From the Professor of Military Science

Alumni, Family, Friends and Cadets of the Northwoods Battalion,

It has been an eventful semester here in the “Northwoods.” Since my arrival in the summer, many changes have occurred at each of your Universities.

We commissioned our 79th Lieutenant in August. Second Lieutenant (2LT) Tim Nelson is another great example of the Northwoods tradition of producing quality Lieutenants for our Army. We learned recently that Tim scored a 416 on his APFT at Armor Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC); 100 points better than the next best score for his BOLC class – Wow!

As I write this, we will be commissioning seven more 2LTs in December - A remarkable milestone considering our battalion’s short history. We will hold our winter commissions this year at UWS and UWEC.

This newsletter is just one of many new initiatives our Cadets have started. You can read about some of the others in the pages that follow.

Finally, if you are alumni of the Northwoods Battalion, one of our Cadets will be contacting you next semester in an effort to lay the groundwork for some exciting new initiatives. I hope we can count on your support and if there are ideas or suggestions you have to improve the program, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you and I look forward to my next couple of years in the Northwoods!

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SPECIAL THANKS!
The Northwoods Battalion would like to recognize the efforts of Lieutenant Colonel Brian Stout and the many great things he did for the program. LTC Stout retired shortly after turning the battalion over to LTC Pindell and is now working at UW-Sheboygan as the Assistant Campus Dean. LTC Stout oversaw the transition of a new up-and-coming program to one that consistently produces top-notch Lieutenants. If you see him or talk to him, please thank him for his many accomplishments.

2013 Winter Commissioning

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<th>Company</th>
<th>Cadet Name</th>
<th>MOS/Corps</th>
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<tr>
<td>UW-Stout</td>
<td>Charles Beaton</td>
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<td>Joshua Peterson</td>
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<td>UW–Eau Claire</td>
<td>Isaiah Eaton</td>
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<td>Daniel LaVoy</td>
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<td>Joshua Sprunk</td>
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<td>UW-River Falls</td>
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Congratulations to these Cadets and welcome to the ranks of the Northwoods alumni.
Fall Frenzy
Ranger Challenge, FTX, Dining-In

The Northwoods Battalion hit the ground running for the Fall 2013 Semester. For the returning MS-IIIIs, now IVs, the summer “vacation” was anything but relaxing as they were evaluated at the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Washington State. The first major event of the semester was a much-needed picnic for the Cadets and Cadre of the battalion. The highlight of the picnic, beyond camaraderie and good chow, were hails & farewells given to the Cadre and the faculty members joining and leaving the battalion.

Immediately following the picnic, all three schools began to train for the annual Ranger Challenge competition. Stout, Eau Claire, and River Falls each produced two teams to participate at the Task-Force level competition held at Fort McCoy, WI. Due to the government shutdown, Cadets assembled on 12 OCT at the UW-Stout campus for a condensed version of the challenge. Cadets were scored on several events including an APFT, two hand-written knowledge tests, a 10k road march, a timed one-rope bridge emplacement, and a 4-mile run. The Blue Devil Company 9-Cadet team won Battalion honors, but was not able to advance to the next stage of the competition.

The next weekend, The Northwoods Battalion conducted its own Field Training Exercise (FTX). The Cadets completed a Day and Night Land Navigation course at Hoffman Hills near Menomonie, WI. After a peaceful night’s slumber in the Multi-Purpose-Room at UW-Stout’s Fitness Center, the Cadets had an early wake up with a chilly ruck march to start the day. Once they completed the ruck march, the Cadets were split into three squads and began Situational Training Exercises (STX) at Lake Menomin Park. The MS-IIIIs were evaluated by Cadre and MS-IVs when in leadership positions.

The Battalion conducted its first annual Dining-In this fall at the UW-River Falls campus. The Dining-In consisted of a skit, jokes and gags, a guest speaker, dinner and a grog ceremony. Each Commander and Executive Officer from each campus brought an item to add to the grog, such as Sunny Delight, Chocolate Syrup, Toy Edible Soldiers, and other bizarre ingredients.
Initiatives I
Contracting Board

Master Sergeant (MSG) Ivan Johnson, our Senior Military Instructor (SMI), continues to perform his duties from the offices at UW-Eau Claire and is busy overseeing many new initiatives for the battalion.

One of these initiatives is the Northwoods Battalion Contracting Board. Similar to a Soldier of the Month Board, Cadets must be nominated by their APMS and have outstanding potential to serve as an officer. The board’s composition is designed to ensure each university has a vote in who earns the privilege to become part of the Northwoods’ tradition. MSG Johnson serves as the Board President and selects Cadre from each university to serve as board members.

Additionally, one MSIV is selected to serve as a board member to ensure that senior Cadets have a vote on who they welcome into the fraternity. We conducted two boards this semester and the results and feedback from Cadets and Cadre are positive.

Congratulations to the following Cadets who were boarded and contracted in the fall:

- Tyler Adamczak (UWEC)
- Emily Huro (UWS)
- James Bremser (UWEC)
- Daniel McGlew (UWS)
- Austin Merritt (UWEC)
- Nathan Turner (UWS)
- Jacob Oldenberg (UWEC)

UW-Stout
February “Month of Love” Campaign

UW-Stout University Advancement is conducting a “Month of Love” campaign asking students, alumni, faculty and staff that are willing to share a story, moment, or a video with them, so they can, in turn, share it on Facebook.

