

# THE EAGLE TIMES



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## Eagle Battalion Cadet Earn Top Honors

By Evan Schlachter

This summer Cadet Ian Morris was presented with a RECONDO certificate of achievement. The certificate was in recognition of his outstanding achievement over the summer. Cadet Morris graduated in the top 20 percent of the over 3,000 cadets from across the country that attended the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) at Fort Lewis, Washington.



Major Kari Bruley

## Viterbo Graduate Promoted

By LTC Stewart Fearon

On August 17, 2007 at the Veteran's Memorial Monument, Kari A. Bruley was promoted to Major in the United States Army. She is a native of La Crosse, Wisconsin. She received her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing from Viterbo College and was commissioned out of UW-La Crosse ROTC program as a Distinguished Military Graduate in May 1997.

Major Bruley has had a full and rewarding career in the Army. She began her medical career as an Army Nurse when she was assigned to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1998. At Walter Reed she served as a Staff Nurse on the Orthopedic and Pediatric inpatient wards. During her assignment at Walter Reed, she was selected to serve with the Navy at the National Naval Medical Center for 13 months as a Neonatal Intensive Care nurse.

Following her service at Walter Reed, she chose to specialize in Public Health Nursing and attended the Principles of Preventive Medicine

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Cadet Ian Morris

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Major Kastberg

### UWL Alum Receives Bronze Star

By MAJ Bob Divney

Major Randall J. Kastberg, a 1990 University of Wisconsin – La Crosse (UW–L) graduate and Army Reserve Officer Training Corps commissionee, was recently awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his service in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the Combat Infantryman’s Badge (CIB) for actions that occurred on 6 October 2006 in Iraq.

A convoy escort team, which included Major Kastberg, encountered what appeared to be an improvised explosive device (IED). After blocking traffic to secure the area, Major Kastberg and his vehicle moved to within 15 meters of the object and confirmed that it was an IED. An attempt to detonate the IED was made by an unknown person while Major Kastberg was dismounted from the vehicle.

The convoy escort team immediately began searching the area for the source of the detonating signal, but the signals ceased. The actions of Major Kastberg and the convoy escort team provided protection and safe passage of a large convoy of coalition personnel and assets. As for the IED, an explosive ordnance disposal team confirmed the IED was “live.”

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Stock Photo of UH 64 Blackhawk sling loading HUMMER

## Viterbo Student Earns the Army Air Assault Badge

By LTC Stewart Fearon

This summer Cadet Holly Cuhel from Viterbo University successfully completed the US Army Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. This two-week course is physically and mentally demanding. It requires a great deal of studying to pass the written tests and physical conditioning to pass the physical tests.

The first day, Zero Day, began at 4:30 am for in processing. Cuhel and the entire class moved to the obstacle course for the entrance examination consisting of a 9 station obstacle course. Upon completion of the obstacle course Cuhel ran a 2-mile course. Cuhel and those who completed the obstacle course and finish the 2-mile run in 18 minutes were allowed to enroll in the Air Assault School. Over ten percent of the potential students did not make it past Zero Day.

The Air Assault Phase began with an in-ranks inspection. The standards are high and no one gets cut any slack. Those students that did not meet the standards received a spot report. Cadet Cuhel’s day always began with physical training, a quick shower and hasty breakfast before going off to class. During the Air Assault Phase, she learned about: air assault operations, pathfinder operations, hand and arm

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## Flying the Army Way as an ROTC Cadet

By LTC Stewart Fearon

This summer Cadet Karla Schultz from Winona State University and Cadet Kelsey Krzyzanowski from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse completed three grueling weeks of intense training to earn the right to wear the Army Parachutist Wings.

During ground training week, they learned the necessary individual skills designed to make a parachute jump and land safely. They trained on a mock aircraft door, the 34 foot tower, and the lateral drift apparatus (LDA). To successfully complete ground week and move to week two or tower week they had to qualify on the 34 foot tower, the LDA, and pass all physical training requirements.

