DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY CADET COMMAND AND FORT KNOX
204 1ST CAVALRY REGIMENT ROAD
FORT KNOX, KENTUCKY 40121-5123

October 13, 2026

Dr. Hensley Cone
Superintendent, La Vernia Independent School District
13600 US Hwy 87 West
La Vernia, TX 78121

Dear Dr. Cone:

Congratulations! I am pleased to inform you that La Vernia High School has been approved to establish a National Defense Cadet Corps (NDCC) program. The effective date of approval is April 1, 2027. Your district must be fully financially committed to sustain the program in the out-years and meet the requirements to maintain the NDCC program.

Unfortunately, we cannot offer La Vernia High School a JROTC program at this time and have placed it on the Command's Order of Merit List (OML). As funding for additional programs becomes available, schools on the OML will be offered the opportunity to establish an Army JROTC program and will be notified in writing.

The establishment contract requires each program to be staffed with a minimum of one officer, Senior Army Instructor (SAI) and one non-commissioned officer, Army Instructor (AI). The first instructor must be hired by June 30, 2027, and the second by September 30, 2027. To assist you in hiring certified instructors and provide you and your faculty with pertinent information regarding the Army NDCC program, please access our website at https://usarmyjrotc.army.mil.

We have asked the 5th Brigade staff to work with you and your faculty during the establishment process. If you have any questions or desire additional information, please contact the brigade representative at (210) 295-2013.

I am providing a copy of this letter to the Commander, 5th Brigade, U.S. Army Cadet Command, and the 5th Brigade JROTC Chief.

Sincerely,

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Date: 2026.10.16 15:48:11 -04'00'

Lee A. Evans
Colonel, US Army
Director, Army JROTC