



NMMI Institutional Advancement | ALUMNIOFFICE@NMMI.EDU



WELCOME TO OUR MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

From the Director's Desk

ATTENTION IN THE AREA, ATTENTION OFF POST

I hope summer has treated everyone well and was enjoyable for all. The Institutional Advancement has been busy as ever closing out events, planning upcoming events and preparing for the arrival of all the new recruits. Cadre arrive in mid-July and will embrace any changes or adjustments for the upcoming year and preparing to lead with integrity. BG McBurnette is set to begin his 3rd year on post as we prepare to celebrate our 135th Anniversary.

The 15th Annual Generals Cup Weekend is also in full swing and registration/sponsorships will open after the 1st of July, we are excited to expand this event and will be spending time at Nancy Lopez golf course. We can't thank the city of Roswell enough for being gracious hosts as we look to provide more availability for all those who choose to participate in the largest fundraising event in southeastern NM.. Lastly, registration for homecoming will open after the 4th of July holiday weekend and we look forward to celebrating all of the classes ending in "6" and are excited to see all of the alumni, family and friends who attend. The schedule of events will be published once registration opens and can be found on the alumni web-site as well as on our social media platforms. Please note that we have limited seating for the honored class dinner and won't be able to allow walkups for that night's festivities. You can find all of this information and more by visiting or on Facebook and Instagram.

Please keep us up to date and in the loop with all you have going on, your successes are our successes. We are excited to have an amazing academic year and look forward to all that it has to offer

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



hello
SUMMER



**Institutional
Advancement Office**

Monday - Friday

0730-1630

Alumnioffice@nmml.edu

101 West College Blvd,

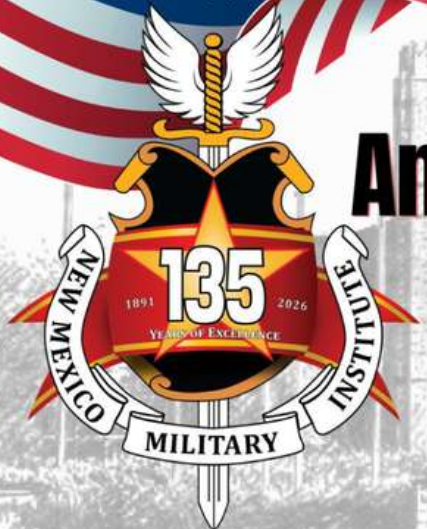
Daniels Leadership

Center,

Roswell, NM 88201



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135th Anniversary Donor Kickoff Event

Join us for an
exciting opportunity
to connect with...



BG VORIS MCBURNETTE
PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT



FRIDAY
JULY 10
5:30 PM
VMV Ballroom
101 W. College BLVD
Roswell, NM

Schedule of Event

- Happy Hour 5:30 PM
- Dinner 6:30 PM
- Presentation 7:30 PM
- Q/A 8:30 PM

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP



PLEASE RSVP - LIMITED SEATING - BUSINESS ATTIRE

Bring a friend and let's build a stronger NMMI community together!



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A Legacy in Formation: 135 Years of NMMI

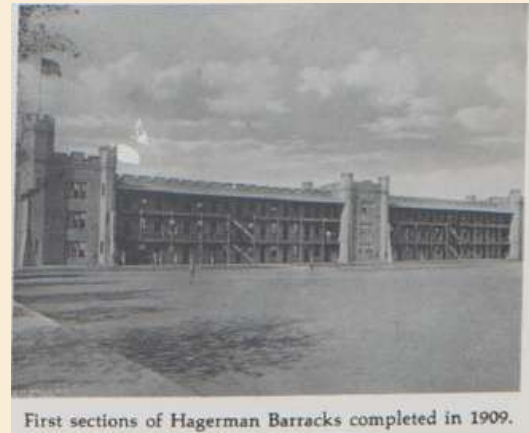
Building the Institute: Vision, Resilience, and the Foundations of NMMI

As New Mexico Military Institute celebrates 135 years of excellence, June offers an opportunity to reflect on NMMI's transformation from a small military school into a nationally recognized institution.

