

# NMMI Alumni relations



## **New Mexico Military Institute**

10 July 2013

#### http://www.nmmi.edu/alumni alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

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"Forward" momentum is taking place in creating NMMI Alumni chapters and adding members. Alumni taking charge filled with enthusiasm and fueled by "a connection" to NMMI. Things are happening in <u>Roswell</u>, <u>Las</u> <u>Vegas</u>, Denver, <u>Phoenix</u>, <u>Houston</u>, Washington DC, El Paso, Georgia, Kansas and <u>Mexico</u>. If you are not participating in a chapter, now is the time. If there is not a chapter available where you live, start one.

Hard to believe that Homecoming 2013 is just around the corner. 16-20 October; make plans to attend.

If you are interested in making your reunion the best ever, let us know. We can help.



Left to right: Sarah Bradley, Karen Yerby and Adela Mata.

We would like to introduce you to your Alumni staff:

Sarah is the newest addition to our office. Sarah and her husband, Chris recently moved back to Roswell when Chris left the military. They have a 19 month old son, Caleb. Karen Yerby and her husband, Buster, moved to Roswell from the Denver, CO, area in 2002. Karen has 10 years of wonderful experiences with NMMI Alumni!

Adela comes to Roswell from Dallas, TX. She is the voice you hear when you call the office. Adela is new to Roswell. Welcome Adela!

They are there to assist you, please don't hesitate to call. 575-624-8250.

Sarah Bradley—<u>alm\_svcs@nmmi.edu</u> Karen Yerby—<u>alm\_clrk@nmmi.edu</u> Adela Mata—<u>alm\_pub@nmmi.edu</u>

This is **YOUR** NMMI Alumni E–Newsletter! Tell us what you want to see. We would like life updates from everyone. Your classmates would love to see what you have been up to! If you would like to submit a bio or an update please email (with pictures would be great) to alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

#### Tax deductible giving

You can receive a tax deductible receipt for you charitable contributions made payable to NMMI or the NMMI Foundation.

Is your membership current?

http://nmmi-office-of-alumnirelations.myshopify.com/



#### Story from COL Robert A. Culp, II 1986 JC

Greetings from Forward Operating Base Ghazni in Afghanistan! I have been deployed with 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division on a nine-month tour since mid-January. Our mission is to advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces in developing their capacity to assume full responsibility for their own security. Currently, I am commanding the Brigade's Special Troops Battalion and our mission is to provide critical Engineer, Signal, Intelligence and security support to the Brigade in order to enable our combat advisory mission. Additionally, I am the Deputy Commander of the Brigade and so, not only have I been given the honor and privilege of leading Soldiers in combat, but I have gained a unique opportunity to see the full scope of what the Brigade's operations over the past six months have achieved. Below are a few thoughts about what we are doing here in Afghanistan.

First, our Soldiers are incredible. I am continually amazed at how they are able to accomplish any assigned mission in one of the most difficult operating environments on the planet. Afghanistan, even without the threat of insurgent attack, is a tremendously challenging place to live and conduct operations. The weather and terrain, combined with the lack of infrastructure, makes this a very difficult place to maintain equipment and sustain our forces logistically. When you combine this with the asymmetric tactics that the insurgents employ against us, it makes this a difficult and dangerous place to operate. Yet, our Soldiers routinely accomplish all assigned missions and they do so with a great attitude and a tremendous amount of pride in what they are doing because they know that they are making a positive difference in the Afghan National Security Forces ability to assume responsibility for their own security.

As difficult and dangerous as it is for us to operate here in Afghanistan, it is even more so for our Afghan partners. They are not as well equipped or as well trained as we are, yet they continue to take the fight to the enemy. They do not have a choice. The enemy is resilient and is attempting to negotiate the end of the conflict here from a position of strength. The Taliban Senior Leadership has directed the focus of Taliban operations to shift to the Afghan National Security Forces and this has resulted in the Afghan National Security Forces now taking far more casualties than our forces. Far more... and they don't get to go home at the end of a nine-month tour. The Afghans know that they need to own the outcome of this fight and they are fighting to win. They have the more equipment and better training than the insurgents do. They are much better supplied than the insurgents. Most importantly, the Afghan National Security Forces have the support of the local people. Al Qaida can no longer operate freely in Afghanistan and their presence here is virtually irrelevant. The Taliban is no longer willing to host Al Qaida and probably never will again. Al Qaida has brought nothing but death and despair to the Afghan people and they are no longer welcome in Afghanistan. Conversely, the Afghan Army is now the most trusted institution in the country. Compare this to the fact that only about ten percent of the population supports the Taliban. The Afghans can win this and we have given them the capability to do it. I am incredibly proud of our Soldiers and what they have been able to accomplish here. Leading them has been the greatest privilege of my career. Other NMMI alumni I have met up with while serving in Afghanistan are below.

