



NMMI Institutional Advancement | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

As we conclude the 2025-2026 we want to congratulate the graduates for accomplishing many great things. Statistically based on GPA and test score data (ACT/SAT) this is the highest achieving group of graduates in the history of NMMI. Their focus and attention to detail in the classroom has elevated the academic standard moving forward and we could not be more excited for what they have accomplished and what they will accomplish moving forward. We had direct appointments to the service academies and quite a few high school cadets receive their admissions paperwork to the likes of Stanford and Yale.

Secondly, as many of you have been made aware we completed a new 5-year strategic plan that will remain fluid but have tangible check marks along the way. There were multiple sub-committees used during this process that included faculty, staff, alumni and outside consulting as we put this strategic plan in place and document together. An electronic version of this document should be available in the near future and once we have it our office will be sure to send this out via email to all alumni to review. Included in the strategic plan is a name change from "Alumni Relations" to "Institutional Advancement". This was done with a lot of thought and consideration and helps align NMMI with industry standards that are seen in education and higher education. This does not mean that we are not here to support, inform and remain transparent with our alumni base, simply put it shifts our focus to philanthropic events that will help anchor the longevity of NMMI moving forward. The Board of Regents have approved and adopted this strategic plan and we will begin the transition after the completion of the NMMI Trail Ride, with full implementation taking place 1 July 2026. We hope that your summer is off to a great start and we are gearing up for the 36th Annual Trail Ride and plans are already coming together for Homecoming. We appreciate all the support and look forward to seeing many of you in the near future.

Kris Ward Director of Institutional Advancement



Kris Ward

Executive Director of
Institutional Advancement





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Meet the Team



Janice Weed

Deputy Director of
Institutional Advancement

1993 HS

Greetings from the NMMI
Institutional Advancement
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.



Natalie Perez

Annual Fund Officer



Leslie Palombi

Special Events &
Alumni Engagement Coordinator



Institutional
Advancement Office

Monday - Friday

0730-1630

Alumnioffice@nmmi.edu

101 West College Blvd,
Daniels Leadership

Center,
Roswell, NM 88201



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ALUMNI RELATIONS

IS NOW

INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT





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Forged in Tradition: NMMI Garry Owen Squadron Commissions 24 New Army Officers

By: LTC Karl M. Harness 2000 JC

On 9 May 2026, the New Mexico Military Institute (NMMI) Garry Owen Squadron celebrated a momentous occasion with the commissioning of 24 cadets as Second Lieutenants in the United States Army. The ceremony marked the culmination of two years of rigorous academic study, military training, and personal development, as these young leaders took the oath of office and formally entered the ranks of the Army's officer corps.

Held in Pierson Auditorium, the commissioning ceremony brought together family members, faculty, cadre, and distinguished guests to honor the achievements of the graduating cadets. For the new officers, the event represented both an end and a beginning; the close of their time as cadets and the start of their service as commissioned leaders entrusted with the responsibility of leading soldiers.

A central highlight of the ceremony was the reaffirmation of the Garry Owen Squadron's historic and symbolic relationship with the 1st Squadron, 7th Cavalry Regiment (1-7 CAV), one of the Army's most storied units. This longstanding association reflects shared traditions, values, and a legacy of excellence rooted in the cavalry heritage. In a meaningful and ceremonial act, the commander of 1-7 CAV, LTC Brandon Essiet, joined LTC Karl Harness, the 41st Professor of Military Science at NMMI, to sign a formal certificate of affiliation. This signing not only reaffirmed the bond between the two organizations but also reinforced the connection between past and present generations of cavalry leaders.





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LTC Essiet served as the ceremonies guest speaker. He highlighted the importance of tradition, standards, and discipline, while educating the young officers on their ties to Garry Owen from this moment to throughout their career. The presence of LTC Essiet added significance to the event, as he represented the active force and the enduring legacy of the “Garry Owen” spirit. His participation underscored the importance of the relationship between NMMI’s ROTC program and operational Army units, bridging the gap between cadet training and real-world leadership.



Adding to the ceremony’s rich sense of tradition, many of the cadets and cadre wore cavalry Stetsons and spurs, visually reinforcing the Squadron’s identity and connection to the mounted heritage of the Army. These iconic symbols of the cavalry are not merely ceremonial, they represent discipline, pride, and a deep respect for the legacy of those who have served before. Notably, six of the newly commissioned Second Lieutenants had earned their spurs with 1-7 CAV through the “Spur Ride,” a distinction that set them apart and highlighted their direct ties to the regiment. Their achievement served as a powerful example of the partnership between NMMI and active duty cavalry units, as well as the opportunities afforded to cadets to experience operational Army culture firsthand.



