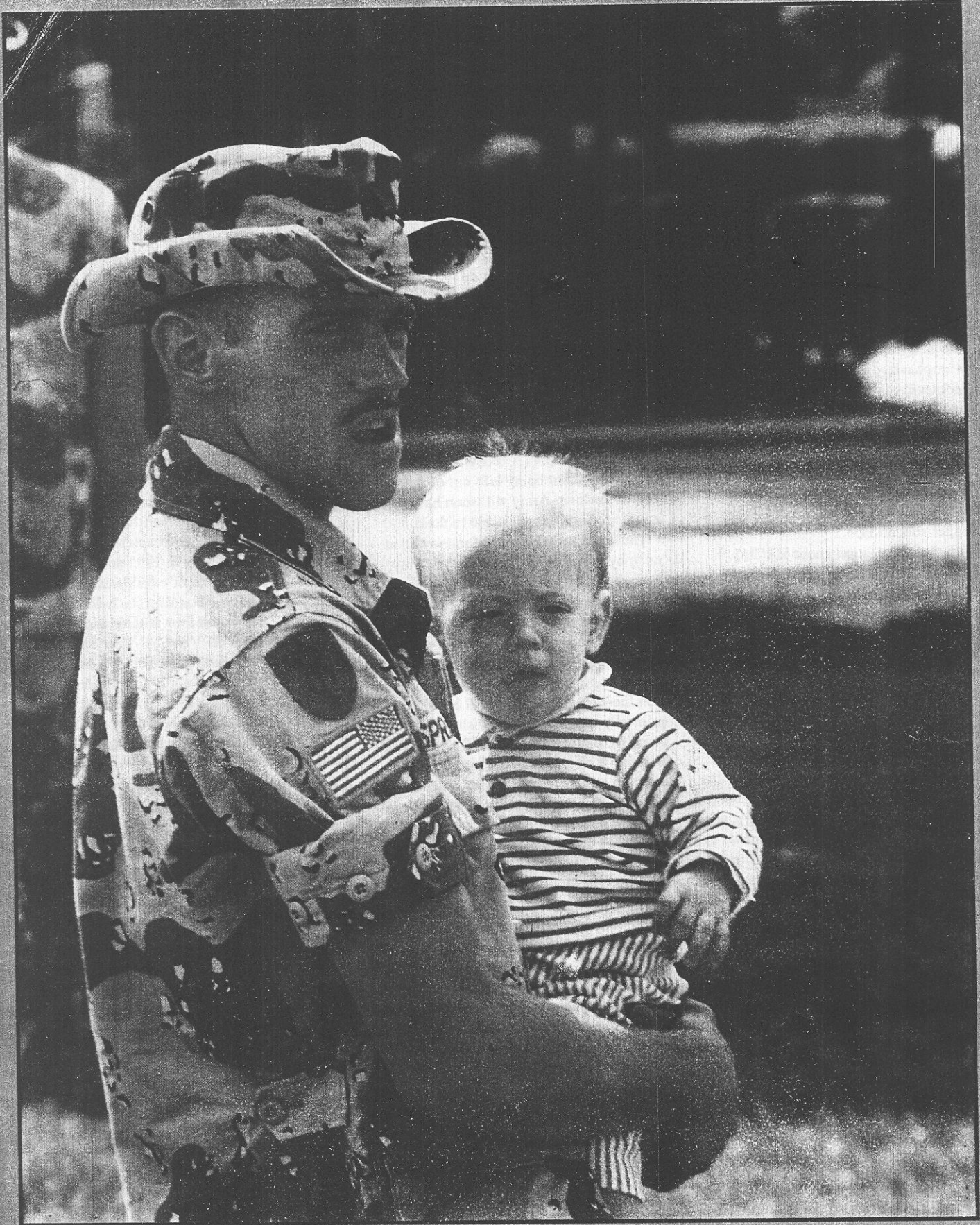


Pathfinder

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Drawdown time for higher education

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- Counselors at Army Continuing Education offices in United States Army Europe have current information about education programs at historically black colleges and universities (HBCUS).

According to Bruce E. McLeod, Jr., director of continuing education at HQ USAREUR, "what we want to do is give USAREUR soldiers facing drawdown more education options."

