

## **Military Training Programs Records, 1941-1949**

**Series 0/20/2**

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### **History**

During World War II, Northwestern's stated objective was to use its entire resources to aid in winning the war. To this end an accelerated program of study incorporating the quarter system was adopted which allowed students to graduate in three years by attending summer sessions. Students who had completed three years of high school with high standing were allowed to enter the university thus enabling them to complete their degree requirements before reaching the minimum draft age of twenty.

Northwestern also offered its facilities for use by the War Department. The Army, Navy, and the Civil Aeronautics Administration operated eleven training programs at Northwestern in addition to the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (N.R.O.T.C.) established in 1926, which was a popular program on campus and increased in enrollment with the outbreak of war.

The Navy V-7, Naval Reserve Midshipmen's School, was established at Northwestern in September 1940. This program was offered to any college junior or senior. Candidates enlisted in the Naval Reserve and, following a one-month indoctrination course as Apprentice Seamen, attended a three-month course in the Midshipmen's School. Upon completion of the course, candidates were given an Ensign's commission and put on active status. Instruction was given in navigation, seamanship, ordnance and gunnery, and engineering. In 1941, the admission requirements were changed. Applicants were required to have a college degree, one course in plane trigonometry, and one additional year of mathematics.

The Navy V-5, Naval Aviation Preparatory Program, was established in January 1942. This program offered enlistment to college sophomores, juniors, and seniors for flight training in the Naval Reserve leading to an Ensign's commission. Candidates were able to complete their current college year at the time of enlistment before being called to active duty.

The Navy V-1, Accredited College Program, was established in March 1942. This program offered enlistments in the Naval Reserve to college students between the ages of 17 and 19, who then remained on inactive duty until completion of their sophomore year. After one and one-half years of college work under the V-1 enlistments, students were eligible for transfer to V-5 (flight training) or V-7 (midshipman training) if qualified. Those not qualifying for transfer were ordered to active duty as Apprentice Seamen.

The Naval Training School (Radio) was established in June 1942. This 16 week course in radio operation was offered to Apprentice Seamen already enlisted in the Navy. Completion of the course led to a rating of Seaman Radioman or Radioman 3rd Class. Code, typing, and theory courses were conducted by the faculty of the Technological Institute and naval courses were taught by the N.R.O.T.C. faculty.

The Army Signal Corps Officers Training School was established in June 1942. This school was open to men with engineering backgrounds between the ages of 18 and 45. The 16

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week course trained men for positions in radio and communications work. Graduates of the course who passed the physical examination were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Army Signal Corps or the Signal Corps Reserve. Those who did not pass the required physical were retained as civil service employees. The course was taught by Northwestern faculty members and covered radio circuit design and operation.

The Naval H-V(P) and Army Medical and Dental program was established in April 1942. This program offered enlistment for physically qualified medical and dental students. These students were retained on an inactive status until completion of their requirements when they were ranked as Lieutenants, Junior Grade in the Navy or First Lieutenants in the Medical Administrative Corps of the Army and placed on active duty. The Army conducted only a medical program.

The Civil Aeronautics Administration War Training Service (CAA-WTS) was established in September 1942. It was a flight training program for Navy officers and enlisted men, including those in Navy V-5 (Naval Aviation Preparatory Program). The eight-week course consisted of both ground and flight instruction. Flight instruction was given at Sky Harbor Airport.

The Civilian Pilot Training Program was operated under the Civil Aeronautics Administration and consisted of five courses in flight instruction. It was open to students with sophomore standing or higher. This was not an enlisted program but was conducted for the purpose of training pilots for war activity in the military or otherwise.

The Naval Training School (Cooks & Bakers) was established in October 1942, and consisted of a 16-week course to train Naval personnel as cooks and bakers.

The Naval V-12 Unit (Navy College Training Program) was established in July 1943. The students in this program were selected from enlisted reserve units in colleges and high schools or entered as freshmen under the V-12 program. The course for freshmen consisted of four terms of sixteen weeks each. The curricula for the first year included mathematics, English, physics, engineering drawing, naval organization, physical training and historical backgrounds of the war. After the first year students were assigned to special curricula to prepare them for duty as engineering, deck, or supply officers. The Chicago campus housed the medical and dental portions of the V-12 unit. This allowed students to complete their degree requirements in medicine or dentistry after which they were assigned to duty as medical or dental officers. V-12 students served as apprentice seamen or Marine privates on active duty and received pay and allowances accordingly. The Naval R.O.T.C. was incorporated into the program and men who had received college training in the N.R.O.T.C. or some other program previous to their enrollment in the V-12 program had their requirements shortened proportionately.

The Civil Affairs Training School was established in November 1943. This school provided for the training of commissioned officers of the U.S. Army as civil affairs (military government)



