

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3203

July 11, 2025

The Honorable Daniel P. Driscoll
Secretary of the Army
101 Army Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Driscoll:

I write to express my strong concerns regarding US Army Cadet Command's (USACC) *SROTC Rebalance and Optimization Plan* announced on June 26, 2025, which alarmingly and unwisely proposes to inactivate the Army SROTC host unit at Clarkson University – the only Army SROTC unit in the North Country.

As you know, USACC's plan entails the inactivation of 10 Army SROTC host units at universities across the United States, including the "Golden Knight" Battalion at Clarkson University. The Golden Knight Battalion is embedded in the fabric of New York State, recruiting and commissioning dozens of cadets every year from not only Clarkson University, but also serving as a host unit for crosstown cadets at St. Lawrence University, SUNY Canton and SUNY Potsdam. The hurried inactivation of one of 2nd ROTC Brigade's most successful host units will completely extinguish any presence of Army SROTC host, extension, or crosstown units in Upstate New York's North Country region—home to Fort Drum and the 10th Mountain Division—and ultimately degrade recruitment, training, and retention of elite commissioned officers for the Total Army.

Since the Golden Knight Battalion's original activation at Clarkson University in 1936, it has commissioned over 1,600 second lieutenants (2LT) for the United States Army. In the last ten years alone, Clarkson University Army SROTC has commissioned at least one of all 17 basic branches of the Army, from cadets that have commissioned as Cyber Warfare Officers (17A) and Financial Managers (36A) to Infantry Officers (11A) and Field Artillery Officers (13A). The Golden Knight Battalion is also among the top Army SROTC programs for producing cadets in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields—to include commissioning dozens of engineers in the last five years alone. I fear that inactivating the Army SROTC host unit at Clarkson University will constrain the Army's STEM training pipeline, as the Golden Knight Battalion commissions more than double the national Army SROTC average for cadets who enter STEM career fields.

I believe the plan to inactivate the SROTC unit at Clarkson University is a misstep, is counterproductive for meeting the Army's officer commissioning mission requirements, is harmful to cadets presently enrolled in the program, and is harmful to the whole North Country community. Therefore, I strongly believe this decision should be immediately reversed.

In addition, I respectfully ask that USACC provide answers to the following questions prior to the issuance of any Operation Order (OPORD) to inactivate the host unit at Clarkson University:

- 1) What criteria did USACC use to identify and determine which host units to inactivate, which host units to reclassify to extension units, and which to reclassify to crosstown units?
- 2) What data specific to the Golden Knight Battalion at Clarkson University did USACC review as it developed the SROTC Rebalance and Optimization Plan? When was this data originally collected?
- 3) Did USACC work with Clarkson University to verify the accuracy of its data before deciding to inactivate the Golden Knight Battalion?
- 4) During its review, did USACC evaluate options to reclassify Clarkson University as an extension unit?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Charles E. Schumer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" and last name "Schumer" clearly legible.

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator