From the Professor of Military Science

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

It is hard to believe that my first year in the Northwoods is over - and what a first year it was! We saw lots of change last year, but all of the changes we made pale in comparison to the transition we are going through now as part of the Army’s and Cadet Command’s Bold Transformation initiative. Bold Transformation shifts the focus from our juniors and LDAC to our seniors and producing 2LTs who can think critically and thrive in chaos. This is no small task as you can imagine.

Despite all of the changes, I continue to be amazed by the quality of Cadre and Cadets we have in the Northwoods and the things we are able to accomplish with what little we have in the realm of resources. As I write this, we have no Active Duty APMSs. If it were not for the great support we get from the WIARNG, we would be delivering classes via distance learning on two campuses. The good news is we have personnel coming in and their arrival is eagerly anticipated!

At the close of last year, two Cadre and great Americans departed the Northwoods. MAJ Jared Sunsdahl left to attend the Army’s CGSC and Mr. Tabb Benzinger, our long-time APMS at UWRF, left us as part of the Army’s re-green Cadet Command initiative. We miss both of them and hope both continue their great service to our nation.

LTC K. Dave Pindell
Professor of Military Science
Commander, Northwoods Battalion (Army ROTC)
pindellk@uwstout.edu

Remarks continued on page nine.
Fall Events:
Battalion Training Overview

Battalion Picnic
In kicking off the new semester, Cadets of the Northwoods Battalion held a welcoming picnic on 19 September at Wakanda Park in Menomonie. Catered by Dickies Barbeque, the Northwoods Cadets enjoyed a large meal and a variety of outdoor yard games. During the event, new Cadre and staff were hailed and welcomed to the program. Hails included our returning Human Resource Assistant (HRA) Pam Hotchkiss and Sergeant First Class Sean Tripp who joined the Blugold Company in Eau Claire as the Military Science Instructor. Sadly, the Northwoods Battalion also had to say farewell to MAJ (Ret) Tabb Benzinger, the Assistant Professor of Military Science (APMS) of UW-River Falls.

Leadership Confidence Exercise
The day after the picnic, Northwoods Cadets conducted their very first Leadership Confidence Exercise (LCX) at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin. Cadets participated in a variety of events including: an obstacle course, a conditioning course, a one rope bridge event, an electronic weapon simulator and a team-building event at the brand new Fort McCoy FLRC. At the closing formation, the Northwoods Battalion also welcomed five new contracted Cadets to our ranks.

Ranger Challenge 2014
This year’s Ranger Challenge was held at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin, from 17-19 October. There, the Cadets pushed themselves both physically and mentally and competed as three teams in numerous events representing each university. The events included land navigation, a HMMWV tire flip, an Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), ruck march and many more.
Battalion Training Overview (continued)

Leadership Development Exercise

Building on another first, Cadets also executed their very first Leadership Development Exercise (LDX) from 24-26 October at Cadott School Forest in Cadott, Wisconsin. During this three-day exercise, Cadets learned basic Soldiering and field craft skills. After receiving the mission, Cadets were able to develop plans that led to a final day-three, force-on-force paintball event where platoons utilized skills learned over the weekend.

Dining-In

On November 14, the Northwoods Battalion continued a new tradition, the Second Annual Dining-In, held in the Dakota Ballroom of the Davies Student Center at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. The formal evening included a social hour, a color guard ceremony, and a grog ceremony where each company commander offered a unique ingredient representing the unique traditions and history of their school. The evening was also filled with jokes and gags, a university catered meal, skits from each company, and concluded with a speech from guest speaker COL (Ret) Rick Tillotson.

Commissioning

On 20 December, the Northwoods Battalion conducted a ceremony that added four new Second Lieutenants into our Army; two each to the U.S. Army Reserves and the Army National Guard. The ceremony took place in the Riverview Ballroom in the University Center at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls with numerous family and friends present. Commissioning into the Adjutant General Corps, 2LT James Bremer will attend AG BOLC at Fort Jackson, SC, and take control of a postal platoon in Fort Snelling, MN, working with the U.S. Army Reserves. 2LT Seunghwan Kim will commission into the Military Intelligence Corps and attend MI BOLC at Fort Huachuca, AZ, and work in the U.S. Army Reserves. 2LT Jonathan Secraw will commission Infantry and attend IN BOLC at Fort Benning, GA, and serve in the Wisconsin Army National Guard. 2LT Andrew Usher will commission Engineer and attend EN BOLC at Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and serve as a PL with the Minnesota Army National Guard.
NW BN Featured Alumnus:
First Lieutenant Jack Dillow