During tower week Schultz and Krzyzanowski continued to refine their individual skills as they practiced a team mass exit from a mock aircraft. Both cadets practiced their parachute landing falls (PLFs) on the swing lander trainer (SLT), suspended harness (SH), 250 foot free tower, and the wind machine. The final phase was jump training week.

This was it! The previous weeks of training prepared them to complete five qualifying jumps. Before making their first jump they received a review of what to do if their parachute malfunctions.

Cadet Schultz said the hardest part of Airborne training was leaving her fellow comrades at the end of the long strenuous journey. “Meeting a variety of people from all branches of military service and spending three weeks sweating, yelling, laughing, and aching with them created a close bond between all of us service members. It’s really intriguing to know that now where ever I go in the

world I can always find a common relationship with those who wear the Airborne wings.

The camaraderie between us all helped keep everyone’s spirits up especially during really frustrating activities. Such as when one of the C130’s broke down for our last combat night jump and my chalk (group) waited six hours in the hanger to get on a plane. If it hadn’t been for the awesome Marines and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenants on my right and the West Point Cadets on my left I think I would have passed out from the awkward weight crushing down on my spine and the negative thoughts running through my head.

I will always remember going through Airborne school and the awesome people I got to meet during it; whether I ever see them again or not we share a common memory of our experience that only we can truly relate to.”

Cadet Kelsey Krzyzanowski, from UWL, also successfully graduated from Airborne School. We are looking forward to hearing what she thought about the experience when she returns to campus.

### *Bruley from page 1*

Course in 2000. Upon completion of the course, she was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado where she served as a staff Public Health Nurse. During this assignment, she graduated from the Captain’s Career Course and then in 2004 she moved on to her next assignment in Darmstadt, Germany. In Darmstadt she was the Officer-In-Charge of Public Health Nursing until 2007.

In August 2007, she moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota and is currently assigned as a full-time student at the University of Minnesota where the Army is paying for her to earn a Master’s Degree in Public Health.

Major Bruley’s awards and decorations include the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and Meritorious Service Medal.

**RECONDO from page 1**

As a requirement to commission as an officer in the United States Army through the ROTC program, all Cadets must complete LDAC. LDAC is a five-week capstone to the Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC) 1 training. It is designed to evaluate a cadet's leadership abilities while providing additional leadership and individual skills instruction. Each cadet is given several opportunities to serve in leadership positions such as squad leader, platoon sergeant, platoon leader, first sergeant, executive officer, and company commander. These positions allow the cadet to demonstrate his/her leadership abilities and skills. The cadet's performance in this area, along with scores from the Army Physical Fitness Test, land navigation test, Basic Rifle Marksmanship (BRM), and field tactics, make up the cadet's final grade at camp. LDAC also features special training consisting of individual movement techniques, offensive and defensive operations, water survival, and more. One of the most exciting training events is the RECONDO competition which takes place during every stage of camp.

To receive the RECONDO badge, cadets must: Successfully complete all Confidence courses, swimming training, and pass a Combat Water Survival Test. On top of these a RECONDO Cadet must also achieve a score of 270 or above on the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT); achieve a score of 80% percent or higher on the land navigation tests; hit 23 out of 40 targets at Basic Rifle marksmanship; successfully complete the Machine Gun Assault Course, Hand Grenade, and Individual Tactical Training courses; and receive a satisfactory or above rating on all 16 Leadership Dimensions and Army Values. These events are not easy tasks and to complete all of them successfully and in the top percentile is truly worth recognition.

Cadet Morris not only met but exceeded the RECONDO qualification standards. He scored 297 of 300 points on the APFT, exceeded the standard for potential and performance, and also maxed the night land navigation course. Cadet Morris continued a tradition of excellence and brought pride to the Eagle ROTC Battalion. He showed the cadets from around

the country what the Eagle Battalion Cadets are made of. Cadet Morris was selected as the Cadet Battalion Commander for his senior year. He plans on graduating next spring when he will receive his commission as a Second Lieutenant.

**Air Assault from page 2**

Cuhel and the other 5 females that completed the course signals, aircraft familiarization, aircraft safety, and aeromedevac operations.

