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February 18, 1997

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

U.S. ARMY WAR COLLEGE CURRENT AFFAIRS PANEL TO VISIT EASTERN

CHARLESTON -- Eastern Illinois University students and staff, along with community residents, will have the opportunity to discuss current military issues with some of the United States Army's top officers in an open admission-free forum scheduled for 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 24.

Jointly sponsored by Eastern's departments of military science and history, the forum will take place in the university's Coleman Hall Auditorium and will feature a seven-member Current Affairs Panel from the U.S. Army War College.

The college, established in November 1901, allows selected military officers the opportunity for in-depth study and discussion of problems of national defense, military science and responsible command. The Current Affairs Panel, established in 1969, is an academic outreach program sponsored by the college and intended to encourage open dialogue between military personnel and traditional college/university communities throughout the country. The panel visits between 25 and 35 campuses each academic year.

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Monday's discussion will begin with a brief introduction, designed to highlight areas of controversy or concern, followed by a question-and-answer period with the audience. Lt. Col. David C. Sims, Jr., head of Eastern's military science department, said likely discussion topics include Bosnia, the Middle East and North Korea, as well as current domestic issues such as minorities and women in the military, and emphasized the willingness of the panel to discuss these issues with the public.

According to Sims, panel members will also spend time both Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 25, visiting various EIU classes in the departments of history, political science and speech communication.

This year's panel consists of: Lt. Col. M. Patricia Capin, U.S. Army, who has served 22 years of commissioned service; Lt. Col. Alfred M. Coffman, Jr., U.S. Air Force, who has served 19 years of commissioned service; Lt. Col. Charles W. Fox, Jr., U.S. Army, who has served 16 years of commissioned service; Lt. Col. Craig B. Hanford, U.S. Army, who has served 21 years of commissioned service; Lt. Col. Karl R. Horst, U.S. Army, who has served 18 years of commissioned service; and Theodore A. Nist from the Department of State, who has served 12 years as foreign service officer. The faculty moderator and panel chair is Col. Dan Henk, U.S. Army, who has served 26 years of commissioned service. He is also the director of African Studies for the U.S. Army War College.