



Western Kentucky University
UA64 College of Education & Behavioral Sciences
Series 25 Military Science
Subseries 4/4 Student Organizations ROTC

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Administrative History: The National Defense Act of 1916 authorized the establishment of Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs to train officers on the campuses of universities across the nation. The Army ROTC program at Western is one of the oldest in the state and traces its origin to this Act and the Spring of 1917 when the United States entered World War I. At that time male enrollment on the campus of "Western Kentucky State Normal School" was only 264 due to the great interest and participation in the war effort by the citizens and young men of Kentucky. The first military training presented on campus was given by US Army trainers to the "Student's Army Training Corps" during the Spring of 1918.

In September 1918 the Board of Regents empowered President Henry H. Cherry to take steps to secure academic and vocational units of the Student's Army Training Corps. On 1 October 1918 the War Department authorized the formal establishment of the S.A.T.C. as a part of Western Kentucky State Normal School. In addition to providing limited basic military training on campus through this program, the federal government also erected barracks to house participating students and provided other associated facilities. These SATC units grew into the Reserve Officers' Training Corps which became a permanent part of the university on 28 January 1919. First Lieutenant Owen Ellsworth, USA, assumed temporary command of the Corps upon its formal activation and in March 1919 Lieutenant Colonel Wilford Twyman, USA, was assigned as the first Professor of Military Science and Tactics.

The Corps was first organized as a Junior Division unit and offered only two years of basic military training. An ROTC Rifle Team was established and brought distinction to Western and the Cadet Corps by winning the National ROTC Rifle Match sponsored by the War Department for six consecutive years, from 1928 to 1933. But the students who desired an Army officer's commission were required to transfer to another institution offering a senior ROTC program. Western's junior ROTC unit was maintained until September 1935 when a Senior Infantry Branch Oriented Division was organized and placed under the command of Major John Robeson, USA. This Infantry oriented program was directed toward the production of Infantry Lieutenants and encompassed subjects as light and heavy infantry weapons, infantry tactics, communications, transportation, physical conditioning, and leadership.

A further addition to the ROTC program occurred on 4 February 1937 when the National Society of Pershing Rifles granted a membership charter to the cadet company at "Western Kentucky State Teacher's College". The cadet company was designated Company B, 3rd Regiment, National Society of Pershing Rifles and was

founded to enhance esprit de corps and promote the highest levels of proficiency in drill and ceremonies, basic leadership, and military bearing among members of the cadet corps.

Western gained further distinction in 1937 by commissioning its first Senior ROTC cadet class in May of that year. Throughout the Second World War, Western continued to produce commissioned officers, many of whom served with great distinction in both the European and Pacific Theaters. With Congressional passage of the National Security Act of 1947 the U.S. Air Force was established as a separate branch of service.

The Army ROTC program was modified the summer of 1947 to include an Air Force ROTC program on campus and the first Professor of Air Science, Major William N. Pace, Jr., was assigned to Western in late 1947. In 1949 Air Force ROTC became a separate organization and both Air Force and Army ROTC Instructor Groups produced officers for service during the Korean War period. Based on enrollment, the increasing technical complexity of Air Force equipment, and lack of an engineering college at Western, the Air Force ROTC program was terminated on 1 July 1957. During its 10 year life span the program produced over 300 Air Force officers and contributed yet another dimension to the service to the nation by "Western Kentucky State College".

In December 1953 the cadet corps petitioned the Scabbard and Blade National Honor Society for establishment of a cadet company at Western. On 16 January 1954 a formal charter was issued by the National Society and established Company C, 11th Regiment, Scabbard and Blade National Honor Society at the college. Since its origin Company C has stimulated interest in the Profession of Arms, recognized and developed qualities of leadership, honor, and academic achievement, and created a better understanding of the military profession among the advanced course cadets eligible for membership.

A major change in the ROTC program at Western occurred in 1954 when the Infantry Branch Program was converted to the General Military Science Program. This new program was designed to prepare senior division cadets for commissioning in any of the Combat, Combat Support, or Combat Service Support branches of the Army. The program enabled qualified cadets to enter the service branch of their choice. ROTC cadets received another benefit in February 1962 when the members of the Committee on Curriculum and Instruction and the Board of Regents approved the awarding of an academic minor in Military Science for completion of the ROTC program.

