



NMMI ALUMNI RELATIONS | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



# WELCOME TO OUR Monthly E-Newsletter

From the Director's Desk

## ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

Every year cadets finish their NMMI experience and move on to their next adventure. It provides a great opportunity to applaud and appreciate their hard work and determination as well as reflect on your own journeys at NMMI. I hope that each of you hold on to your NMMI experience, appreciate it for what it was, embody what you learned and cheer those cadets as they embark on their own NMMI journey.

Change happens daily and the institute you knew is gone but a new and thriving institute is still in place and producing cadets that are fully equipped with the tools they need to be successful in the world today and excel in the future. As you look at the changes, I ask that you appreciate all that these cadets have accomplished, cheer them along on their journey and welcome them into the alumni family with open arms and a warm appreciation. Although their experience was different than yours, it was still an experience that will impact their lives for years to come. This has been the unspoken time-honored tradition since 1891.

I hope you join me in applauding this group and congratulating them for all they have accomplished and all that they will accomplish going forward. They have left the institute in a better situation and raised the standard you all have set.

Kris Ward

Director of Alumni Relations and Institutional Advancement



**Kris Ward**

Executive Director of  
Alumni Relations and  
Institutional Advancement



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## Meet the Team



**Kris Ward**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ALUMNI RELATIONS  
& INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT



**Janice Weed '93 HS**

DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS



**Natalie Perez**

ANNUAL FUND OFFICER



COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR



**Alicia Morales**

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST



**Leslie Palombi**

SPECIAL EVENTS COORDINATOR



**Destini Hernandez**

GIFT PROCESSOR/FINANCIAL LIAISON

**Greetings from the NMMI Alumni Relations Office!**

As your bridge to the NMMI community, we're committed to fostering lifelong connections and supporting your post-graduation journey. Join us for networking, mentorship, and opportunities to stay engaged with your alma mater.

**Alumni Relations Office**

Monday – Friday 0730–1630

[Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu](mailto:Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu)

101 West College Blvd,

Daniels Leadership Center,

Roswell, NM 88201





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## FROM CADET TO COMMANDER: LTC KARL HARNESS RETURNS TO LEAD NMMI'S EARLY COMMISSIONING PROGRAM

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Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Karl Harness's journey with the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) began with a simple spark—an NMMI marketing card in his high school JROTC classroom in Riverside, California. Inspired, he applied to just one school: NMMI. From 1998 to 2000, LTC Harness attended NMMI's Junior College, where he earned his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Early Commissioning Program (ECP). More than 27 years later, he returns to Roswell as the newly appointed Professor of Military Science (PMS), ready to lead the program that launched his career.

### A Journey Rooted in Discipline and Service

After commissioning through ECP, LTC Harness continued his education at the University of California, Fullerton, graduating with a degree in Communications. He credits NMMI with equipping him with the discipline and time management skills that carried him through college, military life, and leadership.

Over his distinguished 27-year career in the U.S. Army, LTC Harness has served at fourteen military installations across the globe. Among his many assignments, two stand out: his first deployment to Iraq with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment, where he participated in the Battle of Sadr City in 2004, and his tenure as a Company Commander with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) at Fort Irwin, California.

At every stop along the way, his NMMI class ring was with him. Inspired by a story once told to him by COL Seth Orell, USAR-NMMI alumnus and former Commandant of Cadets—about the ring's deep symbolism of commitment, pride, and legacy, LTC Harness has worn his ring daily saying, "It's been to more countries than most people ever see."

### Leading the Charge: A Vision for ECP

As head of NMMI's Early Commissioning Program—one of only four such programs in the nation—LTC Harness is tasked with developing tomorrow's military leaders. The ECP offers cadets a unique opportunity: earn a commission as a Second Lieutenant in just two years.

LTC Harness brings a renewed focus on leadership development, NMMI traditions and customs, and professional readiness to the role. His vision for the program is to create future leaders who are lifetime scholars, soldier-athletes, and warriors with a competitive edge over their peers.

Since returning on post, he's already begun implementing his vision: strengthening mentorship programs, emphasizing military customs and courtesies, and reinforcing the importance of officer readiness from day one. His leadership is grounded in NMMI's core values—Duty, Honor, Achievement—and a clear vision for producing officers who are not only tactically proficient but also ethically grounded and intellectually agile.

