

RESERVE OFFICERS' TRAINING CORPS

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROGRAM

1. Objectives

The mission of the ROTC is to produce qualified commissioned officers for the Active and Reserve Forces and the Regular and Reserve components.

2. Operation

The program is a training program of students as a part of the curriculum of approximately 334 colleges and universities throughout this country. The training is primarily of a military and leadership nature to qualify participants in the program for a commission and service in the Armed Forces upon completion of the academic requirements leading to a baccalaureate degree. The training is conducted by active Army, Navy, and Air Force officers and enlisted personnel who constitute the professors of military science, aerospace studies, and naval science and their staffs. Each military department has a headquarters staff and staff members throughout the channel of command who plan for and supervise the program. ROTC is a Federal operation conducted in conjunction with and at the request of the educational institutions concerned. The Army for a number of years has conducted Junior ROTC at approximately 253 public and private institutions of secondary educational level. The program at college level is operated in an educational institution under the conditions of a contract negotiated between one of the military departments and the institution. The school normally furnishes the classrooms and facilities and the military department provides the instructors for military subjects, uniforms, or commutation in lieu thereof, and necessary equipment. The military departments also provide a number of scholarships for ROTC students, subsistence for scholarship and nonscholarship students, and pay, travel, and other support of the students attending summer camps.

3. History

The ROTC programs originated with the Morrill Act of 1862, sometimes referred to as the Land-Grant Act. The Morrill Act established that institutions receiving these emoluments, amongst other things, shall offer a course in military tactics. It should be here noted that the law did not require that all physically qualified male students entering the institutions shall be required to take military tactics. In 1916 the National Defense Act established the Reserve Officer Corps in name and the Army at that time inaugurated the program, now known as the ROTC. In 1926 the Naval ROTC program had its origin, units being established at six institutions. The naval program was modified in 1946 and its regular program for the procurement of regular officers was established. The Air Force program had its origin also in 1946.

On July 25, 1963, the Department of Defense forwarded to the Congress for consideration a legislative proposal for a new ROTC (2-year) program to be conducted during the junior and senior years of college. After rather lengthy hearings on this subject by the Armed Services Committees of the House and Senate, the Congress enacted legislation approved by the President as Public Law 88-647,