

1) Which W&M donor funds are most important to the ROTC program, and what do these funds support?

- a. Commitment to Service Scholarship in Military Science/ROTC Fund (5038) – this fund supports room and board expenses of cadets and midshipmen. William & Mary established a donor fund for this scholarship to enhance the school’s ability to recruit and retain top talent for its ROTC program amidst increasing competition from and use of incentives by near peer universities to attract a limited talent pool.
- b. Military Science Department General Use Fund (0978) – this fund supports a range of activities and initiatives to promote quality of life for our cadets and midshipmen and their development by enabling their engagement with alumni mentors and supporters and celebrating their achievements. Examples of the activities supported by this fund include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Fall and spring commissioning ceremonies (i.e. photographer, cake, and printing costs for certificates and programs)
 - ii. Military Science’s share of the Military Appreciation Game Tailgate
 - iii. Military Ball
 - iv. special engagements with VIPs (such as Chancellor Gates)

2) Why is it necessary to donate or raise money for these funds? Don’t the Army and Navy cover all expenses related to ROTC? No, the Military Services do not fully fund tuition, room, and board expenses of all enrolled cadets and midshipmen, and do not fund all activities promoting their development or enrichment (such as those initiatives and activities listed in question #1 above). Additionally, William & Mary can award only 5 room and board scholarships annually to ROTC students based on financial need. The Military Services do fund:

- a. university cadre to train ROTC students
- b. essential training conducted in military training areas, such as field training exercises and summer training (to include transportation to these training events)
- c. uniforms, equipment, and stipends
- d. scholarships, for selected but not all ROTC students, that cover tuition **or** room and board expenses. For example, as of March 2026, there are 52 Army ROTC (AROTC) cadets at W&M; only 25 of the 52 receive tuition-based scholarships awarded by the Army, covering 2, 3, or 4 years of study.

3) How many ROTC students benefit from the Commitment to Service Scholarship (CtoSS) donor fund supporting room & board expenses, and how are students selected?

- a. Beginning in academic year 2026-2027, the Military Science Department plans to award \$1,000 scholarships to 5 AROTC students and 1 Navy ROTC (NROTC) student. (NOTE: Navy is currently a small program, which explains the difference in the number of scholarships to be awarded.) Navy cadre will develop

selection criteria for NROTC students, while AROTC selects from an Order of Merit List, weighing academics, leadership, physical fitness, and extracurricular activities.

4) What is the annual fundraising goal for the CtoSS Fund (5038) and the General Use Fund (0978)?

- a. Commitment to Service Scholarship in Military Science/ROTC Fund (5038) – the annual fundraising target is \$20,000. This level of funding will support an increase in the number of \$1,000 scholarships to AROTC and NROTC students. Additionally, it may allow the Department to increase the amount of each scholarship as room & board costs also increase.
- b. Military Science Department General Use Fund (0978) – the annual fundraising target is currently \$5,000.

5) What efforts are underway to grow both funds and how can I help? It is important to understand that, unlike members of other academic departments at W&M, the Military Science cadre are prohibited by Army and Navy policy from soliciting donations or conducting fundraising activities. This means that our ROTC alumni and supporters, in coordination with W&M Advancement leadership and staff, must drive and support fundraising activities. To facilitate fundraising and communication with alumni, the Military Science Department within the College of Arts & Sciences relies on a ROTC Ambassador.

We must increase donor participation to meet our annual fundraising targets. The most immediate and impactful way you can help the program is through continued giving. If you already donate, thank you and please continue. If you do not donate on a regular basis, please consider doing so. Please know that donations of any amount are greatly appreciated and do make a difference. Additionally, please review the information below on planned and potential fundraising plans and activities and how you may help:

- a. One Tribe One Day (OTOD) – this is W&M’s premier giving day, typically conducted in April of each year. For ROTC, the fundraising focus on OTOD is the **Commitment to Service Scholarship Fund (5038)**. The ROTC Ambassador, in coordination with the Military Science Department, sends out information during the spring semester regarding OTOD giving. OTOD 2026 is on April 29. There will be a challenge event in which a minimum of 50 donors (of any amount) will gain an additional \$3,000 for the scholarship fund. To boost donations, three ROTC alumni and one cadet will conduct a 12-mile rucksack relay around campus and Colonial Williamsburg. Your donations will help us “win” the challenge event. If you will be in Williamsburg this year on OTOD and would also like to join the relay, please contact Military Science at military-science@wm.edu.

- b. Honoring our commissioning cadets and midshipmen – if you would like to donate to ROTC, any amount, to honor one or more of the cadets or midshipmen who will receive their commissions each December or May, please contact the ROTC Ambassador via the Military Science Department at military-science@wm.edu.
- c. Support for the Military Science Department General Use Fund (0978) -- starting with each fall semester, the focus is on fundraising for the General Use Fund. In Fall 2026, we are exploring –
 - i. a ROTC Trivia Night Fundraiser at Precarious Beer Project in Williamsburg, probably in September
 - ii. a casual social at a local winery to recognize ROTC students who will participate in a fall contracting ceremony

Communication will be sent out regarding these and any other fundraising events, so you can participate or support in other ways. For example, we need prizes or items we could auction off to raise money. If you would like to contribute items, such as tablets or other tech “gadgets”, themed gift baskets, spa passes, vacation homes, memorabilia, or other appropriate items, please let us know at military-science@wm.edu.

6) Are there non-monetary ways to support the ROTC program? Yes, absolutely!

Donating your time goes a long way to promoting the program and supporting our cadets and midshipmen. These young men and women are often eager to engage with ROTC alumni and welcome mentoring opportunities. Throughout the year, there are several events you may help to plan and organize or attend to show your support for our future military officers. Several of these events are sponsored by the Association of 1775 (Ao75), which is W&M’s affinity group for veterans, military students, and public servants. If you would like to be actively engaged with Ao75, please contact Brit Erslev ’97 at britkime@hotmail.com. Examples of Ao75-sponsored engagement events involving alumni and ROTC students include:

- a. Ranger Challenge Team Send-off (typically a casual breakfast held on the W&M campus to celebrate our Revolutionary Guard Battalion cadets and wish them well at the regional Ranger Challenge competition)
- b. AROTC Branch Celebration (a ceremony to recognize our commissioning cadets and present their branch insignia and conduct a panel discussion to mentor and help prepare cadets for life in the Army)
- c. Military Appreciation Game Tailgate
- d. Annual field trip to the Sustainment Center of Excellence and Ordnance Training Support Facility at Ft Lee, Virginia

For further information, please contact Mary Beale Wheeler, ’83, ROTC Ambassador, via the Military Science Department at military-science@wm.edu.