### Back on Post, Still at Attention

Though much has changed at NMMI since the late 1990s, LTC Harness sees the institute's enduring spirit wherever he turns. The sound of Reveille, the mission to create future leaders, and the powerful lifelong bond between cadets remain timeless.

Back on the Post where his military career began, LTC Harness is eager to connect with alumni and channel their experiences to inspire today's cadets.

His message to current and future cadets is simple but powerful: Embrace every challenge. Lean into Duty, Honor, and Achievement. NMMI offers a foundation unlike any other. It's a great place to start your military journey—and build the future you want.

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## PICTURES DEPICT KARL AS A CADET AND NOW AS AN ARMY OFFICER.



*Article compiled by Janice Weed 93HS  
Deputy Director of Alumni Relations*





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As May blossoms across the Roswell landscape, a familiar energy stirs within the gates of New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI). For generations of cadets, this month has marked both the culmination of hard work and the anticipation of new beginnings. But beyond the academic calendar, May at NMMI is steeped in traditions that connect past and present, weaving a rich tapestry of shared experiences for alumni and current cadets alike.

Do you remember the crisp snap of uniforms during the week of graduation? The pride swelling in your chest as you marched through Sally Port, marking the end of another inspiring year? That tradition endures. Every May, the current Corps of Cadets, whether they are Colts or Broncos, stand tall in formation, demonstrating the discipline and precision that are hallmarks of an NMMI education. Though the uniforms might have subtle changes and the cadence of commands may evolve, the core values of duty, honor, and achievement, and displayed on that parade field remain timeless.

And what about the anticipation, perhaps mixed with a touch of bitter sweetness, surrounding commencement? The solemnity of the ceremony in Pearson Auditorium, the pride of receiving that diploma, the well-wishes exchanged with classmates embarking on their own paths. This pivotal moment continues to shape the lives of NMMI graduates each May. While the speakers and the specific details of the ceremony may differ year to year, the profound sense of accomplishment and the launch into a future shaped by the NMMI experience remain constant threads connecting alumni across decades.

Think back to the camaraderie forged during those final weeks. Perhaps it was the shared relief after the last exam, the late-night conversations about future plans, or the bonds solidified during end-of-year activities. While the specific social events might have adapted with the times, the spirit of unity and the deep connections formed within the Corps of Cadets in May remain a vital part of the NMMI experience. Today's cadets, through their own end-of-year gatherings and traditions, are creating memories that will resonate with the same power as yours.

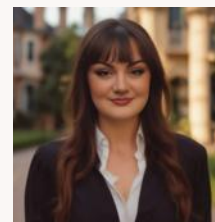
Of course, some traditions evolve. Perhaps the way cadets communicate and celebrate has shifted with technology. The senior prank might look a little different now than it did in your day. Yet, the underlying spirit of camaraderie, the marking of milestones, and the unique bonds forged within the NMMI family persist.

This May, as you reflect on your own time at NMMI, consider the enduring spirit that connects you to the cadets walking those same grounds today. The challenges may adapt, the technology may advance, but the core values instilled at NMMI – discipline, integrity, leadership, and service – remain the bedrock of the Institute.

We encourage you to reconnect with these enduring traditions. Perhaps it's attending an upcoming Homecoming, visiting campus, or simply sharing your memories with fellow alumni. By remembering and engaging with the traditions of NMMI, we not only honor our past but also strengthen the foundation for future generations of leaders.

What are your most vivid May memories at NMMI? What traditions do you remember most fondly? Share your stories and help us keep the spirit of NMMI alive for all who have walked its hallowed grounds. The legacy continues, woven thread by thread through each passing May.

The beauty of tradition lies in its ability to connect us across time. This May, as the sun shines on the Plain and a new class prepares to embark on their journey, remember that you were once standing in their boots. That shared history, those enduring traditions, are the threads that weave the rich tapestry of the NMMI story. And in that story, every alumnus holds a cherished and irreplaceable place



*Written by Leslie Palombi  
Event Coordinator*

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## Investing in Tomorrow's Leaders: Scholarships at New Mexico Military Institute

Each year, the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) Annual Fund helps carry forward a proud tradition of academic excellence, discipline, and leadership. The Annual Fund allows alumni, parents, and friends of the Institute to invest directly in the Corps of Cadets and the programs that define the NMMI experience. Gifts to the Annual Fund are unrestricted, meaning they go where needed most, from scholarships and academic innovation to leadership development and historic Post preservation. These contributions ensure that NMMI can adapt quickly and continue to provide a world-class, value-driven education to each new generation of cadets.

