
Officer Education Committee Annual Report for 2016-2017

Military education at the University of Wisconsin-Madison dates from 1866 when the University became a Land Grant institution under the Morrill Land Grant Act of 1862. The Act required the teaching of “military science,” however, for many years it involved little more than a required drilling exercise for all male students. The National Defense Act of 1916 established the Reserve Officer Training Corp (ROTC) and a formal program of instruction augmented practice on the field. In 1923, military training became optional at the University.

During World War II the University of Wisconsin continued its commitment to providing well-trained servicemen and women for the America’s Armed Forces. In 1942, Regent President A. J. Glover, in his annual message to the University Alumni, bragged that twelve hundred sailors were enrolled in the radio code and communications school; 480 ‘Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service’ (WAVES) were being trained as radio operators; an Institute of Correspondence Education for Army and Navy personnel was in operation and 2,600 students were enrolled in ROTC. For many decades the Old Red Gym served as the home for ROTC programs. Beginning in the early 1960’s ROTC classes, and eventually the headquarters for all three units, were moved to other temporary facilities around campus. The temporary homes for ROTC Programs have changed numerous times over the years, even though the Army and Navy were assured by campus as early as the late 1940’s that they would soon have new permanent headquarters.

The University of Wisconsin – Madison has continued to meet its Land Grant obligation. Indeed, this is one of a few universities that offers students the opportunity to earn a commission in any of the three armed services. We host three departments: Military Science, Naval Science which includes the Marines and Aerospace Studies. The Regents’ contracts with the services provide that each program has full departmental status and enjoys privileges comparable to those of other academic departments on campus. Faculty status is granted to the Commanding officers in the programs [Faculty Policies and Procedures (FPP) 1.02.-1.03.].

The Officer Education Committee [FPP 6.47] consists of the following members: The provost; eight faculty members, one of whom serves as the director of Officer Education Programs; and the commanders of the Officer Education Programs who are ex officio and nonvoting, in addition to four consultants.

Its primary charge is to recommend policy relating to Officer Education Programs. The academic components of the Officer Education Program (OEP) operate under the supervision of the Officer Education Committee (OEC). Members of the committee are chosen from a wide range of departments and disciplines. The Committee on Committees is delegated to make the faculty appointments to the OEC. 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 are currently on University staff. 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 consultants to the OEC and the ROTC programs.

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 2016-17 budget (101) contribution of \$199,463 includes funding for administrative 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. Courses offered by the ROTC programs 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 have established 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, the amount depending on their year in college. Subsequent to graduation, commissioned officer graduates are obligated to serve various periods of time on active duty or in the reserves.

Navy-Marine Corps: The Department of Naval Science and Naval Reserve Officers' Training Corps (NROTC) program, located at 1620 University Avenue, operates under the leadership of Captain Christopher Murdoch. Naval ROTC continues its primary focus on preparing midshipmen for active duty service as officers in the Navy and Marine Corps. Naval ROTC is staffed by five active-duty Navy and Marine Corps officers, one senior non-commissioned officer, two federal civilian employees, and one University of Wisconsin classified employee.

- Naval ROTC commissioned 29 (21 Navy, 8 Marine) officers for active duty service during the period covered by this report. All officers are commissioned into the unrestricted line of the Navy or into the Marine Corps—this program does not produce officers for reserve service. Naval officers are assigned into the aviation, submarine, surface, or special warfare communities. Program size remains at approximately 70 midshipmen.
- As reported on the January 2016 annual Equal Opportunity Survey, 19% of midshipmen were female, 7% identified themselves as minority, and 7% declined to report.
- During the week before the start of classes, Naval ROTC conducts Student Orientation Week at Ft. McCoy, WI for the entire battalion. All returning and prospective midshipmen complete training designed to prepare them for service as Navy or Marine Corps officers.
- Early in the fall semester each year, Wisconsin Naval ROTC hosts a drill meet with several other university NROTC teams competing. Wisconsin placed overall first in 2014 and second in 2015. Each spring the midshipmen travel to an away drill meet—in 2015 to Colorado and to Villanova in 2016.
- Naval ROTC midshipmen participate as a battalion in three major service events each year—one each in support of the university, the broader community, and veterans. Blood drives each semester and clean-up of the Lakeshore Preserve are typical. In April 2015, Naval ROTC hosted 50 Vietnam-era veterans for a breakfast and presentation of the Vietnam service pin as part of the National Commemoration. Many veterans in

attendance had never been thanked for their service. Additionally, midshipmen participate in hundreds of service events each year, as individuals or in smaller groups, including polar plunge, Habitat for Humanity, color guard and many others.

