

**OFFICER EDUCATION COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2011-2012**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison is one of a few universities that offer a student the opportunity to earn a commission in any of the three armed services. Military education on this campus dates back to the Civil War and the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. Our status as a land grant university includes an obligation to teach “military tactics,” a duty now fulfilled by the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) programs established by National Defense Act of 1916. We host three departments: Military Science, Naval Science and Aerospace Studies. The regents’ contracts with the services provide that each program holds departmental status and enjoys privileges comparable to those of other departments on campus. These laws and our policies give faculty status to the officers accepted to instruct in the programs (*Faculty Policies and Procedures* 1.02.-1.03.).

The combined programs receive more than \$3.3 million each year in federal funds, which are used for student scholarships, salaries of officers, enlisted personnel and civilian support staff, and for supplies. The University of Wisconsin’s 2011-2012 budget (101) contribution of \$203,886 includes funding for secretarial support for each of the services and for the Officer Education Program (directed by Professor James Johannes, School of Business), miscellaneous support, and for use of an off-campus rifle range. All classes offered in the three departments conform to university and campus rules, including the laws, policies, and regulations for equity and diversity, and courses are open to all UW-Madison students. A number of non-ROTC students interested in courses such as navigation or military history, or who are considering the possibility of seeking a commission, take courses in the three programs. Some ultimately enroll in the commissioning program, while others do not. The military services establish standards for commissioning, and all students who choose to pursue commissions sign contracts before entering the final two years of the program. They receive monthly stipends with the amount depending on their year in college. Commissioned officer graduates are obligated to serve various periods of time on active duty or in the reserves.

The academic components of the Officer Education Program operate under the supervision of the Officer Education Committee (OEC). Members of the committee are chosen from a wide range of departments and disciplines. In addition to their other functions, the OEC examines, for approval, the qualifications of all officers nominated for service on campus. The committee personally interviews and recommends action on nominations of persons to serve as unit commanders, each of whom holds the title *professor of military science* (FPP 1.03.B.1.). Two former professors of military science work on campus. Kris Ackerbauer is the assistant director of the Physical Plant, and John Bechtol is the assistant dean of student affairs for veteran services. Both serve as advisors to the OEC and the ROTC programs. Also, retired Army officer, Professor John Hall is the Ambrose-Hesseltine Professor in U.S. Military History and is now a member of the committee.

Navy-Marine Corps: The Department of Naval Sciences (NROTC) operates under the command of Captain Russ Haas, who relieved Captain Ken Auten in August 2011, and is located at 1610 University Avenue. The UW NROTC Unit continues to focus its students and resources on technical programs but is pursuing emerging opportunities for advanced language and cultural/regional diversity degree programs as well. The unit consists of five active-duty Naval officers, one senior non-commissioned officer, two federal civilian employees, and one University of Wisconsin classified employee.

- The Badger Battalion began the 2011-2012 academic year with 66 students, including 16 new students in its freshman class. It expects to commission six new ensigns in the U.S. Navy and nine new second lieutenants in the U.S. Marine Corps.

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- The battalion hosted nine NROTC units from across the Midwest in the annual Badger Invitational Competition. Our teams also participated in a competition hosted by the University of Memphis, and selected students also attended a leadership conference hosted by the University of Notre Dame.
- Midshipmen are active in the UW community, participating in efforts such as the Relay for Life, campus blood drives, and intramural athletics. The NROTC sailing program continues to maintain an excellent relationship with the Hoofers Sailing Club to deliver basic seamanship skills to its members.
- During the previous academic year, the battalion maintained a 3.12 GPA and commissioned 14 new officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Scholarships and tuition support payments to the university for the NROTC students exceeded \$900,000. In addition to midshipman and active-duty students, seven non-NROTC students enrolled in Naval Science courses during AY 2010-2011.

Army: The Department of Military Science (AROTC) operates under the supervision of Lt. Col. Jay G. Pitz from a renovated building at 1910 Linden Drive. The Badger Battalion is the largest of the three ROTC units, and staffing is currently set at two officers, three enlisted personnel, three Department of Army civilians, four contractors, and a university secretary.

