

NMMI Alumni Relations



Corps of Former Cadets

May | 2014

From the Desk of the Superintendent, Jerry W. Grizzle, Ph.D. Major General (USA Retired)



Alumni Relations

What a difference a year makes!!! On 23 April 2013 the Board of Regents and NMML made the decision to terminate the relationship with the Alumni Association and return to the position of being the primary entity responsible for communicating with the Alumni of NMML.

On that date there were only five active NMML Alumni Chapters (Phoenix, AZ, Albuquerque, NM, Houston, TX, District of Columbia and Mexico). Today we have twenty six active organizations and two more pending. This has all occurred as a result of encouraging our Alumni to get involved and participate in communication at the local and regional level. Forming a chapter or organization does not mean you have to have formal meetings, agendas, officers, etc. All it requires is someone to step forward and organize the opportunity for Alumni to get together, share stories of their time at NMML and enjoy each other's company.

Our chapters are having fun and organizing a wide array of events for Alumni to attend. In the last year the Office of Alumni Relations has supported and or attended over twenty five events with more planned in the weeks ahead. Creative events like Cajun crawfish boils, BBQ's, tail gate parties during Bronco football games, Valentine's Day events, Oktoberfest and many more fun creative events have been organized and held, all due to the involvement of our Alumni.

How did all of this happen in such a short time? That is an easy question to answer, Alumni participation. The first step was to ask a small group of Alumni leaders to help us form an Alumni Advisory Group (AAG). **Glede Holman 1981 JC**, **LTC Jordy Womack USAF (Ret) 1980 HS**, **Greg Peebles 1977 JC** and **Kristin Higginbotham 1988 HS** served on the initial committee to define the roles and responsibilities of an Alumni Advisory Group. The group established and published the mission and purpose of the AAG. The next step was to expand the group to assure class and geographical diversity. The AAG quickly grew from the initial four to nineteen. Once the expanded group was formed, a formal announcement was released, identifying all members.

The first order of business for the group was to assist in the planning of the Annual Trail Ride. The event was a tremendous success because of the direct and active involvement of the Alumni Advisory Group. The second big event was the planning and execution of Homecoming 2013.

The AAG worked very close with **LTC Jim Lowe, NMML 1965 HS - 1967 JC** and his staff and conducted an incredible Homecoming experience. Every event involved the input from the AAG and in some cases a member of the AAG took complete responsibility for the event. One example is the Casino Night planned and executed by **Larry Moon 1983 JC** for the District of Columbia chapter. Held at the Sally Port Inn, the room was packed. People were out in the hall waiting for an opening so they could go inside and participate.

We added events thanks to the involvement and participation of the AAG. **Don Boyer 1971 HS - 1973 JC** organized a hot air balloon launch and then provided rides. We opened the rappelling tower to those brave souls who had a desire to hurl themselves off of a 50 foot tower. We hosted an Alumni softball game. All of these new events complimented the traditional events of the Alumni luncheon, Hall of Fame awards, Class dances and dinners and the Love Feast. Overall we had the highest attendance in recent memory, if not ever, for a Homecoming event. We had 327 registered Alumni and they brought an additional 175 guests.

So where do we go from here? You our Alumni will answer that question. Our job is to support you, communicate with you and provide information and publications for you to share the current activities at NMML. Is there an active group in your area? If not, start one!!!

I want to extend personal thanks for making this first year such an incredible success.

Put your mark on NMMI



The DeSanders Alumni Memorial Plaza has Benches, Bricks and Flagpoles for dedication.

Please call our office at 575-624-8250 if you have questions or just want to discuss the options!

Check out the store website:

<http://www.nmmi.edu/alumni/benchesbricksandflagpoles.htm>



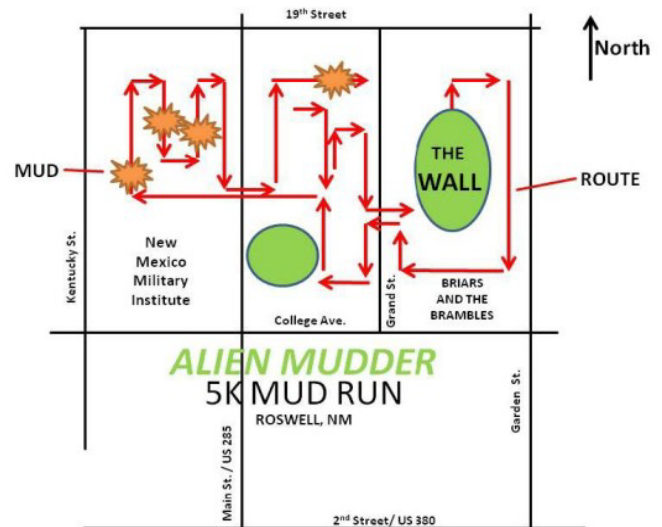
Begins at 0800
on 4 July 2014.

[Questions?](#)

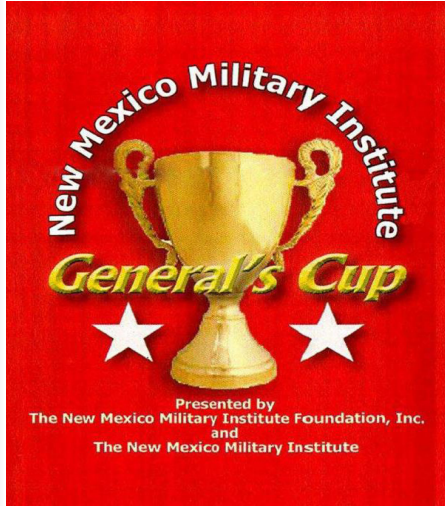
Alien Mudder

[Register now!](#)

5K of mud and obstacles!



The General's Cup/The President's Challenge



In just two short years the General's Cup has become the single largest fundraising vehicle for NMMI. The first year we netted over \$75,000 for scholarships. We made the decision to start an endowment and placed \$50,000 of the \$75,000 into an endowment. The remaining money was given to Admissions to use immediately for incentive scholarships for the 2012/2013 school year.

The second year we netted \$57,000 and elected to follow the pattern from the first year by placing \$50,000 into the endowment and providing the rest to Admissions for incentive scholarships for the 2013/2014 school year.

The way the tournament is structured, we plan to spend the entire entry fee, back on the golfer to provide them an incredible golfing experience. We supplement the remaining costs of the tournament with the generous support

of our sponsors. Each year we spend approximately \$55,000 to put on the tournament. The net of all money, after expenses, goes directly to support scholarships for the Corps of Cadets.

There is probably no other event where I can assure you that every dollar you donate, after expenses, goes directly to the Corps of Cadets. One of the largest donor blocks each year has been as a result of the President's Challenge. Each year I start the donation process with a \$1,000 donation from Shawn and me. The first year, 2012, there were 34 participants that met my challenge. The second year, there were 28 that accepted my challenge. The great news is that 18 have met the challenge both years.

The General's Cup is set for 19 - 21 September. It is not too early to match my challenge. If you have an interest in participating, please contact Jennifer Rawdon at the NMMI Foundation, 575-624-8035. Start early, donate \$100 a month for 10 months, \$250 for four months or match the entire \$1,000 in one donation.

Listed below are those who have participated in the President's Challenge for the last two years. Without their support we would not have been able to create an endowment that is already in excess of \$100,000. Will you join us in supporting the Corps of Cadets? - **Jerry W. Grizzle, Ph.D. (Major General, Retired)**

Will Cavin (2012/2013)
Bill Cutter (2012/2013)
Mark Dow (2012/2013)
Steve Elliott (2012/2013)
Hot Shot Hendricks (2012/2013)
John Henderson (2012/2013)
Glede and Teresa Holman (2012/2013)
Phil Ingram (2012/2013)
Jim and Joy Lowe (2012/2013)
Joe Matakas (2012/2013)
Rudd Marlowe (2012/2013)
Steve Paternoster (2012/2013)
Jesus Salazar (2012/2013)
John Savage (2012/2013)
George Tubb (2012/2013)

Dennis Wood (2012/2013)
NMMI Alumni Albuquerque Chapter (2013)
Bill Armstrong (2012)
Paul Arnold (2012)
Lance Benham (2012)
Dr. Randy Brown (2012)
Jock Brownfield (2012)
Clarke Coll (2013)
Frank Duncan (2012)
Jesse Eckel (2012)
Bruce Ellis (2013)
Eddie Galloway (2013)
Kim Greaves (2012)
John Harvard (2012)
Jim Hitch (2012/2013)

Tim Jennings (2013)
Sylvester Johnson (2012)
Stan Johnston (2012)
Michael Keleher (2013)
Charles Lewis (2013)
Skip Palmer (2013)
Steve Perkins (2012/2013)
Jim Raymond (2013)
Bryant Riffe (2012)
Frank Spencer, III (2012)
Tom Tinnin (2013)
Frank Turner (2012)
Dick Varnell (2012)
Dick Waggoner (2012)

Chapter News

Hello alumni, families, patrons & friends!

