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### Air Force ROTC at University to close no later than June 1976

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state + csAIR FORCE ROTC AT UNIVERSITY  
TO CLOSE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1976

MISSOULA--

The Air Force ROTC detachment at the University of Montana in Missoula will be closed no later than June 1976 due to declining AFROTC enrollments on campus, it was announced Tuesday, March 11, by UM President Richard C. Bowers and Col. Edward G. Sperry, chairman of Aerospace Studies at UM.

The joint announcement was made following receipt of a letter by Bowers from Lt. Gen. F. M. Rogers, commander of Headquarters Air University, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala., who pointed out that the declining AFROTC enrollment at UM requires the Air Force to close the campus detachment.

Commenting on the closure in his letter to Bowers, Rogers said:

"Certainly the fault is neither yours nor the University of Montana's. We are well aware of your continuing efforts to enhance student interest in the AFROTC program. In many ways we are victims of the times. The absence of a draft-minded environment is taking its toll nationwide and Air Force resources are being reduced as the nation adjusts to the economic realities of a changing world."

Rogers said the Air Force would prefer to close the AFROTC detachment at the University on June 30, 1975, under terms of a contract between UM and the Air Force. "In any case, we must terminate the agreement not later than the end of the spring term 1976," Rogers said.

Bowers said the University probably will opt for the 1976 closure to enable the 18 juniors now enrolled in the AFROTC program to complete their education at the University.

Commenting on the Air Force decision to close the AFROTC detachment at UM, Sperry said:

"I'm awfully disappointed, that's all. I think it's a good program."

Sperry said University juniors now enrolled in the AFROTC program will have three options if the program is terminated this June:

--They can apply for admission to Air Force Officer Training School after they graduate.

--They may tear up their contracts with the Air Force.

--They may transfer to other schools having AFROTC programs.

"Freshman and sophomore students in AFROTC who are determined to continue in the Air Force program will have to do so at other schools," Sperry said.

The Air Force education program was established as part of Military Science and Tactics at UM in the fall of 1946. Beginning in 1951 the military program on the Missoula campus was recognized as two separate divisions--Military Science and Tactics, and Air Science and Tactics. The designation of Air Science and Tactics was changed to Air Force ROTC in 1965, and the latter came under the jurisdiction of UM Aerospace Studies in 1972.

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