From the Professor of Military Science

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

It is hard to believe that another semester is over…and what a semester it was for our Cadets in the “Northwoods.” As I write this, we are finishing the semester and will be commissioning 11 more 2LTs in May and September – this will bring our total number of commissioned to 97!

This semester saw many firsts and I would like to highlight a few of them for you. We conducted our first SuperLab at Dunnsville Bottoms near Menomonie, bringing all of our companies together for their first integrated patrolling experience with the intent to better prepare the MSIIIs for the Task Force CFTX. The MSIVs conducted our first Staff Ride to the Tippecanoe Battlefield in Indiana. The Staff Ride is a three-phase professional development operation consisting of a battle analysis paper, a visit to the actual battle site to brief/discuss the battle on the actual terrain it was fought, and an AAR discussion focusing on the lessons learned. All should be proud of the effort put into these events and the outcome will benefit our Cadets for years to come.

As you read this newsletter, I challenge you to think of ways you can “give back” to the program. If you are alumni, money is always good and we can use it, but there are other ways to assist the program. If you are in the area, arrange to meet with our Cadets and discuss your experience. You could mentor a Cadet in your component and branch. We would also like to hear from you so we can add you to our Alumni Spotlight section – send a picture and tell us what you are doing and we will include you in future editions of the newsletter. Finally, provide us updated contact information so you can continue to receive future correspondence. I’ll add that if you are in touch with other alumni, encourage them to provide updated contact information as we are having difficulty locating quite a few of our alumni. 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 hearing from more of you as I continue my journey here in the Northwoods!

LTC K. Dave Pindell
Professor of Military Science
Commander, Northwoods Battalion (Army ROTC)
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2014 Spring Commissioning

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Congratulations to these Lieutenants and welcome to the ranks of the Northwoods alumni.
Spring Things:
Battalion Training Overview

To kick off the semester, eleven Northwoods Battalion (NW BN) Cadets traveled to Marquette University in Milwaukee from 7-9 February to compete for the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB). Cadets competed in multiple events, among them a pistol qualification, shuttle run, flexed arm hang, and ruck march. Depending on their scores in each event, Cadets earned a gold, silver, or bronze badge. Overall, the NW BN Cadets earned 5 golds, 4 silvers, and 2 bronze. Unlike some other ROTC awards, Cadets can wear the GAFPB on their dress uniform for the rest of their military careers.

Three weeks later, on 1 March, the University of Wisconsin-Stout hosted the NW BN’s Annual Military Ball. Cadets socialized and enjoyed the company of other Cadets and their guests during the catered dinner, guest speaker, and award ceremony - all followed by a dance. The Military Ball was a great event that recognized the Cadets’ accomplishments over the past year and allowed Cadets to experience a cherished Army tradition.

On 29 March, the NW BN conducted its first SuperLab at Dunnsville Bottoms near Menomonie. It consisted of several patrolling lanes with contingencies engineered to enhance the MSIII’s tactical leadership, increase the MSII’s squad leadership proficiency, and develop the MSI’s tactical skills. The patrolling lanes included key leader engagements (KLEs), capturing high value targets (HVTs), and reacting to contact from the hostile opposing forces (OPFOR).

The SuperLab marked the beginning of a busy training period for the NW BN, holding four training events in five weeks. The weekend following SuperLab, LTC Pindell and MAJ Sundsahd accompanied the entire MSIV class on their Staff Ride to Tippecanoe Battlefield, IN. MSIV Cadets wrote papers analyzing the Battle of Tippecanoe, and briefed the rest of the Staff Ride participants on a specific unit or leader from the battle while the group toured the battlefield. The trip was educational in nature, but also served to boost esprit de corps among the MSIV Cadets across the battalion. (overview continued on next page)
Battalion Training Overview (continued)

Building on the success of the Staff Ride, twenty-two NW BN Cadets went to Fort McCoy from 10-13 April to participate in the Task Force McCoy Combined Field Training Exercise (CFTX). The CFTX attempts to replicate the conditions at LDAC in order to better prepare the MSIII Cadets for success there. MSIII Cadets were integrated into squads with Cadets from other schools in TF McCoy, and collectively trained on day and night land navigation, patrolling, and garrison leadership. Severe thunderstorms shortened training on 12 April, but all MSIIIs were able to learn their strengths and weaknesses in order to better prepare themselves for LDAC.

