

**FACT SHEET:
Proposed Reinstitution of ROTC at UTC**

- *Why reinstitute ROTC at UTC?*

The reinstitution of Army ROTC will attract new students to UTC, provide our students with additional opportunities to receive financial assistance to pay for their higher education and offer career options for students considering military service and possibly a career in the Army, Army National Guard, Army Reserves, Nurse Corps or Chaplain Corps. Enrollment in the ROTC program and classes would be voluntary.

- *What is the status of ROTC in the United States today?*

There are 273 ROTC units throughout the United States. All programs follow the Department of the Army's program that standardizes the curriculum, course content and PowerPoint presentations.

- *Why was UTC's ROTC program discontinued in the 1990s?*

After the 1991 Persian Gulf War (Operation Desert Storm), the Pentagon faced major defense budget cuts that occasioned a review of the enrollments in ROTC programs throughout the nation. The years the Department of Defense selected to review enrollments (1990-1991) coincided with a drop in UTC enrollments, although in subsequent years UTC's ROTC enrollments were more robust (12-13 new commissioned officers a year), until the 1994 decision to phase out the UTC ROTC program. UTC actually had as many or more cadets, but UTC is a land grant institution obligated to provide ROTC programs.

- *What other Tennessee universities and colleges host ROTC programs?*

The attached list of thirty-one (31) Tennessee higher education institutions with Army, Navy and Air Force ROTC units shows that 2 University of Tennessee campuses have ROTC (UT-Knoxville and UT-Martin), 13 schools in the Tennessee Regents system have ROTC programs (including the University of Memphis and Middle Tennessee State University) and 16 private institutions also offer ROTC, such as Vanderbilt and Sewanee.

- *What would be the status of UTC's ROTC program?*

The UTC ROTC program would initially be affiliated with the ROTC program at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville as a satellite campus. However, as the program expands over 4-5 years the UTC ROTC program can request from the regional commander classification as a partnership and then status as a stand-alone program. The ROTC program would be reviewed annually with a major assessment after five years. The target goal would be about 75-85 students in the program, commissioning about 15 or more cadets every year. The UTC program currently has 83 student enrolled in ROTC, including 24 freshmen cadets.

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- *What career options are available through ROTC?*

Cadets receive U.S. Army commissions to serve on Active Duty, in the National Guard or in the Army Reserve. Branches of the Army range from combat arms to combat service support and include the Nurse Corps and the Chaplain Corps.

- *What support exists in local high schools for a UTC ROTC program?*

According to a September 21, 2006, memorandum from Col. T.C. McConnell, Director of the Junior ROTC programs under the Hamilton County Department of Education, about 1,400 cadets have enrolled in the county's nine high school JROTC programs. About 115 senior cadets graduate each year, with 20-30 enrolling in college/university level ROTC programs outside of Chattanooga. Approximately 85% of those college-bound ROTC cadets garner a ROTC scholarship for their higher education.

Hamilton County's recent survey of college-bound sophomore, junior and senior JROTC cadets revealed that over 75% (457 cadets) looked favorably upon a ROTC program at UTC. Of those surveyed high school cadets, 41% (251 cadets) would be "positively influenced in choosing UTC if an SROTC Program existed on campus." In addition, 48% (290 cadets) stated they would enter a UTC ROTC program if accepted for entrance, whether offered a UTC ROTC scholarship or not.

- *What support exists among UTC undergraduates for reinstituting an ROTC program?*

The Faculty ROTC Committee designed and conducted a brief survey of 944 UTC students enrolled in English 121 classes, conducted between September 27 and October 5, 2006, to determine undergraduate interest in a ROTC program. Professor Steve White (Management) ran the field pre-test. *Over two-thirds (68.2%) of the largely freshmen students strongly agreed/agreed (Likert scale) that "a ROTC program at UTC could influence a high school student to attend UTC."*

The survey, pointing out that a ROTC program provides leadership and managerial skills, *found 23.1% (n=218) of the student respondents strongly agreed/agreed that "I would consider taking ROTC classes to gain experience in these skills."* When another question noted that taking an ROTC course did not by itself require an active duty commitment, 23.6% (n=204) strongly agreed/agreed "I would consider taking an ROTC course on campus."

