

Recruiter Emphasizes, 'Military a Liberal Institution'

By LYNNE EDWARDS

Armed with a stack of colorful brochures and three years of personal experience, Lt. Marilyn Britten, Women's Army Corps, was at A&M recently on her fall recruiting drive.

In an interview, Lt. Britten discussed the role of women in "Today's Army."

"There is a definite need for women in the military, because the size of the Women's Corp will be doubling within four years," the petite brunette said. "The reason it was decided to take more women is called good management, tapping all good resources." Originally formed during World War II to release men from administrative jobs for combat, the Women's Corps was removed from auxiliary status and made a permanent part of the Army in 1948, she said.

"All jobs in the Army are now open to women except combat arms," she reported. "That is everything except carrying a rifle as an infantryman, running a tank as an armorman and firing a howitzer."

A new program for college women considering joining the Army is one of Lt. Britten's recruiting points. She explained that women who have completed their junior year may go to summer camp for four weeks and receive a cadet

corporal pay (\$400). The Army provides uniforms, transportation to and from Ft. McClellann Ala. and basic military orientation.

"If the young woman decides she likes the Army and has done well at camp, she may apply for the Student Officer Program. If accepted she will then receive \$550 a month during her senior year and be commissioned upon graduation, incurring a two-year active duty obligation. If she doesn't

like it after camp, she is under no obligation whatsoever," she explained. "It is similar to a cadet in the Corps signing a contract, but there are no meetings and no uniforms."

When not recruiting, Lt. Britten is a military police officer. She is one of 36 WACs assigned to the police branch. She is currently completing her master's degree in criminology and corrections at Sam Houston State University.

"I don't think Women's Lib has had any effect on the military, particularly the Army," she commented. "You have to remember that if anyone was Women's Lib advocat it was the Army. We have been getting equal status, equal pay for years. Now all of a sudden, everybody's taking notice."

"If the Women's Rights" amendment is ratified, will women be drafted? "I really don't know. It's really dependent on what society

will accept. Will our society accept women being drafted and going into combat?" she remarked. When talking to Corps staff members while at A&M, the Israeli woman was brought up as an example of females in combat. "That's part of their culture," answered Lt. Britten.

During her stay at A&M, Lt. Britten came in contact with some Corps traditions. She received unhesitated salutes from cadets and

made her way through a fish whip out. She had dinner at Duncan dining hall and said she would not forget that experience soon.

Dressed in her winter "greens" uniform which came to the regulation length of two inches above the knee, Lt. Britten explained her reasons for joining the Army. "After I graduated from college with my degree in education, I did not want to teach because I felt that I couldn't teach in a

liberal enough school setting. I felt it would be too confining," she said. "I knew the military a liberal institution."

Lt. Britten is stationed at Houston. She handles all applications for commissions in the west and east regions of Texas, women interested in enlisting handled by non-commissioned WAC counselors out of Houston. The local Army recruiting office is at 120 N. Washington in Houston.

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APO Says UT Tickets Few

Alpha Phi Omega will operate its ticket exchange booth Thursday for the Texas A&M-Texas football game, though more buyers than sellers are expected.

The booth across from the post office in the new Memorial Student Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., announced Eric Baddour.

"We've already got two tickets to sell," Baddour noted, "and a waiting list of 200 who want to buy."

The chairman of the national service fraternity project said tickets will be sold Thursday on a first-come, first-served basis.

"While tickets may be hard to come by, we'll be open for operation," he remarked.

The exchange is operated as a public service. No charge is made for ticket exchanges, but APO will accept contributions for its campus-community service projects or for Campus Chest.

Baddour estimated the booth did about a \$2,000 business for the A&M-SMU game. APO members also man Campus Chest barrels at Kyle Field exits. Campus Chest contributions go into a Student Senate fund used to help students in time of need.

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