On 13 October 1964 President Johnson signed into law the ROTC Act of 1964, popularly referred to as the ROTC Revitalization Act. This Act was designed to increase the scope of campus ROTC activities and offer greater opportunities for participation in the ROTC program to students. The Act authorized a two year Advanced Course Program for qualified Junior College transfer students and students who did not participate in the ROTC Basic Course to supplement the four year program. This two year program would start with a six-week long ROTC Basic Camp to qualify these students for entry into the Advanced Course and then be completed in the same manner as the four year program during the student's last two years before graduation. Other provisions of this Act included a substantial increase in the number of Army ROTC scholarships awarded by the Department of the Army each year, an increase in the monthly subsistence allowance paid to Advanced Course cadets, payment of a clothing allowance to newly commissioned Second Lieutenants upon their call to active duty, and establishment of Junior ROTC units at secondary schools.

In September of 1964, Pershing Rifles Company B-3 initiated sponsorship of a female auxiliary organization known as the Rebelettes. This organization provided honorary sponsors for the ROTC cadet corps and established a female drill team to compete in organized drill meets against other universities. The Rebelette drill teams have been highly successful in exhibition drill competitions and were selected as the National Champions in 1967, 1973, and 1975. The famous Rebelette "Garter Salute" and silent drill routines highlight their excellence in drill and ceremonies and their contributions to the esprit de corps.

In 1964 "Western Kentucky State College" dedicate a new rifle range for use by the cadet corps. In 1968 the National Rifle Association would become the sponsor of the team and in 1979 the varsity rifle team would become affiliated with the National Collegiate Athletic Association continuing the long history of excellence in marksmanship at Western.

Western's ROTC program added another extra curricular organization in October 1967 when the Special Forces Company was formed. Prospective members were challenged with an intensive pledge training program. Chartered to further military excellence in tactical skills, small unit leadership, physical fitness, and techniques of unconventional warfare, the organization provided an opportunity to apply classroom skills and knowledge to realistic training situations under arduous conditions in all types of terrain and increased tactical proficiency of the corps.

The U.S. Congress furthered the opportunities for female students by authorizing females to participate in the ROTC academic program in September 1973. Western Kentucky University's first female officer, Second Lieutenant Lynne F. Berry, was commissioned into the Military Intelligence Corps, USAR, 14 May 1977. Starting with school year 1978-79, the U.S. Congress authorized greater flexibility in the ROTC program by allowing students to be commissioned under provisions of the Early Commissioning Program. This program allowed a student with prior military experience to gain placement credit for one or both years of the ROTC Basic course and enter the Advanced Course during his freshman or sophomore year at the university. At the completion of the ROTC Advanced Course the cadet would be commissioned and perform reserve forces duty while completing degree requirements.

In May 1979, the Congress authorized another change in the Army ROTC program by authorizing cadets to participate in the Simultaneous Membership Program. Under this program, ROTC cadets in the Advanced Course simultaneously enlisted in either the U.S. Army Reserve or Army National Guard, were designated officer trainees, and performed the duties of a Second Lieutenant in their units gaining valuable experience before commissioning. Both of these programs were warmly received by the Corps of Cadets and expanded the opportunities for realistic preparation for both active or reserve forces duty.

In April 1980 the WKU Instructor Group was given the mission of establishing a new Army ROTC Program at the University of Louisville. Cadre members organized, equipped, and developed a program of instruction modeled after the WKU program. The U of L program began independent operations in August 1982.

In April 1981 in a reorganization of the university the College of Applied Arts & Health was closed and departments redistributed to other colleges. Military Science became a department in the College of Education & Behavioral Sciences. See UA64/25 for a continuance of these records.

Military Science Department Heads:

1919 - Lt. Ellsworth, Jan. 27
1919-1922 - Capt. Wilford Twyman
1923-1925 - Maj. Thomas E. Cathers
1925-1932 Lt. Col. Thomas Rothwell
1933 - Capt. W.H. Williamson
1933-1938 - Lt. Col. John A. Robenson
1938-1942 - Lt. Col. E. Blake Crabill
1942-1943 - Col. Gordon R. Catts
1944 - Maj. D.C. Carpenter

