

DEPLOY,
from page 1

"This is what they've been preparing us for," said Hooks. "I'll be disappointed if I am (deployed) though, because I just want to finish school."

"After I graduate they can call whenever they want."

Hooks is not the only student-soldier who's concerned about completing school in light of this conflict.

"When you go to join, they don't make it clear that you can be pulled out of school," said sophomore Brandy Byers.

Byers, an MIS and accounting major, joined the Army National Guard because of its great benefits. She normally serves one weekend a month with her unit during drill, but things are starting to look different for her unit.

"Most students only [join] to pay for school," said Byers. "When your unit gets activated, the whole unit is deployed."

Byers' unit was activated and deployed last month. The unit spent two weeks at Fort Bragg for training and was shipped overseas from one to two years. There's only one reason why Byers, 19, is still at school.

"I haven't been to Basic Training yet, and they can't send you off without having gone," said Byers. "They're sending me (to training) this summer, though."

Byers' best friend, Crystal Knox, is also a member of the National Guard.

During the weekend that students began moving back on campus from Christmas Break, the 20-year-old received disturbing information.

"I was at drill going through normal procedures," said Knox. "It was Sunday, and we were preparing to go home when our company commander announces that our unit will be activated the following day."

Knox, who describes herself as "devastated, because I'm a student," had one evening to get her personal business in order and prepare for a 7:45 a.m. arrival to her unit in Concord the following day. During the week that her unit officially became active duty, Knox began out-processing.

"There was a financial station where we made sure our income would be direct-deposited while we were overseas. There was a JAG station where we made out power of attorneys and wills in case we were to die in combat. There was also a gas mask, dental and medical stations."

ALUMNI,
from page 2

Everything from your school's reputation to who knows you is taken into consideration.

The business world does not pardon the snoozer. Depending on the type of job, employers want to see examples of promise, such as good study habits and extracurricular activities that pertain to your major. Think about it. If you were the CEO of My Computers Inc., would you hire a college graduate with a 2.0 GPA and no related volunteer or work experience in computer science to head your computer systems analyst team?

Professionals hire college graduates because they assume, based on interviews, performance tests and résumés that you can do the job and do it well. Some of us will not be able to get past this point. There may be others that can charm their way into a job and escape the initial tests for job performance. However, when it's time to actually do the job and you can't do it, you will be fired

and replaced.

Then there are those of us who will be prepared. We would have taken advantage of all of the resources available to us in college. We would have made an effort to learn both inside and outside of the classroom. We would have placed an emphasis on hard work because we know that businesses seek bright young people with exceptional grades, a reasonable amount of related work or volunteer experience and proven leadership qualities.

Those are assets that we as responsible students must take the initiative to acquire. The competition is very stiff and you want to be a standout graduate, not a mediocre one.

Don't find yourself kicking at the ground when graduation rolls around; start planning for the future now. In other words, "Handle your business."

Do you know a successful WSSU alumni? Tell us about him or her by e-mail, newzargus@yahoo.com, or call us at 750-2327.

It would be the medical station that would allow Knox to return to WSSU as a full-time student.

"The Friday before we were to have our farewell ceremony, a medical doctor came in and reviewed my records," said Knox. "I have scoliosis, so they couldn't send me off because of medical reasons."

The banking and finance major says she is relieved that she didn't have to go so she can complete her goals as a student first.

"Recruiters are gonna tell you what you want to hear," she added.

"They'll work around the negative side of the Guard and high-light things like the money."

"The fact is, when it comes down to it, it's so hard to get out of what they want you to do. If I didn't have those medical records ..."

Byers says she doesn't believe the conflict with Iraq is worth a war.

"It's too devastating. It's definitely not worth it unless you're fighting for your freedom. But that's not what this war is about."

Dr. Larry Little, a political science professor, has an idea of what the war is about.

"I think it's about the United States flexing its muscle and demonstrating it has the ability to make folks bow down to it," said Little.

"It's about control of oil fields in Iraq, and Bush finishing the work of his father. If Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction, a lot of it was acquired from the U.S. during Bush Sr.'s administration."