- In October 2014 the Navigation classroom at the naval armory received a major renovation with the installation of the Mariner Skills Simulator computer lab. During the summers of 2015 and 2016, the classrooms, offices and drill deck in the naval armory were renovated. Additionally, security was improved through installation of cameras and card access systems. The Alumni Association facilitated renovation of our Wall of Honor honoring alumni of Naval ROTC who sacrificed all.
- Naval ROTC hosts a formal military ball each semester. The Fall 2015 event was held jointly with Army and Air Force ROTC at the Monona Terrace Convention Center. Springs balls welcome families and feature presentation of performance awards.
- Naval ROTC sends 3-5 midshipmen to the Notre Dame Leadership Conference each spring.
- In Spring 2016, midshipman Alexander Fox was awarded the prestigious Herfurth award from the University.
- Each summer, midshipmen participate in training at bases, on ships, and in squadrons throughout the Fleet. Of note, in 2016 two midshipmen were assigned to squadrons embarked on deployed aircraft carriers and one aboard a Japanese warship. Marine midshipmen complete Officer Candidate School during the summer before their senior year.
- Naval ROTC hosted several distinguished guests during the period of this report, including the Vice Chief of Naval Operations, Commander, Naval Service Training Command, and Deputy Commander, Navy Recruiting Command. Throughout the year, Naval ROTC hosts representatives from the five warfare communities, as well as distinguished speakers who interact with and mentor the midshipmen.
- Scholarship and other payments to the University and midshipmen in the program was approximately \$1.2 million during the past academic year.
- Naval ROTC welcomes campus leadership and departments, including athletics and admissions, to display a much greater degree of support for the Naval ROTC program. This support could take the form of attendance at any of the many events held each semester, increased visibility in campus media, interaction with the midshipmen, or other recognition of Wisconsin students who are preparing to take the commissioning oath in defense of the country.

Army: The Department of Military Science (AROTC) operates under the supervision of LTC Katie J. Blue, Professor of Military Science. Their headquarters is located at 1910 Linden Drive. The Badger Battalion is the largest of the three ROTC entities, with current staffing set at four officers, two noncommissioned officers, three Department of Army Civilians, one contractor, and one University Services Associate. It receives supplementary support from the Wisconsin National Guard with two additional officers and four noncommissioned officers. Personnel are spread out over three campuses: UW-Madison, UW-Whitewater, and Maranatha Baptist University.

- On the UW-Madison Campus 116 students are enrolled in AROTC (Army Reserve Officer Training Corps) classes (AROTC 100 and 200 level courses), of which many are UW student-athletes [football, basketball, men's and women's hockey, rowing, etc.]; the remaining 75 are either contracted, non-contracted, or participating in AROTC program

classes. AROTC includes students from other nearby colleges: 3 cadets from Edgewood College; 29 Cadets from UW-Whitewater and 17 Cadets from Maranatha Baptist University in Watertown. In total from all campuses 95 Cadets are actively pursuing a commission and currently contracted with the program and 28 Cadets are seeking to contract. The remaining students are “participating students” who complete the Military Science classes as an academic student, but are not formally enlisted or pursuant to the program. AROTC expects to commission 20 cadets this academic year and recently commissioned 2 in December 2016. Currently 15% of AROTC students are women, and minorities make up 10% of AROTC’s contracted population.