#### Robert A. Culp, II

Colonel, US Army 1986 HS, 1988 JC

#### **Trevor S. Thrasher**

SSG, US Army 1988 JC ODA 3326

Brian D. Earl LTC, SF 1982 HS, 1984 JC Chief of Staff CJSOTF-A

#### John G. Sanchez

LTC, MS 1982 HS Chief, Brigade Mental Health 3ID CAB, TF Falcon



COL Robert A. Culp, II 1986 JC



Our congratulations to Colonel Culp (center) on his promotion to Colonel on 1 March 2013.



#### From the NMMI Alumni Phoenix, AZ Chapter

We are having a poolside BBQ for the Phoenix Chapter on the 27th of July at the Home of Dale and Terina Thompson Brandsberg 1982 JC. Please make your plans to be there, and bring the family. We will be posting more of the particulars as we go along. Please make arrangements to attend. People are catching fire all over this country and starting new alumni chapters. We would love to have you there and catch the fever. Let's make some things happen. Visit the Chapter Facebook page for more information.

#### Robert R. "Robby" Drobel, Jr. 1968 JC



#### From the NMMI Alumni Houston, TX Chapter

The Houston NMMI Alumni Chapter is planning a happy hour on 22 July. All are welcome. We will meet at Michael Jordan's <u>Vintage Pub</u>. (Where we had the Crawfish Boil in March) RSVP <u>here</u>.

Come out and relax with old and new alumni friends.

# Lee G. Jones, Jr. 1966 HS, 1968 JC

lgjones@swbell.net 713-906-6099 (Cell)



#### From the NMMI Alumni Las Vegas, NV Chapter

The Las Vegas, NV Alumni Chapter is now recruiting! Visit the <u>Chapter Facebook page</u> for more information or contact **LTC Juliana K. McCauslin, USAR 1989 JC** at julianamccauslin@yahoo.com.



#### From the NMMI Alumni Albuquerque, NM Chapter

Our last event, the Annual "Burgers Orell" hosted by LTC Seth R. Orell, USA (Ret) 1962 JC and his wife Kathy and brother LTC Patrick H. Orell, USA (Ret) 1965 JC and his wife Elise, raised over \$1,200, with \$400 contributed to the Campaign for the Corps.

Our next event is a fundraising On Saturday, 24 August, the Albuquerque Chapter will hold the Annual Autumn Leaves Social. Save the date! For information on the Chapter and future events, contact Jordy Wommack 1980HS at (505) 459-8226 or <u>nmmi.abqalumni@gmail.com</u> or visit our website at <u>http://</u> www.nmmialumni-abq.com



# NMMI Alumni Chapter contacts:

#### Alabama

LTC Kevin A. Dasher, USA 1990 JC Email: kevindasher@hotmail.com

#### Arizona-Phoenix

Robert R. "Robby" Drobel, Jr. 1968 JC Email: <u>teamdrobel@gmail.com</u> and Terina E. Brandsberg 1984 JC Email: tennis4terina@yahoo.com

Phoenix Chapter On Facebook

#### California

CW4 J. C. Dodd, USAR (Ret) 1978 HS Email: jcdodd1@gmail.com.