He emphasized HBCUS seek all qualified students without regard to ethnic background. Black colleges were founded to serve black students, but throughout the years have served youths of all backgrounds.

Counselors have information about programs from educators affiliated with the National Association for Equal Opportunity in higher education.

With the information about HBCUS, USAREUR education counselors are equipped to help soldiers select a school that best meets their needs. The HBCUS are accredited private and public two- and four-year institutions. They have multi-ethnic student bodies and faculties and award degrees ranging from the associate to the doctorate.

HBCUS are located in 14 southern states, six northern states, three mid-west states, one western state, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands. Over 450 degree programs, from accounting to zoology, are offered. Sixty of the HBCUS are known to be either host or satellite centers for the Reserve Officer Training Corps. Many have cross enrollments with other colleges and universities to provide opportunity for Reserve Officer Training Corps study.

Although HBCUS number only three percent of all higher education institutions in the United States, they have produced more than 70 percent of all black college graduates.

More than 300,000 college students enroll in HBCUS annually, and more than 50 percent of the nation's black business executives and elected officials are graduates of black colleges.

"Seventy-eight percent of black Americans

with PH.D degrees, 75 percent of black military officers, 80 percent of black federal judges and 85 percent of black physicians are graduates of HBCUS," said McLeod.

For additional information about these schools, contact local Army Education counselors. Inquiries may also be addressed to NAFEO, 400 12th St., NE, Washington DC 20002 or telephone, (202) 543-9111; FAX number (202) 543-9113.

-- *Command Information Eur-release*

Army offers two compensation packets

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS) — Soldiers concerned about being left out of the smaller post-drawdown Army will soon have a number of options available to them.

The options: take a lot of money all at once by volunteering to leave the Army; take even more money in smaller, annual increments, again by leaving voluntarily; or stay put and try to ride out the wave of personnel cuts over the next four years.

Two programs — the Special Separation Benefit, or SSB, and the Voluntary Separation Incentive, or VSI — will be offered primarily to soldiers who wish to leave the Army voluntarily in 1992. The programs will focus on enlisted soldiers in over-strength ranks and specialties, and officers being considered for reduction in force between now and 1995.

Soldiers who are offered the options, but elect neither, could eventually be involuntarily separated, say Army personnel officials. In that case, they would receive involuntary separation pay, which is worth less than either the SSB or VSI.

Both incentive packets took effect Jan. 1, 1992, and will not apply to soldiers who voluntarily separated prior to the new year.

Soldiers who select the SSB would receive a one-time lump sum payment equal to 15 percent of their annual basic pay times their years of service, compared to 10 percent for being involuntarily separated.

Soldiers eligible for the SSB or VSI are:

- Promotable corporals/specialists and below with more than seven years service on

Dec. 31, 1991. Along with the SSB/VSI offer, the retention control point for those individuals will be changed from 13 years of service to eight years. Promotable specialists with more than eight years of service on Sept. 30, 1992, who do not request voluntary separation will be involuntarily separated.

- Promotable sergeants with at least 12 years service. The retention control point for promotable sergeants will be lowered from 20 years to 15 years on Oct. 1, 1993, allowing affected soldiers to apply for VSI or SSB benefits in fiscal 1992.

- Enlisted soldiers, sergeant or higher, who have been in the Army at least nine years and who are in specialties designated for reduction.

- Any soldier fully qualified for retention, but denied re-enlistment by the Army.

- Army competitive category officers with six or more years of service. Majors with dates or rank between July 2, 1989 and March 1, 1991, and captains with dates of rank between May 2, 1985 and Sept. 1, 1986 are in the zone of consideration for reduction in force boards to be held in March 1992. Therefore, if they wish to take advantage of VSI/SSB, they must apply between Jan. 1 and Feb. 29, 1992. Officers who do not apply for release during that period will be considered for release during the RIF board in March.

Soldiers selected for release as a result of the RIF will only be entitled to separation pay for involuntarily separated soldiers and will not be eligible for VSI or SSB. Officers not being considered for RIF have until Aug. 31, 1992, to opt for VSI/SSB.

Chain of Command to explain changes

WASHINGTON (ARNEWS) — Soldiers and family members who have been waiting for comprehensive information about the drawdown do not have to wait much longer.

The Army's goal is to have the entire force briefed on a "Reshaping the Army" package by the end of January 1992. The

(Continued on page B)