

Army ROTC Advisory Board Minutes
07 FEB 2025, 1:00-2:30 pm
In-person and Zoom Meeting

Present

- Chairman, COL (Ret.) Barry Baer
- Mr. Kevin Ruelas
- Mr. Damian Friend
- COL (Ret.) Dale Farrand
- BG Jesse Morehouse
- Mr. Aaron Sager
- Mr. Jake Shepherd
- Mr. Gabe Bodner
- COL (Ret.) Michael Stowell
- Mr. Andy Flynn
- Mr. David Scott
- BG Jesse Morehouse
- Ms. Lisa Darrah

LTC Lynae Place
Ms. Meggan Foster

Quorum 60%, 11 members

Absent

- MAJ Sarah Howes
- Mr. Jeff Sears
- COL (Ret.) David Ray

Meeting requirements

- Mr. Baer confirmed all members who were present and absent, quorum was met
- Mr. Baer called the meeting to order

Cadet presentation

- LTC Place introduced Cadet Marley Pethica to give a 3-4 minute introduction of herself and why she chose AROTC
 - o Cadet Pethica is from Philadelphia and was able to do Project GO the summer after her freshman year where she traveled to Brazil to study Portuguese. When she returned to CU, she changed her major and applied to Project GO the following summer to study Chinese in Taiwan. ROTC allowed her to find her passion for languages. She's also worked in the Design 4 Defense class which has broadened her leadership skills and she became a TA for 2 semesters from that experience. She's currently working on the AROTC Military Ball event and is looking to branch into Military Intelligence.

Scholarships to present at the MilBall

- LTC Place went over the cadets that were presented under each of the two scholarships that need to be finalized (COL Barry Baer \$2,500 Scholarship and CPT Lynn Scutellaro \$1,000 Scholarship)
 - o Board member were emailed the entries from each cadet and were given the task to select the top candidate for each scholarship and send to Meggan Foster by 5pm on Monday (2/10)
- Meggan to send out the slides with the links to each cadet entry and the selection parameters for each scholarship

Semester update

- LTC Place reviewed the current status of cadets in the GBB

- LTC Place further explained the issue with there no longer giving scholarship at the nation level from Cadet Command – since they over commissioned cadets last year (budget reduced by \$20M)
 - Which is also happening on the Air Force ROTC side of the house as well
 - Navy/Marines do not seem to have this issue yet, since they are hurting for man power
- The only other options are through the SMP or G2G routes or the Minute Man Scholarship through the Guard or Reserves
 - Unfortunately the ADO route no longer counts towards years of service, so who were interested in ROTC will probably go directly through the officer training route
- We are looking at “not making mission” with our MSII class right now

Cadre inbound/outbound

- LTC Place went over each companies list of incoming and outgoing cadre for the next few months
 - We will soon have a 50% turnover in staff come this summer
 - Inbound is at 4 new cadre
 - Outbound is at possibly 5 current cadre by March of 2026

Spring events

- LTC Place went over some photos of recent events and reviewed all upcoming spring events with the board
 - The MilBall is Feb 21
 - The Colorado Meet that the NROTC is putting on March 7-8 – AROTC will compete in 4 events
 - The Bataan Death March is set for March 22 where the GBB plans to send down at 2-3 teams
 - Mr. Ruelas, once again has offered to host the event again with hotel stays for two nights
 - The Ranger Buddy is Mar 28-29
 - The Spring FTX is Apr 17-19 down at USAFA

Needs list and items of interest

- LTC Place reviewed the list of needs looking to the board for support
 - Provide continuity-quick learning guide
 - Scholarship support
 - Operational support
 - Advice/mentorship for the program
 - Ambassadors on/off campus
 - Networking opportunities and support for cadets
- COL Baer stated he just taught two classes on Finance to the MSIV cadets this past week
- Other members mentioned they are active participants in the Design 4 Defense class that is offered at CU-Boulder
- LTC Place discussed the items of interest that included
 - Opportunities – Helping our cadet get more experience on the Range (even though USAAC’s policy does not allow programs to use privately owned weapons and ammo from non-governmental organizations) – but if the opportunity exists for cadets to shoot on their own, then there are no restrictions
 - LTC to provide Kevin Ruelas a cadet POC for organizing range sessions at his private house

- Challenges – No longer have the use of Balch Fieldhouse which is now being converted into indoor tennis courts for the CU Tennis Team
 - Need to find alternate locations for indoor fitness trainings
- Loss of scholarship dollars
 - Mission for 27 and 28 cut by 20%
 - Brigade no longer providing campus based scholarships
 - GBB has already lost 5 cadets due to the lack of scholarship dollars

Around the Horn

- COL Baer mentioned he plans to have the next meeting at his house in either May/June 2025
- LTC Place schedule is Mon @ CSM / Tue @ CU / Wed @ MSU / Thu @ CU / Fri Flex Day
- Mr. David Scott mentioned we need to get information across all platforms (Facebook/Instagram/Battalion pages)
- Mr. Jake Shepherd mentioned he will see if he has any former contacts at Fort Carson that want to help teach cadets as part of their mission
- Mr. Gabe Bodner mentioned that he thought the Forever Gold Scholarships through the Alumni Association might be open to Colorado based students – he will work with Mr. Dale Farrand on this possibility
- Meggan will compile the meeting minutes and send out to everyone – she will also send out the scholarship slides with the links to the cadets information and the form for all new members to fill out about themselves

Meeting closed at 2:20 pm

Next meeting COL Baer will send out the information on