#### Colorado

William R. "Randy" Castleman 1977 JC Email: <u>rcastleman@yahoo.com</u> and Gilbert A. Chavez 1983 JC Email: gilbertchavez@yahoo.com

#### **District of Columbia**

Lawrence J. Moon, Jr., 1983 JC Email: lawrence.moon@gmail.com

#### Florida

Laurie A. Pallesen 1981 JC Email: laurienmmi81@aol.com

#### Georgia & Tennessee

Leonard E. "Len" Shapiro 1990 JC Email: Leonardshapiro24@gmail.com Kansas J. Robert "Bob" Stone 1983 HS Email: stone5150@gmail.com

Nevada LTC Juliana K. McCauslin, USAR 1989 JC Email: julianamccauslin@yahoo.com

New Mexico—Albuquerque LtCol Jordan A. Wommack, USAF (Ret) 1980 HS Email:jordywommack@msn.com Facebook

New Mexico—Las Cruces Brandon S. Stuart 2002 JC. Email: <u>brandonstu-</u> art11@hotmail.com

New Mexico—Roswell Kristin K. Higginbotham 1988 HS. Email: hausehiggy@yahoo.com

Texas—El Paso Frank X. Spencer, III 1996 HS Email: f.spencer@azteccontractors.com and Adelinda Rivera 1991 JC Email: rivera4037@elp.rr.com

**Texas—Houston** Lee G. Jones, Jr. 1968 JC. Email: <u>lgjones@swbell.net</u> Facebook

Mexico COL Nancy J. Burrola, NMMI (Ret) Honorary Life Email: <u>nancy.burrola@gmail.com</u> Facebook

Don't see a Chapter in your area? Give us a call at 575-624-8250 and we will help you get started!



From the Washington, DC Chapter



Rodney W. Smith 1967 JC and Lawrence J. Moon 1983 JC



Larry Moon with alumni and friends in the back yard for the BBQ.

On 22 June, the Washington, DC Chapter held their annual BBQ. If was hosted by Lawrence J. Moon, Jr. 1983

**JC** his wife Marisa at their home in Potomac, MD.



Front row: Larry Moon, CPT Laura Reda, USA 1986 JC. Back row: John A. Hines 1984 JC and LTC Jerald L. Phifer, USA (Ret) 1983 JC.



NMMI Alumni relaxing by the pool at the BBQ.



#### From the NMMI Alumni Mexico Chapter



Approximately 15 members of the NMMI Mexico Alumni Chapter –<u>Sociedad de Ex-</u> <u>Almnos</u>—pose for a picture during their 5<sup>th</sup> annual reunion in San Carlos, Mexico on 24-27 May.



**Guillermo Padres Elias 1989 JC**, Governor of Sonora, Mexico and **Arturo Carvajal 1996 HS**, from left, at Elias' summer residence in Guaymas.



From left: **Miguel Elias Padres 1983 JC**; NMMI Dean of Academics, BG Douglas Murray, USAF (Ret); NMMI Foundation Inc., Director of Development, **Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC**; and NMMI President/Superintendent

MG Jerry W. Grizzle, AUS (Ret) were among those who attended. From left: **Alfredo Gonzalez** 



Carreon 2003 HS, Jorge E. Zaragoza Patiño 2007 HS and Enrique Camargo Delgado 2004 HS.

NMMI President/Superintendent



MG Jerry W. Grizzle, AUS (Ret) talks with brothers **Miguel Padres Elias 1983 JC** and **Guillermo Padres Elias 1989 JC**.

From left: Raymond Burrola,



Miguel Padres Elias 1983 JC, Victor M. Anaya Acosta 1996 HS and COL Nancy J. Burrola, NMMi (Ret) Honorary Life Member.

Approximately 15 alumni, NMMI President/Superintendent MG Jerry W. Grizzle, AUS (Ret); NMMI Alumni Relations Director **LTC James D. Lowe, NMMI**  1967 JC; NMMI Dean of Academics BG Douglas Murray, USAF (Ret), and NMMI Foundation Inc., Director of Development Nickie A. Vigil, 1981 JC were in attendance.

Among the business discussed at the reunion was the relationship between members of the Mexico alumni chapter and the new Alumni Relations Office, scholarship criteria, nomination and selection of a steering group and considerations of dates and locations for next year's reunion.