First Lieutenant Jack Dillow, a May 2012 graduate of UW-Eau Claire, currently serves in the 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Benning, GA. After graduating the Infantry Basic Officer Leaders Course, he attended the US Army Infantry Mortar Leader's Course (IMLC), a three-week school which taught principles in fires planning, fire direction center skills, and mortar system instruction that culminated in a live-fire exercise. After IMLC, he attended US Army Ranger School, an eight-week leadership school that teaches the fundamentals of Infantry patrolling and survival in an austere environment. Upon graduating Ranger School, he took over the 2nd Platoon Spartans in Bayonet Company, 2-69 Armor Regiment, where he continues to serve as an Infantry Platoon Leader. “Stick 'em Deep!”

Captain John Gunderson

Prior to ROTC, Captain John Gunderson joined the military in 1992 and was enlisted for 15 years before his commissioning. While enlisted, he completed several years of active duty participating in numerous training events, some of which were; armorer, MI school, Airborne & Air Assault OPS and Drill Sergeant School. CPT John Gunderson then attended and graduated UW-Eau Claire and was an end-of-camp commissionee following completion of LDAC on July 7, 2007 at Fort Lewis, WA. Following LDAC, CPT Gunderson attended BOLC2, common core training, at Fort Benning, GA and BOLC3, Signal Branch training, at Fort Gordon, GA in 2008. Captain Gunderson served as company commander from 2009-2011 and is currently the S-6, Battalion Signal Officer, for the 397 EN BN at Eau Claire, WI. When Captain Gunderson was asked what makes an extraordinary Soldier he said, “Their character and how much they are willing to put into the Army.”
Blue Devil Company
UW-Stout
c/CPT Jeff Hilgendorf, Company Commander

The start of the new school year has been filled with many changes. Cadet Command is in the process of making many transformations to improve Cadets’ training. The Blue Devil Company has been working hard to adapt and overcome the difficulties inherent with these changes.

With these modifications, there has been more focus on final preparation of the MSIV class versus MSIII’s preparing for Cadet Leader Course. This shift in focus will give Cadets more developmental training during their time in ROTC. So far this semester the MSIV’s are working hard to plan and execute all of the Northwoods Battalion events. Despite the changes, the MSIII Cadets are still getting plenty of training as they have been working hard to plan and execute weekly leadership labs and physical training sessions. So far this year, all training events have been great learning experiences due to the effort put forth by Cadets of the Blue Devil Company. Blue Devils!

Notes from MSG Ivan Johnson (UW-Stout APMS):
With the departure of APMS and XO MAJ Sunsdahl, the Blue Devil Company lost an experienced and passionate leader. What he left behind was a group of enthusiastic students ready to take their place in the hierarchy of the Blue Devil Company. The MS I Cadets are eager to learn and are full of youthful energy. The MS II Cadets are learning new military concepts and are excited about their opportunity to finally lead small groups. The MS III Cadets are growing by leaps and bounds, and are almost ready to test their skills at Fort Knox this summer. The MS IV Cadets are becoming more and more like Second Lieutenants every day. As the interim APMS, I continue to be impressed with their growth and development. As this semester comes to an end, and we prepare for the holiday season, I am looking forward to another great semester next year. BLUE DEVILS!
Blugold Company
UW-Eau Claire
CPT Greg Carter, Company Commander

This semester has been full of changes for Blugold Company. We welcomed our newest Northwoods Cadre member, Sergeant First Class Sean Tripp, and our largest class of freshmen Cadets to date. Our training has brought us through drill and ceremony, land navigation, and virtual battle simulations to squad tactics. Our on-campus training culminated in a Battalion-level Leader Development Exercise (LDX) held at the Cadott School Forest. We pushed our Cadets farther than in past semesters and they continue to exceed our expectations. I am proud of all the effort they put into this program.

Our campus presence is now greater than ever. Our fundraisers and open houses have raised our visibility among students. With the help of Staff Sergeant Todd Raymond, of the WIARNG, we entered a float in the annual Homecoming Parade and placed second. We have worked with the Veterans Club to pull off a successful Veteran’s Day celebration and Military Appreciation Football game. We also hosted the Northwoods Battalion Second Annual Dining-In with success. As we roll ahead into winter and our next semester, the company continues to live up to UW-Eau Claire’s motto of “Excellence.”

