

"Good Men Willing To Serve"

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THE RESERVE OFFICER Training Corps started its eleventh year at Washington and Lee this fall. While this anniversary hardly belongs in the same ranks as the Civil War Centennial, it does seem an appropriate time to review the program as it operates at Washington and Lee.

ROTC follows the same general pattern at W&L as it does at the many other colleges and universi-

ties throughout the country which have a voluntary program. However, the Army purposely leaves the day-by-day specifics of operation open for adjustment to fit the particular circumstances of the university involved. As a consequence, just as Washington and Lee has developed its own History Department, so it has its own Military Science Department.

Since the program is voluntary,

the immediate problem at the beginning of each year is freshman enrollment. This usually runs slightly more than half of the incoming class. A sincere effort is made to insure that all freshmen understand what the ROTC program offers. It is advantageous both to the student and the Department that freshmen do not enroll unless they have a real desire to participate actively and continue this participation until they receive a reserve commission.

The sophomore class is usually about thirty per cent smaller than the freshman class. This attrition is due both to students who do not find ROTC desirable for them and to the policy of the department of dropping others who apparently do not have an aptitude for the military.

The freshman and sophomore years make up a block of instruction which constitutes the Basic Course. The curriculum for this course is as follows:

FRESHMAN YEAR

Organization of Army & ROTC
Individual Weapons & Marksmanship
US Army & National Security
European Military History
Leadership Lab (Drill)

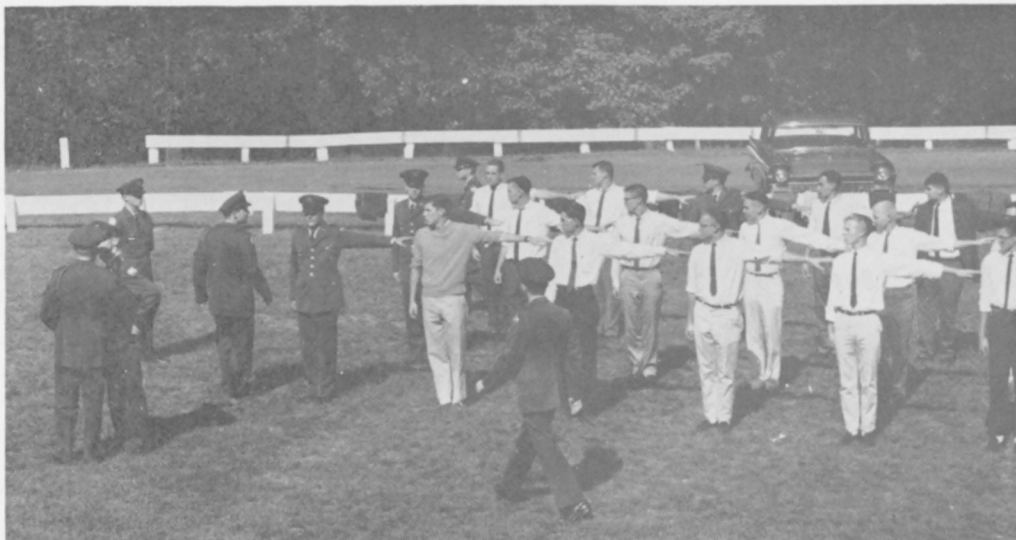
SOPHOMORE CLASS

US Military History
Map & Aerial Photo Reading
Introduction to Operations and Basic Tactics
Leadership Lab (Drill)



PRESIDENT COLE, accompanied by MAJOR ROXBURY, commends distinguished cadets at the annual "President's Day" review.

New recruits learn how to "dress right" under the instruction of upperclass officers.



The next two years of ROTC are grouped together as the Advanced Course. The reason for this grouping is the very different relationship between the student and the Army once he enters the Advanced Course. For the first time he comes under a contractual arrangement which obliges him to remain in the program while, at the same time, he begins receiving a monthly payment in addition to a uniform. Also he has embarked in the last stage of training which is going to bring his reserve commission. Entrance into the Advanced Course remains voluntary, but, since not all students who want to enter can be accepted because of a quota system set up by the Department of the Army, it is also very selective. Generally, about seventy per cent of the qualified applicants are accepted.

The courses taught in the Advanced Course are designed to meet the needs of the future officers as opposed to those in the Basic Course which are more concerned with an initial understanding of the military and the acquiring of certain individual skills. The courses taught are:

JUNIOR YEAR

Leadership
Military Teaching Principles
Branches of the Army
Tactics and Communication

Pre-camp Orientation
Drill and Command

SENIOR YEAR

Operations
Logistics
Military Law
Army Administration
US Role in World Affairs
Officers Orientation
Leadership Lab (Drill)

To give the Advanced Course student a chance to exercise his military knowledge, he must attend a six-week summer camp at the end of his junior year. This year, Washington and Lee cadets went to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where they participated in everything from tactical problems to K.P. While summer camp may never replace the Grand Tour in popularity, it does perform the important function of providing practical experience in areas which have previously been covered only in the classroom.

To supplement this summer camp experience three field exercises are conducted here at Washington and Lee. Last year, these included a night problem, a platoon attack exercise, and work with helicopters.

The four years of training and education in ROTC culminate in the commissioning ceremony held just before graduation. Each year approximately fifty officers are commissioned in all branches of the

service except the Medical and Judge Advocate General Corps. After commissioning, these new reserve officers go on to serve in the active army for six months or two years on the same basis as the other 14,500 officers produced each year from ROTC units, such as the one at VMI, all over the country.

In addition to producing reserve officers, Washington and Lee also furnishes the regular army with two or three career officers a year. Through the Distinguished Military Graduate program a Washington and Lee student may enter the regular army if he is qualified and desires to do so.

Since its inception on the campus there have been 470 students commissioned in the Army reserve and fifteen commissioned in the regular army. Comparably, Washington and Lee, with a Corps of Cadets of around 300, has one of the highest commissioning rates in the United States.

In the coming years when it will be more important than ever that the Armed Forces of this country have high quality, dedicated officers, Washington and Lee, through its Military Science Department, can, as it always has, continue to provide that most important ingredient of all—good men willing to serve.