

More college graduates find jobs in the military

By Willis Gray

With the job situation becoming more difficult all the time, some college graduates are finding the military a viable alternative.

Chris Phillips, a civilian public affairs specialist with Army Officer Recruiting, said the number of college graduates entering the enlisted ranks rose to 2.4 percent in 1982 from 1.7 percent in 1981.

One reason the increase occurred is because the Army offers a variety of opportunities for college graduates, Phillips said. In the health care field, medical students can have their school paid for, he said. In return, students must serve one year in the Army for each year of medical school attended.

All Army officers must have college degrees. To become an officer, one must attend officer candidate school. After completing the 14-week course, graduates are commissioned as second lieutenants.

Not all college graduates enter the Army to become officers, he said. In some areas, graduates feel they can best use their skills in the enlisted ranks. Graduates who enlist start out as privates first class.

In addition, the Army offers a Loan Forgiveness Program. In this program, an officer can have one-third of his student loan paid for every year he serves,

he said.

As in the Army, all Naval officers must be college graduates.

Officers commission

Lt. Dave Bettinson of Navy Officer Selection said about 3,500 new officers are commissioned each year in the Navy, and applications for the various officer-training opportunities have increased.

The Navy receives about 150 applications nationwide each week for both officer candidate and aviation officer candidate schools, Bettinson said. Applications for officer programs through his Omaha office have increased 15 percent this year and increased 25 percent last year.

Prospective officers must first take an officer qualification test, which measures an applicant's general and technical knowledge. After a physical examination and approval by a selection board, candidates attend officer candidate school in either Pensacola, Fla., or Newport, R.I., depending on what career they choose.

Master Sgt. Jerry Kuncel said that unlike the Army and Navy, the number of vacancies in the Air Force for officers is standard, and there has been little expansion in recent years.

Technical fields

There are vacancies in all medical areas, especially non-technical positions,

Kuncel said. There also is a need for graduates with degrees in technical fields for research and development.

Once a prospective officer's application has been accepted, the applicant spends 12 weeks at officer training school, Kuncel said. After graduation, service commitments range from four to six years. Pilots, because of the expense of their training, about \$250,000, are required to serve longer than most other officers, Kuncel said.

Becoming an officer in the Marines is a difficult task, said Capt. Dave Kirkwood, officer selection officer for the U.S. Marine Corps.

Prospective officers must have com-

pleted four years of full-time college with at least a 2.0 grade point average, Kirkwood said, and must have gotten a combined SAT score of 1,000 or at least 45 on the math and english portions of the ACT. If they don't meet these criteria, they must take the Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery Test.

After passing a physical, candidates attend the 10-week officer candidate school in Quantico, Va.

There has not been a dramatic increase in the number of applicants during the course of the last few years, Kirkwood said. Most of the people who want to be Marines sign up simply because they want to be Marines, he said.

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Left-handed rights goal of group

Left-handed students unite!

At the Arizona State University campus in Tempe, Ariz., left-handed students are developing a union to ensure that their needs are met on campus.

David Polen, a junior political science major, and Bill Adair, a senior finance major, began the left-handed union because they both had common gripes.

"We were friends, and one day we were sitting and talking and we realized that we were both left-handed," Polen said. "Then, we started talking about common gripes, like uncomfortable right-handed desks and spiral notebooks."

Polen said the union's two main goals would be to get the percentage of left-handed desks to equal the percentage of left-handed people on campus, and to have left-handed spiral notebooks available in the campus bookstore.

In addition, Polen said he wants the left-handed student union to be a social club, with left-handed happy

hours at the clubs and bars around campus.

About 200 people currently belong to the left-handed union, Polen said, and about 25 people attend union meetings which are held every three weeks.

"We are really still in the embryonic stages," Polen said. "The word is out about the union, and that is a step in the right direction. More left-handers are contacting us every day."

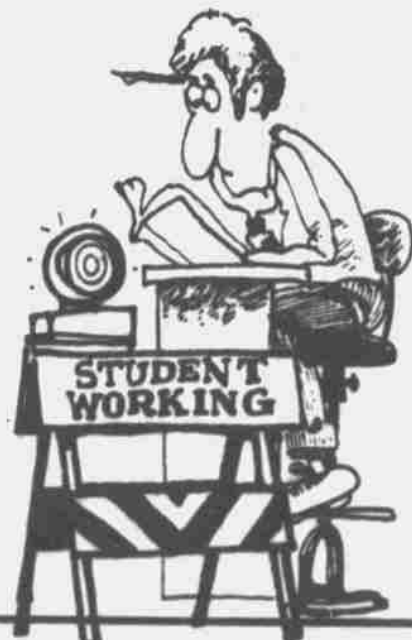
The current project of the left-handed student union is to find out how many left-handed students are on the ASU campus. Polen said this would be done through surveys and tables set up in the union.

"Many ROTC students have shown interest in the left-handed student union," Polen said. "They want us to work for left-handed M-16 machine guns."

Polen said another future goal of the left-handed student union is to work for a left-handed version of Pac-Man and other video games.

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