A week after the CFTX, the NW BN held its annual Individual FTX (IFTX) at the Cadott School Forest from 25-27 April. This was the MSIII’s final ROTC training event before LDAC this summer, and gave them a chance to make adjustments based on their experiences at the CFTX. Cadets from all MS classes trained on a number of events, but primarily focused on day and night land navigation and patrolling lanes. During the patrolling lanes, Cadets and OPFOR used paintball guns to make the training more fun, but more importantly, it showed them how to operate in a tactical environment with swift consequences for errors (the stinging feeling of paintball rounds). This was a great chance for the MSIVs to closely watch and mentor the MSIII Cadets and give them final advice before they graduate in May and the MSIIIs leave for LDAC.

To end the training year, the NW BN held two commissioning ceremonies: one at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and one at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. On 16 May, the NW BN commissioned Second Lieutenants Allison Derthick, Bryan Donovan, Dietrich Henckel, Shane Smith, and Alexander Thornton. On 17 May, the NW BN commissioned Second Lieutenants Travis Blinkiewicz, Sean Bottin, Ian Dahm, and Ryan Sajdera. This summer, Cadets Daniel Channon and Peter Johnston will commission as Second Lieutenants. We wish them all the best of luck in their future Army careers.
NW BN Featured Alumnus: 1LT Ryan Matchey

First Lieutenant Ryan Matchey, a May 2012 graduate of UW-Eau Claire, recently graduated from Army flight school at Fort Rucker, AL. The course consisted of 8 weeks in the Aviation Basic Officer Leadership Course (BOLC), Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape (SERE) Training, 8 weeks of primary training in the TH-67 helicopter, 8 weeks of instrument flying, 4 weeks of basic warfighting skills in the OH-58 A/C, and 4 months in the Aircraft Qualification Course for the UH-60 A/L Blackhawk helicopter. Following flight school, he will be relocating to Phoenix, AZ, to serve in the Arizona Army National Guard as a platoon leader and combat aviator in the 2-285th Assault Helicopter Battalion.

ALL ALUMNI - The Northwoods Alumni Program is in its early stages and we need your help. You can help us in one of three ways. The first is to update your contact information so we have a way to contact you. The second is to reach out to other alumni in your year group and have them provide us with their contact information. The final way is to consider donating to our program. Although money would be nice, we do not currently have a centralized method of receiving your funding. UW-Stout alumni can continue to send money to us via the Stout Foundation; however, I am hesitant to ask UW-River Falls and UW-Eau Claire alumni to do so until we get approval for a centralized fund that can be distributed to any student in our battalion, regardless of university. Therefore, what we are really looking for right now is for you to donate your time to mentor a current Cadet or provide us an update so we can highlight your accomplishments in our next newsletter. To update your contact information, to volunteer to mentor a Cadet, or if you have questions related to the Alumni program, please contact our ROO, Mr. Jared Siverling, at siverlingj@uwstout.edu or call him at 715-933-0158.

Hails/Farewells:

Hail- Sergeant First Class Jeffrey Todd, UW-River Falls NCOIC. SFC Todd joined UW-River Falls ROTC this semester from Military Entrance Processing (MEPs) Command in Minneapolis, MN. We are delighted to have him here and look forward to working with him.

Farewell- Major Jared Sunsdahl, UW-Stout APMS and Northwoods BN XO. MAJ Sunsdahl served with the ROTC program at UW-Stout for two years. In that time, he was promoted to Major from Captain. From UW-Stout, he leaves for Ft. Leavenworth, KS, to attend the Intermediate-Level Education (ILE) Course this summer.
Blue Devil Company
UW-Stout

With a new semester starting, UW-Stout is in the full swing of things. We have begun our final preparations for our five MSIIIs who will be heading off to LDAC this summer at Fort Knox, KY. This semester’s focus and mission have changed from squad STX lanes to patrolling. The weather has not been ideal but cadets have been fighting the abundant amount of snow here in the Northwoods to get enough training in order to be prepared. Between weekly training labs, battalion, and task force training events, cadets of all MS levels have had the opportunity to lead others and grow as future officers.

