

Army ROTC Advisory Board Minutes
18 SEP 2025, 2:00-3:30 pm
In-person and Zoom Meeting

Present

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

LTC Lynae Place
MAJ Daniel Vancil
CPT Matt McGuire
Ms. Meggan Foster

Quorum 60%, 11 members at
beginning of meeting

Absent

- LTC Sarah Howes
- COL (Ret.) Michael Stowell
- Mr. Andy Flynn

Meeting requirements

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

Purpose of board

- Mr. Baer reminded the members that the purpose of the board is to help the Cadre and PMS with getting as many dollars as we can for the department; to advise when needed; to be ambassadors for AROTC on- and off-campus

Board member list

- Mr. Baer mentioned that we need to make a few updates to the current list (i.e. change to LTC Howes, update to BG Jesse Morehouse listing (Ret.), add Ruelas's phone number, etc.)
- Will get updated member list out to group as soon as possible

Cadre inbound/outbound update

- Organizational chart showing all Cadre and Staff under the Golden Buffalo Battalion – positions with an “x” next to it are the current open positions (Log Tech, APMS Admin, MSI)
- LTC Place introduced the new Cadre members to the team
 - o SFC Konrad (who is replacing SFC Thompson and is the acting interim SMSI)
 - o Mr. Mason (who is the new contractor)
 - o CPT Meaux (new APMS log officer – delivered baby yesterday 9/17)
 - o MAJ Chase (returning in October, was helping out CSU since January 2025)
 - o And possible January addition of a new CPT
- LTC Place also identified the Cadre that are soon leaving the GBB
 - o SFC Thompson (started the football push-up crew and was the interim SMSI)
 - o SSG Lua-Diaz (down at MSUD for two years)

Cadet updates

- LTC Place reviewed the CST results of the MS III Cadets from this summer – overall out Cadets did better than average than other in 5th Brigade
 - o Lowest score was Grenade throwing at 53.5% versus 5th BDE at 67.52% (GBB was 23/40, pass/fail)
 - o Most of our Cadets received an E (Excellent) rating at 60.78%
 - o And 3 out of 40 received RECONDO at 7.5%
 - LTC Place noted that this year Cadet Command was more stringent with giving out RECONDO's – since we have in the past received 6 to 7
 - o Mr. Baer asked when the Distinguished Military Grads (DMGs) will be coming out – LTC Place mentioned that happens after the semester ends, typically know before our Military Ball

Scholarship update

- LTC Place mentioned that USAAC significantly decreased the number of scholarships than previous years – this year we received 3 Cadets with a scholarship versus 14 Cadets last year, this is due to USAAC's budget being cut
- LTC Place had MAJ Vancil explain how the Colorado National Guard is helping out with the lack of scholarships
 - o MAJ Vancil said the CONG is signing up Cadets under the SMP program with the option of obtaining in-state tuition, while serving in the guard and attending CU
 - o MAJ Vancil explained that each Colorado campus is allotted a specific amount of money based on student population and other factors
 - o MAJ Vancil stated that he was able to enlist 40 Cadets, with 38 applying for the tuition waiver – about 32 did receive that waiver
 - o MAJ Vancil also stated that the SMP dollars are only given through Colorado to public institutions, so some of our partner schools in the GBB did not qualify (like DU or CCU)
 - o LTC Place mentioned that Texas has enacted an in-state tuition guarantee for anyone affiliated with ROTC
 - LTC Place mentioned that 5th Brigade is looking at schools with lower costing tuition due to the amount of money they have to offer, so CU-Boulder being a higher costing tuition – means that possibility of obtaining fewer scholarships
 - LTC Place is currently working with CU to see if Colorado can mimic what Texas has done
 - LTC Place met this morning with CU's scholarship committee to discuss this very topic
 - LTC Place mentioned that Wyoming is looking into replicating Texas's decision to grant in-state tuition
 - Mr. Ray mentioned that anyone under a disabled veteran status can send their kids to a variety of schools and receive in-state tuition, but Colorado as a whole does not participate in this program

Semester update

- LTC Place reviewed the current enrollment status of the battalion
 - o Total of 170 Cadets over all 3 campus's with 75 contracted
 - o On track for each mission set as required by Cadet Command
 - o ACO has 81 cadets, BCO has 44 cadets, CCO has 45 cadets
 - o Plus 32 total females over all 3 companies

Events

- LTC Place went over the semesters list of events
 - o This past weekend the BN freshmen orientation was held on 13 Sep
 - o Fall FTX is next weekend in Guernsey, Wyoming – focusing on Land Nav with a paint ball crucible at the end
 - o Ranger Challenge we are sending 2 teams the second week in October
 - o Also in October we will be sharing the M4 range with UCCS to work on our marksmanship
 - o Come 1 Nov we will be hosting USAAC CG who will be visiting to participate in the CU Football Military Appreciation Game – he will be on the field doing the contracting/oath of enlistment to all new incoming military folks
 - COL Baer asked when the CG was coming in – would like to meet with him personally
 - LTC Place or MAJ Vancil will get the arrival details and share with the group
 - o Lastly the branch reveal party will be held on 3 Dec
 - o COL Baer asked to go back a slide and was wondering if our 32 females over all 3 companies was above or below average than other battalions
 - LTC Place mentioned that overall Army is 20% female based