One of the most significant moments in NMMI history came on June 19, 1909, when a telegram announced that the Institute had been designated a Distinguished Institution by the War Department. At the time, only ten schools in the nation held that honor. The recognition marked NMMI's arrival on the national stage and reflected what Army Chief of Staff Major General J. Franklin Bell described as the "soldierly spirit, zeal, and esprit de corps" shown by the faculty and cadets. For a young school, it was an extraordinary achievement. Yet 1909 was also a year that tested the Institute's resilience.

Just two months after receiving national recognition, Lea Hall was destroyed by fire. The loss could have crippled the Institute. Instead, it became a turning point. Colonel James W. Willson and the Board of Regents immediately began planning for the future, turning to architectural plans already prepared for expansion. Roswell citizens rallied to support the Institute, raising funds to rebuild and ensuring that NMMI would continue its mission without interruption. Classes were temporarily moved to other facilities while construction began on a new academic building.

From that crisis emerged some of the most recognizable features of the NMMI campus. The completion of Hagerman Barracks and the construction of the second Lea Hall introduced the distinctive architectural style that continues to define the Institute today. Built of buff-colored Kansas brick and designed under the supervision of architect I.H. Rapp, Hagerman Barracks was envisioned as the first section of a grand quadrangle. Its military Gothic, or Tudor-Gothic, design, featuring battlements and prominent towers, established the visual identity that generations of cadets have come to know as home.



First sections of Hagerman Barracks completed in 1909.



The second Lea Hall completed in 1910.



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The new Lea Hall, dedicated to founder Captain Joseph C. Lea, complemented Hagerman Barracks and provided classrooms, laboratories, a library, and assembly space for a growing student body. Together, these buildings represented more than brick and mortar; they reflected confidence in the Institute's future and a commitment to creating a permanent institution worthy of national recognition.

Behind every building stood visionary leaders who looked beyond immediate challenges. Captain Joseph C. Lea provided the original inspiration and support that made the school possible. James J. Hagerman donated the land on which the modern NMMI was built. Colonel Willson relentlessly pursued higher standards and national recognition, while community leaders and Regents invested in facilities that would serve generations of cadets. Their willingness to plan for the future, even during uncertain times, shaped the Institute's trajectory for decades to come.

The story of NMMI's buildings is ultimately a story of resilience. Time and again, challenges became opportunities to build stronger, think bigger, and invest in the future. From the rebuilding efforts of 1909 to the capital improvements and campus enhancements that continue today, the same principle remains true: lasting institutions are built through vision, perseverance, and a commitment to future generations. As we commemorate 135 years of NMMI, the buildings that define The Hill stand as enduring reminders that every investment, whether in facilities, endowments, programs, or people, helps build the Institute for future cadets.

Janice Weed 1993 HS

Deputy Director of Institutional Advancement



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The Power of Monthly Giving: Why \$13.50 Matters

In honor of NMMI's 135th year, alumni and friends are helping strengthen the future one month at a time.

Supporting scholarships and immediate needs through the NMMI Annual Fund.

Many alumni understand that the NMMI experience was never defined by one class, one season, or one accomplishment. It was the accumulation of friendships, mentors, traditions, and experiences that left a lasting impression. In much the same way, support for the Institute is not dependent on one large gift. Consistent support overtime helps ensure that today's cadets have the same opportunities to build memories and traditions of their own.

A recurring gift of \$13.50 a month to the Annual Fund may seem small, but its impact reaches far beyond the amount itself. Monthly giving provides steady, reliable support for scholarships and immediate needs while helping strengthen academic resources and the programs that enrich cadet life. It allows NMMI to respond to needs as they arise and continue providing the experiences that make the Institute unique.

For many alumni, giving monthly is not about making a major contribution. It is about staying connected to a place that helped shape who they are. It is a simple way to continue investing in the values and traditions that have been passed from one generation of cadets to the next.

Over the course of a year, a recurring gift of \$13.50 becomes \$162 in support of the Annual Fund. More importantly, it becomes part of something larger. Just as success at NMMI has always been built one day at a time, the future of the Institute is strengthened through the steady support of alumni and friends who believe in its mission.

