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The University of Dayton to Have Voluntary ROTC for the 1969-70 School Year

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DAYTON, Ohio, February 27, 1969 — Very Rev. Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., President of the University of Dayton, announced today that starting with the school year, 1969-70, the University will have voluntary ROTC. In announcing his decision to Lt. Colonel William F. Murley, Chairman, Military Department at UD, Father Roesch said he was concurring with the recommendations of the Academic Council and the Administrative Council.

This is the second decision made on ROTC at the University of Dayton in a year. Mandatory ROTC was reduced to one year for the current freshman class only a year ago this winter. However, several student groups, including Student Government, had asked the Academic Council to reevaluate the mandatory program at the start of school last August. While the original Academic Council study took almost two years, the recent evaluation was made over a five-month period.

A military program has been a part of the University since World War I.

In his letter to Colonel Murley, Father Roesch said: "I assure you that the University of Dayton is keenly aware of the many contributions of the ROTC program since its inception here over fifty years ago. Looking ahead, we hope for the same or greater success. Our main reason for changing to the voluntary program is to permit each student greater latitude in selecting those courses best for him as an individual.

"I also wish to congratulate you and your staff for your exemplary conduct and staff work during the study phase of this decision. I trust that the implementation of the voluntary program will not present too many problems which cannot be readily solved."