One example of your Annual Fund gift in action is the Alumni Heritage Tradition Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to cadets who are direct descendants (parent/grandparent attended NMMI) of active alumni. An active alumnus is defined as one who contributes \$100 or more annually to the Annual Fund or a designated fund. Cadets who qualify for this scholarship can receive a \$500 scholarship.



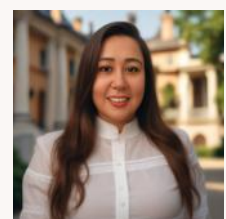
NMMI offers various scholarships based on merit, need, leadership potential, academic achievement, and more. In addition to merit-based and need-based scholarships, cadets may qualify for state and federal aid programs, including SROTC scholarships. This can offset the cost of attending while providing a clear pathway to a military career.

Participation at any level matters. The impact of scholarships is only possible through the generosity of donors who believe in the NMMI mission. When you give to the Annual Fund, you invest in people, programs, and traditions that shape tomorrow's leaders. Your support ensures NMMI's legacy endures.

To learn more about scholarship opportunities, contact our Financial Aid office at 575-624-8376. To learn how you can contribute to the NMMI Annual Fund, visit [nmmi.edu/give](http://nmmi.edu/give) or contact the Annual Fund Officer at 575-624-8158.



*Written by Natalie Perez  
Annual Fund Officer*







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ANNUAL FUND  
LEGACY  
LEADERSHIP  
DONOR  
EXCELLENCE  
TRADITION  
IMPACT  
VALUES  
ALUMNI  
SUCCESS  
AID  
SUPPORT  
HERITAGE  
EDUCATION  
TRAIL RIDE  
SCHOLARSHIP

## TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Where do unrestricted contributions go for direct cadet impact?

ANSWER

What is the name of the scholarship awarded to cadets whose parent or grandparent attended NMMI and have donated \$100 or more?

What long-standing NMMI event invited alumni and friends to ride through the great outdoors, share stories under the stars, and celebrate our legacy on horseback and ATV's?

ANSWER

ANSWER: ALUMNI HERITAGE TRADITION SCHOLARSHIP

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## AROUND POST




**"Mission Accepted! We're proud of our NMMI cadets who've earned their place at top colleges through ROTC. Your hard work and dedication pave the way for a strong future!"**





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**HUGE CONGRATULATIONS TO CADET  
LOPEZ FOR BEING NAMED TO THE  
ALL-STATE ACADEMIC TEAM!  
YOUR HARD WORK, DISCIPLINE,  
AND DEDICATION CONTINUE  
TO SET THE BAR HIGH  
WE'RE PROUD TO CALL YOU ONE OF  
OUR OWN!** 