Little believes that by the first week of March, the United States will be fighting in Iraq. However, he doesn't believe a draft will be called, causing more university-age students to be deployed.

"As long as they have this technologically driven, Bush will have public support. If they start drafting, public sentiment will change on Bush."

Despite the status on and reasons for going to war, the possibility of fighting in combat is becoming a very real idea for students at WSSU.

"I'm young. I'm still a student," said Knox.

"Being pulled away from thing like school is something I'm not ready for."

DIVERSE,
from page 1

However, Chawla didn't let sexism or even the lack of an aerospace program in her native India discourage her. She emigrated to the United States, earned a doctoral degree in aerospace engineering and, against all odds, became an astronaut.

"For me, it's really far-fetched to have thought about it and made it," Chawla said. "It's almost like having won a lottery or something."

The 41-year-old engineer was returning from her second shuttle mission. Known as "KC" around NASA, Chawla became the first person from India to fly in space in 1997.

MICHAEL P. ANDERSON

Television shows such as "Star Trek" and "Lost in Space" fueled Michael Anderson's dreams of flying in space.

As a young man, he meticulously plotted his career down to what planes he'd fly to improve his chances of being chosen for NASA's astronaut corps. Eventually, persistence paid off and his dreams came true.

"Fortunately someone else was looking over me," said Anderson, a devout Christian married with two daughters. "For me, it's the answer to a lot of my prayers."

The 43-year-old Air Force colonel was returning from his second space voyage. On his

first shuttle flight in 1998, he became the first African-American to visit a space station during a trip to the Russian Mir outpost.

"I hadn't really thought about it," Anderson said. "Any time you break ground on something new, there's some benefit in that."

Anderson said he enjoyed being a role model to young blacks because he liked to do "anything I can do to inspire a young child, to tell someone about the importance of education."

Cecilia Davis, a sophomore, English major; "The diversity [on the shuttle] was showing progress, and I think we should honor him [Anderson] and [Israeli Ilan Ramon]. This shows that anybody, despite ethnicity, has compassion for human life and will succeed."

ILAN ROMAN

One evening in 1997, Israeli Air Force Col. Ilan Ramon was at his desk at Israeli Air Force headquarters when the phone rang.

The voice on the other end asked whether he wanted to apply to be an astronaut. In Israel, the term astronaut often is used as an insult to describe those who are unstable or have their head in the clouds.

"I thought it was a joke," Ramon said.

It wasn't. The Air Force was looking for candidates to become Israel's first astronaut. Ramon had all of the necessary qualities: Gifted pilot.

Team player. A technical background. A background conducting experiments in the Air Force. He was chosen after a short selection process.

Five years later, Ramon was returning from his first ship into space on Columbia. Married with three sons and one daughter, the 48-year-old former combat pilot's flight has been front-page news throughout Israel.

"When I first started this, I didn't realize how big it was for Israelis and Jews," Ramon said. "I am a Holocaust survivor's son, an Israeli pilot and now, an astronaut. People can't believe it. It's very emotional for me also."

Dr. Oyelaran also said, "How is this university trying to prepare students for that global society? This tragedy emphasizes the need for students to be ready to work with others in society. We need to live in a world with no boundaries or frontiers. Students need to be prepared to work in a society with people from different cultures. There are two serious tragedies that have occurred in the last 24 months — September 11 and the Columbia space explosion. The September 11 tragedy involved people from over 115 different countries, and the shuttle explosion involved people from different backgrounds as well. If you don't go abroad the rest of the world will come to you."

CAREER,
from page 3

teachers fair is so important. They have the opportunity to talk to 90 school systems from across the country and each school system has different requirements. That way they can find the school system that best fits those things that they've already obtained and


required so they can go on and get their degree," Cameron continued.

You may be thinking that these programs are only for seniors but don't be fooled.

It is never too early to start on your career development, so don't wait until you become a senior to partake in this program — the earlier, the better.

Career Services offers a number of career development magazines that are free and available to students, along with much counsel and advice. These magazines have information about preparing résumés, networking information and industry trends.

Don't pass up the opportunity to be informed about your occupation.



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