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# Janus Forum Town Hall

## Tuesday, April 26, 8pm

# ROTC



**SPEAKERS:**

Professor William Keach  
Professor Luther Spoehr

Amit Jain '12  
Joy Joung '11

**The Reserve Officers Training Corps** is a military training curriculum at colleges and universities across the US that produces officers for branches of the US military. Students enrolled in the program participate in a two- or four-year curriculum leading to commission as an officer. They receive merit-based scholarships and are required to work for four years in the military following graduation. The ROTC scholarship typically offers full tuition, funds for books and fees, and a living stipend.

- *Until the 1960s, many major universities required compulsory ROTC for all of their male students. Because of the opposition to US involvement in Vietnam, compulsory ROTC was dropped in favor of voluntary programs, or in cases like Brown, expelled from campus altogether.*
- *Brown has had military operations during every major conflict since the Revolutionary War. In 1917 the Navy created the first ROTC-like training program at Brown, along with a Naval Science department. The unit folded in 1918. In 1940 the NROTC program returned to campus and remained for three decades. An Air Force ROTC unit was established in 1951.*
- *Providence College instituted an Army ROTC unit in 1951, and made a cross-town arrangement with Brown that continues to this day. Brown has commissioned about 8 officers through this program since the 1980s.*
- *There are currently no Naval or Air Force ROTC programs offered in the State of Rhode Island.*
- *In the 1960s, during protests against US involvement in Vietnam, students and faculty called for the removal of ROTC from Brown. ROTC required that the senior officer at each program be given the academic rank of professor and that the host institution include military courses in its curriculum. After the Brown faculty adopted a resolution in 1969 preventing both requirements from being met, Brown's ROTC programs were disbanded.*
- *Recently, the US military has displayed a willingness to collaborate with universities. Today, course credit and faculty status are not necessary for hosting an ROTC program.*
- *Cornell, Dartmouth, Penn, and Princeton never terminated their ROTC programs. Cornell currently has the largest number of ROTC candidates (76). Harvard and Columbia recently took steps to bring ROTC back to their campuses. Yale is likely to do so within the year.*

- *ROTC graduates constitute 56 percent of Army, 11 percent of Marine Corps, 20 percent of Navy, and 41 percent of Air Force officers, for a combined 39 percent of all active duty officers in the Department of Defense.*

- *Currently, Brown receives between \$9 million to \$11 million annually in federal grants from the Department of Defense.*

- *The military's treatment of gays and lesbians has been a subject of debate since "Don't Ask Don't Tell" was signed in 1993. In the wake of DADT's repeal, President Simmons asked for a review of the University's position on ROTC.*
- *The US military currently does not recognize "transgender" as a legitimate category of gender identity, defining the status as a form of "identity disorder."*



#### Sources:

Brown Alumni for ROTC, [www.brownrotc.org](http://www.brownrotc.org)

The Brown Coalition Against Special Privileges For ROTC, [www.keeprotc.org](http://www.keeprotc.org)

"Frequently Asked Questions on the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)," a fact sheet by the Brown Committee on ROTC

*The Brown Daily Herald*, [www.browndailyherald.com](http://www.browndailyherald.com)



The Janus Forum is a student-run initiative that encourages open-minded debate about political ideas. Sponsored by Brown's Political Theory Project, Janus seeks to actively promote critical thinking and discourse by exposing students to a variety of perspectives regarding controversial social and political issues. The Political Theory Project supports a number of Janus Forum events, including: Janus Lectures, Janus Conversations, Open Seminar Lunches, and Janus Political Union Debates.