Notes from MAJ Dan Walsh (UW-Eau Claire APMS):
As the first semester at UW-Eau Claire winds down, I am extremely pleased with the direction that the Blugold Company is heading. Despite the changes in our program curriculum and Cadre, we remain steadfast in our mission to teach, train and mentor Cadets to be future leaders in the Army. At UW-Eau Claire, we are commissioning two Second Lieutenants in December and another four Second Lieutenants in the spring. We maintained a high-level of community involvement this semester and continued to raise campus awareness of our program. Our numbers have swelled to over 50 students enrolled in MSL classes and UW-Eau Claire ROTC has strong future Cadets in the upcoming mission sets. As we move into the second semester this year, I look forward to the challenges and changes ahead and what the future has in store for us. I have also appreciated the UWEC Alumni contacts and offers to come back and address our Cadets. As always your support of the current program is appreciated. GO BLUGOLDS!
Falcon Company
UW-River Falls
c/CPT Tucker Malecha, Company Commander

The Falcon Company at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls continued to work, in the proud traditions of the Northwoods Battalion, toward producing strong and proficient officers in the United States Army. This is an exciting time for the program with the arrival of a new class of motivated MSI Cadets and the commissioning of two MSIV Cadets. During labs this semester, Cadets learned a number of Soldiering skills that ranged from being able to navigate through various terrain with a compass, map, and protractor; learning different battle drills executed by today’s Army; using virtual battle simulations; and much more. These labs were a great learning experience for all involved. MSI and MSII Cadets learned different skills taught by the MSIII Cadets and were overseen by the MSIV Cadets and Cadre. The semester was also highlighted by Battalion events such as Ranger Challenge, LCX, and LDX where Cadets were able to go out and get hands-on opportunities with different leadership scenarios and Soldiering tasks that will develop confidence in Cadets’ abilities, and build esprit de corps. UWRF ROTC also conducted movie nights once a month to build relationships and even watched a Packer vs. Viking football game for bragging rights. UWRF ROTC looks forward to the next semester and the opportunities it will present.

Notes from SFC Jeffrey Todd (UW-River Falls APMS):
As my first semester as the interim APMS ends, I wonder where the time went. It seems to have flown by. With Mr. Benzinger’s departure, I realized that I had some big shoes to fill. His knowledge and enthusiasm will be greatly missed. We wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. This semester has been a great learning experience. With the help of our returning MSIII Juniors and MSIV Seniors, our program has stayed strong and continues to excel. They have led Falcon Company through weekly labs, PT, LCX, LDX, and Ranger Challenge. We bid a fond farewell to our two graduating Cadets, Andrew Usher and Seunghwan Kim, who will commission as Second Lieutenants in December. I have no doubt they will be successful in everything they do. UW-River Falls has many strong Cadets and will continue to produce quality officers. I am looking forward to our continued success. FALCON RIGHT!
Winter Training and Beyond

The Northwoods Battalion does not stop training after the academic year ends. Listed below are Cadets and our newest Second Lieutenants and the training they will be attending this winter and beyond. Training is in 2015 unless otherwise noted.

**UW-Eau Claire**

2LT James Bremser will attend Adjutant General BOLC in Fort Jackson, SC, and will become a postal platoon leader in Fort Snelling, MN in the U.S. Army Reserves

CDT Nathan Jackson will be attending Army Combatives training in Marshfield, WI

2LT Jonathan Secraw will attend Infantry BOLC in Fort Benning, GA, and work with the Wisconsin Army National Guard in Charlie Company, 1-128 Infantry Battalion

CDT Bianca Winter will be attending BCT in Fort Sill, OK followed by AIT in Fort Jackson, SC

**UW-River Falls**

CDT Draco Gagnon will be attending AIT in Fort Benning, GA

2LT Seunghwan Kim will be attending Military Intelligence BOLC in Fort Huachuca, AZ, and work with the 411th Engineer Battalion in the U.S. Army Reserves

CDT Wade Malecha will be attending OSUT in Fort Benning, GA, beginning January 1st

2LT Andrew Usher will attend Engineer BOLC in Fort Leonard Wood, MO, and continue working with the 805th Engineer Company with the Minnesota Army National Guard

**Hails/Farewells:**

**Hail** – Sergeant First Class Sean Tripp, UW-Eau Claire Military Science Instructor. SFC Tripp joined UW-Eau Claire from Fort Drum, NY, where he served as the Operations Sergeant Major. We look forward to benefiting from his expertise and are excited to be working with him.

