

**Army ROTC Advisory Board Minutes**  
**17 FEB 2026, 1:00-2:30 pm**  
**In-person and Zoom Meeting**

**Present**

- Chairman, COL (Ret.) Barry Baer
- Mr. Kevin Ruelas
- Mr. Andy Flynn
- Mr. Damian Friend
- COL (Ret.) Bill Ostlund
- Mr. Gabe Bodner
- Mr. Jeff Sears
- Mr. Aaron Sager
- Mr. Jake Shepherd
- Mr. David Scott
- COL (Ret.) David Ray
- BG (Ret.) Jesse Morehouse

MAJ Matthew Chase  
CPT David Hermerding  
Ms. Meggan Foster

Quorum 60%, 10 members at  
beginning of meeting

**Absent**

- LTC Sarah Howes (Maternity Leave)
- Ms. Lisa Darrah (Travel)
- COL (Ret.) Dale Farrand (Travel)
- COL (Ret.) Michael Stowell

**Meeting requirements**

- Mr. Baer confirmed all members who were present and absent, quorum was met
- Mr. Baer called the meeting to order
- Mr. Baer mentioned changes needed to the board member list (at the end of the meeting Mr. Ruelas mentioned adding everyone's individual military experience/history to the board list as well)

**Spring events**

MAJ Chase reviewed the upcoming events for this spring

- Dining-in – Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> at the Glenn Miller Ballroom in the UMC at CU-Boulder
- Colorado Meet – March 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup> hosted by the NROTC at CU-Boulder
- Tri-Mil Awards – coming up in early April
- Commissioning (4 total) – additional details will be sent out shortly
  - o CU-Boulder – Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - o MINES – Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>
  - o MSUD – Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>
  - o CCU – Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>

**Cadre inbound/outbound update**

- MAJ Matthew Chase here until summer 2027, planning to onboard LTC Donahue this August 2026 (LTC is a West Point graduate and Infantry officer)
- CPT Aaron Hughbanks arrived the end of January and is down at MSUD
- Plan to have a new NCO coming this summer
- This fall or next spring we have 3 departing:
  - o CPT McGuire – possible leave by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>
  - o SFC Castillo – leave Dec or early spring
  - o SFC Konrad – leaving by spring
- Summer 2027 we have 3 departing: MAJ Chase, CPT Hermerding, MAJ Vancil

## **Top 5 points/ideas, plus other updates/obstacles**

MAJ Chase discussed the status of each of his top 5 points/ideas while also reviewing other Cadet Command updates and some related obstacles

- Cadet summer camp:
  - o Cadet Command changed the format focusing on squad level rather than platoon level tactics
  - o MAJ Chase is preparing our cadets to be ready for this change
- [2] Career/life – forming relationship with CU's Health & Exercise Science department:
  - o MAJ Chase spoke with Professor Peter Kim in IPHY regarding a mutually beneficial arrangement where ROTC improves with a more efficient physical fitness training regimen and the grad student obtains “real world” job experience in his/her field
  - o Prof. Kim is an integrative physiology professor and researcher and has experience working with the Olympic athletic group on campus
  - o Prof. Kim was very receptive to the idea and is currently getting the details out to his grad students
  - o Prof. Kim and MAJ Chase also discussed other opportunities like conducting research on sleep, health, fitness and other aspects of our ROTC cadets training before they enter full-time military service
  - o Mr. Bodner mentioned his son is a current IPHY undergraduate student at CU-Boulder and might be interested in this endeavor, which MAJ Chase was agreeable to meeting with the son
- Mission levels:
  - o Cadet Command is currently changing the climate of the ROTC program – becoming more standards driven and emphasizing enforcement of standards (i.e. holding cadets more accountable to good pt scores, required grades, more ROTC/military aptitude, etc.)
  - o Our cap for contracting has been reduced to 27 cadets – we currently have 28 new contracted cadets
    - Any new cadets we want to contract we have to request approval – must create order of merit list (OML) to justify contracting
    - Not really affecting our 28/29 mission set at this time
- Scholarship dollars:
  - o Cadet Command is continuing its focus on disbursement of dollars towards the national scholarships obtained out of high school, not on campus scholarship dollars after a cadet arrives at school
  - o OUE (the Office of Undergraduate Education) will be setting up a meeting between all ROTCs on campus and the scholarship group to see if there are other ways to help broadening assistance to our prospective students
  - o Need to look into why students are selecting other top ranked schools instead of CU-Boulder – what do we need to do to compete
- Cadre staffing changes from Cadet Command:
  - o MAJ Chase reported that Cadet Command has reduced the overall staffing percentage from 80% to 70% - by fall 2026 we will see the 70% staffing level
  - o We currently have a supply tech position that is not affected by the “hiring freeze” – road blocks preventing a good hire is the GS level of 7 with a low pay scale of \$55-\$60K, which is unrealistic in the Boulder area – so MAJ Chase is optimistic of filling that position any time soon
- [1] Rifle range:
  - o MAJ Chase is planning a meeting with Mr. Lindoerfer the head of Facilities Management to discuss the old rifle range status

