited out of the ROTC program instead of the non-commissioned officer route, and the academies.

The only direct commissions available without any formal military training is medical personnel, he said. Because of the demand for doctors currently experienced in the military, he said, medical school

graduates can receive a direct officer's commission with a six month basic camp as opposed to boot camp.

Palensky said, "If they qualify for the programs, they seem to be choosing these types of programs more and more. These programs are just one of the ways the military gets quality personnel into the services."

Lt. Col. Rowdy Williams, professor of Military Science at UNL, noted similar recruitment programs in the Army ROTC training program.

It is a four-year program, where the student as a freshman enters towards a career decision just before his or her junior year. Up until then, Williams said, they have no obligation to continue, but once the contract is signed, they are committed for the next two years of college and a four-year hitch in the Army.

Williams said the most notable improvement in the recruitment program at UNL, involving the Army has been in the area of scholarships.

Currently there are 12 four-year term scholarships out for freshmen, with six three-year scholarships; four two-year scholarships and none in the senior class.

Williams said recruitment has increased from one person last year to 10 ROTC students in the Army program. The Army has given UNL two more scholarships for minority recruitment.

The Air Force, unlike the other branches of the military, has not been having very much of a problem with recruitment. In fact, Col. James DuBois, professor of Aerospace Studies at UNL, said the Air Force ROTC program at UNL is such that the recruits come seeking the Air Force rather than the other way around.

Two-thirds of the recruitment effort, DuBois said, centers around the scientific and engraving professions. Physics, mathematics, meteorology, chemistry and computer science play a distinct function in the Air Force as well as the traditional flying

combat force.

DuBois said the Air Force consists of a flying combat force which is small compared to the support staff which goes into maintaining the operating and combat section. It has evolved into a highly technical and scientific community, because of a higher level of weapons sophistication.

DuBois said the Air Force is comprised of three major areas aviation, navigation and missile operations. The rest of the Air Force community exists in the non-technical field.

The medical school student who wishes to become part of Air Force, is supplemented for tuition only after his or her acceptance to medical school has been secured. If they fail to be accepted into medical school, they are commissioned into the active Air Force and stay in the

active section unless they are accepted into med school later.

DuBois said there 121 Air Force ROTC students. DuBois said the ROTC program is "strictly a means by which the Air Force, introduces people to the Air Force so that the Air Force will be supplied with high quality educated college graduates."

DuBois said the return to the military stems from the economy and poor job security.

"There is a conservative shift of the American public, since people have recognized that the military wasn't responsible for the Vietnam war, but rather government was the culprit," he added.

"I could look anybody in the face and say the Air Force is a fine place to go into not only from a patriotic standpoint but as a job standpoint as well," DuBois said.

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