**Hail** – Pam Hotchkiss, Northwoods Battalion Human Resource Assistant. Pam began working with the Northwoods in 2005 and is joining us again after a year absence. We would like to extend a warm welcome back to the Northwoods Battalion Staff.

**Farewell** – Major (Retired) Tabb Benzinger, UWRAPMS. Mr. Benzinger retired as a Major from the US Army in 2006 and subsequently served for over seven years as the UWRAPMS.

**Spring 2015 Semester**

Building on the momentum created during the Fall 2014 Semester, the Northwoods Battalion will begin anew starting in the Spring Semester. By 26 January, classes will resume at all three universities. Just under a month after classes resume, UW-Stout will host the Ninth Annual Military Ball on 20 February. A month later, ten Northwoods Cadets will participate in the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge (GAFPB) competition on 28-29 March. Following the GAFPB, the annual Combined Leadership Training Exercise (CLTX) will occur 9-12 April at Fort McCoy, WI. Then on 24-26 April, the Individual Leadership Training Exercise (ILTX) will take place at a location yet to be determined. The MSIV Cadets will conduct a staff ride to the historic Tippecanoe Battleground on 01-02 May. The semester will conclude on 23 May with spring commissioning held at UW-Stout where eight more Cadets will join the ranks of the U.S. Army as Second Lieutenants.
Alumni
The Northwoods Battalion currently has two UW-Stout Foundation Accounts that offer you options for how your donations are used in support of Army ROTC on our campuses.* The first account is our ROTC Fund (Account #72385). Funding from this foundation account is available to support our operations beyond what the Army and university provides for our normal day-to-day mission. We can use this account to provide funding for Cadet trips to battlefields, competitions such as the German Air Force Proficiency Badge, Ranger Challenge, and any other event that will benefit our Cadets and the ROTC program. The second account is our Vets Club-ROTC Endowed Scholarship Fund (#20150). This fund will provide scholarships to deserving Cadets in our program once it reaches the minimum $25,000 threshold. Currently, we are about $15,000 short of this minimum threshold.

If you have the means and desire to give, there are a couple of ways to do so. You can use your credit card by calling UW-Stout’s Foundation toll-free number at 1-866-716-6685 (let the foundation know your donation is to support either ROTC Fund or ROTC Scholarships). You can give by check - please make your check payable to Stout University Foundation (indicate which account you would like your donation to go to), and send it to: Stout University Foundation, UW-Stout, P.O. Box 790, Menomonie, WI, 54751. You can also give via the UW-Stout general online giving page at http://www.uwstout.edu/foundation/waystogive/online.cfm (on the page you can specify the area you would like your gift to be restricted to).

*Note – we are currently working with the UW-Stout Foundation to make both of these funds available for use at any of our universities. I am hopeful that we can make this happen in the next 6-12 months. If you are a UWEC or UWRF alum and are concerned about your donation not being used for your particular university, please contribute to the ROTC Fund as we have more freedom to direct those funds to support the entire battalion. Feel free to contact me directly if you have questions at pindellk@uwstout.edu or (715) 232-5629.

From the Professor of Military Science – Continued from page one
Speaking of service, your service is NEEDED here in the Northwoods Battalion. The future of this program is directly tied to the officers it produces and their willingness to support the program after graduation. I ask you to consider a small donation to help strengthen our program. As we move forward and become a more mature and established program, your support will allow us to send Cadets to GAFPB, Buddy Ranger Challenge, help to defray the costs of education via scholarships, and even establish our own Hall of Heroes to recognize the significant accomplishments of Alumni and supporters.

Can’t send money? Your experience and expertise is just what we are looking for! Seasoned officers and brand new Second Lieutenants (yes you, too) can share your knowledge and experiences with Cadets as they prepare to join our Army. Mentoring is the mark of a good leader.

Again, I ask for your support. Contact me at pindellk@uwstout.edu to discuss how you can provide valuable support to the program.

