

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

Present

- Chairman, COL (Ret.) Barry Baer
- Mr. Kevin Ruelas
- Mr. Andy Flynn
- Mr. Damian Friend
- COL (Ret.) Dale Farrand
- Mr. Aaron Sager
- Mr. Jake Shepherd
- Mr. David Scott
- COL (Ret.) David Ray
- BG (Ret.) Jesse Morehouse

MAJ Matthew Chase
CPT Matt McGuire
Ms. Meggan Foster

Quorum 60%, 10 members at
beginning of meeting

Absent

- LTC Sarah Howes
- COL (Ret.) Michael Stowell
- Mr. Gabe Bodner
- Mr. Jeff Sears
- Ms. Lisa Darrah
- COL (Ret.) Bill Ostlund

Meeting requirements

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

Cadre inbound/outbound update

- Welcome MAJ Matthew Chase as the interim Professor of Military Science, background includes serving as cadre at Nebraska and most recently interim PMS up at CSU
- This spring CPT Matt McGuire will be out for paternity leave
- Inbound for January is CPT **Erin Ubanks**, former CU-Boulder alumni, will be serving down at MSUD to transition with CPT Maria Caputo who will be leaving
- Overall, the BN is:
 - o Down two NCOs (current NCOs out on medical)
 - SFC Jacob Thompson
 - SSG Lua-Diaz
 - o Still needing an acting MSG (SFC Todd Konrad is acting interim SMSI)

Fall events

- MAJ Chase reviewed all fall events that either already occurred or are coming up
 - o Ranger Challenge was done locally in October (due to the government shutdown) – GBB had 2 teams compete, still waiting on results from Cadet Command
 - o MSIII cadets trained on marksmanship with UCCS in October at the Fort Carson Range (thanks to Rex Laceby for coming out and assisting with event)
 - o CU's November 1st Football game was the Military Appreciation Game – MAJ Chase conducted the oath of enlistment on the field at half-time (CU provided 100 free tickets to those enlistees and a guest) – MAJ Chase acknowledged and thanked CU Athletics support of this event
 - Army ROTC color guard presented all military unit colors at the game

- Mr. Baer mentioned that the new Chancellor (Dr. Schwartz) is very supportive of the military and veterans – he has provided an additional cord for veterans to wear on their graduation gowns
- Army ROTC cadets also participated in the annual Boulder Star Lighting event the evening of Nov 11th
- Mr. Baer also asked if the military were paid during the shutdown – MAJ Chase confirmed that all “green suiters” were paid, but we had two federal employees that were furloughed (ROO and HRA)
- MAJ Chase also mentioned that all ROTC units worked closely with CU regarding the ROTC scholarships during the shutdown – CU was very good to us during this time and has also allowed cadets to register for spring classes without any issues
- The last fall event (besides the commissioning ceremonies) is the Branch Reveal Party happening on Dec 3 at CU’s University Memorial Center (UMC) – MAJ Chase to provide the start time to the board members (who should all expect an invitation to the event)

Big 5 Ideas

MAJ Chase laid out his top five concerns going forward that will impact cadet training:

- [1] Rifle Range on the CU-Boulder campus (nascent) – closed due to asbestos
- [2] Forming a relationship with CU’s Health & Exercise Science department to assist with physical training guidelines (nascent) – OUE department head, Erika Randall is assisting with finding the correct department on campus
- [3] Identify and use new land/training area for Superlab and Spring FTX (on track) – this is due to not being able to use Jack’s Valley at the AF Academy
 - We have been looking at options like area YMCA land and CU’s Mountain Research land
 - YMCA is cost prohibitive at around \$25K-\$27K
 - Working with the Mountain Research folks to get in touch with their contact for the state land that surrounds their land
 - We have used Mr. Ruelas’ land to conduct marksmanship training
 - Mr. Ruelas will ask a friend that owns about 1,000 acres by Brainard Lake if AROTC can use for labs or FTX
 - Also looking at the long-range issue of the South Campus land going away (which is where AROTC conducts a majority of their labs)
- [4] Develop a sustainable long-term path for cadre to obtain tuition benefits (on track) – OUE has provided \$30K-\$50K next semester to split between the 3 ROTC units
- [5] Develop alternative locations to use for supply and supply annex (nascent) – the current east campus “meat locker” was potentially going to be off limits to us due to remodeling in the area, fortunately our rooms will not be affected
 - Mr. Baer mentioned that about 10 years ago they had to fight to obtain the additional supply storage space (had to go to CU President Benson to get the deal finalized)