We've had a great year so far, starting with the Sunport Cadet Receptions through the Holiday Season. These four events were planned and executed by **Greg Peebles 1977 JC**, **Mike Ortiz 1985 HS**, and **Janna Gazolas-Taylor 1989 JC**, along with other volunteers. The events were paid for with donations to the Chapter.

NMMI Regent, **Steve Paternoster 1979 HS**, hosted and picked up the bill for the 2014 Valentine Sweethearts Dinner in February, which allowed our Chapter to donate \$600 to the Campaign for the Corps. Steve also hosted a luncheon that was coordinated by Chapter members to coincide with a cadet tour of Eclipse Aerospace facilities here in Albuquerque. His generosity on these two events amounted to over \$3000 in savings to Chapter members, and we really appreciate it!

The end of March saw a first for our Chapter - a "friends & family" event at no cost to attendees - the Ragin' Cajun Mardi Gras Spring Fling hosted by **Greg Peebles 1977 JC** and his wife Denise Kawas! We opened the coffers of the Chapter in an effort to bring new blood into our roles and the event was a great success! We also received donations from the NMMI Alumni Relations Office as well as Chapter member **Jim Hill 1992 JC**.



Our latest event was the Annual "Burgers Orell" on May 2nd, hosted by **Seth 1960 HS - 1962 JC** and Kathy Orell at their home and co-hosted by **Pat 1963 HS - 1965 JC** and Elise Orell. This event raised enough money for us to contribute another \$500 to the Campaign for the Corps.

Photos of all these events can be viewed on our website, and we are very proud to announce our next event - the Annual Fall BBQ and Fundraiser, on August 23rd, 2014, at the home of former NMMI Regent, **Phill Ingram 1967 HS** and wife, Nancy. Details on this event will be sent out in July and we'll be raising as much as we can for the Campaign for the Corps, as well as unrestricted scholarships through sponsorship of "The General's Cup" - the annual golf tourney at NMMI.

We'll be in touch - there's lots to see on the website and we look forward to seeing you soon!

Jordy Wommack 1980 HS

Abq Chapter Webmaster

www.nmmialumni-abq.com

(505) 459-8226

Chapter News

NMMI ALUMNI CHAPTER CONTACTS

[To check out the list of chapters click here!](#)

This is a great time to get involved with an NMMI Alumni Chapter. Don't see a Chapter in your area? Give us a call at 575-624-8250. We can help you get started.



Picture taken on 11 April 2014 in Farmington, NM, at the Four Corners Chapter gathering. Pictured left to right are **Gilbert F. A. Maestas 1992 JC**, **Desiré LaFont 1983 JC**, and **LTC James D. Lowe, NMMI 1967 JC**. Jim is wearing his 25th Anniversary Trail Ride Shirt. Whether you plan to attend or not, you can get your hat or shirts [here](#).



B. James Lieberman 1949 HS - 2014 HS and Director of Alumni Relations **LTC Jim Lowe, NMMI 1965 HS - 1967 JC**. James' Diploma was not awarded in 1949, but the NMMI Regents recently approved it, making him one of our most senior and our most junior alumnus!

NMMI Alumni Chapter Cookout Sacramento, CA 17 May 2014

NMMI Sacramento Alumni Chapter Picnic in the Park Social - Honored Guest, **LTC Jim Lowe, 1965 HS - 1967 JC** - Director of Alumni Relations.

The Picnic in the Park Social held on 17 May 2014 had beautiful weather, excellent company and great food!



Visit the [Sacramento Chapter Facebook](#) page to see more photos!

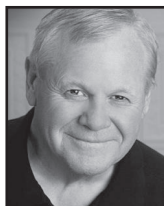
Alumni Updates

NMMI Homecoming 2014! [View](#) the Hall of Fame kiosk. (starts with sound)
Do you know an NMMI Alumnus who qualifies for the NMMI Alumni Hall of Fame?

View the criteria [here](#). Click [here](#) to go to the nomination procedure.

Deadline for 2014 nominations is 15 August 2014.