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# NMMI ALUMNI

## Events Calendar







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## TRAIL RIDE 2025

DURING TRAIL RIDE 2025

### MOVIE NIGHT

**FREE ENTRY**

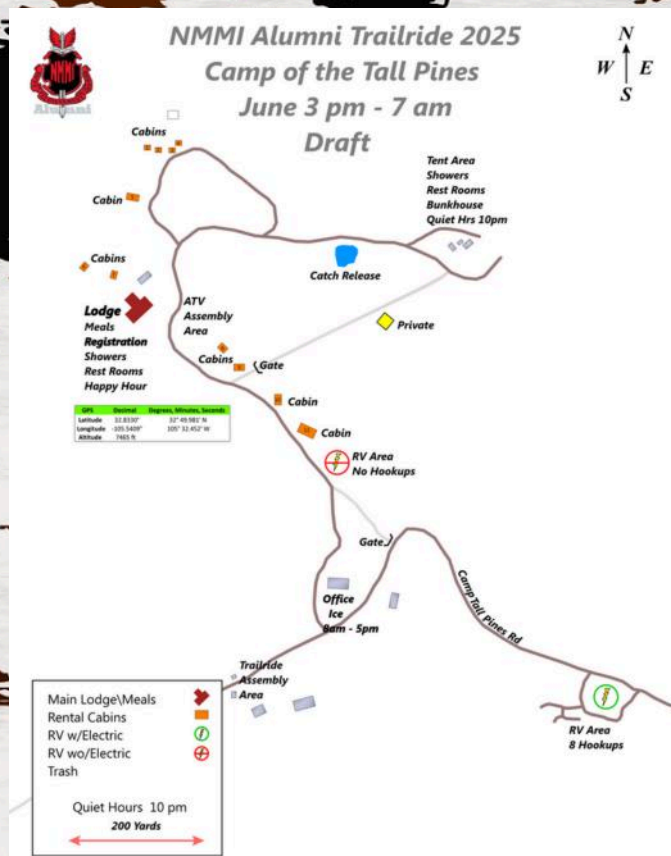
**POP CORN**

**WEDNESDAY | 7 PM**  
4 JUNE 25

**FEATURING: TOMBSTONE**

- FRESHLY POPPED BUTTERED POPCORN WITH A VARIETY OF FLAVORED SEASONINGS
- COLD DRINKS
- FUN GAMES LIKE JENGA & Pictionary
- BRING YOUR LAWN CHAIRS AND BLANKETS FOR A COZY, RELAXED NIGHT

THE CORRAL (WEATHER PERMITTING) OR INSIDE THE LODGE



New Mexico Military Institute



# THANK YOU TRAIL RIDE SPONSORS

DAVID CROW 75 HS 77 JC, GREG PEEBLES 77 JC &  
DENISE KAWAS, JACK DILLION 63 HS 65 JC &  
MARILYN DILLION, ROGER ZIMMERMAN 54 HS, SETH  
ORELL 60 HS 62 JC & KATHY ORELL, DOUGLAS SMITH  
62 JC, SCOTT BUCKLES 75 HS 77 JC, TIM WHALEN (IN  
MEMORY OF RAY BLAIN & LARRY BAKER),  
NORV BARNES 71 HS 73 JC



NMMI Foundations, Inc.



2025



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# CORNHOLE

# TOURNAMENT

DURING TRAIL RIDE



Bring your A-game and enjoy a fun-filled morning with fellow participants. Bragging rights await the champions!



06  
JUNE

11:00  
AM



2025  
TRAIL RIDE  
BUCKLES



## FRIDAY NIGHT CMA NIGHT & AWARDS 2025 TRAIL RIDE



### DRESS LIKE A STAR, SHINE LIKE ONE TOO!

GET READY FOR A NIGHT FULL OF GLITZ, GLAM, AND GOOD OL' COUNTRY FUN AT OUR CMA AWARDS NIGHT!  
COME DRESSED AS YOUR FAVORITE COUNTRY MUSIC STAR — THINK BIG HATS, RHINESTONES, AND PLENTY OF SOUTHERN FLAIR!

PUT ON YOUR BEST BOOTS AND SHINE IN THESE FUN CATEGORIES:  
BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE — BEST DANCE MOVES  
PAPARAZZI'S FAVORITE — MOST CAMERA-READY OUTFIT  
CUTEST COUNTRY COUPLE — FOR THE PAIR THAT'S COUNTRY TO THE CORE  
BIGGEST BELT BUCKLE — GO BIG OR GO HOME  
SOUTHERN CHARM — BEST MIX OF STYLE AND HOSPITALITY

COME FOR THE MUSIC, STAY FOR THE MEMORIES — IT'S GOING TO BE A BOOT-STOMPIN' GOOD TIME!

**ONLINE REGISTRATION IS  
NOW CLOSED. WALK-UP  
REGISTRATION WILL BE  
AVAILABLE ON TUESDAY,  
JUNE 3RD AT 8:00 AM AT  
CAMP OF THE TALL  
PINES IN MAYHILL, NM.**





# TAPS

CRAIG	W.	CLARK	2000	JC	14-NOV-24
GREG	S.	FARR	1978	HS	27-APR-25
JOHN	A.	FLEIG	1961	JC	01-MAY-25
BERT	R.	FOSTER	1990	JC	01-MAY-25
DONALD	N.	SILVER	1967	JC	21-APR-25



Alumni Reported Deceased  
May 5, 2025



A quote from the 1933  
*Bronco* about cadet,  
George O. Speer 1933  
JC, who was killed in a  
Polo Game—

**"BUT IF THEY ARE  
GONE FROM OUR  
RANKS, WE KEEP THEM  
ON OUR ROSTER AS  
VALUES ONCE  
INTIMATELY KNOWN  
AND AVAILABLE IN  
OUR RECOLLECTIONS,  
AND IN OUR HEARTS.  
THEY WILL REMAIN  
FOREVER YOUNG."**