The UTC survey then pointed out that the ROTC program would have scholarship opportunities to pay for their college education. *A majority (51.5%) of the surveyed students (n=485) stated they strongly agreed/agreed that a "scholarship would encourage me to enroll in the UTC ROTC program."* The questionnaire explained that the completion of the ROTC program to receive a commission as an Army Active, Reserve or National Guard officer might require taking more than the normal 120 semester hours to graduate. Nevertheless, 29.2% (n=275) of the students disagreed/disagreed strongly that this "extra semester hour requirement would keep me

from enrolling in the ROTC program.” Almost one-third (31.6%) strongly agreed/agreed it would keep them from enrolling in the ROTC program.

The Fall 2006 UTC survey of 944 undergraduate students clearly indicates student interest in reinstating a ROTC program (58% females and 42% male). Over two-thirds of the surveyed students recognized the presence of a ROTC program would attract high school students to UTC, almost one-fourth indicated they would consider taking ROTC classes to gain leadership and managerial skills, a majority felt scholarship opportunities would encourage them to enroll in UTC’s ROTC program and over one-fourth were not deterred that the ROTC program would require them to complete over 120 credit hours for graduation and a military commission.

- *What community support exists for reestablishing UTC’s ROTC program?*

On August 17, 2006, the following editorial appeared in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*: “It was unfortunate that the Army’s Reserve Officers’ Training Program was discontinued at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga several years ago. Now, with international challenges showing the importance of our volunteer military forces and the importance of providing well-trained officers through our universities, it is encouraging that steps are being taken toward enriching UTC with a return of ROTC.”

“It would offer educational opportunities for local students, help them finance their college education, and produce graduates commissioned as second lieutenants for a period of active-duty Army service.” The editorial noted Chattanooga’s “long tradition of Junior ROTC at some of its high schools.” He concluded, “ROTC at UTC would be a real asset in all respects.”

- *Who would staff UTC’s new ROTC program?*

The commanding officer of the UTK ROTC program will be the Professor of Military Science in charge of the UTC program. The Army will provide an officer beginning spring 2007, if the ROTC program is reinstated, to help startup the program, recruit students and teach in the program. The Army National Guard will provide two instructors. Hence, the costs of instruction will not be borne by UTC.

In order to be selected by the Army to become a Professor of Military Science, a candidate must have graduated from the command and staff college, received a Master’s degree or higher (no exceptions), held recent troop command and possess moral attributes and personal traits suitable for a position in an academic community. For example, Lieutenant Colonel Marshall Ramsey, the UTK commanding officer, graduated magna cum laude (Psychology major) from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and has a Masters in Public Administration degree from Central Michigan University.

If an upper division course on Military History is offered by the History Department, as occurs at UTK, students may enroll in it for ROTC credit. UTC has a qualified instructor willing to develop such a course.

- *How many credit hours would a student cadet have to complete in the ROTC program to receive a commission?*

The UTC faculty ROTC Committee recommends that UTC not grant elective credit to cadets for their two required summer camps, as other campuses have done. Thus, in addition to attaining an undergraduate degree, the UTC ROTC program would require up to 132 hours of coursework to receive their commission. ROTC officers advise ROTC cadets to attend one summer school session, financially supported by their ROTC scholarship, to graduate with a commission within four (4) years. They must carry full loads every semester.

There are several ROTC courses with a 4 hour credit requirement. These courses meet for the normal 3 credit hour schedule and then choose a 1 hour leadership lab in an afternoon on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

It should be noted that the requirements of a number of other professional programs and coop programs also require a student to complete more than 120 hours.

- *Can graduate students enter the ROTC program?*

Graduate students may participate in UTC’s Army ROTC program as well.

- *What UTC space would be allocated to the ROTC program?*

Acting Provost Herbert Burhenn indicated the administration would consider assigning the ROTC program office space in Stagmaier Hall.

- *Weapons on campus?*

The understanding between ROTC and UTC indicated that there would not be an armory or firing range on campus. Student cadets would use the Army National Guard’s firing range. However, non-working rifles might be used on campus for drilling.