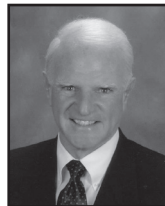
2013 Hall of Fame Recipients



Eminence
F. Rick Galles 1967 JC
[Citation](#)



Service
James C. Geibel 1976 JC
[Citation](#)



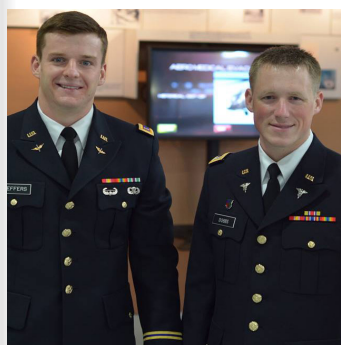
Eminence
Harold B. "Skip" Palmer 1965 JC
[Citation](#)



Flag Officer
BG Kurt S. Story,
USA (Ret) 1978 JC
[Citation](#)



George Ward Memorial
Charles H. "Chuck" Coll, II
1955 HS
[Citation](#)



2LT Michael F. Jeffers 2009 JC (USMMA Prep '08) and **Matthew S. Dobbs 2008 HS - 2010 JC** at the Army Aviation Museum shortly before pinning their Army Aviator Badges. Talk about a small world, Jeffers and Dobbs were both in Kilo Troop Fall 2007 and ended up sitting next to each other at Flight School graduation. Jeffers is an AH-64D Apache pilot and Dobbs is an Aeromedical Evacuation Officer flying the UH-60M Blackhawk.

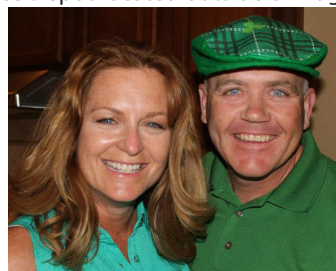


John Glover, Ph.D. 1970 JC is currently a senior Army Historian serving with Headquarters, U.S. Army - Europe. His office recently facilitated a Staff Ride for the USAREUR Commanding General that examined strategic and operational lessons from the D-Day Invasion.



Kirk D. Felmar 1986 JC is teaching in Harbor City, California. His wife, Brooke, is a speech therapist with the district as well. His son Colton is finishing 5th grade in a gifted magnet in San Pedro. He's active in Boy Scouts, sailing, plays baseball, basketball, and soccer. He's also heavily involved in a model railroad club in San Pedro. His daughter Chloe is in 3rd grade. "She's a little special with some developmental delays but my wife's a speech therapist which really helps." Felmar still sails as often as possible. He got out of the National Guard in 1992.

LTC Christopher A. Emmons, AZARNG 1990 JC worked the road in Chandler, AZ for 18 years as a patrol and motorcycle police officer. He was promoted to Detective in January 2014 and assigned to the Professional Standards Section of the Chandler Police Department. His primary duties now consist of background investigations on police officer applicants and scheduled and unscheduled audits on police department functions. Desk work is definitely not as "fun" as working the road!! He is still a drilling member of the Arizona Army National Guard and is assigned as the Logistics Directorate Chief at the Camp Navajo Army Ordnance Depot located outside of Flagstaff, AZ.



Alumni Updates



Elizabeth "Liz" (Kelley) Kanick, 1998 JC and her husband Mike welcomed their second child, Thomas, in October 2013. Thomas and big sister Evelyn are doing well and are now enjoying the reappearance of spring in Washington, DC, where the family lives.



MAJ Craig A. McNeil, USA (Ret) 1988 JC and Mr. Charles Womack, both of Fort Worth, TX, were married on 1 March 2014 in Ruidoso, NM. Craig is a Texas prosecutor, and Charles works for a car dealership chain.



Congratulations to **Mark A. Sandin 2003 JC** and his wife Anna on the birth of Leia Rose born on 7 April 2014. She joins the family with big sister Kaelyn who is 4 years old.



Congratulations to **CPT Matthew R. Adams 1992 JC** and his wife Billie on the birth of son, Elliott Rason. Elliott was born on 28 March 2014.



LTC Neil T. Chaffee, USA 1990 JC is a Battalion Commander stationed at Ft Hood, Texas. He is the 15th MI "Nighthawk" Battalion Commander that flies RC-12N Guardrail turbo-prop aircraft and the MQ-5B Hunter unmanned system.



MQ-5B Hunter
unmanned system

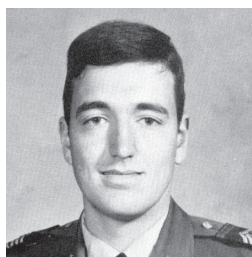


Congratulations to **Darcy A. Pope Wyatt 1995 JC** and husband Alan Wyatt. They were married on 14 June 2013 at the Loretto Chapel in Santa Fe, NM. Darcy tells us they had a great time at Homecoming last year and are going to try to make it this year as well.



