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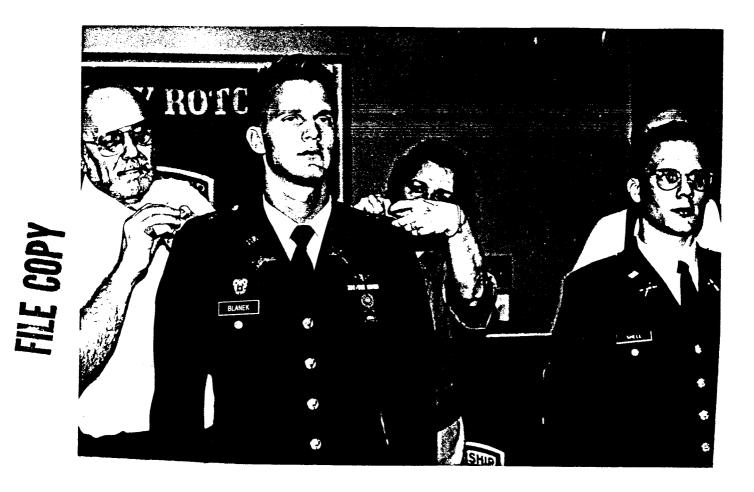
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

BLANEK COMMISSIONED

CHARLESTON, IL--Mark Blanck stands proudly as his parents, Richard Novak and Linda Blanck-Novak of Western Springs, pin on his lieutenant bars.

1/1/1/1 BLANEK

Blanek was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Eastern Illinois University during a recent ceremony.

A 1987 graduate of Lyons Township High School in La Grange, Blanek was a senior political science major with a minor in military science at Eastern in the spring semester.

He has been awarded the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, the Army Parachutist Badge, and has attended Cadet Troop Leader Training with the 101st Air Assault Division.

Blanek is serving in the armor branch of the Army National Guard.