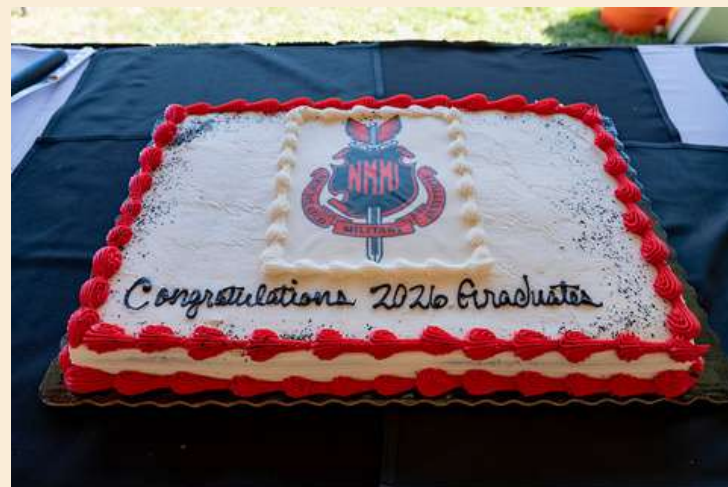
**"Duty, Honor, & Achievement."
-NMMI's core values.**



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Following the signing ceremony, each of the newly commissioned Second Lieutenants received a Garry Owen coin from LTC Essiet. This presentation was more than a simple token, it symbolized their induction into a proud lineage and served as a reminder of the standards, courage, and professionalism expected of them as officers. The coins, steeped in tradition, represent both honor and accountability, connecting the recipients to the legacy of those who have served before them. The ceremony concluded with a time-honored and uniquely meaningful tradition: a celebratory toast using the 1-7 Cavalry Regimental Punch Bowl. Gathered together, the new officers participated in this ritual as a symbolic gesture of unity, camaraderie, and commitment to service. The punch bowl itself, rich in history, served as a tangible link to the cavalry heritage and the enduring esprit de corps that defines the Garry Owen identity.

As the event came to a close, the atmosphere was one of pride, reflection, and anticipation. The commissioning of these 24 officers stands as a testament to their dedication and perseverance, as well as to the strength of the NMMI Garry Owen Squadron's program. With their commissions now in hand, traditions freshly imparted, and the legacy of the cavalry firmly instilled, these Second Lieutenants depart ready to lead, carrying forward the spirit of the Garry Owen Squadron and the honored lineage of the 1-7 Cavalry Regiment and the values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement at the New Mexico Military Institute.





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NEW MEXICO
MILITARY INSTITUTE

THE FUTURE IS IN THEIR HANDS

Your support empowers the next generation of leaders.



YOUR GIFT SUPPORTS:



SCHOLARSHIPS
Opening doors



ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
Building Minds



THE CADET EXPERIENCE
Developing leaders



MAKE YOUR GIFT TODAY
INVEST IN EXCELLENCE. IMPACT TOMORROW.





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Bronco Spirit in Full Bloom

Spring has arrived at New Mexico Military Institute, bringing with it a renewed sense of energy, tradition, and anticipation across Post. As the days grow longer and the campus begins to bloom, so does the excitement surrounding the many events and celebrations that make this season such a memorable time for the NMMI family.

From alumni gatherings and community traditions to the excitement of upcoming summer programs and fall planning already underway, there is a spirit of momentum in the air. Spring at NMMI has always carried a special kind of magic. It is a season filled with connection, reflection, and the shared pride that continues to unite Broncos across generations.

Across Post, cadets, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends are coming together to celebrate the traditions that make NMMI unique while also looking ahead to the future with enthusiasm and purpose. Whether reconnecting with classmates, supporting special events, or simply enjoying the vibrant atmosphere this time of year brings, there are countless opportunities to strengthen the bonds that make the NMMI community so extraordinary.

As we move toward an exciting season of events, we look forward to welcoming alumni and supporters back to Roswell and creating even more memories together. Your continued support, involvement, and Bronco spirit help keep these traditions thriving year after year.