Ronald J. Blessing 1972 JC graduated from Texas Tech in 1974. He spent two years in the Army Corps Of Engineers, 19 years Air Force Reserves and retired in 2003. He also has 38 years in the agriculture machinery business.

Alumni Updates



Dr. John A. "Drew" Hamilton, Jr., 1977

JC is currently serving as the Associate Vice President for Research at Mississippi State University. He is also a

Professor of Computer Science working in the areas of Cyber Security and Digital Forensics. MSU is working with Western NM University to establish a statewide digital forensics program in New Mexico.



A great photo of the island student/athletes currently based at NMMI with coaches Hazelman and O'Connell.



Karl H. "Chuck" Agar, Ph.D., PE, Retired 1961 JC

retired from the engineering profession in 2010 after 46 year's of interdisciplinary engineering experience. Since his retirement he is devoting his time to his agricultural operations including cattle, pecans, poultry and timber.

[READ MORE](#)



Attached is a picture of **Samuel "Sammy" Tesimu 2007 JC** (center) with tennis coaches **Daneric H. Hazelman 2010 JC**, Daniel O'Connell and the four island tennis players. Sammy was in town visiting with his two older children from the Chicago area where he is a tennis coach. Sammy and his wife have four children, the youngest are three-year old twin boys. They are pictured here on the new tennis courts preparing for it's first use.



Edmundo A. Gonzales 1964 JC, a member of the Senior Executive Service, is the Senior Adviser to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, Washington, DC. He provides guidance, direction and oversight for the Air Force's Wounded Warrior and Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Programs.

Mr. Gonzales entered federal service on active duty with the U.S. Army. He also served as a federal field attorney with the National Labor Relations Board from 1974 to 1976. In 1993, he was appointed the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Office of Labor Management Standards and also served as the Chairman of the U.S. Delegation - International Labor Management Relations and Productivity - NAFTA Labor Side Agreement. Mr. Gonzales was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the first Chief Financial Officer for the U.S. Department of Labor.

[READ MORE](#)



Alumni Updates



NMMI's first female graduate to achieve General rank.

BG Susan A. (Petters) Davidson, USA 1983 JC assumed command of DLA Distribution on 29 June 2012.

Davidson was born in Dade City, FL. Her military career began as a cadet at New Mexico Military Institute, followed by graduation from New Mexico State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. She received her commission in May 1983, coming on active duty in April 1986.

[READ MORE](#)



MG James B. Laster, USMC 1977 JC is the Chief of Staff of the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) headquartered at MacDill Air Force Base, FL. USSOCOM ensures the readiness of joint special operations forces and, as directed, conducts operations worldwide.

Major General Laster is a native of Dallas, TX, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in 1978 through the Platoon Leaders Course Program. Upon completion of The Basic School, he reported to 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, where he served as a rifle platoon commander and rifle company executive officer. In January 1981, Major General Laster transferred to Marine Barracks, Washington, DC where he served as a platoon commander, company executive officer, and White House Social Aide.

[READ MORE](#)



LTC Howard W. Zimmerman, IV, USA (Ret) 1991 JC received his commission through the ROTC program in December 1993. Since then Colonel Zimmerman held numerous positions of increasing responsibility as a Military Police Officer to include: Platoon Leader, Aide-de-Camp, Company Commander, Battalion Assistant Operations and Intelligence Officer, Brigade Long Range Plans Officer, Battalion Operations and Executive Officer, State Provost Marshal and Battalion Commander. Colonel Zimmerman deployed in support of operations UPHOLD DEMOCRACY, JOINT ENDEAVOR/JOINT GUARD, NOBLE EAGLE, and two combat tours for IRAQI FREEDOM. His numerous military awards include three Bronze Star Medals; one w/ Valor for combat heroism, and the Purple Heart Medal for wounds sustained in combat. Colonel Zimmerman has also been awarded the Order of the Marechaussee by the Military Police Regimental Association; one of the highest awards a military policeman may receive in the Army.

[READ MORE](#)

Alumni Updates



2013 NMMI Hall of Fame Inductee **James C. "Jim" Geibel 1976 JC** sponsored a cadet excursion to Albuquerque on 31 March 2014, for a tour of Eclipse Aerospace. Mr. Geibel has sponsored similar cadet trips related to aviation over the past several years. In coordination with Albuquerque Chapter members, Mr. Geibel was able to secure a tour for this group directly with one of Eclipse Aerospace's senior vice presidents, and NMMI Regent **Stephen D. Paternoster 1979 HS** contributed lunch for the cadets and NMMI staff members at his Albuquerque restaurant, Scalo Northern Italian Grill.

