

THE EAGLE TIMES



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ROTC Task Force Ineffective in Eliminating Barriers at WSU

By Josh Winkleman

The UW-La Crosse Eagle Battalion currently works with cadets from several surrounding universities, including Winona State University and St. Mary's University in Winona, Minnesota. Recently, a separate detachment was created for the cadets in Winona in hopes of increasing enrollment and reducing the barriers those cadets faced in participating in ROTC.

Part of this effort has been directed at working with Winona State University in hopes of eliminating the financial barriers these cadets face. Currently, these students can pay as much as \$4,000 more to participate in ROTC than cadets at UW-L due to the cross-enrollment issues. Also, Winona cadets must maintain a higher credit load than their peers. Both of these issues stem from the fact that WSU does not allow students to register for ROTC classes through their registration system. The requests made by ROTC to WSU were for classroom space on campus to offer instruction, course listings in the course catalog and an office

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Dr. Judith Ramaley, President of WSU



Preparing to load a UH 60 Blackhawk

Flying in Style

By CPT Jason Eddy

On 09 April 2006, cadets from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse's Army ROTC "Eagle Battalion" participated in a joint training air movement with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. Two UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from the Guard's 147th Aviation, based out of Madison, picked up twenty cadets from Fort McCoy, Wisconsin and transported them to the fields near UW-La Crosse's football stadium.

The Army traditionally employs aviation assets to conduct air assault operations – Army aviation and infantry units can be fully integrated with other units to form powerful and flexible air assault task forces that can project combat power over extended distances and terrain to attack the

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enemy when and where he is most vulnerable. The speed, agility, and firepower of army aviation combined with those of the infantry and other combat arms form units that can be employed in low-, mid-, and high-intensity environments.

Air movement operations, like the one conducted by the cadets, are those operations involving the use of Army airlift assets for other missions. These operations are used to move troops and equipment and to transport ammunition, fuel, and supplies. The same general plans used for air assault operations may need to be prepared for large-scale air movement operations.

The UH-60 Blackhawk is the Army's premier utility helicopter. Designed primarily to deliver an eleven man combat infantry squad anywhere on the battlefield, it is also used to enhance and extend the capabilities of all commanders to initiate, conduct, and sustain combat operations by providing air movement of troops, internal and external lift of weapons systems, supplies, and equipment. The UH-60 Blackhawk continues to be the primary air platform for airborne command and control at the tactical level.

As part of UW-L's exercise, the cadets will undergo introductory air assault training that begins by familiarizing the cadets in aircraft procedures to include loading and unloading, emergency procedures, and aircraft safety. Proficiency in these provides a foundation for additional training that includes battle drills on loading and unloading as well as organizing into combat formations on the landing zone. This will allow units to maximize the speed and mobility of air assault operations.

The training will provide these cadets, our Army's future leaders, invaluable insight into the techniques and procedures used in air assault and air movement operations as well as the information required as part of the deliberate planning process when conducting aviation operations.



UH 60 Blackhawk Taking off.

Eagle Battalion Support Special Olympics

By Stephen Kramer

On Saturday, March 4th 10 cadets and 3 cadre from the Eagle Battalion experienced the Polar Plunge. The Frozen Eagles team members were "freezin' for a reason" when they participated in this fundraiser for the Special Olympics.



The Frozen Eagles

Back row, left to right: Cadets Tyler Peterson, Ian Morris, Natasha Geitz, Holly Hanson, Kristena Kuester, Thomas Jubert, Nicole Skroch, Stephen Kramer.

Front row, left to right: Cadet April Boardman, Captain Hansen, Jonah Hansen, Cadet Emily Hanson.

Not Pictured: Captains Nathan Black and Jason Eddy

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for ROTC to house a faculty member in order to assist students in answering questions about ROTC and the Army.

To address these issues, WSU formed an ROTC Task Force to look at the implications of working with ROTC on campus. The Task Force's direction was "to review WSU's relationship with the University of Wisconsin - La Crosse / Army ROTC and explore its effectiveness in providing academic options and accessibility for WSU students interested in pursuing military careers through ROTC". The Task Force addressed several issues regarding ROTC including course listings, class accessibility, recruiting and homosexual rights. Answers to questions regarding these issues were sought from both Ken Gorman, Vice President of Academic Affairs at WSU, and LTC Fearon, Professor of Military Science at UW-L. Ultimately, the ROTC Task Force recommended that "WSU pursue a relationship with UW-L ROTC in order to limit the barriers [addressed by the Task Force] to WSU students".