Among the alumni who attended the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sociedad de Ex-Almnos reunion were: LTC James D. "Jim" Lowe 1967 JC, Jorge Zaragoza Patino 2007 HS, Carlos Castro Nunez 2001 JC, Victor Anaya Acosta 1996 JC, Enrique Hudson 2010 HS, Arturo C. Carvajal 1996 HS, Fermin Enrique Villalba 2001 HS, Ricardo Lujan Elias 1995 HS, Germán BallesterosFernando 2005 HS, Enrique Camargo Delgado 2004 HS, Roberto J. Dagnino 1986 HS, Abelardo Salido Fourcade 2000 JC, Alfredo Gonzalez Carreon 2003 HS, Miguel Padres Elias 1983 JC, Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC and Levi S. Hobson 2000 JC.

In addition to touring a local pearl cultivating business, alumni and their guests were invited to the summer residence of **Guillermo Padrés Elías 1989 JC**' at Guaymas on the Sea of Cortez and took the opportunity to catch up with each other.

If you would like to get more information or join the Chapter, contact Nancy Burrola. <u>burrola@nmmi.edu</u>



#### From the NMMI Alumni Albuquerque, NM Chapter

Albuquerque Chapter members recently attended funeral services for Heather Andrea (Zahn) Rivera 2005 JC, who passed away on June 13th at the age of 28. We were impressed with her story of life, family, and fellowship, and met with her husband, SGT Edgar A. Rivera, USA 2004 HS and her RAT buddy, Brandy J. (Drake) Barr 2005 JC after the service. Heather left this world at a young age after building a family with Edgar, and their four children will be raised with her legacy of giving and support to others.



#### Heather's Obituary

Heather loved the Institute, and applied what she learned there to her daily routine, filling her relationships with shared love and respect, and touching the lives of countless mothers through her online business ventures. The Albuquerque Chapter wants to help Heather's family and friends attain a lasting tribute to Heather on the grounds of the school she so loved. We are sponsoring a fund raising effort to secure a **Memorial Bench in Alumni** Plaza at the Institute to be dedicated to her memory as part of this year's Homecoming

events, which would have been Heather's ten-year HS Reunion.

NMMI Regents President **Stephen D. Paternoster 1979 HS** will host a dinner at Scalo Northern Italian Grill at 6pm on Thursday, 25 July, and proceeds from the event will get the ball rolling for the \$3,500 needed. Seats for the dinner will be \$40 each, and are limited to 50 persons, so please RSVP via reply email to

#### nmmi.abqalumni@gmail.com

quickly to reserve your seats. Payment can be made at the event by Cash, Check or Credit Card.

If you are unable to attend, your tax-deductible donation can be made via Credit Card or PayPal at the "<u>Heather Rivera Memorial</u> <u>Bench</u>" or by check to NMMI Alumni Relations Office, 101 West College Boulevard, Roswell, NM, 88201-5173, or credit card by phone at 575-624-8250.



**Richard P. Mizanin 1997 JC** with his wife Lyn pinning on his Sergeant Badge. Richard was recently promoted from Detective Corporal to Sergeant in a Ceremony at the San Marcos, TX Police Department. Mizanin has been a San Marcos Police Officer since 2000, and has held the rank of Officer, Corporal, Detective Corporal and now Sergeant. Congratulations! Please help us raise the funds needed to create a lasting and fitting tribute to this fine young graduate of New Mexico Military Institute - someone who gave willingly of her time, talents, compassion and love to so many others.

Thanks in advance for your generosity, and I look forward to seeing you at the dinner!

LtCol Jordan A. Wommack, USAF (Ret) 1980 HS Albuquerque Chapter Webmaster www.nmmialumni-abq.com (505) 459-8226



Peter H. "Pete" Johnstone 1966 JC passed away on 6 July 2013. He was a part of the State Champion NMMI Colt football team in 1964. Pete graduated from both High School and Junior College from NMMI. He graduated from the University of New Mexico in 1970 with a bachelor's degree and graduated from the UNM School of Law in 1974. Pete became a member of the State Bar of New Mexico and served as President of the Albuquerque Bar Association. In 1991, Pete was the recipient of the Outstanding Lawyer Award presented by the Albuquerque Bar Association.

"He was indeed a fine and fun classmate, team member and individual. I too feel so fortunate for having had the chance to see and visit with him during our Colt Reunion last November. He will be missed but not forgotten. My salute to Brother Peter Johnstone, NMMI 1964 HS and Colt football honored athlete." —A. D. Brownfield, III, AUS (Ret) 1966 JC.