With LDAC moving from Fort Lewis, Washington to Fort Knox, KY this year, cadets and cadre have had to be patient and adapt to the changes being made. Internal changes include MS IV’s taking ownership over the ROTC program, which now operates with minimal guidance from the cadre. This year’s MSIVs have set up UW-Stout’s program for future success that will make for a smooth transition into next year. We would like to thank our MSIVs who will be graduating and moving on to become officers in both the active and reserve components of the Army.

Notes from MAJ Jared Sunsdahl (UW-Stout APMS):
Another semester is in the books and the academic year is complete for UW-Stout Army ROTC. Blue Devil Company currently has 45 Cadets in Program and it is continuing to grow. It has been a busy semester for our Cadets as they have had numerous training events, social functions, and Army Physical Fitness tests. We had 5 Cadets participate and earn the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge at Marquette University this spring: Derek Mataczynski, Sam Knodle, Jeff Hilgendorf, Jeff Alden, and Peter Johnston. The last two months have involved heavy LDAC preparation for our MSIII Cadets: they participated in the CFTX, SuperLab, the IFTX, and numerous weekly labs/PT sessions. We are all very excited to see how they perform at LDAC this summer, especially since 2014 will be the first summer LDAC is held at Fort Knox, KY instead of Fort Lewis, WA. Best of luck to our MSIIIs! Congratulations to our MSIVs who will commission in May: Ian Dahm, Ryan Sajdera, and Travis Blinkiewicz. This is my final semester here at UW-Stout as the APMS before my permanent change of station (PCS) to Ft. Leavenworth this summer for ILE. I have absolutely enjoyed my time in Menomonie training and molding young college students into commissioned officers. I would like to thank all the Cadre, Cadets, and Staff for their camaraderie and support the last two years. BLUE DEVILS!
Blugold Company
UW-Eau Claire

This semester, Blugold Company trained in earnest to set its MSIIIs up for success at LDAC. After refresher labs on first aid, drill and ceremony, basic rifle marksmanship, and squad STX, the focus shifted to platoon tactics. Blugold Company trained on campus when the weather made outdoor training unsafe, but coordinated with the WIARNG 128th IN Armory to use their wooded training areas and also utilized the nearby Wells training areas for patrolling.

In addition to the usual weekly leadership labs PT sessions, Blugold Company hosted two guest speakers on campus to provide students and Cadets with potential career options. SFC Mitchell Dolan, the Wisconsin State AMEDD recruiter, came to campus to provide information to students on careers in the Army Medical Department. Later in the semester, Senior Special Agent Robert Schmidt of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms (ATF) and Explosives came to speak with students and Cadets about career opportunities in federal law enforcement.

Notes from MAJ Dan Walsh (UWEC APMS): As my first year at UW-Eau Claire ends, I am extremely optimistic about where our program is at now and where it is going. We are sending six Cadets to LDAC this summer and commissioned four more Second Lieutenants this past semester. We increased our community involvement this year and raised campus awareness of the program, all the while training Cadets to be future leaders in the Army. UW-Eau Claire ROTC has strong Cadets in all MS classes and continues to produce quality officers. Our future is bright, and I look forward to what it has in store for us. Go Blugolds!
Falcon Company
UW-River Falls

This semester, Falcon Company worked hard to prepare our MSIIIs for LDAC while also retaining our large number of MSI and MSII Cadets. We battled the cold during this brutal Wisconsin winter to conduct patrolling labs to keep us on track for LDAC, but also conducted labs designed to build morale. One example was the “Bowl-a-Thon” that raised monies (over $1,400) to help offset training costs for the company. Another especially fruitful lab was the weapons introduction lab where MSI cadets had the opportunity to get hands-on experience with different weapons from a Wisconsin National Guard infantry unit.

Falcon Company Cadets set the program up for success next year by working at several Campus Visit Days (CVDs) in order to recruit incoming freshman and by conducting an Open House to recruit current students. Events like these are great opportunities to talk to students about ROTC and what ROTC can do for them. In addition to recruiting new Cadets, Falcon Company had several get-togethers, such as movie nights, as a way of allowing Cadets to get to know each other in a less formal setting than training. These social gatherings increased camaraderie, helped us retain more Cadets for next semester, and helped create lasting friendships between Cadets.

