

# ROTC teaches cadets leadership, discipline

by Angela Burrus

On six o'clock Monday morning, most students are still enjoying those last, sweet hours of sleep before waking up for classes.

But for students in the Reserved Officer Training Corp, their day has already begun. They are already up and marching while reciting lines like these: "They say that in the Army that the food is mighty fine. A chicken rolled off the table and it started marking time."

ECSU is one of over 400 colleges and universities to offer an Army ROTC program, first implemented here in 1981.

Since then 131 cadets have been commissioned as Army Officers at ECSU whom became members of the United States Army Reserve and National Guard.

The program offers college students an opportunity to graduate as officers and serve in the US Army, the Army National Guard, or the US Army Reserves.

ECSU Cadet Battalion Commander Bobby Burrus said the program has offered him skills of leadership and self discipline.

"It has given me a free education and a guarantee job making more money than the average college stu-

dent will make when they graduate," Burrus said.

Burrus feel these skills will carry him through the Army and Corporate America.

The program also enhances students' education by providing unique leadership and management training along with providing them with practical experience, according to a brochure issued at the Fall ROTC Awards Ceremony.

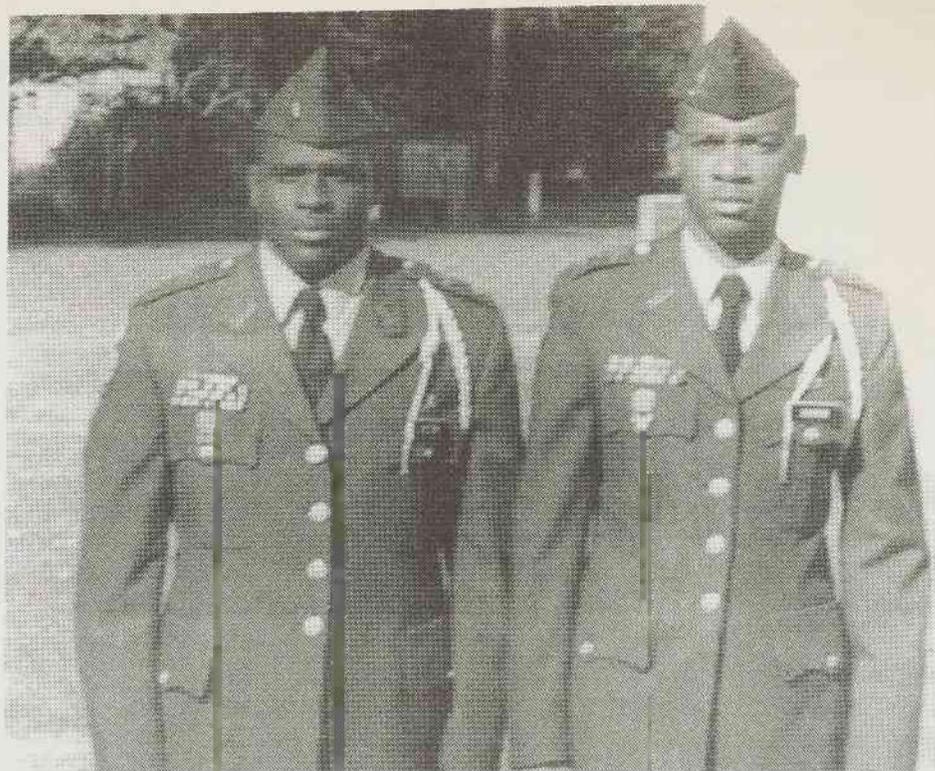
"The ROTC program has given me a lot of abilities in communication," said ECSU senior Dexter Holley, a former Cadet Battalion Commander.

In high school, Holley wanted to serve in the military. Inspired by the recommendation of a former teacher, he joined the ROTC program in January 1994. He said the program thrives on an incentive of ambition.

"It teaches me to do more for myself instead of depending on others to help me," Holley said. "This will help me when I go into the military."

Demetrius Melton, a cadet major, explained that students on the ROTC program set some of the best examples on campus.

"Besides presenting ourselves in a very presentable manner, we have some of the highest GPAs at this uni-



Franklin G. Scott, Jr. photo

Demetrius Melton and Bobby Burrus look sharp in their ROTC uniforms. Melton is a Cadet Major and Burrus is Cadet Battalion Commander.

versity," said Melton.

Captain Matthew Peele, director of the ECSU program at ROTC for the past six years, feels the program teaches students discipline, responsibility, and leadership.

"It's the smartest college course you can take," said Peele, who encourages students to join the program during their first two years of college. "These three or four years can offer you a lifetime career."

The program has two components, the basic course taken during the first

two years and the advanced course, taken during the junior and senior years.

ECSU's ROTC students and officers were honored

during the annual ROTC Fall Awards Ceremony held on Tuesday, Nov. 4 at 2 p.m.

Five ROTC students received the Academic Achievement Award for ranking in the top ten percent of their classes: Anetria Coaxum, Bobby Burrus, Christopher Johnson, Joseph Kurtzweil, and Michael Lewis.

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