Congratulations to **John W.** "Wesley" Wallace 2001 HS and his bride Suzy on their marriage on 14 June 2013. The wedding was in Casas Grandes, Chihuahua. There were reserved tables for his "NMMI Amigos". Among the guests were:

Back Row: Carlos Castro Nunez 2001 HS; Jesus M. Rohana Olivas 2001 JC; Alfonso Gibert López Llorens 2003 HS; Alex Le Baron Gonzalez 2000 JC; Wesley Wallace, the groom and his bride Susy Escarzaga; Eduardo Medina Wallace 1993 JC, Frank X. Spencer, III 1996 HS, Jesus Mendoza 1994 HS; and Miguel Guerrero Elias 1998 JC.

First row left to right:

Pablo A. Donnadieu Martinez 2001 HS; MAJ Martin Ramos Carrasco, USA 1996 JC; Xavier Chaires Duarte 2001 HS; William W. "Bilo" Wallace 1998 JC; COL Nancy Burrola, NMMI (Ret) and Ray Burrola. Nancy tells us, "that was one fun wedding -especially the "post boda" at the Wallace hacienda built in the 1700's -- with mariachi, cerveza and tequila!

Thanks to **COL Nancy Burrola**, **NMMI (Ret)** for the photo and the story.





On 27 April **Eduardo Baldomero Almada Bouvet 1999 JC** and Rocio Zarate were married. Congratulations!



Congratulations to **Jesse J. Stillman 1998 JC** and his bride Norma on their marriage on 25 May 2013.



**Daniel H. Villalobos Buttler 2003 HS** is pictured here with his proud parents. Daniel graduated from the MBA program at The University Of Texas at Austin. Daniel plans to work in commercial real estate development or finance. Congratulations and great job!



Congratulations to **Amber D. Walker 2009 JC** and husband **Carlos E. Marrujo, III 2009 HS** on their marriage. They were wed on 8 June.



**Chanee' D. Unrah 2000 HS** and Marcos Ragnos were married on 20 June. Congratulations!



Congratulations to **2LT John D.** Warren, USA 2011 JC and Eros Alakaline Vine 2013 JC on 25 May 2013.

# **ALUMNI UPDATES**



Congratulations to **Jason A. Garcia 1995 HS** and his wife Kathleen on the birth of daughter, Zeta Rose, born on 11 June 2013.



**CAPT Traceee J. (Hoye) Rose 1991 JC** on the birth of her newest grandson, Lyndon James. He was born on 1 May 2013.



Congratulations to **Christopher L. Toli 2008 JC** and his wife Emily on the birth of Inie Paongo. She was born on 3 March 2013.



**Fermin E. Villalba Limon 2001 HS** and his wife Pauline are the proud parents of Valentina. She was born on 24 March. Fermin is the President of the NMMI Alumni Mexico Chapter. Congratulations!



Natalie Lopez-Everett 2000 JC and her husband Brandon S. Stuart 2002 JC gave birth to Charlie on 26 April. He joins the family with big brother Jordan. Congratulations!



Hunter K. (Yarbrough) Knox 2001 HS and husband James welcomed daughter Alix on 27 April 2013.



Karen M. Wall 1982 JC



#### Left to right: , MSG Tina L. (Jacobson) Ellis, USAF 1982 JC, Glede W. S. Holman 1981 JC, Karen and Teresa M. (Burull) Holman 1982 JC.

I had never even heard of NMMI when I received a brochure in the mail about the school during my senior year in high school. My dad saw it first, and since he had also attended military schools as a youth, and I was planning on a career, we decided to apply and he called the admissions office and spoke with Bob Shea, the registrar at that time. I was accepted right away and was excited to know I was getting to attend a military college like I had wanted. After ROTC Basic at Fort Knox that summer, I headed to Roswell with my fellow Hawaiians. When we got there, Junso Ogawa met us at the airport with the big bus and carted us over to the campus. We were there a few davs earlier than the rest of the incoming RATs because it had been too costly and time consuming to send us home to Hawaii and then fly us back to Roswell.