The Slingload Phase taught Cuhel how to prepare equipment such as a Howitzer, Army Humvee, 5,000 to 10,000 pound Cargo Nets, and Multi-Fuel Blivets. Everything had to be memorized, such as the tensile strength of equipment used in slingload operations, lift capabilities of supporting aircraft, and rigging and inspection of prepared loads.

Next was the Rappel Phase. In this final phase, Cuhel learned basic rappelling which consists of tying a Swiss seat and rappelling off the 12-foot incline ramp. After watching a demonstration, she completed a more advanced rappelling from the 50-foot tower wall side, both with and without equipment. Next, she rappelled off a tower with a mock helicopter skid. Finally she rappelled from an UH-60 Army helicopter hovering at 80 feet above the ground!

Graduation Day – the final test! All students must complete a 12-mile road march wearing a 35-pound rucksack, a Kevlar helmet, carrying an M-16 rifle in three hours or less. Approximately 90% of the students have crossed the finish line in time. Cadet Cuhel completed the 12 miles with 15 minutes to spare. She earned the distinctive right and honor to wear the Air Assault Badge. Hoorah!



Geitz, Morris, Wolf, CSM Grenzebach, Peterson, Draper, Parkers

## UWL ROTC Cadets Bring Home the Gold and Silver

By MSG Richard Herbst

Tyler Peterson, David Draper, Ian Morris, Scott Wolfe and Mathew Wong earned Gold medals and Natasha Geitz earned the Silver medal in the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency. This was an excellent event since there are few opportunities to earn a foreign military decoration.

Cadets from the University of Wisconsin – La Crosse drove 8½ hours to Indiana University joining over 170 Cadets and Soldiers for a chance to earn the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency.

The award was established in the 1970s to reward and recognize Soldiers in the German Armed Forces possessing superior physical abilities and a mandatory event for the Officers and NCOs. The German officiating Officer was Sergeant Major Karl-Heinz Grenzebach. A German Liaison from Fort Knox, Ky. "I'm very happy and honored to be here. This is a premier event for us" said the Sergeant Major. The event was held for over 150 participating Cadets.

The rigorous two day competition challenged Cadets to demonstrate proficiency in a wide range of physical activities.

Day one started with a written exam in First Aid and continued to a 200m timed swim, 100m dash, Long Jump or High Jump, Shot Put or the alternative 13 lb traditional German Stone Throw, 400m sprint, and 5

km run. Each event was a first time pass or fail, determining if you would continue to day two.

Day two started with an early wake up of 5:00am, breakfast provided at the Camp Atteberry dining facility at 6:00, then directly to the firing range to conduct the 9mm pistol qualification and finally a Foot march with a 22lb rucksack for 25 Km (Silver), 30 Km (Gold). Cadets had to meet the standards in each event based on their age and gender to qualify. In addition to the above requirements, a commander's evaluation of the Cadets was included in their overall review.

"It was a great morale booster," said Cadet Tyler Peterson. "We all wanted to receive the award but had only two weeks to train. All things considered, I'm very pleased with our Cadets' performances."

After finishing all events, the Cadets were presented a German Certificate of Award and a Badge Pinning ceremony conducted by Sgt. Maj Grenzebach. Additionally the cadets received official Army orders authorizing the permanent wear of the foreign badge on the US Army Dress Uniforms.

### IED from page 2

Major Kastberg graduated from UW-L with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in 1990. Major Kastberg has also earned a Masters of Science in Leadership (2003) from Minnesota State University at Mankato and is currently working on a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Saint Thomas – Minneapolis.

Major Kastberg's other awards and decorations included the Meritorious Service Medal with one oak leaf cluster, the Army Commendation Medal with three oak leaf clusters, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal with four oak leaf clusters, the National Defense Service Medal with bronze star device, the Kosovo Campaign Medal with bronze star device, the Iraq Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Army Forces Reserve Medal (second award) with bronze hour glass, M-device (to recognized being mobilized), NATO Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge, Ranger Tab, Pathfinder Badge, Basic Parachutist Badge, and the Air Assault Badge.