- [5] Plus they are going to look at our east campus storage (i.e. the meat locker) and discuss the possibility of moving our storage to the old Stadium print shop just down the hall from us on the second floor Cadet Command reduced its full rate from 80% to 70%
- [3] Land needs:
  - CU's Mountain Research Center still a possibility if able to use the surrounding state park/forest land (use the facilities at Mtn Research only) – CPT Meaux working on finding out who to contact at the state level
  - MAJ Chase contacted the NCAR folks right before the federal government proposed to shut down the facility – MAJ Chase will follow-up with the NCAR contact at the end of the semester to find out the status of the shut down
  - Mr. Ruelas mentioned that his friends that own land just past Brainard Lake were open to allowing AROTC to use the land for free (one of the first dude ranches established in the area with about 200 to 300 acres of land) – unfortunately the land is above the tree line, so subject cold and snowy conditions
  - MAJ Chase mentioned that CPT McGuire was working with a contact named James that potentially has land that we can use for our upcoming land navigation exercise
  - MAJ Chase also reported that we were able to obtain the Air Force Academy land for our spring FTX – the only down-side is that the dates are again over Easter weekend (April 2-4, 2026)
- [4] Cadre tuition assistance:
  - Our boss under OUE (Erika Randall) has proposed supplying \$20K to each ROTC unit to go towards cadre tuition assistance
    - The money will be available for fall 2026
    - Navy ROTC is the lead on building out the parameters of the tuition assistance

### **Other topics introduced**

- Mr. Baer mentioned that the Advisory Board is here to assist the overall GBB and the cadets with on and off campus relationships, institutional knowledge – so Mr. Baer wanted to remind cadre to reach out to the Advisory Board at each campus to tap into their knowledge base and willingness to assist wherever they are able to
- MAJ Chase discussed an upcoming senior class assignment on branch briefing – where the seniors present on an assigned branch – MAJ Chase proposed a day for any board member to come in one day to assist with their branch knowledge (MAJ Chase to let the board know the class date)
- MAJ Chase also mentioned that the cadets are getting together outside of ROTC and classes to participate in fun activities – cadets plan to practice their marksmanship skills this week and a ski trip has been planned for next week as well

### **Scholarship voting**

MAJ Chase presented his picks for the two scholarships the board reviews and votes on each spring semester:

- Baer scholarship:
  - 4 cadets applied
  - MAJ Chase ranked the cadets and his first choice is CDT Tjhornhom (SMP, extreme financial need); second choice CDT Svir; third choice CDT Dougherty; fourth choice CDT Coert-Metcalf
- Scutellaro scholarship:
  - 3 cadets applied

- MAJ Chase ranked and reviewed all applications – first choice CDT Chufong-Sprague, MSII, Aviation, SMP; second choice CDT Norrell; third choice CDT Coert-Metcalf
- Board asked to have the applications emailed to them, so they can review and vote
- Board decisions due to Meggan by noon on Monday, February 23
- Side note: Mr. Ruelas asked about Bataan participation this year – offered to pay for the hotel rooms again – MAJ Chase assumed, based on Mr. Ruelas's comments during the last meeting, that Mr. Ruelas was selling the New Mexico company and would not be able to support the hotel rooms for this year
  - MAJ Chase will discuss with the cadets that were interested in participating in Bataan this year
  - MAJ Chase will have the cadets reach out to Mr. Ruelas directly to coordinate the booking of the hotel rooms

#### **Around the horn**

- Mr. Sears mentioned that his company is still offering summer internship opportunities for cadets
  - Mr. Bodner's son is currently working as an intern
  - Cadets just need to apply
- Mr. Flynn gave an update on an upcoming MINES "Lunch Bunch" presentation that is focusing on Army ROTC
  - CPT Hermerding will be presenting on the cadets life at MINES and the vast history of the AROTC unit at MINES
  - Mr. Flynn said he sent out the invitation to all members of the Advisory Board

***Meeting closed at 2:13 pm***

***Next meeting will be in April/May and information will be sent out soon***