

Diverse recruits earn police degrees

By Jeff Zeleny
Senior Reporter

A straight-A student, an All-American baseball player and an Army Hospital corpsman traded their respective uniforms for police blues and became commissioned officers Wednesday night.

Fourteen police recruits, with significantly different backgrounds, received their diplomas Wednesday — nearly one year after they applied to be Lincoln police officers.

The three women and 11 men will begin riding along with veteran police officers today. In 22 weeks, they will patrol the city streets solo.

The new recruits stood at attention as camera flashes brightened the stage at the nearly-full O'Donnell Auditorium on the Nebraska Wesleyan University campus. With their arms locked behind their backs, Lincoln police Chief Tom Casady congratulated the newest members of his force.

"It's truly an outstanding group of men and women," Casady said, his moustached-grin brimming.

The 14 new officers, and the 15 officers who graduated earlier this year from the Lincoln Police Academy, came from a field of 902 applicants, said Lincoln Mayor Mike Johanns.

"They are the best of the best, joining a department that is the best of the best in the United States," Johanns said.

The recruits completed 622 classroom hours since the academy started July 10. In the last three months, the rookie officers have studied police law, experimented with directing traf-

fic and practiced at the firearms range. Recruits were given awards on the highest grade-point-average, the best shooter and the most physically fit.

Lancaster County District Judge Bernard McGinn told police officers to be accurate, fair and professional in their new careers. In his keynote address, McGinn recalled the summer of 1964 when he worked at the Lincoln Police Department.

"I know that this class is anxious to get out on the streets and begin their training as Lincoln police officers," McGinn said. "The exercise of the power to make an arrest is an awesome power, yours will be a most difficult job."

McGinn gave the officers advice he gathered in his 11 years as a prosecutor and 15 years as a district judge. The decisions that officers make daily on the streets, McGinn said, will be scrutinized again and again.

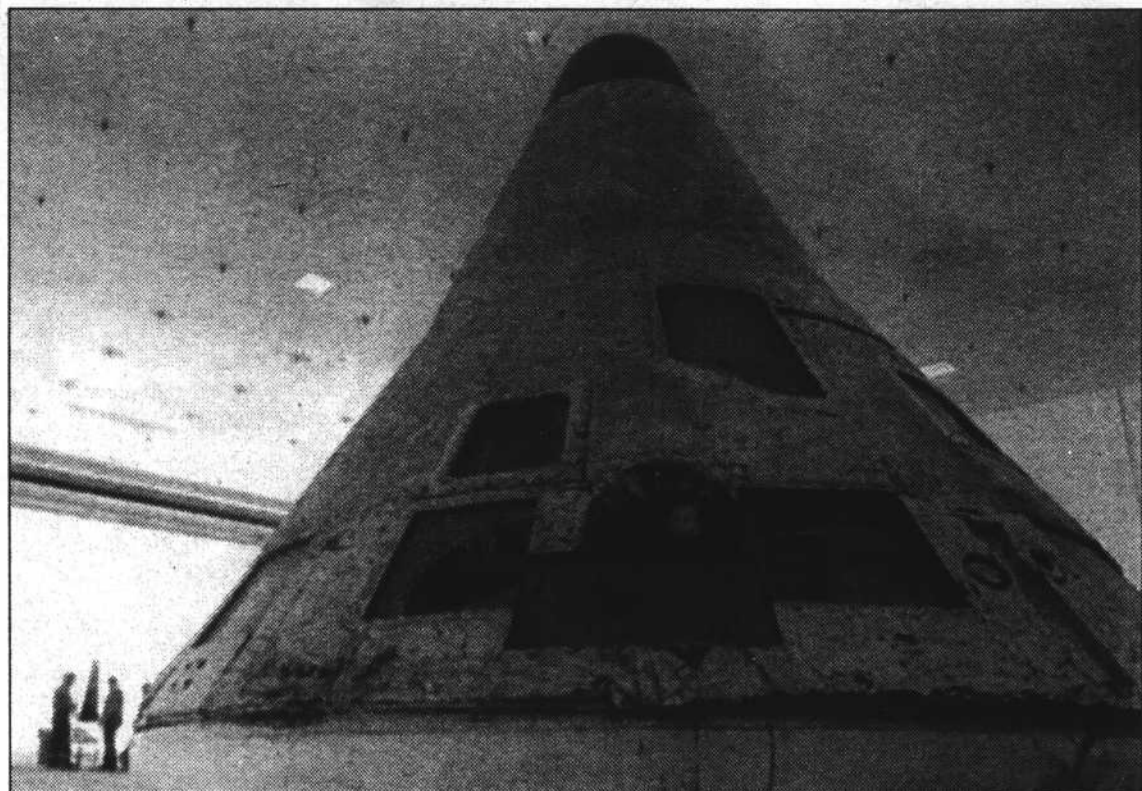
"Later, judges and juries will have almost unlimited time to decide if your split decisions were correct," he said. "We expect a lot from you."

