

ECSU women rise to meet ROTC challenge

Careers, jobs cited as ROTC rewards

By Shawn Everett

Not long ago, you wouldn't expect to see a woman wearing paratrooper boots, learning to shoot an M-16, or jumping out of airplanes.

But more and more women are taking advantage of the career opportunities available in the Army; they're enlisting, going to boot camp, and becoming officers.

That's the case here at ECSU with four ROTC female cadets: Joann Joiner, Warline Harry, Jobina Brooks, and Michelle Hale. Upon graduation, these four young women will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army.

Three of these cadets—Joyner, Brooks, and Harry—have already completed the rigorous training of the Army Airborne School at Fort Benning, Ga.

"Everybody there goes through the same thing," said Joyner, a senior economics major. "I just got out there and did what I had to do. It was very challenging, mentally, emotionally, and physically."



The tough requirements of Army Airborne School included a four-mile run, jumping jacks and pushups. ECSU's female cadets found the training mentally and physically "challenging."

Illustration by Kevin Cruz

High school students served by SAT Workshop program

By Deborah Jacobs

"The enthusiasm will make the program a success," said ECSU Chancellor, Dr. Jimmy Jenkins, commenting on ECSU's new SAT Workshop program.

The new program is designed to enhance area high school student's test-taking skills, and to improve their ability to perform on the Scholastic Aptitude Test.

Chancellor Jenkins conceived of the SAT Workshop program after observing the success of similar programs on other campuses. "I thought if it's working there, why not ECSU?"

Before implementing the SAT Workshop program, Jenkins proposed the plan in letters to the superintendents of schools in the 16-county region served by ECSU. "The response was fantastic," said Dr. Jenkins. "I started re-

ceiving letters back the next day."

Jenkins believes the SAT Workshops are "a great community service, that will also increase the applicant pool for ECSU."

The Chancellor said the workshops should be especially helpful to potential recipients of Incentive Scholarships, who meet all entrance standards except minimum SAT scores.

Although admitting there's no guarantee students benefitting from the program will attend ECSU, Jenkins added, "We believe if we can help them qualify for college, we will get our fair share of the market."

The workshops will be conducted in two-hour sessions, according to Carmento Edwards, special consultant to the Chancellor. "During the sessions, students will be administered simu-

"Every morning we had the same routine. We had a room inspection, and then we had to do physical training, which included jumping jacks, sit-ups and push-ups."

Next recalled Joyner, was the three mile run.

"Since the airborne school was over-enrolled, the Army weeded out people with a four-mile run. If you couldn't do the run, you were sent home. Then, after that, if you fell out at any time during a run, you were sent home. That reduced the number even more."

Why do women join the Army, and put up with the hardships of training?

ECSU's cadets cited two reasons for enlisting in ROTC—career opportunities and job security.

"Just because you go to college, doesn't mean you're going to have a job when you graduate," said Joyner. "I decided to join the military because I know I'll have a job waiting for me when I graduate."

After graduation, Joyner will go to Fort Bliss, Texas, to attend school in her designated career field—Air Defense Artillery.

"I put in for duty for either Hawaii or Europe for my overseas duty," Joyner said. "I plan to make the military my career."

Brooks said she was attracted by the Army's career opportunities for women. "I think women who go into the military have a better advantage than regular women, because they gain more leadership abilities, learn more discipline, management and extra knowledge."

Brooks said she plans a career in military police work.

"I always liked the military. I guess it's because I have a lot of family members in the military."

Lt. Col. Thomas Allen, Chairperson of ECSU's Military Science department, said that women work in combat support areas, finance, transportation, aviation, inventory-ordnance storage and maintenance of ammunition.

"Military intelligence is a real popular field with women," said Allen, "because it requires thinking power."

"I think having women in the military is great," said Allen.

"Women are now aware of the opportunities available in the Army—like training in up-to-date fields. Also the salaries are more competitive than someone just starting out in a normal job."

Allen said women advance in today's Army "at the same rate as men, because both men and women are treated equally. Today's Army is totally integrated."

"Women have the ability to perform as effectively as men."

Warline Harry said she plans to attend advanced training in Fort Knox, Kentucky. Harry said she will wait for her "orders" after completing her training.

"I love the ROTC program," she said. "My only regret is that I didn't join it earlier. Joining the ROTC program is the best decision I've made toward my future."

University ROTC safe from fed's budget cuts

By Travis L. Manuel

Although federal budget cuts are forcing many campus ROTC programs to shut down, ECSU's ROTC program is secure for now.

That's the word from Lt. Colonel Thomas J. Allen, Chairperson of ECSU's Military Science

Department.

"If ARMY ROTC programs are cut down, it will be based on the performances of the programs," said Allen. "If any at all are cut out, ours shouldn't be. The program is too strong."

Despite Allen's optimism



ROTC cadets Joann Joyner, Warline Harry and Jobina Brooks will be commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Army. All three women have completed the training of the Army Airborne School, while many men dropped out.