- Scholarship payments to the university total \$586,399 with a total of \$1,058,260 federal dollars being paid which includes tuition, stipends, book allowances, and training.
- The UW-Madison program was named number one program in a Brigade of 42 Universities in FY 2016 based on Administration, Training and Operations, Logistics, and Recruiting. Additionally, the program was number one overall in the category of Logistics.
- Over the summer, cadets participated in a multitude of summer training and internship opportunities. 27 Cadets attended Advanced Camp and 9 Cadets attended Basic Camp at Fort Knox, KY. Each is a period of 28 training days. UW-Madison AROTC Cadets have been recognized throughout the previous academic year for exceeding the Cadet Command Advanced Camp national averages for Physical Fitness and overall performance. During the school year, cadets attend two field training exercises and competed in what is considered the “Varsity” sport of Army ROTC, Ranger Challenge. 11 Cadets completed a summer internship abroad for the Cultural and Understanding Language Program in Colombia, Madagascar, Honduras, Estonia, Rwanda, Chile, and Panama. Two Cadets participated in Project GO. 10 Cadets participated in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and 16 Cadets traveled to White Sands, New Mexico, to participate in the Bataan Memorial Death March – a 26.2 mile march to remember the U.S. and Filipino soldiers who surrendered to Japanese forces during WWII and were forced to march 65 miles in the Philippines.
- The program has made great strides to extend the sphere of influence of the AROTC unit on campus and within the community; improving upon mutually beneficial relationships with both the University Athletic and Academic Departments alike. Some of the more notable contributions and involvements include the following: spearheading the Lakeshore Cleanup Project in appreciation for land use and community outreach, establishing an Army ROTC Alumni Association inducting four new Hall of Fame members, recognizing the first two national ROTC Hall of Fame Inductees, continued support and integration with the End Violence on Campus (EVOCC) organization, continuing to promote diversification through dedicated Cadre supported recruitment efforts.
- The Hilldale Fund continues to sponsor a “Staff Ride” for graduating Cadets. Last years’ Staff Ride was focused on Vietnam which allowed an opportunity for discussion of the events which transpired on campus. All three ROTC programs are Vietnam 50th Commemorative Partners – a federally funded program recognizing Vietnam Era Veterans that served between 1 November 1965 and 1 May 1975.

Air Force: The Department of Aerospace Studies (Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps or AFROTC) -Detachment 925 - operates under the supervision of Lt Col Gregory Goar, UW-Madison '93, and is located at 1433 Monroe Street across from the Camp Randall Memorial Sports Center. The Air Force unit consists of three officers, two Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), and one University of Wisconsin classified employee (administrative assistant). Detachment 925 continues to set the standard in developing the best Air Force officer candidates, nationwide! We are focused on recruiting, retaining and cultivating a diverse population of high-achieving, college-aged students with a passion to serve their country. This is accomplished by actively engaging high school and undergraduate students through recruiting events and one-on-one informational sessions, providing an avenue for enjoyable and challenging group events, focused on cadet esprit de corps and resiliency, and by providing an exceptional learning environment through classroom studies, leadership opportunities and physical training. As of fall 2016, the total cadet enrollment was 70 students including; 2 from Maranatha Baptist University, 6 from UW-Whitewater and 2 from Madison College, all who commute to participate in the UW-Madison program.

- The commissioning class projected for academic year 2016-17 is 14 cadets. Funding, including scholarships, textbooks and a stipend currently being provided to 49 cadets (70% of enrollment), totals about \$916,500, annually.
- Physical fitness and academic excellence continue to be hallmarks of Detachment 925. We are currently ranked #3 of 145 detachments nationwide, measured by our Physical Fitness Assessment average, and are continuing to return to the top. Academically, our detachment ranks in the top 40 nationally, with a combined cumulative grade point average of 3.28. Overall, the program was named the #1 medium-sized detachment in the Northwest Region for the last academic year!
- Currently, over 28% of our cadets are female, which is above the Active Duty Air Force demographic. While the Air Force places a high emphasis on recruiting for diversity, our unit continues to reflect the typical composition of Wisconsin's communities. Efforts are being made to improve recruitment among minority groups.
- This summer will prove exceptionally challenging to many of our cadets, as 13 cadets look forward to field training, and 3 of our cadets will study foreign cultures, either domestically or abroad, through the Project Global Officer program - a collaborative effort between host universities and the Department of Defense.

Concerns and Recommendations: The primary concern for the ROTC detachments at UW-Madison is physical space and access to campus facilities for mandatory training requirements. The Naval program will need to relocate for the planned construction of the new Wisconsin Energy Institute building. Program growth in scope and education technology requirements also presents serious physical space challenges. New dedicated share space for all ROTC detachments will assure the national competitiveness of the UW-Madison ROTC program and continues the campus commitment to officer education. A plan for a new joint ROTC facility on Lot 16 is in the concept stage for consideration in the 2015-17 campus biennial budget. ROTC detachments at UW-Madison desire to be better integrated into the campus community and their significant accomplishments be recognized in University communications similarly to the accomplishments of other campus units. These concerns have been conveyed to University leadership.