Notes from MAJ (Ret) Tabb Benzinger (UWRF APMS): We have just finished another glorious, strong semester of work here in Falcon territory. Our Cadets continue to develop into the leaders of tomorrow by actively participating in Field Training Exercises (FTXs), Leadership Labs, fundraising events, and social gatherings. Faculty and staff here continually remind me about the superior character and professionalism of our Cadets. I am excited to witness the fruits of our labor as three Falcon Cadets depart for training this summer. Cadets Andrew Usher and Seunghwan Kim will train at LDAC in Ft. Knox, KY, and Cadet Hannah Hathaway will train at Cadet Field Training (CTF) at West Point, NY. Our program continues to improve in quality and quantity. Our future is so bright, we have to wear shades. We bid a fond farewell and good luck to our two graduating seniors, Dietrich Henckel and Sean Bottin. There is no doubt in my military mind that both officers will make a valuable impact with the MNARNG. Thanks to both for willingly investing in our ROTC program. Your efforts have left a lasting mark on the program for all to emulate. Falcon Right!
Summer Training and Beyond

The Northwoods Battalion does not stop training after the academic year ends. Listed below are Cadets and spring commissionees and the different types of training they will be attending this summer and beyond. Training is in 2014 unless otherwise noted.

Legend:
AMEDD: Army Medical Department, AR- Armor, AV- Aviation, BOLC: Basic Officer Leadership Course, CFT: Cadet Field Training, CM: Chemical Corps, CTLT: Cadet Troop Leader Training, CULP: Cultural Language Proficiency Program, EN: Engineer, JBLM: Joint Base Lewis-McChord, LDAC: Leadership Development and Assessment Course, LTC: Leader's Training Course, MI: Military Intelligence, MP: Military Police Corps, MS: Medical Service Corps, SC: Signal Corps

**UW-Eau Claire**

Wesley Adams will attend Combatives Level II training at Ft. Douglas, WI from 14-25 July.

James Bremser will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 13 July-11 August.

Gregory Carter will attend CTLT at Ft. Campbell, KY from 1 June-21 June. After that, he will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 22 June-21 July.

Allison Derthick will attend BOLC (MP) at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO from 8 July-6 November.

Bryan Donovan will attend BOLC (MS) at Ft. Sam Houston, TX from 14 October-19 December.

Jacob Oldenberg will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 16 June-15 July.

Tyler Olson will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 22 June-21 July. After that, he will attend CTLT from 22 July-10 August.

Shane Smith will attend BOLC (CM) at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO from 14 June-19 October 2015.

Cody Thompson will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 7 June-6 July. After that, he will serve his AMEDD Internship at Madigan Hospital, JBLM, WA from 6 July-27 July.

Alexander Thornton will attend BOLC (MI) at Ft. Huachuca, AZ from 17 January-1 May 2015.

Chad Wanek will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 10 June-10 July. After that, he will attend CTLT at Ft. Lewis, WA from 10 July-1 August.

**UW-River Falls**

Sean Bottin will attend BOLC (AR) at Ft. Benning, GA from 13 January-29 May 2015.

Hannah Hathaway will attend CFT at West Point, NY from 30 June-29 July.

Dietrich Henckel will attend BOLC (AV) at Ft. Rucker, AL from 22 January-27 March 2015.

Seunghwan Kim will attend CULP in South Korea from 11 May-10 June. After that, he will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 11 June-10 July.

Andrew Usher will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 11 June-10 July.

**UW-Stout**

Jeffrey Alden will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 11 June-10 July.

Travis Blinkiewicz will attend BOLC (EN) at Ft. Leonard Wood, MO from 2 June-22 October.

Ian Dahm will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 20 May-7 July as a Headquarters Assistant Operations Officer. After that, he will attend BOLC (SC) at Ft. Gordon, GA from 3 August-26 November.

Douglas Heinkel will attend LTC at Ft. Knox, KY from 8 June-7 July.

Peter Johnson will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 22 June-21 July.

Samuel Knodle will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 16 June-15 July.

Derek Matalczynski will attend LDAC at Ft. Knox, KY from 7 June-6 July.

Isaac Miller will attend Airborne School at Ft. Benning, GA from 21 May-13 June.