Training tool

- CPT McGuire introduced an M4 type training aid rifle that could assist with cadet marksmanship training
- CPT McGuire’s friend from his LT days at Fort Carson started the company that produces the rifle (Unit Solutions) – we were sent a sample to test out
- The rifle shoots bb style shots almost like an airsoft gun, but the rifle simulates the weight and breaks down almost like a real M4 rifle and is easy to load
- The cost of the rifle is around \$1300-\$1400 each

- CPT McGuire has been testing the rifle out in the Dance Studio in Carlson Gym
- Mr. Baer asked if Cadet Command will be supplying these training aids
 - o MAJ Chase mentioned that Cadet Command supplies us with the Smokeless Rifle setup, but it requires a specific set-up and does not fully mimic the use of an actual rifle, like on a rifle range
 - o Mr. Flynn was interested in obtaining the company contact information to potentially purchase a few rifles for the MINES

Spring events

- MAJ Chase reviewed all of the upcoming events for next semester
 - o The Military Ball will be on Feb 21 or 28 – CDT McKillop is the current cadet OIC
 - o The Navy's Colorado Meet is on Mar 6-8
 - o Spring FTX with UCCS will be on Apr 17-19
 - o CU commissioning is on May 3

Semester updates

- MAJ Chase went over the current updates for the semester
 - o Our current mission sets are looking good, but across all ROTC's Mission Set 27 (MS27) is short cadets (junior level cadets)
 - o We are still facing the lack of "on-campus" scholarships from Cadet Command – they are focusing on the 3-4 year scholarships offered to high school seniors
 - o The Colorado National Guard was supplying additional SMP scholarships to supplement the lack of scholarships available, but due to new state laws, there are now some restrictions to competitiveness
 - o The current BN stands at 170 cadets total (ACO 81, BCO 44, CCO 45)
 - o Mr. Baer asked how our cadets are faring overall – MAJ Chase mentioned our highest ranked cadet over all ROTC's is at 112 and as a whole we sit above average for the MSIV class
 - o MAJ Chase brought up the Branch Reveal Party coming up when the MSIV's find out what branch they have been accepted into and what part of the Army the cadets will be serving in (Active Duty, Reserves or Guard)
 - This is a tense time due to limited active-duty slots and those cadets that were intending on going active-duty
 - MAJ Chase mentioned that the cadre have been discussing this in class and letting the cadets know of the possibilities of not getting active-duty

Board Chair discussions

- CPT McGuire took this time to thank Mr. Ruelas for allowing some cadets to come shoot on his land – CPT McGuire presented him with a certificate of appreciation for his support of the GBB
- MAJ Chase mentioned that he's aware that it's a struggle with each PMS to get more board members engaged, but he himself is all for the additional help
- Mr. Baer reiterated that the majority of the board members want to be more involved
 - o Mr. Baer taught a finance class earlier in the week
- Mr. Sager mentioned that he is still interested in taking photos at any event
- Mr. Baer thought that we should get out the board bio documents and reshare them with the cadets to see if they want to contact anyone for more information – as board members can assist cadets to become more educated and competitive members of the Army
- Mr. Sager also mentioned that when he was here as a cadet, they used a "subcale" on the end of the M4 or M16 rifles to make the bullets softer when they shot at the rifle range – thought maybe that was something that we can still purchase for training

Next Meeting

- MAJ Chase listed the next board meeting to be in early February to decide on scholarships to present at the MilBall
- Mr. Baer asked when the new PMS will be on site and if we knew who that person was – MAJ Chase said that LTC Eric Donahue will be here in August 2006, so he should be able to attend that first board meeting of the fall 2026 semester
 - o Plus LTC Donahue plans to be in Colorado next week to look for housing, he tentatively will stop into the CU office on Tuesday (Nov 25)
- MAJ Chase also mentioned that he will be here at least another year after that as well

Around the Horn

- Mr. Damien Friend commented that the new provost at MINES is pro and former military – offered to give an introduction for MAJ Chase
 - o MAJ Chase mentioned he had already met Dr. Tompkins and has another meeting planned with her soon
- Mr. David Ray commented that he lives in Grand Junction and the next time he is in town, he will reach out to meet MAJ Chase in person
- Mr. Aaron Sager reiterated his availability to take photos at any event
- Mr. Andy Flynn commented that he has a meeting with CPT Hermerding and Ms. Giammo and will bring up the new rifle training tool that he could provide them
- MAJ Chase asked if everyone has been receiving the monthly newsletters that have been sent out – if not, please let him know and he will make sure you receive all future publications

Meeting closed at 3:07 pm

Next meeting will be in early February and information will be sent out soon