

Military Service: Your Decision

With the continuing crisis in Vietnam the draft is eyeing every healthy young man of normal intelligence under 26, and your local draft board, pressed to meet its quota, is taking a second look at its manpower, including many students who are now deferred. You have a six-year active-and-reserve military obligation—so you should be thinking *right now* of how you can best fulfill it.

Where do you stand at the moment? Are you eligible for deferment? How safe is your deferred status? What does it mean if you're drafted? What are the choices if you enlist? How can those six years best serve you?

If You Want To Stay In College

Presuming that you are over 18 and have already registered with your draft board, you are liable for the draft until you reach 26—unless you qualify for a specific deferment or, unless, of course, you enlist. If you intend to continue your education beyond the age at which you will normally be called, it is vitally important to know the rules and to plan wisely. By law, all qualified 19 through 25-year-olds must be called by birth date, oldest first. If you conclude your studies before you are 26, you are not only draftable, but may be *first on line*.

Deferments may be granted for certain physical and mental conditions established by qualification tests given at Armed Forces examining and entrance stations by military teams working under standards of acceptability prescribed by the Dept. of Defense, and by your previous medical and school records. Deferments may also be granted to fathers (except physicians, veterinarians, dentists and specialists allied with the healing arts); to those in occupations considered "essential to the national health, safety or interest"; and to "full-time, normal progress students" who qualify under Selective Service System rulings.

This last category, probably yours, is subject to constant review. Generally speaking, the 2-S deferment will be given to students who make a good score on the College Qualification Test or rank reasonably high in their class. Even if you are called, law requires your deferment until the end of the academic year. Your chances of being drafted rise if your academic record has slumped or if you switch to part-time studies. If you drop out of college you are a prime candidate for the draft.

If you are planning graduate study, your military service can probably be postponed until you complete professional training, depending upon your local draft board. (This is especially true for future doctors, scientists, teachers, engineers and candidates for other professions currently in short supply.) Deferment for graduate study extends your draft liability until you are 35, but unless the needs of the services escalates considerably, no men over 26—other than medical specialists who have completed their studies—are expected to be called.

Conscientious objection is defined by law. Only religious training and religious belief—not personal, political or philosophical views—qualify you for 1-A-O classification (non-combatant duty) or for a 1-O classification which requires two years of civilian work in a national interest approved by your draft board. (The Peace Corps and the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) program are not a substitute for the draft; but you may be deferred for such service.)

To assure yourself of the de-

ferment for which you may be eligible—and to maintain it—ask your college registrar to send your draft board the appropriate certificate to establish your student status. You must then maintain a reasonably high rank in your class or take the College Qualification Test which will be available this spring. You also have a positive obligation to inform your draft board of every change of address or other change which may affect your draft status within ten days. Remember to keep the board advised of your college plans and academic progress. If you are planning a trip, check with your draft board to be sure you won't be ordered for examination or induction during your absence. Failure to keep your draft board informed will only increase your chances of being called.

If You're Drafted

The draft means you will enter the Army unless other services fail to meet their manpower quotas (it is sometimes possible for you to request—and qualify for—another branch of service at the time of induction). As a draftee, you are committed to two years of active duty, and four years in the reserve, subject to the regulations of the service concerned.

After you have completed active duty you may be assigned as a Ready Reservist in the Army National Guard or in a nearby Reserve Unit. Ready Reserve duty consists of 48 two-to-four-hour drills a year, plus two weeks of active duty each summer. You are paid for your time, pro-rated at the standard compensation for your rank. In Standby Reserve, after you have completed the necessary duty in the Ready Reserve, no duty is required and no compensation is paid. In a time of emergency, however, Congress can call you up.

Draftees, like volunteers, may apply for Officer Candidate School or other special programs, but may not switch to any plan which requires less active duty or less overall time in the service than their original commitment as draftees.

The draft may have merits if you have chosen the Army anyway and want to limit your active service to two years. And if you already have special skills your chances for interesting work in your field are good. But remember that employers are reluctant to hire 1-A's while they are waiting to be drafted and that as a draftee you normally waive the chance 1) to choose the proportions of active to reserve status, 2) to gain some valuable specialized training and 3) to see the world.

If You Enlist

All the services—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guards—offer a variety of longer-term programs to those who volunteer. But if your draft board taps you first, you may miss out on these options. It's to your advantage, therefore, to survey the field ahead of time and to decide, while the choice is still yours, if any of these voluntary plans might suit your purposes better than the draft.

Begin your research with "It's Your Choice," a booklet published by the Department of Defense. Your faculty adviser can get one free by writing to "It's Your Choice," Washington, D. C. 20301. It gives a brief summary of the programs offered by each service. Next, you should visit the local recruiting station of the service you prefer; you'll find it listed under "U.S. Government" in the telephone directory. If your college has a military adviser, you would do well to visit him, too.

Don't take your questions to your draft board. It supplies no information on programs other than the draft.

The training field is wide open to the qualified enlistees. Since you are committed to at least three years, Uncle Sam is willing to invest money in you, to teach you special subjects or skills, or possibly to further a career already in progress. Training opportunities range from aviation and electronics to cryptography, journalism, music and foreign languages. The longer your term of active duty, of course, the better your chances are for extensive, specialized training.