Finally, I am looking forward to the closing of this semester and the passing of another milestone; this winter we will commission the Northwoods 100th Cadet. I cannot express enough how proud I am to be here in the Northwoods and I hope to hear from some of you soon!
Contracting Board

Master Sergeant (MSG) Ivan Johnson, our Senior 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 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-Eau Claire**
- Josh Noll

**UW-River Falls**
- Alex Mikle

**UW-Stout**
- Douglas Heinkel
- Kyle Hoefft
- Taylor Mortensen
- Rachel Radzak
- Nick Walters

The following Cadets were awarded scholarships this semester:

**UW-Eau Claire**
- Wes Adams – 2 YR GRFD

**UW-Stout**
- Douglas Heinkel – 2.5 YR Campus Scholarship
- Rachel Radzak – 2 YR GRFD
- Nick Walters – 2 YR GRFD

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

**UW-Stout**
- Ben Beyer
- Will Elliott

The following Cadets were awarded scholarships this semester and will contract in the future pending board approval:

**UW-Eau Claire**
- Kathryn Franks – 2.5 YR Campus Scholarship
- Billy Hinnenkamp – 3 YR AD Campus Scholarship
- Dean Ihrke – 4 YR National Scholarship

**UW-River Falls**
- Ian Scherber – 3 YR AD Campus Scholarship

**UW-Stout**
- Andre Cardinal – 2.5 YR Campus Scholarship
- Will Elliott – 2 YR GRFD
From the Cadet Battalion Commander
c/LTC Adam Widder

As the MSIV class returned to their campuses following completion of LDAC in the hot and sticky land of Fort Knox, KY, there were a variety of changes happening in Cadet Command. Cadet Command refocused ROTC to develop all Cadets as leaders versus training MSIII Cadets to be evaluated at LDAC. ROTC now focuses on producing MSIV Cadets that are more prepared to lead platoons and think critically. MSIII Cadets are trained in similar ways but are no longer evaluated at summer training; rather they are developing leadership skills during their summer training. The curriculum also changed in ROTC to go with the new focus.

The change in ROTC was viewed positively by Cadets of the Northwoods Battalion who are learning to become better critical thinkers while being challenged to think of what they actually would do if they were leading a platoon in the Army. MSIV Cadets are undergoing all new training that puts the focus on them to lead platoons, rather than focusing on MSIII Cadets. MSIII Cadets continue to learn leadership skills using squad and platoon level orders while MSII and MSI Cadets continue to develop their Soldier tasks.

As a result of the shift in ROTC, the Northwoods Battalion has developed all training exercises from scratch to focus on developing all Cadets to become the best Second Lieutenants possible, while recruiting, retaining, training, and developing 127 Cadets across three campuses at UW-Stout, UW-Eau Claire and UW-River Falls. This semester, Cadets have completed obstacle courses, one-rope bridge challenges, M16 engagement skills training, paintball missions, and critical thinking exercises in platoon level missions in which two platoons competed against one another. The changes in ROTC have taught Cadets to be flexible and show resilience in training. Despite these many modification, the Northwoods Battalion continues its strong tradition of developing outstanding leaders for tomorrow. Go Northwoods!

Northwoods Battalion
University of Wisconsin-Stout
University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
University of Wisconsin-River Falls

Phone: 715-232-1464 (UW-Stout)
Cell: 715-308-0512
Email: ROTC@uwstout.edu

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Legend:
AD-Active Duty, AG-Adjutant General, AIT-Advanced Individual Training, APMS-Assistant Professor of Military Science, ARNG-Army National Guard, BCT-Basic Combat Training, BOLC-Basic Officer Leaders Course, CGSC-Command and General Staff College, CO-Company, COL-Colonel, CPT-Captain, EN-Engineer, GAFPB-German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge, GRFD-Guaranteed Reserve Forces Duty, LDAC-Leader Development & Assessment Course, LT-Lieutenant, LTC-Lieutenant Colonel, MAJ-Major, MI-Military Intelligence, MS-Medical Services, OSUT-One Station Unit Training, PL-Platoon Leader, PT-Physical Training, QM-Quartermaster, ROTC-Reserve Officers’ Training Corps, RTO-Radio Telephone Operator, VTC-Video Teleconference, USAR-US Army Reserves, UWRF-University of Wisconsin-River Falls, XO-Executive Officer