

Camp brings cadets closer to being officers

■ The training program offers an opportunity for ROTC members to compete on a national level.

By ERIC RINEER
Staff writer

It's the Super Bowl of being a cadet.

That's how cadets in UNL's ROTC describe the Army's summer Advance Camp.

Twenty-five juniors from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's ROTC program will attend Advance Camp in Fort Lewis, Wash., for six weeks this summer as one of their last major hurdles to becoming officers in the U.S. Army.

The camp is designed to pave the way for young cadets to enter the Army as 2nd lieutenants.

The camp attracts more than 2,000 cadets from universities and colleges nationwide.

"This makes it a great experience," said Lt. Col. Richard Tracey, professor of military science at UNL.

"This is the first time our cadets compete with other cadets on a national basis," he said.

Though the focus of the camp is to teach cadets leadership responsibilities, cadets also participate in infantry training, said Tracey, who will be battalion commander at next summer's camp.

The infantry training includes combat training, land navigation, obstacle courses and machine gun-assault training.

"There's a whole lot of challenges," he said.

"The kids learn an awful lot - they learn a lot about themselves and the Army."

After finishing training, cadets can become commissioned officers by completing their bachelor's degree and finishing their ROTC coursework.

Last year's cadets boasted scores above the national average, Tracey said.

This year's cadets are confident they will do the same.

Jenny Johnson, junior exercise science major and cadet platoon sergeant, said she looks forward to the challenge.

"We're going in with a very positive attitude," she said. "We feel as if we can achieve the same goals."

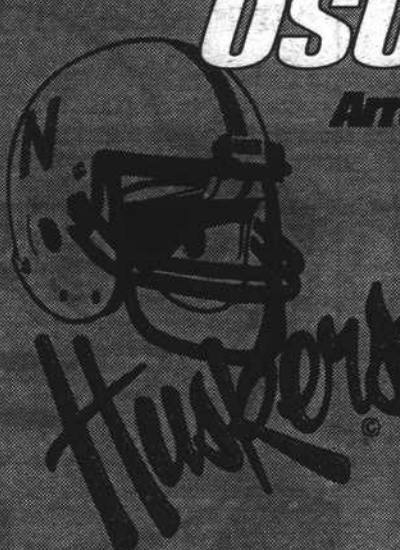
Johnson credits her peers for the examples they set.

"It helps talking to people who went through it last year," she said.

"It's given us all a bit of motivation."

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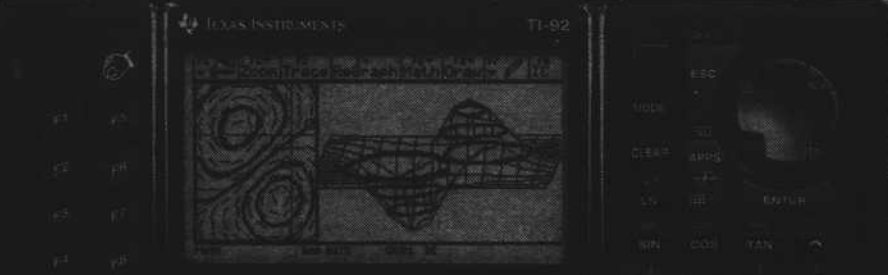
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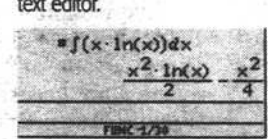


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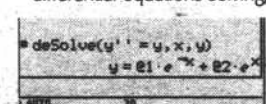
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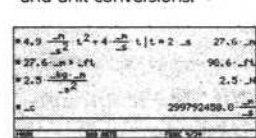
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