There are a few ways to go about this:

1. Send your story, memory, or video to University Advancement so that they can post it.
2. Post your own story, memory or video on the Facebook page: https://www.facebook.com/stoutalumni?ref=br_tf
3. Comment, Like, or Share any of the posts you enjoy or think other alumni and students may enjoy.

If you are posting, we would like to have everyone use #ILoveUWStout

The weeks are broken down as follows:
- Week 1 is "Why I love UW-Stout"
- Week 2 is "We fell in love at UW-Stout"
- Week 3 is "Friendships made at UW-Stout"
- Week 4 is "Legacy Families"

Alumni

If you are alumni of the Northwoods Battalion, one of our Cadets will be contacting you in the spring in an effort to lay the groundwork for some exciting new initiatives. Part of this will be financial support, but we would also like to reach out to each of you and see if you are willing to mentor a Cadet (gets at the ownership discussed later). As most of you know, mentorship is vital to the development of junior officers - and who better to do this than fellow alumni. Our initial hope is to link our senior Cadets with alumni of their component and branch, in an effort to provide each Cadet initial insight into what life may be like as a 2LT. If you are interested, please let us know. If there are ideas or suggestions you have to improve the program, please do not hesitate to contact us. Finally, tell us your story so we can include it in one of our future newsletters. Thanks to 2LT Rossow for sharing the below picture.
Blue Devil Company
UW-Stout

Before classes started this semester, the University of Wisconsin – Stout hosted its annual Backyard Bash. University organizations and clubs gathered on the main lawn to promote and advertise their organizations. Blue Devil Company utilized the event to facilitate an opportunity for Cadets and Cadre to speak with incoming freshman and potential recruits about leadership development, competing for financial assistance, Army careers, and the other numerous benefits of ROTC.

Along with recruiting opportunities, the Blue Devil Co is busy preparing the MS-IIIs for LDAC. Whether teaching first aid and special teams or conducting Combat Water Survival Training (CWST), the Blue Devils have been hard at work.

The fall semester of the year is geared towards teaching the MS-IIIs the basics of how to run a Situational Training Exercise (STX) lane. Each weekly lab or weekend training event is in the “crawl/walk” phase. By the spring semester, the MS-IIIs are expected to start “running” through the lanes on their own, demonstrating the necessary level of individual proficiency required for a successful performance at LDAC 2014.

Notes from the PMS

The landscape at UW-Stout has changed dramatically since my arrival. In addition to personnel turnover/loss in the ROTC department caused by many factors, the Chancellor has just announced his retirement signaling the end of 2½ decades of service to UW-Stout. With the changing of the guard comes many opportunities though, and I look forward to working with the new Chancellor on better facilities and ways to improve how ROTC contributes to life on campus.

Personnel loss and turnover remains a source of concern and led to a tumultuous semester. Sadly, Ms. Pam Hotchkiss left us in September. Pam was an outstanding Human Resources Assistant (HRA). We miss Pam already, as she was a vital asset to the battalion. Mr. Mike Butcher, the HRA from UW-Stevens Point (UWSP), is filling in as our interim HRA while we wait to backfill Pam. We also lost our APMS, CPT Jared Siverling; but in a bad news/good news twist, Jared was hired as our new Recruiting Operations Officer (ROO). Mr. Siverling will serve all three of our Universities, plus UWSP. Luckily, CPT Sunsdahl (Northwoods Battalion Executive Officer), Ms. Joy Evenson (UWS Secretary) and Mr. Phil Grape (Supply Technician) remain to provide some continuity at UWS. These three do yeoman’s work keeping this program afloat and I am thankful that we have them around serving our program.
Lumberjack Company
UW-Eau Claire

This summer and fall, the Lumberjacks focused on community involvement; the main goal was to create better public relations in order to give the Eau Claire community a better understanding of the ROTC program. For the first time in the Battalion history, the Lumberjacks were involved with a semi-pro WWE event: Declaration. Hosted in the Eau Claire downtown Ramada convention center, all proceeds from Declaration went towards the Eau Claire Mat Backers, a local high school wrestling club. The volunteer work was aided by the Chippewa Falls RSP unit and Northwoods Battalion. Cadets from UWEC performed as quasi-bouncers, ensuring that nobody “escaped” from the ring. In exchange for volunteering, each cadet was given a backstage pass; they also got to meet each wrestler prior to the event. There were numerous special guests, such as Matt Hardy and Luke Hawx, and each cadet was able to meet them as well. Efforts put forth by both the National Guard and UWEC ROTC made this event a huge success.

These events ranged from creating several floats for local parades to volunteer work for the Special Olympics and Veterans Affairs. In addition, the UWEC ROTC conducted color guards in support of community events. This emphasis on increased local involvement was a success, and will be sustained throughout this school year and beyond.