Ryan Sajdera will attend BOLC (AV) at Ft. Rucker, AL beginning on 27 June until completion, contingent upon follow-on training course availabilities.

Nathaniel Turner will attend CULP in Macedonia from 2 June-1 July.
Fall 2014 Semester

Building on the momentum gathered in the Spring semester, the Northwoods Battalion will pick up right where it left off next fall. By 3 September 2014, classes will be in session at all three universities. Two and a half short weeks later on 20 September, we will conduct our “Mini FTX” at Ft. McCoy, WI. A month after that, from 17-19 October, Cadets from all three companies will compete in the 3rd Brigade Ranger Challenge at Ft. McCoy, WI. The next weekend, from 25-26 October, we will conduct our Fall FTX at a location to be determined. Two weeks after that, on 14 November, the Northwoods Battalion will conduct its 2nd Annual Dining-In at UW-Eau Claire. Just six short weeks after that, the Northwoods Battalion will commission our December graduates on 19 December 2014.

Contracting Board

Master Sergeant (MSG) Ivan Johnson, our Senior Enlisted Military Instructor (SMI), continued this semester in his role as President of the Northwoods Battalion Contracting Board (NBCB). Similar to a Soldier of the Month Board, Cadets must be nominated by their Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS) and have outstanding potential to serve as an officer in order to appear before the board. It is comprised of all three Assistant Professors of Military Science, the Senior Enlisted Military Instructor, Noncommissioned Officers from all three schools, and one rotating MSIV Cadet. Through a series of questions and hands-on evaluations, the contracting board determines if college students have the necessary leadership attributes and competencies to be United States Army Officers. The board also determines if eligible Cadets should be the recipient of the various campus-based scholarship opportunities that are available. The goal is to ensure that quality officers are produced for the United States Army, National Guard, and Army Reserve. Listed below are the Cadets who went before the board this semester.

The following Cadets boarded and contracted this semester:

UW-River Falls
Matthew Alhfs is a junior MSII double majoring in sociology and economics from Blaine, MN.
Tucker Malecha is a sophomore MSII majoring in exercise science from Hudson, WI.
Emily Stephenson is a sophomore MSI majoring in business administration from Ashland, WI.

UW-Eau Claire
Molly Hill is a freshman MSI majoring in management entrepreneurship from Livingston, WI.
Wesley Adams is a sophomore MSII majoring in criminal justice from Chippewa Falls, WI.
Austin Merritt is a sophomore MSII majoring in criminal justice from Elk River, MN.

The following Cadets boarded this semester but will contract in the fall:

UW-River Falls
Andrew Klandeman is a sophomore MSII majoring in elementary education from Hudson, WI.
Alexandra Mikle is a freshman MSI majoring in exercise and sport science from Eden Prairie, MN.

UW-Eau Claire
Josh Noll is a freshman MSI majoring in German from Wausau, WI.

UW-Stout
Kyle Hoefft is a sophomore MSII majoring in criminal justice from Hinsdale, IL.
Rachel Radzak is a sophomore MSII majoring in interior design from Superior, WI.
Taylor Mortensen is a sophomore MSII majoring in health wellness and fitness from Mankato, MN.
Cole Quednow is a freshman MSI majoring in applied social science from Medford, WI.
Nicholas Walters is a sophomore MSI majoring in manufacturing engineering from Winter, WI.
Northwoods Battalion
University of Wisconsin – Stout
University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin – River Falls

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One of the first tasks given to the MSIV class last semester was to solicit ideas for a new Battalion Mascot from the Cadets at their respective schools. After a vetting process, the Battalion staff members put suggestions to a vote, and the winner was the Grizzly Bear.

Creative activity was not one of the strong suits of the Battalion Staff at that point in time, so designing the “Grizzly” logo was outsourced to a UW-Stout student majoring in graphic design. This student was a roommate of then-Cadet Dahm, so we could check in periodically with him and monitor his progress.

The final product he submitted and we approved is pictured to the right. The grizzly bear is roaring in a show of ferocity, but maintains its bearings with the help of the compass. This represents the type of aggressive, yet disciplined, leadership we strive to instill in our Cadets. The “N” represents magnetic north and the Northwoods Battalion. The tongue can also be seen as a heart, representing the love we have for the beauty of the Northwoods.

Northwoods!