Behrend students head to Gulf

Reber explains withdrawal procedures

(continued from page 1)

Jamey Cross, engineering, Michael Davids, accounting, Douglas Fleming, M.I.S., and Stephen Hancock, electrical engineering and technology (EET).

Max Hebert, communication, Richard Kelly, EET, James Lang, science, Dean Lutz, engineering, Peter Mozes, agriculture, and Paul Shaffer, business, have also temporarily left the College due to military orders.

The military withdrawal applies to students who are unable to complete their current semester. Those students who are able to complete the semester, or those called to duty during semester break, are entitled to a military leave of absence.

Dean of Student Services Chris Reber outlined the significance of these procedures in a statement issued early this week. "With a military withdrawal," he explained, "semester grades are omitted from University records and students receive a tuition refund for the semester during which they were called."

Affected students are also



Daniel Maille

eligible for special readmission upon their return.

But for the many reservists still at Behrend, the possibility of being called to duty shrouds future collegiate plans in uncertainty.



Stephen Hancock

"We're taking it one day at a time," explains Chuck Gaza, history. "We're lucky we're still here, and we're taking advantage of it while we still can."

The University has made plans to alleviate those fears by simplifying the process that reservists called to action need to follow.

Students who are issued military orders are urged to contact the Registrar's Office immediately. After proof of military orders is presented, the University Registrar will contact the offices of the Bursar, Housing, and the Academic Dean to inform them of the student's military withdrawal.

Students on military absence who have questions regarding their status or procedures for reentry into the University should contact Penn State's Veterans Programs Office, 325 Boucke Building, University Park, PA 16802.

Cadet attends presidential address

by Robb Frederick
The Collegian

R.O.T.C. Cadet Commander Dean Meinert returned to Penn State-Behrend last week after participating in a military conference highlighted by a banquet which included an appearance by President Bush.

"It looks like he's taken a beating," Meinert said of the president, who delivered his one week assessment of the war at the dinner. "His remarks were very motivational and stressed the importance of military reservists."

Bush was at the banquet to receive the Minuteman of the Year Award for his contribution to national defense. The award was sponsored by the Reserve Officer's Association (R.O.A.), an influential organization that fights for veteran's benefits and legislation that supports military reservists.

According to Meinert, recent events in the Persian Gulf kept the mood tense and somber during the mid-winter conference. A planned tour of the Pentagon was cancelled, and exhaustive security measures were maintained throughout the capitol.

Meinert, a business economics major, was selected to attend the conference by the Erie chapter of R.O.A.

Simon says, "Read The Collegian!"

Ridge supports action in Persian Gulf

Protesters gather outside press conference

by Christine Kocott
The Collegian

Since the start of the war with Iraq, there has been as much support as opposition to the presence of U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia.

Recently U.S. Representative Thomas Ridge held a press conference at the Eric Courthouse to help explain the administration's reasons for the decision to use force in the Middle East.

Ridge said he had no idea war would come this quickly. He expressed his support for President Bush's actions and declared "This is not the time for political restraints on military operations." He added that although we have taken military action against Iraq, "the door is still open to negotiations."

If Ridge had any doubts about the United Nations resolution allowing the use of force, he didn't express them.

"No, as difficult as it is for him as President of the United States to commit troops in support of the U.N. resolution, it was the appropriate thing to do."

Ridge was then asked how he felt about anti-war protesters and the U.S. involvement in the Gulf. He said although as Americans, we are free to express dissent for the actions, he asked that people respect the armed forces and," ...at least respect the commitment of the men and women who wear the uniforms of this country."

Ridge expressed his pride and confidence in our military overseas.

"That we, as leaders in that world, in hope of making

tomorrow a better world, accept the challenge and responsibility."

Outside the courthouse after the press conference, there were students from Behrend, Edinboro State University and Gannon University protesting the fact that they were not permitted into the conference.

One Behrend student, Bridget O' Donnell argued, "This greatly affects our generation and we should be allowed to listen to the Congressman we elect and voice our feelings. Instead, we are kept out of a press conference that on television was said to be open to the public."

Drop 'em a line

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