My first impression of the campus was that it was very majestic and I enjoy architecture, so the buildings were an instant hit. For my first day there, I was able to walk around and check out where things were located. That evening, I found myself at Sally Port watching the Corps form up for SRC. I felt right at home, and was looking forward to doing that soon. As I was standing watching the Corps march through on their way to Bates Hall, a cadet, **Glede W. S. Holman 1981 JC**, came up to me and introduced himself and asked me if I wanted to join the corps for supper. Knowing how things are at the service academies between plebes and old cadets, I was not expecting this and for this I have always remembered Glede as my first friend on The Hill.

Fast forward to RAT time, my first semester (I was JC, so shorter sentence!). When I look back at that semester, I have to admit that was some of the most fun I have ever had in school. I am sure if one digs deep enough, there might be some pathology behind my thinking RAT time is FUN! Nevertheless, I did think it was fun and I really enjoyed becoming knowledgeable and to this day I can still report the condition of the cow, or tell you why fire engines are red. All my life, from my parents' reports, I liked doing things that were very challenging to see how I could make a game of it, so once I did that as a RAT, the time sailed by and next thing I knew, I was a Yearling.

I was involved in some great activities, like the HQ Band, Elite Guard (yes, a girl. I was the first female on the team), and Saunders Cavalry. Some funny stories around these too....one morning in BRC formation, Laurie A. Pallesen **1981 JC** came running over asking for volunteers to join the band. She had some instruments that needed players. One of the instruments she held up was the Glockenspiel, or bells. I thought, "Well, that looks fairly easy to play", so I raised my hand and I was suddenly a musician in the marching band! I had no idea how to play that thing, so I made sure to learn at least the NMMI Fight Song so I could at least sound legit.

Not too long after that, I decided I wanted to join the drill team. Well, the team, Elite Guard, was traditionally all male, so I decided that was an even better reason to try out. **Larry D. Meadows 1981 JC** came over to my area on the Slab, and had me bring my rifle out to the grassy area by the building. I could tell he was trying to think of a skill so difficult that I would never be able to do it and that would solve the issue of females on the team. So he said, "OK, throw a triple" and demonstrated it for me. Well, like I was saying earlier, I like a challenge and a game, and guess what happened...... So here I am on the drill team and in the band at the same time; no problem, right? Wrong! At the homecoming game that year at the Wool Bowl, HQ AND Elite Guard were scheduled to perform! Somehow I would have to play with the band in my band uniform, then get into my drill team uniform and perform. I couldn't back out because I was part of the performing block. Along comes Anne E. Reeder 1981 JC to save the day! She went to her room and came out with one of her uniforms and tells me to get into my drill team uniform then put her uniform over it, so I would have two sets of clothing on. Off to the game we go. I went out onto the field and did my thing with the band, and then as soon as the last note was played, I went running off to the end zone where my fellow drill teamers were standing with my rifle and beret waiting for me. As I was blazing across the field, I was tearing off clothes and by the time I got to the end zone I was in my other uniform. I turned right around and went out and performed with the team. That was the topic of conversation and laughter for many days after.

At the end of my first year, I was given the position of Regimental QM Officer, and was in charge of Bates Hall, which meant managing the troops doing "waiters" duty. It was during my time that the epic food fight occurred, still the stuff of legend to this day!

Story by: Karen Wall



# Campaign for the Corps

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#### **New Mexico Military Institute!**

Contact Nickie Vigil, 1981 JC, Director of Development for more information at <u>nickie@nmmi.edu</u>; 575.624.8621 or make your donation online at <u>www.nmmi.edu/foundation</u>



For additional information, contact **Nickie A. Vigil 1981 JC**, NMMI Director of Development at 575-624-8621 or <u>nickie@nmmi.edu</u>

# 2014 NMMI ALUMNI CRUISE

Our last NMMI alumni cruise was amazing so it's time to start planning another one. We took a survey and asked where everyone would like to go on the next one and the votes are in.....Europe it is!!!

A fabulous cruise from Rome to the Greek Isles has been planned for July 2014 and hope you can all join your fellow alumni on this fantastic vacation destination. The deposit is \$450 per person or \$900 per cabin.

# Celebrity Cruises Celebrity Reflection 25 July 2014

http://www.cruisestnt.com/cs/205513 for details!