This report was sent in on 13 December 2005 to the President of WSU, Judith Ramalay, and Mr. Gorman. His response to the Task Force report was issued on 3 January 2006. The Task Force report was simple in its direction, as their charge was fairly broad. Ken Gorman's response was similarly succinct, and sweeping in its refusal to provide assistance from WSU to limit the barriers to students. He stated in his final review that WSU would not receive an office due to limited space on campus. Also, no ROTC courses would be listed in the course catalog, as students could register for the courses in LaCrosse and receive credit the following semester from WSU. Mr. Gorman did state that ROTC could use classrooms "for a negotiated fee...on a semester-by-semester basis for subsequent semesters on a space available basis." The ultimate summation of Mr. Gorman's report was to change nothing for WSU students. LTC Fearon will continue to attempt to maintain a dialogue with WSU.

Special Olympics from page 2



The Eagles Take the Plunge

The Polar Plunge is held every year to raise money for the Wisconsin Special Olympics. Several plunges are held at different locations throughout the state, and on March 4th the plunge site was Black River Beach, on La Crosse's North Side. A section of the ice on the river was cut out so the plungers were able to run down the beach and into the frigid, waist-deep water. Afterwards, there were hot tubs on the beach for plungers to thaw-out, and heated tents for changing into dry clothes. Later in the day, City Brewery hosted a post-plunge party with free food and music for all those who took part in the icy dip.

Since the inception of the Polar Plunge fundraiser seven years ago, it has raised nearly \$4 million to support the Special Olympics. The money raised has been used to subsidize expenses for training, travel and miscellaneous costs for Wisconsin's nearly 10,000 athletes.

The Frozen Eagles were able to successfully raise \$775 this year, with Cadet Ian Morris gaining the most in pledges, with \$180 to his name!



Frozen Eagles Running for the Hot Tub to warm up!

ROTC path to Financial Success?

By: CPT Nathan Black 

Simply put, yes. If there is one thing you can do to ensure you're on the road to financial security, it's to get school paid for and enter into a well paying and secure career immediately after graduation. You won't find security anywhere like you will in the military. When you perform well at your job, promotions will come. However, the question in everyone's mind is, "How much do you really make and what might I be giving up?". Let's break it down a bit for a no-nonsense comparison:

Simple average salaries of graduates from UW-La Crosse and Viterbo with various degrees:

Starting Salaries:

Finance:	\$34,685
Marketing:	\$32,016
Elementary Ed:	\$34,375
Criminal Justice:	\$29,234 (national)
Nursing:	\$37,000 (national)
Geography:	\$26,233
Recreation Mgt:	\$23,149

(Based on information received from UW-L's career center and www)

Oh, by the way, the average debt of a college student is around \$20,000!

Now, let's look at two options with ROTC: a four-year scholarship winner and a Simultaneous Member (SMP) with the National Guard.

The four-year scholarship winner gets school paid for and an additional \$16,000 for miscellaneous expenses. So, now you've accomplished graduating with no debt and have some money in the bank. That is an overall value of nearly 37,000!

How about salaries?

2LT starting salary	≈ \$37,500
1LT w/ 2 yrs	≈ \$47,500
CPT w/ 4 yrs	≈ \$65,000
MAJ w/ 10 yrs	≈ \$79,500
LTC w/ 18 yrs	≈ \$96,400
COL w/ 22 yrs	≈ \$113,500

(Based off the 2006 pay table)

Now let's look at someone who is SMP through school and enrolls in ROTC to become an Officer. First, school is completely paid for. Secondly, throughout their four-years, they'll receive an additional \$49,000 for miscellaneous expenses. That's an overall "value" through school of nearly \$70,000! They've put themselves at a \$70,000 advantage over their peers before they even begin their careers!!

Salaries as an SMP turned Officer:

2LT starting- w/ 4 yrs while in Guard	≈ \$46,000
1LT w/ 6 yrs (2 yrs active)	≈ \$57,000
CPT w/ 8 yrs (4 yrs active)	≈ \$69,000
MAJ w/ 14 yrs (10 yrs active)	≈ \$85,000
LTC w/ 22 yrs (18 yrs active)	≈ \$101,000
COL w/ 26 yrs (22 yrs active)	≈ \$121,000

(Based off the 2006 pay table)

You have to understand that these numbers are variable to some extent, depending upon location, family, etc. The scenario used is a single soldier drawing the "table rate" housing allowance, which is usually substantially lower than the actual allowance. For instance, CPT Black was two years out of college and was making nearly \$80,000 a year due to increased housing allowance and cost of living allowance. You don't see those perks with your civilian employers. Additionally, everything but the base salary is TAX FREE!

What about the other perks inherent to being in the military, such as free healthcare, tax-free shopping, multiple community organizations and discounted services on-post. These are hard to place a value on, but one can add another \$4000+ a year to the above numbers just for healthcare and gym memberships. Why all this number crunching? Why insult your intelligence?

Soldiers and Officers often don't realize how good they really have it and what they are really making. The salaries are competitive without the other bonuses/perks. Factor those benefits in and they're on their way to financial success!! Most importantly they are contributing to something much larger than themselves: working with good people who are worried about more than the *bottom line*.

For further reference click on: www.dod.mil/dfas

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