Short-Term Programs

If a quick return to civilian life is your major consideration, you will, of course, be interested in the flexible short-term programs now offered by every service. You serve whatever amount of time the specific training course of your choice requires—in some cases, as little as four months. But in each you agree to a specific program and a specific duty before you join up. After the period of active duty you are required to spend the remainder of your six-year commitment in the Ready Reserve, with the usual 48 drills a year and the two weeks of summer duty.

All the services are rapidly filling vacancies in their short-term programs, so apply early at your local reserve unit. Acceptance depends on your ability to fill a specific opening in a specific unit, e.g., a gunner, radio operator, maintenance repairman, etc. Find out what spots are available and try to qualify for one. If there are no vacancies, you can put your name on the waiting list without committing yourself to any specialty or even to service in that particular program.

Once you have actually enlisted, however, you must be ready to begin active duty within 120 days. Remember: after you have completed your brief active stint, draft deferment depends upon continued satisfactory participation in the Ready Reserve. And, if your future employer can't spare you for more than two weeks, the two weeks of summer drill may be all the "vacation" you'll get for the remainder of your six-year commitment. However, all reservists in the program are paid for every drill—an amount that adds up to an extra two-months military pay each year.

Longer-Term Programs

The Army, Navy and Coast Guard all offer programs for enlistees requiring only two years of active duty. But chances for specialized training in two-year programs are very limited. If you want such training—or a commission—you will probably have to devote at least three years to active duty. However, this time is not necessarily irrelevant to your civilian plans. Junior executives are more promising if they come complete with the administrative experience implicit in a military commission. Engineers, chemists, information specialists, statisticians, personnel men and others have an edge if they have spent some time with their skills in the service before they start their first jobs. And, if it's important to you, your chances of seeing the world are increasingly good the longer your term of active duty.

Officer Candidate Schools

You may apply for an Officer Candidate School straight from college, or from the service in which you are already enlisted. In many cases, only college

graduates are accepted and nearly all candidates must spend a minimum of 3 years active duty in exchange for the training and additional income offered to them as officers. If your goal is a commission, visit the Officer Procurement branch of the service which interests you most.

Reserve Officer Training Programs

If your college offers ROTC training, you probably know the facts already. But if you have not participated and are now planning to do graduate work, it might interest you to know that you can become a late starter in any Reserve Officer Training program, provided you still have four years left as a student in which to complete the course. In most of these programs you receive military training throughout college and limit your academic schedule to fewer electives. One exception is the Navy's Reserve Officer Candidate program which trains only in summer months—then offers commissions on graduation.

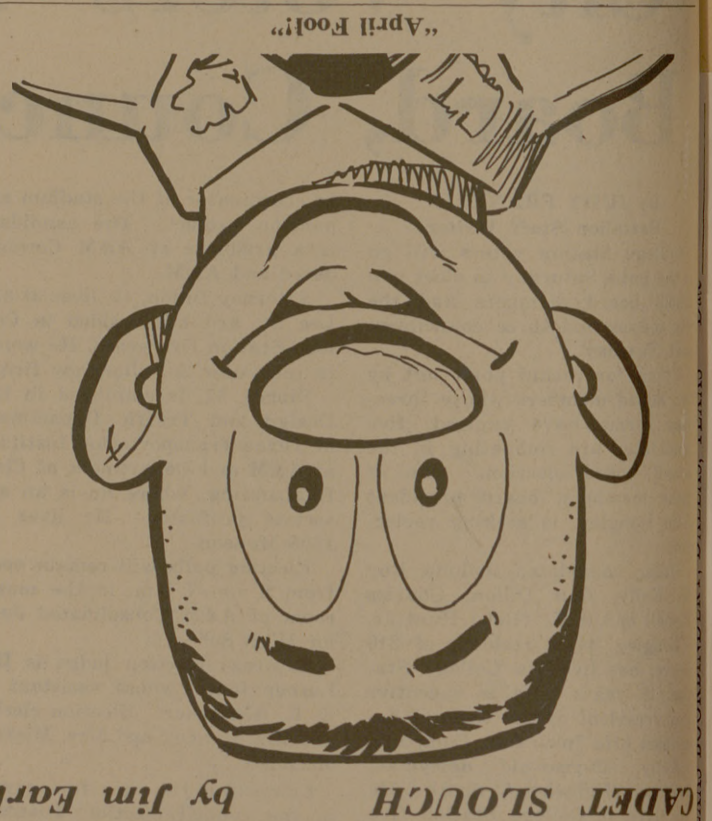
A limited number of Army, Navy, and Air Force ROTC

scholarships are now available. Your entire college costs are paid, but you must serve at least 4 years in active duty. And the Navy's scholarship program requires extra summer training as well. Note: The Army, Navy and Air Force now offer a few direct commissions to highly-qualified graduates in certain technical and professional fields—without previous reserve officer training.

The Final Decision

No summary as brief as this can cover all the circumstances which may apply to some individuals—such as your chances of getting into military intelligence or the Counter Intelligence Corps or your interest, if any, in a permanent career in military service. But it does suggest that there are many possibilities to explore before the decision is taken out of your hands. Whichever way you perform your service, you might as well have the extra satisfaction of knowing that you chose it because it seemed the best suited to your particular needs and interests.

—Copyright Time, 1966—



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Political Announcements

Subject to action of the Democratic Primary May 7, 1966.

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OLIN E. TEAGUE
 (Re-Election)

For County Clerk:
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I. N. (IRA) KELLEY

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ENGLISH PROFICIENCY EXAM

required of all junior Education or Psychology majors, will be offered from 3-5 p.m., April 12 and April 15 in Academic 401. 281fn

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