Here's to sunshine, new beginnings, lifelong friendships, and an unforgettable season ahead. **Go Broncos!**



Leslie Palombi - Special Events & Alumni Engagement Coordinator



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36TH
NMMI TRAIL RIDE
Registration
NOW OPEN

JUNE 2ND - 6TH
CAMP OF THE TALL PINES
SPOTS WILL FILL UP FAST! INCLUDING CABINS -SO BOOK NOW!

Registration for the 36th Annual Trail Ride at Camp of the Tall Pines in Mayhill, NM will now be available by walk-up registration only during the event, June 2-6. Don't miss your chance to be part of this unforgettable tradition filled with great rides, great people, and memories that last long after the dust settles. We look forward to seeing everyone out on the trail!

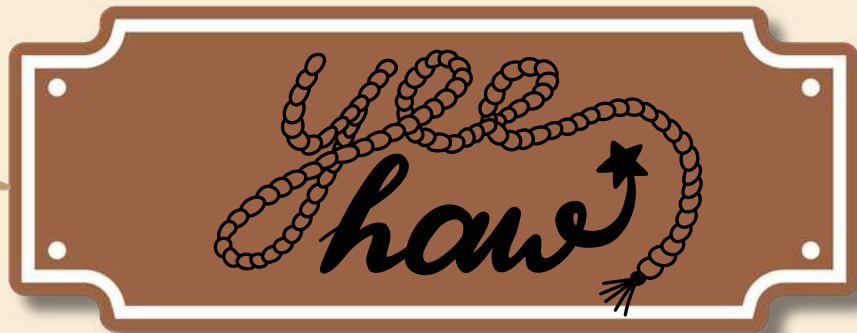
Dates & Options:

- Full Ride (June 2-6): \$475
- Wed-Sat (June 3-6): \$395
- Thu-Sat (June 4-6): \$285
- One Full Day Only: \$130
- Dinner Only: \$80

RV Reservations Update: All

RV spots are now coordinated through the NMMI Alumni Relations Office. Contact:

Kris Ward, Director of Alumni Relations (575) 624-8614 | wardk@nmmi.edu





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A Legacy in Formation: 135 of Years of NMMI

From Cadet to Graduate: A Legacy Continued

In 1902, NMMI celebrated its first commencement exercises, graduating three cadets- George W. Read, Earl Patterson, and Lloyd T. Buell, who would begin the long line of alumni who have carried the Institute's values into communities, military service, business, education, and public leadership around the world. Although small in size, these early graduates represented the success of a bold vision to establish an institution in the New Mexico Territory that would combine academic excellence with military discipline.

Over the decades, graduation ceremonies at NMMI have reflected both tradition and transformation. Cadets have graduated during times of war and peace, economic uncertainty, and national growth. They have marched across the Box, Stapp Parade field, and to Bates beneath the same New Mexico sky, carrying forward the enduring principles of Duty, Honor, and Achievement. NMMI itself has evolved from modest beginnings into the iconic "West Point of the West," yet the meaning of commencement has remained remarkably consistent: a moment where hard work, perseverance, and personal growth are recognized and celebrated.



For families, graduation is often emotional, a culmination of sacrifice, determination, and pride. For alumni, it is a reminder of their own time on The Hill and the lifelong connections formed through the Corps of Cadets. And for graduating cadets, commencement is both an ending and a beginning. The lessons learned at NMMI extend far beyond the classroom and parade field. Cadets leave prepared not only for college, military service, and professional careers, but also for lives defined by resilience, integrity, and leadership.

As we honor 135 years of NMMI history, this year's graduation ceremony connects the past to the future. Today's graduates now join generations of alumni who have helped shape the Institute's legacy since 1891. Their stories, achievements, and service become part of the continuing history of NMMI, a legacy built one graduating class at a time.

**To the Class of 2026: Congratulations!
Your place in NMMI history is now forever
secured.**



Janice Weed, 93HS, Deputy Director of
Institutional Advancement



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Congratulations



NMMI CADETS



Celebrating your amazing success with joy and
pride may this achievement lead to even
greater things ahead



