

1023-R1-1775 **Heather Stevenson*** (ah2093@usma.edu), Department of Math Sciences, Thayer Hall, Room 227B, West Point, NY. *A Freshman Introduction to Operations Research*. Preliminary report.

Students at the United States Military Academy take Mathematical Modeling and Introduction to Calculus during their freshmen year of study. During the course, each student completes a capstone course project. The course project this year exposes students to Operations Research by having them perform a decision analysis. Specifically, students are asked to determine which retirement strategy a junior military officer should pursue among several potential options in order to maximize income during retirement. Students must formulate a model incorporating constraints on the problem (e.g. risk vs. return), perform a comparison of retirement strategies using a mathematical programming language, and analyze the validity of their findings. (Received September 27, 2006)