Photo by Leamon Pearce

ROTC Victims

The Air Force says it will close down Reserve Officer Training programs at 30 campuses over the next 18 months, and consolidate programs at 7 other schools.

The 30 college units to be closed are:

- Samford University, Birmingham, AL
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical U., Prescott, AZ
- California State U., Fresno, CA
- U. of California at Berkeley
- Valdosta State College, Valdosta, GA
- U. of Iowa, Iowa City, IA
- Kansas State U., Manhattan, KS
- U. of Louisville, Louisville, KY
- U. of Southwestern Louisiana, Lafayette, LA
- U. of Minnesota, Duluth, MN
- U. of Mississippi, Oxford, MS
- Mississippi Valley State U., Itta Ben, MS
- Southeast Missouri State U., Cape Girardeau, MO
- U. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE
- U. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC
- U. of North Carolina at Charlotte, Charlotte, NC
- East Carolina U., Greenville, NC
- Fayetteville State U., Fayetteville, NC
- Ohio U., Athens, OH
- U. of Oklahoma, Norman, OK
- U. of Portland, Portland, OR
- Grove City College, Grove City, PA
- U. of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, PR
- Baylor U., Waco, TX
- East Texas State U., Commerce, TX
- North Texas State U., Denton, TX
- Southwest Texas State U., San Marcos, TX
- Utah State U., Logan, UT
- Central Washington U., Ellensburg, WA
- U. of Puget Sound, WA

Meanwhile, the 7 programs to be consolidated are:

- Alabama State U., Montgomery, AL - with Tuskegee U.
- Loyola Marymount U., Los Angeles - with UCLA
- Southern Illinois U., Edwardsville, IL - with Parks College
- Grambling State U., Grambling, LA - with Louisiana Tech
- Boston U., Boston, MA - with Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- College of St. Thomas, St. Paul, MN - with U. of Minnesota
- U. of Akron, Akron, OH - with Kent State U.

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for ways to cut a total of \$32.9 billion from their spending for the 1988-89 fiscal year.

The Air Force saved \$14 million by closing thirty campus programs, and consolidating seven others, according to Capt. Bill Stephenson of the Air Force ROTC.

"The ROTC programs that will be cut are the ones with low enrollment," Allen predicted, "the ones that aren't producing a satisfactory number of commissioned students. ECSU's ROTC program has shown too much growth and too much potential to be cut out."

ECSU's ROTC program has more than doubled its enrollment since its inception in 1981, Allen said. There are currently 137 students enrolled in the program.

"About 75% of the sophomores will be commissioned," Allen said.

Allen said he is hoping the program will become independent, due to its rapid growth rate. "We don't have an independent program now," he said. "Our program is an extension of Norfolk State."

Allen said ECSU's program is "administered by the Army through a letter of agreement" between the president of NSU and ECSU's chancellor. "The Army personnel at ECSU are officially members of the ROTC Instructor Group at NSU," Allen said.

According to Allen, the criteria to establish an independent unit are "the Army's needs, University request, and the production of at least 15 officers per year."

ECSU's program produced 43 officers last year, Allen said.



ECSU Chancellor Dr. Jimmy Jenkins (center) chats with Dr. Tej Bahadur (right), while ECSU Social Sciences Professor Dr. Dale Henderson (left), looks on. Dr. Bahadur, professor of the Andhra Pradesh Agricultural University in Hyderabad, India, visited the ECSU Campus on April 14, and gave two lectures of general interest about India.

Photo by Leamon Pearce

Education

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"The State Department, the NTE and NCATE provide competencies that we must thoroughly cover in our courses."

ECSU is already achieving positive results from the new academic plan, according to Williams.

"The quality of our students is getting much better in terms of the increase in SAT scores, the Education Department admission requirements and the Academic Incentive Scholarships," said Williams. "When you put all of that together, you're going to get a top-notch student."

Carmento Edwards, the new coordinator of ECSU's Center for the Preparation of Teachers, said

the center focuses on recruiting students who are "academically active and talented in teacher education." The center identifies those student who have an aptitude for, and interest in, teaching at the high school level.

"It's the center's responsibility to let those students know what the opportunities in teacher education in this region are," Edwards said. ECSU will award a minimum of 25 Incentive Scholarships to teacher education majors, she added.

"We hope these students will want to stay in northeastern North Carolina and strengthen the educational system on the elementary and secondary level."

Edwards also serves as advisor to The Ambassadors To The Public Schools Program, which ECSU launched in November,

1987.

"ECSU is the only university in the UNC system that has this program," Edwards said. "Our goal is to identify academically active and talented students from the 16-county region. The Ambassadors' job will be to go back into their communities and high schools and tell the students there, 'I'm growing and developing my educational growth. I'm excited about the university, and I've come to let you know that I'm excited about it.'"

"Their primary objectives are to share their experiences with the students, and answer any questions they might have."

The Ambassadors To the Public Schools Program was also funded through the new Academic Development Plan.