

# ROTC at UNL escapes national cuts

By DeDra Janssen  
Senior Reporter

At a time when some universities' ROTC programs are falling by the wayside to budget cuts, Nebraska's programs are going strong, UNL military officials said.

Because of military downsizing, several smaller schools have had to drastically cut their programs; some have had to shut down.

But not the programs at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Army Capt. Gene Heiland said UNL's Army ROTC program was not going anywhere, and although the program had become smaller in the last five to 10 years, it had become better.

"The university has quite a reputation nationally," Heiland said.

Seventy-five cadets strong, Army ROTC competes nationally and internationally, he said. In last year's national summer camp competition, a UNL student placed first in his platoon.

Some of UNL's Army ROTC students go on to medical school, dental school, law school and graduate school, Heiland said. Others are stationed in Bosnia, Germany, Korea, Alaska, Hawaii and many other U.S. states.

And when other ROTC programs fall on hard times, they look to UNL for leadership.

Heiland said he received calls from ROTC teachers from Colorado State University, Seattle University and Texas Tech asking what UNL did that made its program so strong.

"I told them we got quality students," Heiland said.

Heiland said quality ROTC students came to UNL to be a part of its strong academic programs in such areas as engineering, business, pre-medicine and journalism.

"When our students leave here, they are well-rounded in their fields," Heiland said.

Heiland said UNL attracted students from Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota and Colorado.

Another reason UNL drew in quality students was because it offered scholarships that paid 100 percent of recipients' tuition, he said. Many schools offer scholarships that pay for only 80 percent of recipients' tuition, he said.



Members of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Army ROTC unit march past UNL Chancellor Graham Spanier and officers during the annual review last Friday.

"We're just a better buy," he said. Last year, Army ROTC offered 42 scholarships, and 20 were accepted, Heiland said.

A large, supportive alumni organization also gives additional scholarships, he said.

But the Army ROTC program is not the only military branch that remains strong at UNL.

Air Force Maj. Nicholas Moore said Nebraska started a trend in strengthening Air Force ROTC programs.

"Things are looking good, and they're only getting better," Moore said.

Moore said the strength of the program laid with its high-caliber students.

"The strength lies with the people — faculty and students," Moore said. "The vital and critical strength lies with the students."

About 60 students are enrolled in Air Force ROTC, he said, and more than 85 are expected to be enrolled in the fall.

Moore said he expected a large freshman class with an increased number of out-of-state students who were coming for the meteorology program. UNL is one of the few schools in the nation with a meteorology program recognized by the Air Force.

Naval Capt. David Stopp said although UNL's Naval ROTC program had decreased from more than 100 midshipmen to 75 in the last five to 10 years, its retention rate, the number of students who stay with the program, made up for the decline. Diversity and high-quality students keep the program strong, he said.

He said downsizing of U.S. armed

forces was responsible for the decrease. Downsizing also was responsible for the Secretary of the Navy's 1991 decision to close five Navy ROTC programs in 1995.

The universities of Missouri, New Mexico, Minnesota, Utah and Texas Tech were scheduled to close their Navy ROTC programs in 1995. Last summer, the Secretary of the Navy reversed that decision for four of those schools. Texas Tech still will close in 1995.

Roger Hawkes, executive navy officer at the University of Missouri, said the school would have to rebuild its Navy ROTC program from scratch.

Because the program has not taken a freshmen class since 1991, it is down to only 13 students. Faculty has been cut to two members, and teaching materials have been sold.

Hawkes said recruiting was Missouri's biggest problem, because students thought the program still was closing.

Army Capt. Richard Addison at the University of Missouri also said downsizing had caused some difficulties in recruiting and personnel.

Addison also said it was difficult to recruit students who believed that because the Army was getting smaller, it didn't need them.

"It's hard to convince them that the Army is still a viable career option," Addison said.

But just because ROTC programs are reducing their numbers doesn't mean they will reduce their quality, Addison said.

Army Capt. Mary Moon at Colorado State University agreed.

"We will do more with less," she said.

## Home economics master's program to be available soon via satellite

From Staff Reports

The first home economics master's degree program to be delivered via satellite will be offered by UNL beginning next fall.

The program will be offered throughout the state during the 1994-95 school year, and then it will become national, said Karen Craig, dean of the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

"From the time the program was proposed three or four years ago, we've been toying with it, and we finally decided that this is the right time to offer it," she said.

Twelve courses for the Interdepartmental Home Economics degree will be available as a single master's degree package, to fulfill other program requirements, to renew a teaching certificate or to earn continuing education credits.

Students who wish to register for the courses must first be admitted to a graduate course of study, Craig said.

Students will register by mail and will pay graduate level tuition plus a \$40 distance learning fee for the satellite courses.

Included will be 800- and 900-level courses on contemporary nutrition, families, consumer and family economics and textiles.

Students who would like more information about the program should contact the College of Human Resources and Family Sciences.

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