

MILITARY EDUCATION COUNCIL

208 Armory Building, MC 526
505 East Armory Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820

Military Education Council Minutes
November 1, 2021 3:00 PM
Zoom Meeting ID: 897 6857 8738, Password: 038943

Present: Thomas Teper, Jenny Bateman, CAPT Devin Bergman, CAPT David Casteel, Kent Choquette, Yulanda Curtis, Riley Hudson, LTC Dan Johnson, Zackary Landers, Angela Lyons, Matthew Rodriguez, Jason Sakowski, and Peter Silhan,
Absent: James Brennan, Jeffrey Eric Jenkins, Lt Col Joseph Timberlake, Emma Thompson

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. CAPT Casteel moved, and Prof. Choquette seconded to approve the minutes from the 08/31/21 meeting.

Prof. Teper mentioned that in the coming months Armed Forces will receive a request for the annual budget report/request. Primarily, he and Ms. Bateman will put the report together with input from the commanding officers. However, the report will be shared with the MEC with a request for input prior to it being submitted.

After Action Reports

CAPT Casteel reported on the **9/11 Stair Climb** that took place the morning of September 9th in Memorial Stadium. The three ROTC services participated in the climb along with over 100 other campus and community members. The ROTC services were split up into three corners of the stadium to allow additional distancing as a COVID precaution. Overall, the event was a success.

For the future, Navy will start the planning process before the end of the spring term instead of quickly pulling it together in the early fall. Also, pending availability of the stadium, they would like to hold the event on the 11th and during the appropriate time of day to add more significance to the events of September 11th for the participants. Feedback from CAPT Bergman with agreement on holding the event on the 11th, and that splitting the services into separate areas was a good idea that should continue in future.

CAPT Bergman reported that the **POW/MIA Vigil** event that took place in front of the Illini Union on September 17th had no problems. Prof. Choquette mentioned that he had seen PR regarding the stair climb, but nothing about the POW/MIA vigil. ROTC officers agreed that they could look at promoting it more in the future, and that the location in front of the Union provides visibility to many students.

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LTC Johnson reported on the **Military Appreciation Football Game** on October 30th that was coordinated by DIA, but had participation from ROTC. Cadets and Midshipmen did a 22 mile ruck march prior to the game for veterans suicide awareness and then handed off the game ball to the Coach Bielema. Video of this was played at the game. There were plans for a rappel team to rappel down the side of the stadium, but unfortunately, it was canceled because the anchor points were deemed unstable by university facilities and services. CAPT Casteel conducted a swearing in ceremony for several cadets and midshipmen during the game.

Additionally, the planned A10 flyover during the game was canceled because of a low cloud ceiling. However, the pilots were able to attend the game and ROTC students were able to visit the planes prior to them the leaving the following day.

Upcoming Events

CAPT Casteel will be speaking at the **Veterans Day** event at the Chez Center on November 11th for campus and community veterans. Food will be provided by Chic-fil-a and yellow ribbons will be available for those who attend. The Chez Center is putting together veterans spotlights with photos submitted by service members and veterans associated with the university.

Additional events related to Veterans Day: CAPT Bergman reported Air Force will be doing a contracting ceremony at the basketball game on November 9th. The other officers expressed interest in being involved in that event. CAPT Casteel reported the ROTC blood drive at Chez Center November 10th and the Navy Marine Birthday Ball on November 12. LTC Johnson reported Army ROTC Color Guard participating in Monticello Veterans Day Parade.

LTC Johnson reported plans for **December Commissioning Ceremony** on December 17th at 5:00 pm in Foellinger Auditorium. There are five students- two Army, two Navy, one Air Force- commissioning. CAPT Carr is coordinating the event.

LTC Johnson gave a **briefing on Army ROTC**. He discussed the COVID-19 vaccination requirements for Army cadets. He stated that COVID has had minimal effects on their in-person learning this semester.

Prof. Sakowski stated that he was working on updating university code regarding student leave for duty and drill requirements. Primarily the focus is on the 20 day annual training, but LTC Johnson mentioned some issues with Thursday drill as well. Prof. Sakowski will share information on this change process with the group.



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CAPT Bergman reported that Air Force is working on a flight simulator room that will be open to all the services. They will be contacting students to get the required training in order to be certified to supervise the simulators.

CAPT Casteel moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:52 and LTC Johnson seconded.