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UNIVERSITY



File Photo

University students enrolled in military programs would be among the first students called to active duty if the United States goes to war in the Middle East.

Students plan for possible war

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

University students enrolled in military programs are studying the Middle East crisis with a personal interest, knowing that if war breaks out, they will have more to worry about than just their mid-term exams.

If University students are called into active duty, financial aid and course credit would be two areas of concern.

"Obviously if called to duty they (students) would not be obligated to pay back financial assistance. We'll certainly accommodate people in that situation," said Ed Vignoul, student financial aid director at the University.

The number of students who could be called into duty is relatively small, Vignoul said, adding that his department could deal with the eventuality.

If students are called into active duty and return the same year, the financial assistance allotted to them for the terms they were enrolled would remain intact. However, if students called into duty did not return that year, they would lose their financial aid for the terms missed. This is true for all students, Vignoul said.

"Financial aid is only for attendance at the University. No

student who wasn't attending at the University would receive financial aid," Vignoul said.

The general policy applicable to students withdrawing to enter military service as found in the Academic Year Fee Book is as follows:

- If withdrawal occurs within the last four weeks of the term, full credit may be given for the course work and, if credit is given, no refund would be made.

- If withdrawal occurs before the last four weeks of the term, full refund of tuition charges will be made to the student and no credit will be given for course work for that term. Refunds are allowed and issued if the student is assigned for active duty within thirty days from withdrawal, evidenced usually by military orders.

"College students (in the reserves) are subject to call up at the same time the battalion is," said Maj. William Stewart of the National Guard. "If mobilized, they would have to withdraw from the term."

College students constitute only a small percentage of the National Guard reserves, Stewart said. "But anyone assigned to the battalion is subject to mobilization and activation."

Exemptions from activation to duty are handled on a case-to-case basis. Less than 50 Uni-

versity students are in the Guard, Stewart said.

Students enrolled in the Army ROTC program are not afraid of the imminent possibility of being called into active duty, said Army Lt. Col. James Hinton.

"What most students want to do is go on active duty. The selection rate right now is about 50 percent. Half of those that want to go are sent into active duty," Hinton said.

ROTC cadets will not be called into duty if war breaks out, said freshman David Erbes who is enrolled in ROTC. Graduates are usually called before undergraduates.

"As it stands now I would not be called. If called I would gladly go. I'm prepared to fight for my country," Erbes said.

Everybody is making a big deal about nothing, Erbes said, referring to the crisis.

"Forces are built up already so we're prepared for it, unlike Vietnam," he said.

"If called into duty I'd go. It's dangerous but I'd go serve," said Matthew Bruce, also a freshman enrolled in ROTC.

Willingness to serve does not mean the threat of war is any less frightening, Bruce added that he is very nervous about the thought of being sent to the Middle East.

ROTC offers chance for advancement

By Tammy Batey
Emerald Reporter

Military science courses at the University not only offer general military information to students, but open a door to potential second lieutenants.

About 60 University students, most of whom are enrolled in the Army ROTC program, are currently signed up for military science courses. For these college students, the ROTC program boasts the only means of becoming a second lieutenant in the Army, Hinton said.

West Point Military Academy, Officer Candidate School and direct applications from medical personnel for lieutenant positions also qualify, but an estimated 70 percent of army officers are recruited through ROTC.

"The program is competitive," said Lt. Col. James Hinton, ROTC, while adding that he has noticed no decrease in the number of applicants

for the military science program.

"It's been a small program for a long time. The number of students taking classes this year as opposed to last year is not that much of a difference," Hinton said.

The military science program on campus is strictly elective credit and is open to everyone. The program includes basic courses for freshmen and sophomores dealing with how the army fits into society, while junior and senior level classes are aimed at preparing students to be second lieutenants.

Examples of classes include 'Intro to the Military,' 'First Aid,' and 'Command Ethics.'

Students involved in the ROTC and taking military science classes may be awarded merit scholarships annually. Students compete for scholarships either on a regional or national level, and often, the awarding of a scholarship will play a part in how much time a student will serve if he/she is called to active duty, Hinton said.

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