1945 - Capt. A.J. McGuire
1946-1948 Col. Richard Agnew
1949-1951 - Lt. Col. Glenn A. Sikes
1952-1955 - Lt. Col. George H. Sibbald
1955-1958 - Col. Alfred E. Calhoun
1959-1962 - Lt. Col. James F. Marquis
1962-1966 - Lt. Col. Grover G. Smith
1966-1968 - Maj. Norman E. Orr
1968-1970 - Lt. Col. Thomas G. Sweet
1970-1971 - Maj. Hugh L. Rider
1971-1974 - Lt. Col. William E. Schiller
1944-1978 - Lt. Col. Gary A. Riggs
1978-1980 - Lt. Col. Robert A. Halbman
1980-1983 - Lt. Col. Fred LaRoque Jr.
1983-1984 - Lt. Col. John M. Weaver
1984-1985 - Lt. Col. Gary L. Mevis
1985-1988 - Lt. Col. Emil K. Kluever
1988-1990 - Lt. Col. George J. Sowards
1990-1992 - Lt. Col. William W. Jacobsen
1992- Maj. Hugh H. Tyndall

Description: Records created by and about Reserve Officer Training Corps.

Dates: 1921-1969; 1982-present

Extent: .25 cu. ft.

Subject Analytics:

Military education
Military Science (WKU)
Pershing Rifles
ROTC

Student organizations
U.S. Army
Western Kentucky University

Digital Commons:

Military and Veteran Studies
Military History

Accession Information:

UA1997-105
UA2003-36 ? Walker
UA2006-13 ? Stockton
UA2006-29
Nevline Higgason, Dorothy Topmiller

Access Restrictions: none

Allied Materials: UA60/3 Applied Arts & Health Military Science

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Finding Aid Report

09/12/2019

UA64.25.4.4	Records	Date
Level	Subseries	Linked toUA64.25.4
Title	UA64 College of Education & Behavioral Sciences	
Collection	Series 25 Military Science	
Scope & Content	Subseries 4/4 Student Organizations ROTC	
	WKU Archives	
	Records created by and about Reserve Officer Training Corps.	

Container List

Container	Folder	Creator	Date	Title
Box 1	1	Military Science (WKU)	1921	Student Army Training Corps
Description	Kentucky. Council of Defense Kentucky Men who were in Student's Army Training Corp at WKTC, WWI, D2391 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc_ua_records/2752			Subjects World WarI, 1914-1918 Veterans
Box 1	2	Military Science (WKU)	1931-1969	ROTC Programs
Description	Annual President's Review 1969 Award's Ceremony, 1954 Field Day, 1936-1938 ROTC Program 11/11/1931 Veterans Day			Subjects World WarI, 1914-1918 Veterans United States. Air Force United States. Army Awards Soldiers Cadets Programs
Box 1	3	Military Science (WKU)	1951; 1969	ROTC Commissioning Ceremonies
				Subjects United States. Army Soldiers Programs
Box 1	4	Military Science (WKU)	1934-1964	ROTC Military Balls
Description	UA1997-105 UA2003-36 ? Walker UA2006-13 ? Stockton UA2006-29 Nevline Higgason, Dorothy Topmiller Invitations 1934, 1938, 1940-1942, 1956 Dance Cards 1935-1938, 1940, 1948-49, 1949-50, 1951, 1953, 1955-1956, 1964 WKU Officers Club WKU ROTC			Subjects United States. Army Soldiers United States. Air Force Cadets Balls (Parties) Dance cards Invitations

