

# ROTC programs attracting more UNL students

By Lori Sullivan

After graduation, Mark Maneely hopes to join the Euro-NATO program as a fighter pilot as Sheppard Air Force Base in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Maneely, a senior electrical engineering major and president of the Delta Upsilon fraternity, is also group commander of the Air Force ROTC at UNL.

One of the biggest misconceptions about ROTC concerns classes, Maneely said. Anyone can attend the ROTC classes, he said.

"I recommend the 100-level course. It describes all the options, it's open to everybody and you do not have to make any commitment," Maneely said.

Even when he was very young, Maneely said he knew what he wanted to do: be a pilot. Joining Air Force ROTC was just another step toward reaching that goal.

The Air Force now needs pilots more than any other position, he said.

Even though he will start at a lower salary in military service than graduates who enter private industry, he said he will be ahead in the long run.

An ROTC graduate gains extremely valuable experience while serving his or her commitment years, he said.

If the ROTC graduate should later decide to join private industry, that experience would place him or her in a higher salary bracket than people who spent the same time period solely in private industry, he said.

### 'No bridges burned'

"I feel that I have a lot of options and no bridges burned behind me. I don't think too many people can say that," he said.

Air Force ROTC has many career options, and though members usually can't pick their exact job or location, he said they generally are guaranteed a job where their interests lie. Everyone should at least learn about ROTC, he said.

ROTC programs for the Army, Navy and Air Force have requirements for physical fitness and grade point averages. All three branches offer scholarships that students compete for on the national level. Scholarships vary in length from two to four years and include full tuition, books and fees. In addition, students receive pay of \$100 per month.

Students not on scholarship also can join ROTC programs. They may attend all ROTC classes that scholarship students attend. Non-scholarship students also receive pay of \$100 per month.

During the freshman and sophomore years of ROTC membership, there is no commitment to years of service in the military. Students may belong to an ROTC program until their junior year with no service obligations.

Students belonging to ROTC enroll in various military science classes and labs. In addition, they attend summer training courses. After graduating and accepting a commission into the military, they make a commitment for a number of years of service. Commitment periods vary widely according to the student's field and status while in school.

### Enrollment up

ROTC enrollment in all three service branches is up. Directors of the programs say there are several reasons why.

Capt. Darrel Troutman, director of Navy ROTC, said Americans are "over the Vietnam syndrome."

The negative connotations of joining the military service have ended, he said.

Economics is also a reason for rising ROTC enrollment, Troutman said. Military salaries have risen and a job position is assured as well.

The majority of Navy ROTC scholarships are awarded to students in what Troutman called "the technical

majors." Engineering, mathematics, chemistry, physics and computer science are classified as technical majors. Almost 80 percent of Navy ROTC scholarships are in those areas, he said.

Many people do not know what ROTC is about, said Army ROTC director Maj. James A. Thomas Jr. The acronym ROTC stands for Reserve Officer Training Corps. The program was established during the Civil War to facilitate the training of officers.

A provision of the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862 required all land-grant colleges to teach military science, agriculture and mechanics, Thomas said. Prior to 1964, all male freshman and sophomores were required to take ROTC classes.

### Program a supplement

The ROTC program is not offered as a major or a minor, Thomas said. It is offered as a supplement to normal study and enables a student to be eligible to receive a commission to military service.

The Army offers a "simultaneous membership program", he said. ROTC members also may be members of the National Guard or the Army Reserves and receive pay for both.

"We offer monthly counseling for our students and help with problem courses if they need it," he said.

Air Force ROTC director Col. Darrell Grapes said his program concentrates on technical majors. UNL students "do very well in winning scholarships in technical fields," he said.

The public attitude toward ROTC has gone up and down during his 21 years in the Air Force, Grapes said. At UNL, he said, ROTC is very well accepted.

Grapes said he likes classes other than military science being conducted in the building. Students passing through become more familiar with the ROTC program.

"We have a lot of people coming in and asking about programs. Some join and some don't," he said.

The quality of the Air Force ROTC program gives Grapes confidence that people in ROTC will make a career in the service, he said.

"Actually, the students sell the program themselves," Grapes said.

# Women discuss agricultural careers

The importance of communication skills in achieving success was stressed by three women who spoke at a brown bag seminar at the East Union Wednesday.

The topic of the seminar was "Women on the Agricultural Front." The event was sponsored by the College of Agriculture dean's Advisory Council on Women Student Concerns.

Barb Bush, range management graduate student, was coordinator of the meeting. The panel members discussed their experiences as professionals in the agricultural field.

Kathy Votaw, a loan officer with First National Bank of Lincoln and a 1977 UNL agriculture honors graduate, said she didn't realize how important the Lincoln and Omaha banks were to agriculture. Right now, there are \$60 million worth of farm loans out.

Votaw works as a correspondent bank officer and travels to other banks in northern Nebraska on loan inspections.

She said she chose the agricultural field because it was the field she liked.

Cheryl Westcott, a 1974 UNL journalism graduate, is the new director of information at the Nebraska Farm Bureau. She had many different jobs in radio, advertising and television before joining the extension staff at UNL in agricultural communications in 1979.

Westcott said she wrote newsletters for the extension service while she completed her master's degree, which she received in 1981. She heard about the Farm Bureau job through another student and composed a specialized resume to fit the qualifications of the job, she said.

Andre Roberts-Gillaspie, executive director of the Nebraska Corn Board, was the last panel member to speak. Roberts-Gillaspie, a 1974 UNL graduate in animal science and journalism, emphasized how important it is to get a job that satisfies you. One must interview the company as well as when they interview you, she said.

Her job includes working on a bill that President Reagan signed concerning using corn for fuel. She also does a lot of research, news releases and public relations.

The board recently sponsored a Japanese team in Nebraska that filmed a documentary on soil erosion in the United States, Roberts-Gillaspie said. Japan, the top consumer of American food, is concerned about the problem and wanted to help find a solution, she said.

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