Personnel turnover was afoot for the UW-Eau Claire (UWEC) program also as Major Dan Walsh took the reigns as the new APMS. Dan replaces Captain Brad Frahm, who is leaving us for a deployment with the WIARNG. Dan, who also serves with the WIARNG, will begin the process of transitioning into new offices in the spring. With these new offices, UWEC has also offered up a new Cadet laboratory and dedicated classroom. This is great news for our UWEC program.
Falcon Company
UW-River Falls

The Falcon Company at University of Wisconsin-River Falls continued to train quality cadets this past year. Cadre and senior cadets ensured high level training was conducted while also creating a captivating program to maintain the interest of the MSI cadets. Cadets were taught basic soldier skills in labs and classes throughout the semester. They also conducted a Combat Water Survival Test to determine the ability of cadets to swim. Falcon cadets strived for awareness in the community by performing color guard at various events on campus such as the conference cross-country meet.

Falcon Company was able to assemble two teams for the Ranger Challenge competition. Due to the large number of MSI’s that participated and are continuing into the spring semester, River Falls is excited for next year’s event and will look to build on the experience that these young cadets gained.

At the UW-River Falls campus, Cadets were able to take a break from the usual labs. The Falcons were able to go skating while competing in races and other games. The Falcon Company held an Open House to give students the chance to ask questions and gain information about the ROTC program. The Open House was a success, and the program was able to recruit several new Cadets to the Battalion.

In the spirit of Christmas, the Falcons held their annual Secret Santa gift exchange. Cadets and Cadre were able to socialize while exchanging gifts and enjoying refreshments and snacks.

River Falls will proudly commission two cadets this December. Second Lieutenant Christopher Post will be serving as an active duty Infantry Officer while Second Lieutenant Melande Krupa will serve as an Army Reserve Transportation Officer.

Notes from the PMS

At UW-River Falls (UWRF), Mr. Tabb Benzinger, Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS), continues to make improvements in both the enrollment numbers and the quality of those we enroll in the program. This semester, we added Mrs. JoAnne Parks, our former Recruiting Operations Officer (ROO), to his team to help with the duties of running a partnership program. Looking forward, Tabb has secured the funding from the University to renovate the offices and construction will begin over the break. These renovations will go a long way to ensuring Cadre has the necessary privacy to conduct daily operations. We also expect to add a new Team 11 NCO from the WIARNG to round out Tabb’s team.
Spring Semester
Preparing for LDAC

As the Northwoods Battalion nears the beginning of a new semester, the focus turns to preparing the MS-III’s for their upcoming endeavor: LDAC. Now that the juniors have a basic knowledge of how to lead, it is time to shape and hone their skills during the spring semester as they take part in the annual Combined FTX, the Individual FTX (IFTX), and leadership labs.

The Combined Field Training Exercise is held each year just outside Tomah, WI at Fort McCoy. Cadets from schools all across Task Force McCoy, which encompasses every ROTC program in Wisconsin, will converge at the military institution for a weekend of leadership development and evaluation. MS-III’s will be broken into different squads that do not contain colleagues from their organic schools and will lead their new peers during a STX lane. While leading their squad, Cadets will be evaluated the same manner as at LDAC summer 2014. At the end of the weekend, the MS-III’s will be given a chance to rate their peers as well. The entire training event helps to show how well the Cadets work with others, especially with people they do not know.

Following the CFTX, the IFTX will focus on Cadets of the Northwoods Battalion. The Cadott School District is gracious enough to let the Northwoods Battalion utilize their school forest for Land Navigation and STX lanes. Here, the Cadets will get one more chance to sharpen their land navigation and leadership skills. The MS-III’s will not only be conducting more Squad STX lanes, but will also be exposed to Platoon size operations.

After the FTXs are complete, the final weeks of the Spring semester will shift focus from concentrating primarily on LDAC-bound MSIIIs and move to the senior MSIV Cadets as they prepare for their graduation from college and their commissioning as a brand-new second lieutenant into the United States Army. This capstone event of an ROTC career, which is typically held the same weekend as commencement, is the final result of countless hours and extraordinary efforts by young men and women as they pin on the gold bars of a new lieutenant, leave college, and begin their Army careers.

Initiatives II
Ownership

Another initiative we started this semester is the Northwoods “Ownership” Initiative. This initiative will ensure that our Cadets, Cadre/Staff, Deans/Chancellors/University Faculty/Staff, and Alumni “own” the Northwoods program. The continued success of the battalion depends on all doing their part.

Cadets have begun the process of “ownership” this semester by producing a storyboard for every training event we conduct. They have also planned and executed the Northwoods Inaugural Dining-In, which was a huge success and very well done. Additionally, they are in the final stages of producing recruiting videos for the battalion and each school in an effort to “tell our story.”

Cadre/Staff have moved into more of an oversight role as part of this initiative. Although counter-intuitive, stepping back and allowing the Cadets to plan and execute all events is also creating ownership at the Cadre/Staff Level. For example, our Cadet Battalion S4 now reports to and works with our Supply Technician. This has not only taught our Cadets the importance of supply discipline, but it has also taught them the difficulty of planning and executing logistics support for training.
Northwoods Battalion
University of Wisconsin – Stout
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin – River Falls

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