Description	Items removed from Scrapbook D3418 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/218
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Armor School Gets a New Asst. Commander, np, nd
 Awards Banquet, 1975
 Ballenger, Barbara
 Bishop, Priscilla. ROTC Enrollment Increases, CHH, 2/18/1975
 Brig. Gen. James Leslie Will Succeed Gen. Williams at 2nd ROTC Region, np, nd
 Brown's All Star Daily Salutes Brad Freeman, np, nd
 Buckles, Donna. WKU Has Its Own Special Forces, PCDN, 4/27/1975
 Budde, Neil. ROTC Camps May Replace Summer Jobs, CHH, 4/11/1975
 Cadet Roger Coffey, np, nd
 Coed Receives Army Commission, np, nd
 Daily Campus Tours Available at Western, np, nd
 Dougherty, Russell
 Downing, Dero
 Durbin, John
 Foote, Kathy. Awards Go to Top Cadets, The Kaleidoscope, Vol. VIII, No. 4, 7/25/1975
 Fort Campbell, KY
 Graduation Ceremony ROTC Basic Camp
 Ground, Larry
 Henson, Pat. Cadets, ROTC Leader, nd
 High School Seniors Could Get WKU ROTC Scholarships, np, nd
 Humble, James
 Inman, Michael
 Johnson, Stan. 2nd ROTC Region . . . The Commander Explains Its Role, Turret, nd
 Kathy Wagner - David Alexander Engagement, np, nd
 Linda Branan-Gary Riggs Jr. Engagement, np, nd
 Low, Richard
 McEnery, John
 Military Ball
 Miss Patti Madison Engaged to Lt. Robert Clore, np, nd
 Monarch, Huston. VA Liaison Office Formed on Campus, np, nd
 Nolan, Irene. The Brass, LCJ, nd
 Perry, Doug. A Desire to be the Best Soldier, LCJ, nd
 Pickard, Clay
 Ribbons & Roses, CHH, 11/19/1974
 Rifle Team Drops Tri-meet, np, nd
 Rifle Teams Top Morehead, np, nd
 Riggs, Gary
 Schlesinger, James
 Secretary of Defense Tours SAC Base Commanded by General Dougherty, np, nd
 Shooters Post Win Over Govs, np, nd
 Signal Training Vital, np, 7/9/1975
 Smith, Joseph
 Sparrow, Herbert. State ROTC Enrollment Rises as Antimilitary Feelings Fade, np, nd
 Stapleton, Mark
 Steiger, Robert
 Stevenson, Charles
 Sutherland, Ray
 Ten to be Commissioned, np, nd
 Two Local Students Win Scholarships, np, nd
 Walker, John
 Western Beats Austin Peay in Rifle Match, np, nd
 Western Tops Eastern in Rifle Match, np, nd
 Western's Enrollment Record High, np, nd
 What's the Big Deal About Women Taking Army ROTC, np, nd
 Williams, Paul
 Wilson, Richard. Army's ROTC is Making a Comeback in Kentucky, LCJ, 11/17/1974
 WKU National Invitational Drill Meet
 Women Cadets Take a Look at What Army Life in the 197th is Like, np, nd

Subjects	Scrapbooks United States. Army Soldiers Cadets Advertisements Broad sides Programs Graduation ceremonies
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Box 1	6	Military Science (WKU)	1976-1977	Scrapbook
Description	Items removed from Scrapbook D3427 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/226			Subjects
	5 Cadets at Western are Honored, PCDN, 11/21/1976 Armstrong, Bryan. Riflers Nip 'The Best', CHH, 10/5/1976 Baker, John Biggers, Mark Boot Camp, LCJ, 8/25/1976 Commendation Medal, PCDN, 10/3/1976 Conley, Michael Downing, Dero East Tennessee State University ETSU Fells Riflers, CHH, 10/197/1976 February March, PCDN, 2/22/1977 Gun Teams Compete, CHH, 11/29/1976 Hart, Loren Hourigan, William Hurst, Teri. Military Noises Don't Bother Allen Farmer, PCDN, 8/16/1976 Kuhl, Greg. Rebelettes Find Honor, Recognition Everywhere . . . Except at Home, CHH, 10/15/1976 Learning the Ropes, CHH, 9/21/1976 Lyles, Bud Minton, Calvin Nord, George Pershing, John J. Pickard, Simeon Remember Donna?, News-Enterprise, 7/29/1976 Richey, Donna Rogers, Charles ROTC Enrollment is Up, CHH, 8/31/1976 ROTC Service Medal, PCDN, 11/21/1976 ROTC Teams Learn War, Play at Serious Game, CHH, 11/23/1976 Roy Bell Gives Western Pershing Letter, News-Enterprise, 5/10/1977 Shulty, Marcia Steve Brittingham Leads in Final Match, CHH, 3/25/1977 Students Can Apply for ROTC Scholarships, PCDN, 10/3/1976 Summer Camp Set for Ft. Knox, np, nd Toms, Leslie Tops Win in Riflery, Soccer, CHH, 11/9/1976 Tops' Riflery Team Triumphs, PCDN, 9/20/1976 Western Kentucky University ROTC Program, Said One of the Most Outstanding, PCDN, 2/6/1977 Western ROTC Will Commission Twenty May 13, 5/1977, press release WKU Announces Top Winners of Invitational Drill Meet, 4/1977, press release WKU Instructor Receives Award, PCDN, 11/7/1976 WKU Military Science, The Star, 3/1977 WKU Military Science. The Star, 2/1977 WKU Military Science. The Star, 9/1976 WKU National Invitational Drill Meet WKU Pershing Rifles Will Sponsor Drill Meet, 4/1977 press release Woman Named Distinguished ROTC Student - Sue Roma, CHH, 2/8/1977 York, Ken. ROTC-For Men Only? 5/1977			Scrapbooks United States. Army Soldiers Cadets Advertisements Broadside Clippings
Box 1	7	Military Science (WKU)	1979	Scrapbook
Description	Items removed from Scrapbook D3429 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/224			Subjects
	Bassham, Archie Bowen, Ed Bowers, Bobby Concrete Mountain, np, nd Davis, David Female Enlistments Declining, PCDN, 3/27/1979			Scrapbooks United States. Army Soldiers Cadets Advertisements Twins Clippings Photographs

