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Bert Jaster

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University of Alaska campus in Fairbanks, Alaska

Bert Jaster, from the ROTC program in Fairbanks, said he has been in Fairbanks for six or seven weeks. He has yet to encounter any animosity. People have been very receptive and can see the benefits for a military career. Karen Cedzo said on October 15th the ROTC would be sponsoring an aviation day. The students will be visiting Ft. Wainwright. Jaster said it is primarily designed to introduce students to the military. It will give them an idea of the defense structure, different duty positions and jobs available in military service. On the 18th they will be visiting the Clear Air Force Station. Clear is one of the three strategic air commands in North America defense stations. It is responsible for tracking missiles and satellites. It is one of three stations in the strategic air command NORAD (North American Air Defense Command) system and is part of the U.S. ballistic missile Early Warning System. The students will receive orientation briefing, a tour of all the facilities and lunch at the dining facility. They will be transported by an Army bus. The ROTC program is experiencing an enrollment increase this year. Jaster said they have 102 students in their courses. About 30 of the students are actively pursuing a commission along with their baccalaureate degree. The enrollment is an increase of close to 100 percent over last year. He thought there might be an increased sense of duty among the students. They have basically two programs. They can begin in their freshman year and go through a four year program. If they attend basic camp at Fort Knox in Kentucky they can go into the two year program and receive their commission in two years. He talked about the outdoor skills class they offer. It gives the students an opportunity to learn some skills for living in Alaska. It provides a lot of training useful in cold weather survival and mountain climbing, hiking, etc. Cedzo gave information about signing up for the activities.

Karen Cedzo reports on campus activities.