The cadets arrived via bus with their NMMI staff chaperones, COL L. D. Swift, NMMI, Physics, MAJ Roger K. Castillo, NMMI, Science and Math, and MAJ John C. Surgett, NMMI, Mathematics. Mr. Geibel rode along with them from Roswell, so he could get some quality time with the cadets. NMMI Vice Dean and High School Principal, COL George E. Brick, NMMI (MSgt, USMC Ret) met the cadets at Scalo. NMMI alumni and Cadet Flight Training Program enthusiasts **W. Troy Edwards 1952 HS** and **LTC Jordy Wommack (USAF Ret) 1980 HS** attended the lunch, along with two former Eclipse employees and pilots, who were invited to speak to the cadets by Mr. Paternoster.

Following lunch, the cadets headed out to the Eclipse Aerospace facilities, which are west of the Albuquerque International Sunport. The tour group was met by Ms. Nicole Chavez, who arranged the visit, and were treated like visiting dignitaries. The cadets, NMMI staff chaperones, and the alumni were given an extensive tour of the research & development, manufacturing, and testing areas. Colonel Brick remarked that this cadet excursion and tour was quite possibly the best he had seen during his many years at the Institute.

Mr. Geibel's dedication to the Corps of Cadets is unequalled in many ways, and his sponsorship of this type of cadet excursion is consistent with his unflagging support of his alma mater. In addition to these annual cadet excursions, Mr. Geibel also sponsors cadets who visit college fairs in the Los Angeles, California area. Mr. Geibel resides in Torrance, California, and works as a Government Accounting Office expert on Federal Aviation Administration issues.

Story by **LTC Jordan A. Wommack, USAF (Ret) 1980 HS**

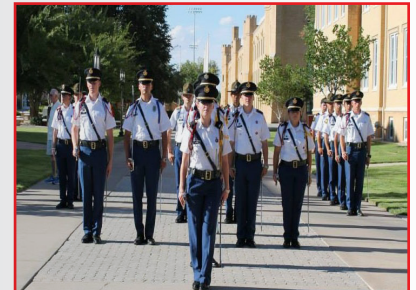
TRAIL RIDE

25th Annual NMMI Alumni Trail Ride Tentative Schedule

**All are subject to change

Time	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
0630		BRC in Mess Tent	BRC in Mess Tent	BRC in Mess Tent	
0800		Poker Run Participants depart camp			Break Camp
0900			Golfers depart camp for 10 am Tee Time	Horseshoe Tournament Cow Dog Exhibition	
0930		Trail Ride - ATV's - Hiking and Day Tours	Trail Ride - ATV's - Hiking and Day Tours	Cattle Drive Trail Ride - ATV's - Hiking and Day Tours	
1130 -	Gates open at noon	Cowboy Lunch	Cowboy Lunch	Cowboy Lunch	
1500		Zimmerman Wedding			
1700	Happy Hour	Happy Hour	Happy Hour	Happy Hour	
1745	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat	
1800	SRC in Mess Tent	SRC in Mess Tent	SRC in Mess Tent	SRC in Mess Tent	
1830				Jerry Grizzle Speaks- Singing and Birthday Cake	
1845				Fallen Riders	
1900				H. C. "Hotshot" Hendricks 1973 HS Top Hand Award Trail Ride Auction	
1930	Social time	Social Time	Social Time		
2000		Music by Syd Masters & the Swing Riders	Music Jett by Williams	Music by Syd Masters & the Swing Riders	

10 - 14 June 2014
See y'all at the Trail Ride!



CAMPAIGN FOR THE CORPS

The logo of the New Mexico Military Institute is centered between the words 'FOR' and 'THE'. It features a shield with a red and white striped field, a black eagle with spread wings at the top, and a sword at the bottom. The words 'NEW MEXICO' and 'MILITARY INSTITUTE' are written in a circular border around the shield.

Make a difference today!

This is your chance to change someone's life. Help attract the best and brightest to become the leaders of tomorrow. Fulfill the promise that is

New Mexico Military Institute!

Make your donation online at www.nmmi.edu/campaignforthecorps

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!!!

We have planned a fabulous cruise from Rome to the Greek Isles 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!

