

Education brings sister and brother to US Army

By JOHN HARLOW

MILWAUKEE (March 26, 2004) The idea of continuing their education was one reason that a sister and brother from Rice Lake, Wis., enlisted in the United States Army.

Lara and Nathan Stauner were sworn in on March 26, 2004 at the Milwaukee Military Entrance Processing Station.

Lara, 24, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at River Falls, earned a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry. Lara will be leaving for Basic Combat Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. on May 4 and following her graduation from BCT, she will head to Fort Sam Houston, Texas for Advanced Individual Training to become a health care practical nurse.

Nathan, 20, earned his high school diploma from Turtle Lake High School and will leave for BCT on May 25 at Fort Jackson S.C. He was planning to go to Brown College, but the finances fell through and thus his decision to join the US Army for the benefit of the Montgomery GI Bill and the Army College Fund. His advanced individual training will be at Fort Lee, Va., where he will attend the Army Culinary Arts School.

Not only will Lara and Nathan Stauner be training this summer, their older brother Peter will be as well. He previously enlisted in the Army Reserves and will leave for BCT on May 18.

When asked about the idea of swearing in with his sister, Nathan was quick with an answer.

"I couldn't stop her from joining the Army if I wanted to."

The Stauner's looked at the possibility of heading into a combat zone following the completion of their training.

"Going into combat is not something anyone really wants to do," said Lara. "If duty calls, I will do my duty. It is part and parcel for joining a branch of the military."

With three children gone to training this summer, it will become very quiet at the Stauner home.

"Our parents are doing okay with all three of us enlisting," said Lara. "They are going to miss us and probably be a little bit afraid for us, but we will all be okay."

After skipping a generation, the Stauner family is diving headfirst back into military service.

"We have a cousin who is stationed in Afghanistan and a grandfather who is a retired Lieutenant Colonel," said Lara. "It is like we are sort of restarting a family tradition."

Lara and Nathan have different outlooks on their individual careers in the US Army. Nathan plans to return to college to get his degree after his three-year enlistment. Lara plans to apply for Officer Candidate School to become a registered nurse and make a career out of the US Army.

“It would be nice to eventually be stationed at the same location,” said Lara. “It would be a better way for me to keep an eye on my little brother.” “It would be nice,” said Nathan. “I can see myself making some macaroni and cheese for her.”

The journey for the three Stauner siblings begins on May 4.