Board Chair discussions

- COL Baer listed the 4 topics of discussion: [1] FTX requirements, [2] Access to training facilities, [3] Use of Ruelas property, and [4] Board member engagement
- COL Baer mentioned that Mr. Crews paid for private range shooting for the MS III Cadets last semester
- LTC Place mentioned that we used Mr. Ruelas's property for a day of shooting last semester as well
- LTC Place stated that several board members helped teach classes last semester – COL Baer, Mr. Ruelas and Mr. Bodner
- COL Baer mentioned that all the Cadre have to do is ask
- MAJ Vancil introduced the possibility of having board members at our stadium clean-ups around noonish – opportunity to buy a meal for the cadets and have a Q&A session with the board members while they are eating
- Mr. Ruelas asked to confirm that our training focus is on landnav, shooting and grenade throwing, which was confirmed by CPT McGuire; Ruelas offered his shooting range, but he is only shooting .22 caliber – CPT McGuire stated that for the short term the Ranger Challenge team is focused on shooting, and the MS III Cadets will need more shooting training for CST this coming summer, so they could train on .22 caliber, CPT McGuire said that we could possibly help offset the cost of the rounds as well
- Mr. Ruelas also wanted to let us know that he is in the process of selling his company in Las Cruces, so he might not be able to assist with hotel rooms for Bataan this spring
- COL Baer asked about #2, Access to training facilities
 - o LTC Place stated that Balch Fieldhouse was taken away from ROTC due to the tennis team needing the space for indoor practice – Athletics came back and said we are able to use it in the fall only, but a lot of equipment is currently in the space
 - o LTC Place mentioned the Army and CU MOU that states that the campus should provide free facilities on campus
 - o LTC Place said that the Recreation Center has requested ROTC provide our utilization needs at the gym – in the end, the Office of Undergraduate Education

- had to put up \$5,000 to cover the cost of all 3 ROTC units using the space for the year
 - LTC Place also mentioned that south campus is eventually going away, which is a huge hit to our training needs
- COL Baer asked about #1, FTX requirements
 - Cadets are short on gloves, safety eyewear and tactical helmets, but apparently we are good on safety eyewear for now
 - CPT McGuire said that Cadet Command does not provide adequate gloves for shooting or tactics, plus they are not warm (our cadets are buying mechanics gloves and headlamps on their own)
 - COL Baer put out a question to the board if there was anyone able to step-up and assist with buying gloves and headlamps – if so, they should contact LTC Place (this is for the entire unit, LTC Place clarified the cadet must be in CCIMS to need these items)
- COL Baer put out a reminder that we have not selected a Hall of Fame nomination in years
 - Mr. Ruelas asked about a General from the Colorado School of Mines, but he has already a member of the Hall of Fame
- COL Baer also mentioned that the board does not have a member from CCO
 - LTC Place stated that there is an LTC at MSUD right now getting his master's degree
 - COL Baer asked for the LTC's information to contact him about being on the board
 - MAJ Vancil mentioned that last spring USAAC's Hall of Fame nominated General Mun who was eventually selected to that Hall of Fame

Next Meeting

- COL Baer asked if we should have another meeting this semester – all members agreed and the next meeting we are looking at Thursday, November 20th, with meeting needing to end by 3:30pm

Around the Horn

- Mr. David Scott mentioned that he created a linkedIn page to mentor cadets, 36 people have linked to the page, but no cadets – Mr. Scott to resend the information to LTC Place
- BG (Ret.) Jesse Morehouse had a thought towards keeping up routine engagement with cadets by putting a long-range schedule together so that resources can be requested and placed to help make events happen, for example: plan mentorship slots with each class once a semester, or a call that goes out a month before landnav to see who can volunteer – better chance to get more buy in if the board can see a schedule and plan accordingly (LTC Place said MAJ Chase would be the contact to help coordinate this effort)
- Mr. David Ray commented that the lack of Cadet Command resourcing and the impact down the pipeline is a lot to digest, he will reach out to LTC Place to get a better understanding to help out
- Mr. Gabe Bodner, Mr. Kevin Ruelas and Mr. Damien Friend had no further comments
- Mr. Dale Farrand will eventually be moving back to Colorado and working between Colorado and Michigan
- Mr. Jeff Sears think graduate positions posted on linkedIn to help with what the cadets are looking to go into
- Mr. Jake Shepherd had a follow-up to his reaching out to the Fort Carson group for help with tips and marksmanship (unfortunately that group is shutting down, so they are

unable to assist) – also Mr. Shepherd is no longer with CU-Boulder, he is currently at Scott Madden which is a consulting firm (possibly down the road would be able to host interns and get ROTC students involved)

- Mr. Aaron Sager offered up his photography skills for any upcoming events, also mentioned he is an ambassador to three Chamber of Commerce's in south Denver
- Ms. Lisa Darrah was having issues with her microphone

Meeting closed at 3:14 pm

Next meeting COL Baer will send out the information soon