- As of Spring 2012, there are 250 students enrolled in AROTC classes: 144 at UW-Madison, 68 at UW-Whitewater, 6 at Edgewood College, and 32 at Maranatha Baptist Bible College in Watertown. Of these, 145 are cadets actively pursuing a commission. The remaining students are “participating students” who take military science classes but are not formally enlisted in the program. AROTC expects to commission 34 cadets this academic year.
- Scholarship (144 students) and tuition assistance (35 students) for UW-Madison amounts to approximately \$1,943,187 this year.
- The AROTC cadets were recognized this year for exceeding all of the national Cadet Command Leadership and Assessment Camp averages for physical fitness, land navigation, overall “excellent” ratings for cadets, “Top 5” in 50-person platoon, and RECONDO overall skills. Seven cadets will complete a summer internship for the Cultural and Understanding Language Program in Rwanda, Vietnam, Ukraine, Thailand, and Costa Rica. Cadets also participated in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge competition, resulting in 15 gold, three silver, and two bronze medals.
- AROTC continues to lead in the “We Make a Difference” volunteer campaign and has been recognized by the City of Madison and the UW athletic department for its contributions. The Badger Battalion uses the Lakeshore Nature Preserve for training and performs trail maintenance in the fall.
- The OEC interviewed Lt. Col. Allen Henderson on April 13, 2012 and unanimously approved endorsement of his nomination to succeed Lt. Col. Pitz as the head of the Department of Military Science.

Air Force: The Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force ROTC) operates under the supervision of Lt. Col. Todd Berge at 1433 Monroe Street, across from Camp Randall Sports Center. The unit consists of three officers, two non-commissioned officers (NCO), and one civilian (secretary). Lt. Col. Berge, UW-Madison '93, assumed command of the unit in the summer of 2010.

- As of fall 2011, the total cadet enrollment was 85 students, including 8 Maranatha Baptist Bible College and 11 UW-Whitewater cadets who commute to participate in the UW-Madison program.
- The graduation projection for academic year 2011-2012 is twelve cadets. Funding, including scholarships and a stipend, is currently being provided to 40 cadets and totals about \$500,000 annually.
- The highlight of the past year was undoubtedly our detachment winning the Right of Line Award for best small detachment in the nation! This was the first time Detachment 925 has won this award. There were a total of 45 small detachments last year. We have been recognized in numerous media articles, and it has been a great recruiting tool. We have also been lauded for being one of only four

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detachments in the Northwest region to be in the top ten of 36 region detachments for both physical fitness scores and GPA.

- The unit achieved a recruiting record of 30 new students this year. A continued emphasis in recruiting should help the unit reach the Air Force's expected graduation rate of 15 per year despite budget pressures limiting the number of AFROTC scholarship awards.

Concerns and Recommendations: The primary concern for the ROTC detachments at UW-Madison is physical space. Short-term space and facilities issues have been addressed for the Army and Air Force programs. However, the Naval program will need to relocate as construction of the new Wisconsin Energy Institute building continues. There are also longer-term concerns for the other services as current facilities age and the programs grow. A dedicated new building would enhance the competitiveness of the UW-Madison ROTC program and provide more efficient use of space that could be shared by the three units. A plan for a new joint ROTC facility on Lot 16 is in the concept stage, and next year the OEC and the director of OEP intend to present formally the plan to the Campus Planning Committee for consideration in the 2015-2017 campus biennial budget.

OFFICER EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP – 2011-2012

Associate Professor Todd Allen, Engineering Physics
Professor Mark Etzel, Food Science
Assistant Professor John Hall, History
Professor Jane Hutchison, Art History
Professor James Johannes (director of Officer Education Programs), Business
Professor Marshall Onellion, Physics
Professor Carl Sovinec (chair), Engineering Physics
Professor John Sharpless, History

Ex officio

Provost Paul DeLuca
Lt Col Christopher Eichorst (Air Force)
Capt Russell Haas (Navy)
Lt Col Jay Pitz (Army)

Consultants:

Kris Ackerbauer (US Navy Ret)
John Bechtol (US Army Ret)