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CONGRATULATIONS

GRADUATE



NMMI



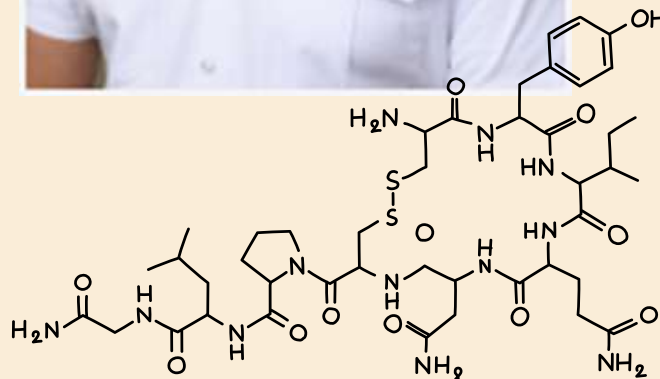


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Beyond the Classroom: Mentorship at NMMI

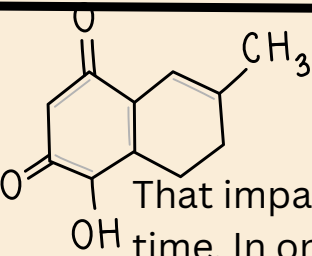
At New Mexico Military Institute, learning extends well beyond the classroom. While academics are central to the cadet experience, it is often the guidance, encouragement, and support from faculty that leaves a lasting impression. For many instructors, mentorship is not a separate role, but part of the daily work of teaching. Whether helping cadets navigate challenges, build confidence, or develop resilience, faculty play an important role in shaping how cadets approach both success and failure.

For MAJ Beaune Villaraza, who teaches chemistry, mentorship is rooted in helping cadets develop skills that go far beyond the subject itself. “Mentorship, to me, means guiding cadets not only academically but also teaching them how to overcome adversity and learn from failure,” MAJ Villaraza said. “They may forget specific chemistry concepts, but I hope they always remember how to learn from mistakes, make corrections, and keep moving forward.”





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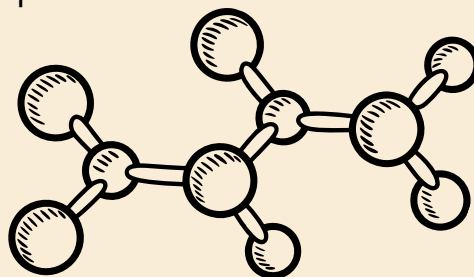


That impact is not always visible in the moment, but it often becomes clear over time. In one instance, a cadet approached him during graduation, overcome with emotion as she reflected on what she had learned. “She thanked me for everything she had learned, especially about overcoming failures and believing in herself,” he said. “That moment stayed with me because it reminded me that the greatest impact we make as educators often goes far beyond academics.”

Experiences like this reflect a broader reality across campus. Faculty support cadets not only in the classroom, but also by encouraging them to pursue opportunities beyond it, from academic competitions to career exploration. These experiences help cadets grow personally and prepare for what comes next. For many, working with cadets creates a sense of connection that goes deeper than a traditional classroom setting, as faculty step into roles that include guidance and support during important stages of development.

Mentorship at NMMI is found in everyday interactions, in moments of challenge, and in the steady presence of those who help cadets move forward with confidence.