Getting the Hang of It, PCDN, 9/21/1979
 Halbman, Robert
 Hanging Around, LCJ, 4/11/1979
 Kem, Jackie
 Kille, Kathy. Riflery Squad in Division with Most All-Americans, CHH, 11/20/1979
 Koeckert, Mary
 Lair, Shea
 Lane, George
 Laubenheimer, Joyce
 Martin, Karen
 Military Ball Queen Crowned, CHH, 11/20/1979 - Molly Craven
 Nature Break, CHH, 4/10/1979
 O'Bryan, Craig
 Parking Structure (WKU)
 Rappelling
 Senior Wins ROTC Award, CHH, 2/20/1979
 Taking a Dive, CHH, 4/10/1979
 Temple, Philip
 The Longest Mile, np, nd
 Thomas, Scott
 Top Shooters to Compete, PCDN, 4/2/1979
 Van Meter, Nelson
 War College Group to Visit, PCDN, 3/23/1979
 Wulff, Rhonda. Double Time at Basic Camp, ROTC Leader, 6/21/1979
 Young, Tim
 Young, Tom

Box 1	8	Military Science (WKU)	1980-1981	Scrapbook	
Description	Items removed from Scrapbook D3426 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/227 Army ROTC Changes Step, Miami Herald, 11/3/1974 Barker, Bob Berger, Gary Big Red Bloss, Lou. Service Experience, CHH, nd Bush, George Duffy, Glenn England, Trish Foote, Brian. Scouts Try Mountaineering Skills, CHH, 10/14/1980 George, T.A. Western Shooters Have to Reload, np, nd Grace, Lee. Dog Chase: Coach Hopes Western Can Catch Murray in OVC, np, nd Hamilton, Jack Harris, Lee Iranian Hostages Johnson, Nathan, Almost Home, CHH, 1/20/1981 Lair, Chris Military Queen Crowned, np, nd - Tammy Logan New ROTC Director Named, CHH, 9/16/1980 - Fred LaRoque Pierce, Kenneth. For ROTC, the War is Over, np, nd Rappelling Reagan, Ronald Sack, Kirby Sheets, Carol. Forgotten Hostages Honored, np, nd Wright, Sharon. Tommy: Janitor's Mission is Threefold, CHH, nd			Subjects	Scrapbooks United States. Army Soldiers Cadets Logos Mascots Photographs Helicopters Broad-sides Advertisements
Box 1	9	Military Science (WKU)	1994-1995	Scrapbook	
Description	Items removed from Scrapbook D3428 - https://digitalcommons.wku.edu/stu_org/225 Adamovic, ? Anderson, ?			Subjects	Scrapbooks United States. Army Soldiers Cadets

Broadbent, Stephanie. In Enemy Fire, np, nd
 Bronson, ?
 Cline, ?
 Coulter, ?
 Crawford, ?
 Daivs, ?
 Dugan, Misty
 Hackett, Jeff
 Henson, ?
 Hunter, ?
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 Nash, ?
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 Woodard, ?

Advertisements
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 Blacks
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Box 1	10	Military Science (WKU)	2014	ROTC Military Balls
Description	Invitations, 2014			Subjects
	WKU ROTC			United States. Army Soldiers Balls (Parties) Invitations