



TOP LEFT: CADET JARED CLINGER starts his morning by camouflaging his face. Cadets darken the high parts of their face and lighten the low to minimize features that could set them off from the brush they use for cover.
TOP RIGHT: CADET CHRISTOPHER MEASEL holds his M-16 assault rifle while resting between tactical missions.
BOTTOM RIGHT: CADET WES MADDEN practices tactical formations with his squad for STX (Squad Tactical Exercises). ROTC cadets practice with the same squad for an entire school year.
BOTTOM CENTER: CADET MADDEN, a sophomore ROTC cadet, reads his FM&S Infantrymen's guidebook before beginning a day of training.
BOTTOM LEFT: SENIOR CADET ROSS WITTERS prepares himself for the day's field tests as underclassmen cadets line up in formation behind him. Senior cadets were responsible for evaluating the performance of junior cadets throughout the field missions.

ROTC history at UNL began with 1862 grant

Students have been able to receive military training at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for about 20 years longer than they've been able to cheer for the Nebraska Cornhuskers.

But while football is linked to campus by tradition, military training is tied to campus by law.

Under the 1862 Morrill Act, federal land was granted to universities in exchange for programs and services that would return benefits to the state. One of the requirements was to provide military training.

After being founded on this land-grant mission in 1869, the university began the Military Science program in 1876 with 57 of the 100 male students at UNL enrolled.

A real boost to the program came when Gen. John J. Pershing was commander of the Armed Expeditionary Forces to Europe in World War I.

As a lieutenant from 1891 to 1895, Pershing boosted the morale and enrollment of the cadets by forming an elite drill team called the Pershing Rifles. It exists today at more than 100 universities.

The program officially became the Army Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1916 under the National Defense Act and enrollment was compulsory.

In 1941, there were 2,300 cadets. In 1964, under the ROTC Revitalization Act, enrollment became voluntary and numbers dropped.

In 1969, the academic and military aspects of ROTC were fused under the Joint ROTC Curriculum Committee combining the direction of UNL and ROTC administrators.

Herb Howe, assistant to the chancellor, said the ROTC program provides "a very good career opportunity."

"About half the officers in the U.S. military have been trained on campuses just like this," he said. "The 'citizen soldier' has been kept alive by the universities of this country."

Nationally, the \$253 million ROTC program operates at 255 universities across the nation with cross-enrollment programs at 15 additional universities.

More information about the UNL Army ROTC program can be found at its Web site at <http://www.unl.edu/armyrotc/> or by calling (402) 472-2468.

of the military officer fields.

Active Army is going to be Sitter's choice. He grew up watching war movies and reading Army books in elementary schools, thinking about the military for a long time. For him, it's good job security — and a sense of adventure.

"When you're sitting out in the rain. You're hungry. You're cold. And (the cadets) don't care and they're smiling and saying, 'Yeah! Yeah!,' that's the kind of people who like military combat. They like being miserable."

Final orders

Even though some cadets will use the tactical lessons in field-training exercises more than others, they say there usually isn't a difference between the leadership performance of a cadet planning on an Army career or one opting for the Reserves and a job in the private sector.

The cadets' top leader is senior Brian Medcalf, who holds the highest cadet rank of battalion commander. Watching him focus on the task at hand — almost oblivious to the small talk around him — while he prepares instruction for the younger cadets may be a good sign Medcalf is ready to take on his own platoon.

But the structural engineering major plans to marry his fiancée, find a job and hopefully attend graduate school somewhere near an Army base so he can fulfill his Reserves duty. He can turn his ROTC leadership skills into what he calls "life skills."

Kim Stanley expects to be in the same situation. While she might find some use for ROTC field training in the future, she plans to spend most of her career in a medical center.

During the field-training exercise, the freshman nursing major did get to practice a little medicine — on herself — after a tree "jumped out"

leaving a long red scratch on her face.

"I've never even been camping before," she admitted.