- *What financial support could UTC students receive from the ROTC program?*

All contracted cadets (scholarship or non-scholarship) receive a monthly tax-free stipend during the school year up to 10 months. The stipends increase annually, with freshmen receiving \$300/month, sophomores \$350/month, juniors \$400/month and seniors \$500/month.

In addition, scholarship cadets receive a \$900 yearly book allowance. They may elect to have the scholarship pay all tuition & fees or room and board costs, equal to the amount that would be paid to cover tuition & fees. Scholarship cadets may have multiple scholarships from other sources.

A contracted non-scholarship cadet may elect to participate in the simultaneous membership program. Those cadets would receive monthly drill pay of about \$300 in

addition to their ROTC stipend. Additionally, each cadet may apply for the tuition assistance program that provides a yearly grant of \$4,500 that will be applied against tuition & fees.

The Army provides all Army specific text books free to all enrolled students. Additionally, all of the specific uniforms & equipment required for a student to participate in the program are provided at no expense to the student.

The goal is to have two-thirds of the ROTC cadets nation-wide on some form of scholarship. Scholarships will be awarded equitably between UTC and UTK students. A recent budget overview of the UTK ROTC program presented to General B.B. Bell (a University of Chattanooga alumnus) estimated that the ROTC program brought a total of \$1.4 million to the UT Knoxville campus when considering scholarships, stipends, equipment, vehicles and instructors.

- *What would be the financial costs of the ROTC program?*

The provost has estimated the start-up costs would total \$19,680. The continuing costs would be phased-in as the number of students in the ROTC program increased each year. These costs would include: 10 room scholarships @ \$4,000 per year (total \$40,000) and 3 tuition scholarships for first-year students (total \$14,850). Other expenses include an administrative assistant for the program, two work-study students and a \$5,000 annual operating budget. When fully implemented the continuing costs would total about \$93,895 per year. The Development Office has begun conversations with business and community supporters of the ROTC program to raise funds to pay for some of these scholarships.

- *Can students from nearby college campuses enroll in the ROTC program?*

Yes. At the present time students enrolled at Roane State, Pellissippi State and Tennessee Wesleyan have joined the UTK ROTC program and receive ROTC stipends and scholarships. They pay fees to their home campus for course credit but come to UTK for ROTC classes. The courses are listed in their institution's catalogs. Covenant College has already expressed interest in UTC's proposed reinstated ROTC program. Approximately 5-6 Covenant students participated in the UTC ROTC program before it was phased out after 1994.

- *Who will review the success of the ROTC program in meeting its goals at the end of five years?*

The Department of the Army will review the program annually. At the end of five years UTC will review the enrollments, cost and success of the program. The UTC ROTC program, like UTK, is subject to the SACS accreditation process.

Tennessee ROTC Units:

University of Tennessee (Knoxville): Air Force, Army
University of Tennessee (Martin): Army

Austin Peay State University: Air Force, Army
East Tennessee State University: Army
Middle Tennessee State University: Air Force, Army
Nashville State Technological Institute: Air Force
Pellissippi State Technical Community College: Air Force
Roane State Community College: Air Force
Shelby State (Southwest TN) Community College: Air Force
State Technical Institute Memphis: Air Force, Army (through U Memphis)
Tennessee State University: Air Force, Army (through Vanderbilt)
Tennessee Technical University: Air Force, Army
University of Memphis: Air Force, Army, Navy
Volunteer State Community College: Air Force
Walters State Community College: Army (through Carson-Newman)

American Baptist College: Army (through Vanderbilt)
Aquinas Junior College: Air Force, Army (through Vanderbilt)
Belmont College: Army (through Vanderbilt)
Carson-Newman College: Air Force, Army
Christian Brothers University: Air Force, Army (through U Memphis)
Fisk University: Air Force, Army (through Vanderbilt)
Free Will Baptist Bible College: Air Force, Army (through Vanderbilt)
Lemoyne-Owen College: Air Force, Army (through U Memphis)
Lipscomb College: Air Force, Army (through Vanderbilt)
Meharry Medical College: Air Force
Milligan College: Army (through ESTU)
Rhodes College: Air Force, Army (through U Memphis)
Sewanee – The University of the South: Air Force
Tennessee Wesleyan College: Air Force
Trevacca Nazarene University: Army (through Vanderbilt)
Vanderbilt University: Air Force, Army, Navy