

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 15, 2013

The Honorable John McHugh
Secretary of the Army
Department of Defense
1400 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretary McHugh:

We are writing to you regarding the decision to close the University of Wisconsin (UW) La Crosse Army Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program at the end of the 2015 spring semester.

We understand that this was a decision based on a comprehensive review of ROTC programs across the nation. We also understand that Cadet Command and the U.S. Army will make every effort to minimize the adverse impact on those cadets currently enrolled at the four academic institutions that make up the La Crosse ROTC Battalion.

This closure will most certainly have an adverse impact on the lives of the cadets, specifically the contracted Military Science (MS) I and MS II cadets. These cadets will have to make the very difficult decision to either transfer to another university or college that has an active Army ROTC program, or request to void their ROTC contracts with no further obligations.

So that we may better serve these students and other affected constituent stakeholders, could you please provide answers to the following questions:

1. Was the option to assimilate the eliminated host, partner and affiliate schools into other programs considered?
2. Was there consideration of leaving a skeletal staff at UW-La Crosse until all current contracted cadets were either commissioned or left the program?
3. Was there consideration to extend the closing date to the end of the 2017 school year to allow current contracted cadets the opportunity to graduate and commission?
4. What consideration has been taken for those with specialized degrees, such as nursing students whose credits may not transfer to other colleges and universities?
5. If a cadet is a student-athlete, what penalties will he or she incur from the National Collegiate Athletic Association or the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics because of a required transfer to another institution?
6. What are the factors that led to the recommendation to close the program? Please explain in detail, including a description of the review process of the 273 ROTC programs and the evaluation that led to the conclusion that the UW-La Crosse ROTC did not meet "viability standards."

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October 11, 2013


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We appreciate your attention to this issue and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



RON JOHNSON
United States Senator



TAMMY BALDWIN
United States Senator



RON KIND
United States Congressman