

# ROTC marks their tenth year at Behrend

by Thomas Milley  
Collegian Staff Writer

As this school year draws to a close, it brings with it the close of the first decade of Army ROTC at Behrend. As I look at the yellowed newspaper articles and photographs that have been left behind, stuck in a dusty blue photo album, I see many things.

First, an announcement dated August 1975 which stated that ROTC would be conducted that fall at Behrend.

Next, I see an article from the September 25, 1975 issue of the *Collegian* introducing ROTC to the students. The next issue of the *Collegian* had an article on the new ROTC sponsored clubs: Rangers, Rifle Club, and a women's track team called "The Stars and Stripes of Behrend" (the only club which has fallen by the wayside, only to be replaced by co-ed colorguard, a Scuba Club and the Adventure Club).

That issue also contained a small letter to the editor by a freshman who called the establishment of an ROTC program at Behrend "an insult to any socially conscious person."

Behrend's ROTC program had a significant level of involvement during the early years, and had a starting enrollment in 1976-77 of 98 MS-I's and 15 MS-II's, a significant increase from 39 and 6 the first year.

In a list of the first year's events I found a note stating that the Rifle team had won its very first rifle match, against Edinboro State College; a tradition of excellence which the Rifle Team still main-

tains, winning this year's PMS Invitational Rifle match at Fort Indiantown Gap.

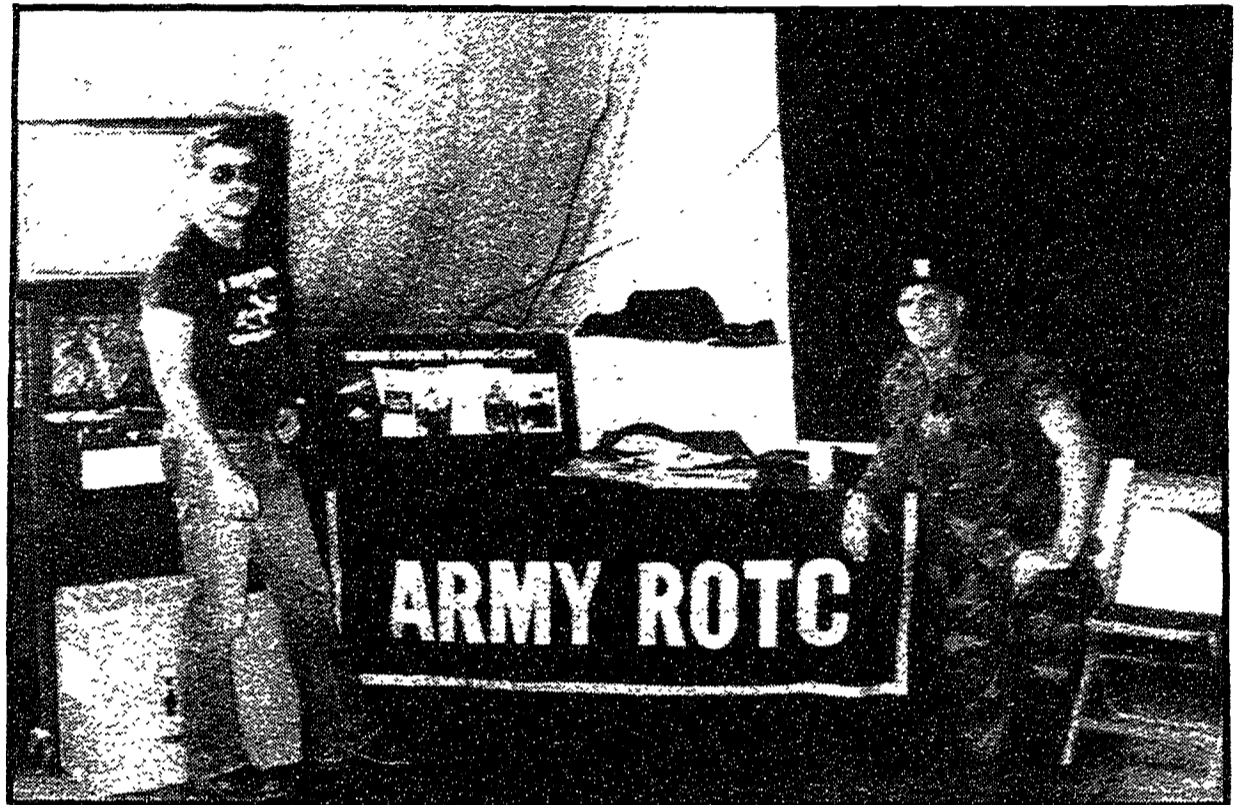
The Army ROTC program has made other, lasting contributions to Behrend, for instance, the lower half of the fitness trail was cleared by the cadets during the Summer of 1976. Also, the obstacles on the course such as the horizontal ladder, the chin-up bars, parallel bars and the other obstacles were joint projects between the Physical Education Department and the ROTC Department.

The program has also made lasting contributions to the U.S. Army, as the Detachment has either commissioned, or sent to University Park 61 Second Lieutenants over the last ten years. These newly commissioned Lieutenants have since been promoted and can be found in all parts of the world today.

Many orientation trips to Fort Knox, Kentucky; Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland; Fort Lee, Virginia; Fort Bragg, North Carolina; and Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania have occurred with over 650 cadets participating.

The numerous colorguard missions for city function, national holidays and campus activities have been completed with many more anticipated for the future.

All in all, it appears as though the program has been very much a success to date, and it seems likely that fifteen years from now, there'll be a cadet writing a review of the first 25 years of ROTC at Behrend, as this yellowed article collects dust . . .



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