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2007–2008 Annual Report
Department of Military Science

Program Highlights

The Department of Military Science had a particularly successful year, as demonstrated by the placement of cadets high on the National Order of Merit List (OML). This placement, combined with other quality indicators, led the Brigade Commander to designate the program as the top small Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Program in the four-state area covered by the Brigade. This continuing dedication to quality coincides with a change in leadership, and the splitting of the Stevens Point Program from UW-Stout and UW-River Falls. In August, Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Jeff Kurka took over as Professor of Military Science (PMS) from LTC Scott Bolstad, who continued as the PMS of the Stout and River Falls Programs. This transition marked the formal splitting of UW-Stevens Point ROTC from these former partnerships. With the new alignment, UW-Stevens Point ROTC's success in meeting its mission and in being rated so high in overall quality is all attributable to the training program. The training program focuses on developing each cadet's leadership abilities through practical leadership experiences and constant personal feedback. The level of individual concentration that each cadet receives allows them to grow and meet their full potential as future Army officers. Last year the program graduated eight from the Leadership Development and Assessment Camp at Fort Lewis, Washington. These cadets' performance at LDAC, combined with their academic performance and extracurricular community involvement, ensured their high placement on the National OML. This summer we have eight attending training at Fort Lewis for LDAC, two attending Airborne School, one attending Air Assault School, and one cadet completed Mountain Warfare School during the winter term. The ability of the UW-Stevens Point cadets to continue to attend and pass these very demanding training schools is another indication of the extremely high quality of officers produced at this institution.

Partnerships

With the official separation of the UW-Stevens Point and the UW-Stout ROTC programs, Stevens Point retains two important partnerships at UW Marshfield and UW Marathon County. During the 2007–2008 school year, instructors from UW-Stevens Point ROTC instructed a total of 24 students at these two-year campuses, with 12 of the 24 planning on attending UW-Stevens Point to continue with the ROTC program. With added effort it is clear that these programs will help to increase the program's outreach providing students at these two-year institutions an opportunity to be developed into Army officers.

Focus on Teaching/Active Learning

The Department of Military Science prides itself on ensuring that our cadets receive the best leadership development training available. To achieve the results that we have requires a great deal of real-world leadership experiences and thorough critiques from proven leaders to hone

the subtle nuances of the leadership dynamic. It is not enough to simply tell someone how to be a leader; through physical fitness training that is entirely cadet-run, to lab, and certainly including summer training, we push cadets to learn their own personal leadership approach. Every phase of the curriculum is designed to improve the critical communications skills necessary to lead people in demanding environments.

Diversity/International

Because our Army is a diverse institution, the Department of Military Science works hard to recruit minorities as officers. Without this representation at the highest levels of leadership within the Army, minorities will be underrepresented when decisions are made. This is a mission given by the Commanding General of Cadet Command and pursued through many avenues on and off campus. This year we have made recruiting visits to the Chicago and Milwaukee areas visiting high schools, and offering scholarships to qualified students who would like to pursue a commission at UW-Stevens Point. This has paid off with our first three four year scholarship cadets since 2004, and two of the three will represent diversity on this campus. In addition to pursuing diversity within our program, we sent four cadets overseas this year for cultural immersion training at different sites all over the world. This training is crucial to officer development, because it provides the understanding and appreciation of other cultures so necessary to work with those cultures during deployments, once commissioned. The final element of our push for diversity is the stressing of cultural awareness that is part of the curriculum at every level of the cadet's development.

Student-centered Excellence

During the 2007-2008 school year, two of our eight Commissionees earned the Chancellor's Leadership Award, and two were nominated for the University Leadership Award. Second Lieutenant James Gruenewald was selected for the prestigious Army Physician's Assistant School, for which only 10 cadets nationwide were admitted. Six of the eight Commissionees were selected for Regular Army active duty, and one is going on active duty with the Wisconsin Army National Guard. The average placement of UW-Stevens Point Cadets on the National OML was in the top 33 percent.

Community Service

The Department of Military Science actively participates in a number of community service events each year. This year we participated in Adopt-a-Highway cleanup, and spent a number of hours working along Highway 54 to Wisconsin Rapids. As a Department, we support Color Guards throughout the area and across the University. Our cadets also volunteer for on-campus and off-campus service, and we encourage such service by providing credit for this service when they assess onto the National OML.

Life and Look of Campus

The Department of Military Science sponsored three campus-wide events this year that played a part in making the campus a more vibrant community. One event was the sponsoring of a large Video Game Contest in the DeBot Center where 80 students from the campus participated on a Friday evening, providing an alternative to parties. We also sponsored a sports event, and took all of the participating students (just taking an ROTC class, not a contracted cadet) in our classes up to Fort McCoy for weekend. These experiences give students on the campus more choices for participation in the things that interest them, making their college experience more full and more satisfying. Finally, our cadets are very active in student government, with five of them serving terms in next year's government. Specifically for our cadets, we held social events with a Dining In for the fall and a formal Military Ball in the spring. These events definitely add to the overall life of our cadets.

Individual, Family, Community Wellness

Each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday morning throughout the school year, the Department of Military Science meets at the HEC for the Military fitness class offered by the department. Through this class we challenge our cadets to push themselves to achieve personal fitness goals while preparing themselves for a physically demanding career as an officer. In addition to the cadets, the entire faculty of the department is also there as well as 10 to 15 students who take the class for wellness credit. By being out on campus early and actively demonstrating the invigorating lifestyle of an Army Cadet, wellness as a community is encouraged. I have been told by many students that it is hard to walk by our students in the morning and not feel motivated to get out and work out as well. A very large part of the ROTC curriculum also focuses on maintaining health from diet to fitness to leading a balanced life; ROTC encourages and demonstrates wellness in all that we do.

Stewardship of Natural Resources

During the 2007–2008 school year, the Department of Military Science has focused on recruiting officers that enter into the College of Natural Resources because of the missions of the Army, which is facing many environmental challenges all over the world. Specifically in Iraq, the need for expertise in this field to help address these challenges is crucial to success. For this reason, UW-Stevens Point is perfectly positioned to help the Army provide this expertise through the officers it produces. Aside from the campus-wide programs in which all of the departments participate, Military Science is uniquely able to affect the environment half a world away. Whenever we go to high schools, we always highlight the College of Natural Resources programs as a great reason to come pursue a commission as an officer at UW-Stevens Point.

Communication and the Arts

Twenty-five percent of the cadets in the ROTC program are in fine arts programs on this campus. Their participation in these programs is generally a good fit for the communications skills they need as Army officers.

Development

During the 2007–2008 school year, the Department of Military Science actively sought to contact as many of our alumni as possible, and we always welcome them to our Spring Military Ball. Through this event, alumni donated around \$700 to help defray the costs. The cadets worked hard through the school year to raise another \$1,100 for projects and events that we held.

UW and Outside Support

The Department of Military Science is almost entirely supported by federal funds. The salaries of the department are paid through federal funds, with the exception of the Officer Manager, who is provided by the university. The federal government also provides an operating budget that last year totaled \$64,000 for cadet uniforms and other training needs.

Each cadet who is contracted receives through ROTC full tuition, an average stipend of \$400 per month, and \$1,200 per semester for books and other incidentals, and most cadets receive GI Bill kickers for ROTC participation.

Added to the salaries and the federally provided budget, the department brings roughly \$1.1 million to the campus each year.