She, like many younger cadets, say they're just there to follow the leaders, the MS IIIs like Salinas and Willbanks, in her squad and listen to their advice.

After her squad's third mission, they huddled around the advice of Capt. Fleming Jones, a West Point U.S. Military Academy graduate.

"We want you to think. And that's what it's all about," he said in front of a circle of cadets.

"Did you learn anything, Stanley?"

"Yes, sir."

"Do you want to be an infantryman?"

Stanley paused at the question with only one right answer.

"Yes, sir," she said, grinning.

"Good answer!"

On the next mission, it seemed that Stanley

took that to heart. She was appointed Alpha Team leader, which is uncommon for a freshman. In the post-mission evaluation, Sgt. 1st Class Andy Simpson praised her for her leadership.

Freshmen don't receive advanced leadership training, he said, but Stanley "jumped right on it."

Stanley, who spoke very little during the missions, said she was "a little scared."

"I didn't know what I was doing," she said. "I did what my squad leader said."

"I was just doing what we've been doing and trying

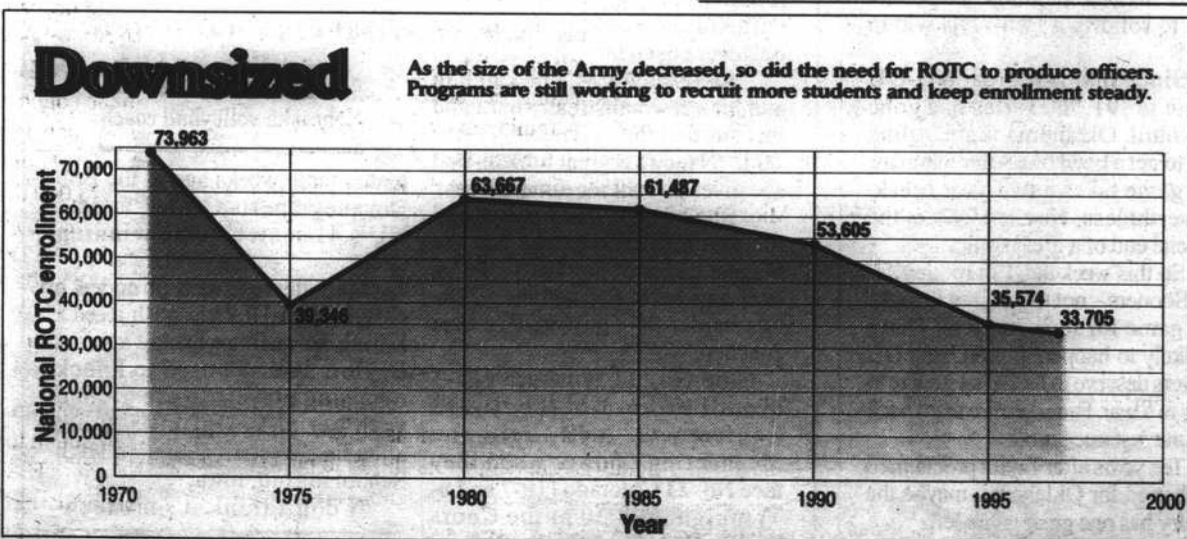
to keep everybody up on what was going on and try not to let everybody down. I was doing my job so everybody else could do theirs."

Simpson gave the cadet a special card noting her achievement — which will go toward the points she receives for her commission. As Stanley left with some antibiotic ointment for the scratch on her cheek, she rejoined her squad for their last mission.

As billowing, inky clouds crouched over the rolling forest hills, the cadets readied themselves for a platoon night mission — pondering the potential for rain. Their operation will go well into the night.

By the time dew sets, peace will have been restored to Nebraska. On its return to UNL, the Big Red Battalion will write the final chapter of a victorious mission.

Now, how's that for a little homework?



SOURCE - CADET COMMAND, FORT MONROE, VA.

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