Natalie Perez - Annual Fund Officer



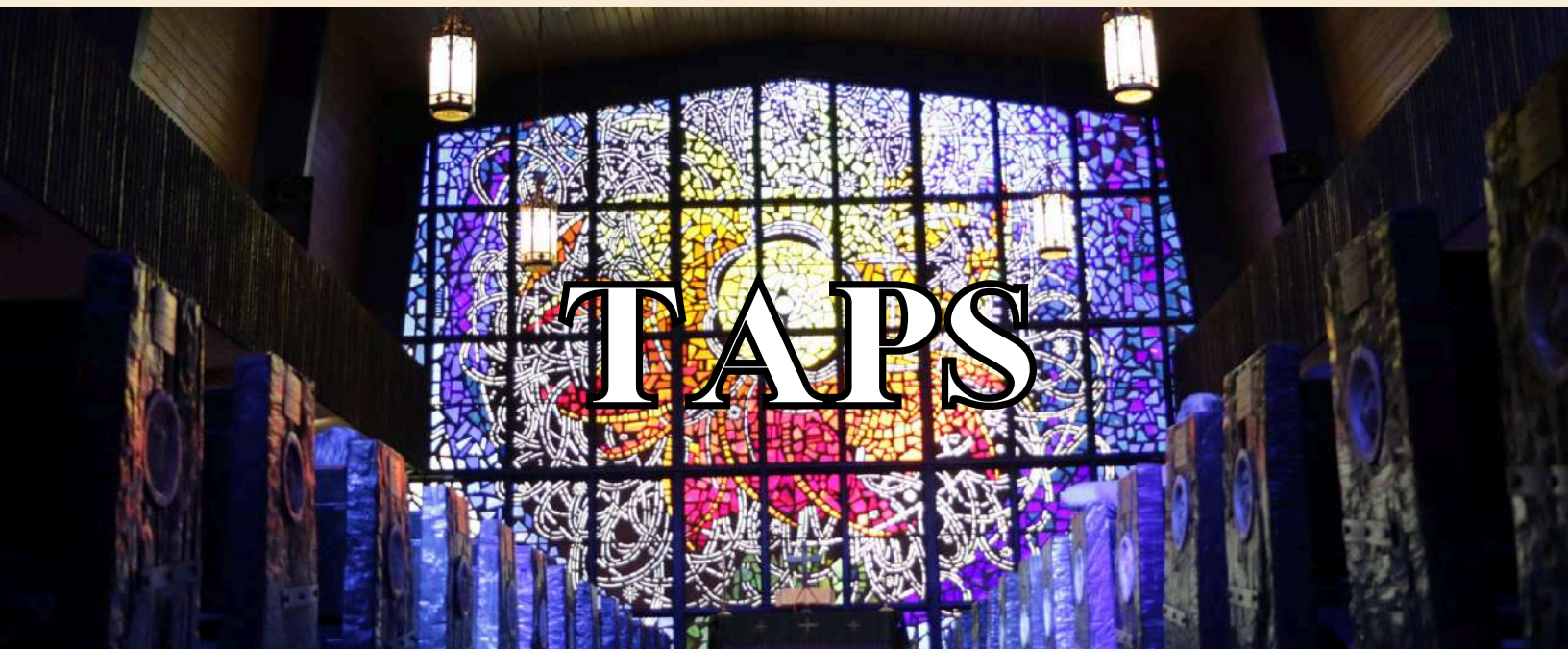
Scan code to make donation

We invite you to join fellow alumni, families, and friends in making a gift today. Together, we can continue the legacy of excellence that defines NMMI.

Give today. Make a difference that lasts



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Dr.	Earl	H.	Mabry	9/11/2025	1939	JC
	Russell	A	Price	4/5/2026	1942	HS
	Harold	F.	Rosson	1/12/2023	1945	HS
	Donald	W.	Michel	4/14/2025	1948	JC
	John	W.	King SR	4/2/2026	1959	JC
	Michael	H.	MacRoberts	12/18/2021	1959	HS
	Will	E.	DeMaret	1/9/2025	1959	HS
	John	W.	Bookout III	10/31/2025	1963	HS
	William	L.	Thomas	5/4/2026	1963	JC
	Gregory	H.	Earle	9/4/2025	1965	HS
	Carlos	F.	DeLeon	4/20/2026	1965	JC
	Herbert	P.	Davis	3/3/2021	1966	JC
	Edmon	D.	Williams	5/3/2026	1968	JC
	Larry	N.	Powell	4/16/2026	1969	JC
	W.C.		Martin	9/11/2025	1970	HS
	Victor	M.	Diaz	5/15/2026	1975	JC
	Michael	R.	Grissom	6/4/2025	1977	JC
	J. Howard		Sparkman	5/12/2026	1981	JC
	Wade	A.	Gustin	3/9/2021	1983	HS
	Robert	J.	Boyles	4/30/2026	2019	HS

Alumni Reported Deceased
May 22 , 2026



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.”**



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As we move through May 2026, we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your continued connection to the New Mexico Military Institute family. Your support, engagement, and loyalty remain a vital part of what strengthens our mission and sustains the tradition of excellence we strive to uphold.

This month marks a period of steady momentum across the Institute, with cadets demonstrating continued growth, discipline, and achievement in both academic and leadership pursuits. Across campus, there is a strong sense of purpose as we approach the close of the spring season, and we are proud of the character and commitment consistently displayed by our Corps of Cadets.

May also brings important planning, preparation, and celebration as we move toward key milestones and seasonal transitions. Through it all, the encouragement and involvement of our extended NMMI community remain deeply valued and genuinely appreciated. As we look ahead to the weeks to come, we are grateful for your ongoing partnership and the shared pride we hold in the mission and legacy of New Mexico Military Institute.

Thank you for standing with us and for being an essential part of what makes NMMI truly exceptional.

NMMI

