

ARMY WILL TRAIN 17-YEAR-OLD MEN

Details Are Promised "Soon";
Group Not Affected by Cut
in AST Program.

Washington, March 2.—(AP)—The Army said tonight that it contemplates "broad expansion" of its Specialized Training Reserve program for men in the pre-induction, 17-year-old group.

This group was not affected by the recent decision to cut drastically the size of the Army Specialized Training program and to put the great majority of men into active service to make up deficiencies in total Army strength.

The War Department did not elaborate on its statement that the Reserve Training program would be expanded, but said that details would be announced "soon."

Pre-Professional Courses

The same announcement also reported procedure governing selection of medical, dental and veterinary trainees who will be retained in the ASTP after April 1, when the reduction becomes effective.

In addition to enlisted men now taking instruction in medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine, soldiers currently enrolled in pre-professional courses will be continued in their studies and upon successful completion of that work will be advanced to the medical or dental phase of the program.

Assignment to training in medicine and dentistry in the ASTP for the remainder of the year will be made from among enlisted men who prior to April 1 have been accepted for 1944 classes in medical and dental schools.

Civilians now in those schools and who have been accepted for a 1944 class in an accredited medical or dental school but who did not receive a call for induction prior to March 1, 1944, will not be assigned for ASTP training in medicine or dentistry.

Must Complete Basic Training

Selection for pre-professional and subsequent professional training in medicine and dentistry will be restricted to soldiers who have completed their basic military training and have accomplished one of the following:

1. Task and aptitude test for medical profession upon successful completion of Term 2 or Term 3 in the Army Specialized Training Reserve program.

2. Received a satisfactory score in the Army-Navy (A-12, V-12) college qualifying test (men in this group must have satisfactorily completed at least a year of pre-medical or pre-dental studies as civilians.)

Priority will be given in the order as outlined. Any additional vacancies may be filled by soldiers selected on the basis of their proved abilities and academic background.

Roosevelt Urges Boys Try For Free College Training

March 4, 1944
Four Journal

Asks All Under 18 Who Will Be High School Graduates by July to Take March 15 Army-Navy Tests for Pre-induction Education in Sciences

Washington, March 3.—(AP)—President Roosevelt tonight urged every American boy "who will be a high school graduate by July 1" to look seriously and immediately into the Government's new plan for free college training of those too young for the draft.

"It is of the greatest importance to the nation," he said, that as many of them as possible take the examinations which will be given widely in high schools and colleges March 15.

The training, a short-term specialized system in preparation for eventual army and navy duty, is aimed at youngsters through high school but not old enough for induction.

Those selected after passing the March 15 test and a physical examination, will be "sent to a college or university at the expense of their Government," Mr. Roosevelt said. They will draw pay and wear uniforms.

A joint Army-Navy announcement told of the plan, saying it was de-

signed to "replace some of the loss" which many colleges, already hard hit by the war, are due to suffer this month with the curtailment of the present Army specialized training program from 145,000 to 35,000.

The training may supply some key to compulsory postwar military service, which has been advocated in some quarters. While there is no compulsion in the present plan, the age group covered is the one most generally considered for the peacetime service.

No figures as to the number to be accepted were given. However, educators have suggested that as many as 100,000 may be eligible. High school graduates up to the age of 18 may apply. Only 2800 of this pre-induction group is now enrolled in a current Army reserve training program.

Main courses projected are applied sciences, chemical and biological sciences preparatory to advanced

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35 medical and dental studies, mathematics and physics. A limited number will specialize in foreign languages.

Those successful in the March 15 tests may choose Army or Navy training, under this arrangement.

Navy—Be enlisted in Class V-12 and receive the same training as others in the Navy college program designed to provide officers. Attend college for 16-week terms, the number of which will be determined by the course studied.

Army—Those less than 17 years and 9 months old on July 1 may expect at least six months college training before being called to active duty. Those less than 17 years and 6 months on July 1 may expect nine months of college work.

Roosevelt's Statement

President Roosevelt's statement follows:

"I am delighted that the War Department has expanded the Army specialized training enlisted reserve for 17-year-old high school graduates. This enlarged program will provide the armed forces with a necessary reservoir of younger men with specialized training at the college level. For those properly qualified in this age group the enlisted reserve program provides the best possible opportunity for them to serve their country.

"To be eligible for training all young men who will be high school graduates by July first must take the joint Army-Navy qualifying examination on March 15. It will be given in thousands of high schools and colleges throughout the country.

"Until 18—Or Longer"

"Everyone who passes this test and a physical examination, and is within the proper age limits set by the Army and Navy, will be given an opportunity to apply for the reserve and to express a preference for either the Army or Navy program. Those selected will be sent to a college or university at the expense of their Government until the time they become 18 years of age, or for longer periods depending upon their age, special qualifications and the national need of their services in the armed forces. The Army will call no one for active duty until after his 18th birthday.

"I urge every young American who will be a high school graduate by July first to investigate the Army and Navy reserve programs immediately. It is of the greatest importance to the nation that as many as possible take the March 15 examination."