The graduation was the first public ceremony in the department's recent history. Outstanding service awards and the department's medal of honor were awarded to veteran officers.

City officials encouraged the public to attend the graduation to show officers support in a time of national mistrust of the police.

"It reminds me again that I'm currently the mayor of truly the greatest city in America," Johanns said. "One of the major things that makes the difference is the men and women of the Lincoln Police Department."

Fresh paint



Tanna Kinnaman/DN

The Apollo 009 space capsule sits inside a hanger at Duncan Aviation.

Repairs begin on Apollo capsule

By Paula Lavigne
Senior Reporter

Lincoln, we have liftoff. After sitting in a warehouse on East Campus for five years, the Apollo 009 space capsule docked Wednesday at Duncan Aviation.

Instead of launching to the moon, the capsule took a less glamorous route down Cornhusker Highway on a flat-bed truck.

It was weighed, then taken to a Duncan Aviation paint hangar for repairs.

The repairs are being funded by an anonymous Nebraska donor.

Herb Howe, associate of the chancellor, said a few highly public sites on and off campus were being considered to display the capsule.

Apollo 009 will stay in Nebraska, he said, but will be kept indoors.

NASA donated the capsule to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1973. The 14-by-20-foot spacecraft rested outside Morrill Hall until 1991.

Rick Drapal, one of the Duncan technicians restoring the spacecraft, said Apollo 009 would first have to undergo analysis.

"We have to remove what appears to be house paint that the university put on it," he said.

The spacecraft will then be painted with urethane paint, he said, which is the same paint used on commercial aircraft. Urethane is more durable than ordinary paint.

Drapal said the technicians also would try to match the original colors, logos, flags and NASA emblems. They will not repair damage from the capsule's test missions.

The craft was built in 1964 and launched Feb. 26, 1966, by a Saturn I-B rocket on a sub-orbital flight. It was the first Saturn launch of an Apollo capsule, but not the first Apollo launch.

During re-entry, the capsule lost steering control and rolled, causing burn marks on the outer skin of the craft.

Its first — and only — unmanned mission lasted 37 minutes.

The capsule did have life support systems, Howe said, but astronauts never traveled in it.

Apollo 009 also was used to test parachute systems, he said, which failed.

"NASA said if there had been people in that first flight," he said, "they would now be deceased."

Although Apollo 009 wasn't as well-known as its Apollo relatives, Drapal said the spacecraft's landing mechanisms were the model for those used in the famous Apollo 13.

Lori Johnson, Duncan Aviation's marketing communications coordinator, said Apollo 009 was the company's first spacecraft.

But the timeworn craft is in good hands.

The technicians have repaired aircraft that were in worse condition than the Apollo 009, she said.

And besides, she said, the capsule is for display and "doesn't have to pass FAA tests."

Coming out

Continued from Page 1

booth deserved to be commended, she said.

A new addition to GLSA's collection of educational materials is the Ally Card, available at its booth.

The pink, white and black postcard-sized card is similar to the pink triangle stickers distributed a few years ago, Schultz said.

The Ally Card is more useful than the stickers, she said, because it includes an explanation of National Coming Out Day and discusses how students and faculty can commit to a more diverse and accepting campus.

The card also can be posted out-

side an office to indicate that the office is a safe place to talk openly about sexuality.

The cards are less imposing than the stickers, Schultz said, because there is less pressure to display them. People can tape them to their doors, she said, or just pick up a card and read it.

"It's whatever they feel comfortable with," she said.

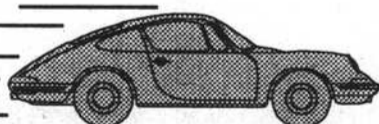
Schultz said one of GLSA's goals this year was to be all-inclusive, not exclusive.

So she encourages everyone — of all sexual orientations — to visit the booth.

"We welcome you over to learn more about us, to learn more about the day."

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