Natalie Perez,
Annual Fund Officer



\$13.50/month
= \$162/year



**Supporting scholarships and
immediate needs through
the NMMI Annual Fund.**



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**MAKE A
DIFFERENCE
EVERY
MONTH.**

**GIVE
TODAY.**

alumni.nmmi.edu/give-now.edu

NMMI



Small gifts. Lasting Impact.

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
TODAY'S CADETS**



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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NMMI Alumni Update: Summer Moments & What's Ahead

As summer begins, we would like to take a moment to reflect on the incredible success of the 36th Annual NMMI Trail Ride, held June 2-6, 2026, at the beautiful Camp of the Tall Pines in Mayhill, New Mexico.

This cherished tradition once again brought together alumni, families, friends, supporters, and members of the NMMI community for several days of fellowship, horsemanship, and camaraderie in the Sacramento Mountains. From scenic trail rides and memorable evening gatherings to the laughter shared around camp and the friendships renewed, the event served as a wonderful reminder of the strong bonds that unite the NMMI family.

The success of the Trail Ride would not have been possible without the many individuals who generously contributed their time, talents, and resources. We extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who attended, sponsored the event, donated auction items, volunteered behind the scenes, and helped spread the word. Your support continues to strengthen this tradition and ensure its success for future generations.

While we celebrate the memories made at Trail Ride, we are also excited about the opportunities ahead. We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back to campus for the General's Cup Golf Tournament in September, one of NMMI's premier alumni events. The General's Cup provides a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with classmates, support the Institute, and enjoy a weekend of friendly competition and fellowship.

Beyond the General's Cup, planning is already underway for Homecoming 2026, another highlight of the alumni calendar. Homecoming offers graduates, families, and friends the chance to return to Post, reconnect with fellow alumni, celebrate honored classes, and experience the traditions that make NMMI unique. We look forward to sharing additional details in the coming months and hope to see many familiar faces back on campus this fall.

The Office of Institutional Advancement remains committed to creating meaningful opportunities for engagement and connection among our alumni community. Whether you attend an event, volunteer your time, mentor a cadet, or support the Institute through philanthropy, your involvement makes a lasting impact.

Thank you for helping us preserve the traditions, values, and spirit that make New Mexico Military Institute such a special place. We look forward to seeing you at the General's Cup, Homecoming, and many other events throughout the year as we continue to strengthen the ties that connect the NMMI family.

Leslie Palombi,
Special Events & Alumni Engagement Coordinator





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36th NMMI Trail Ride

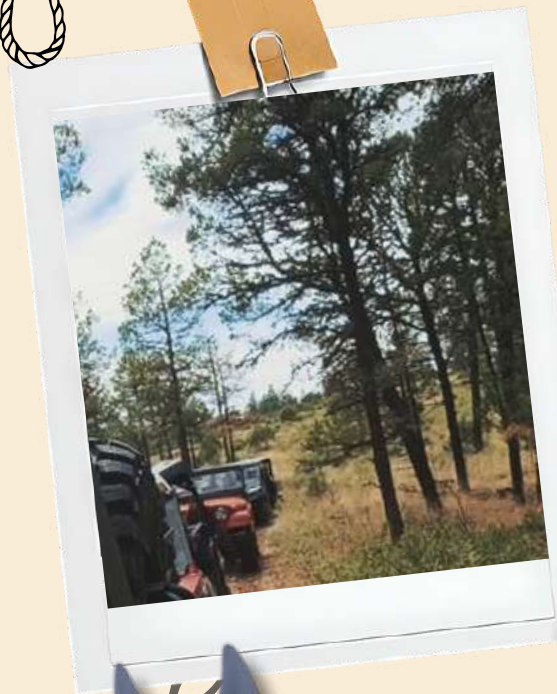
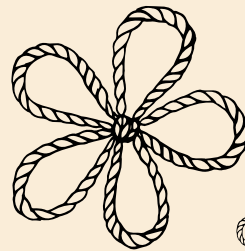
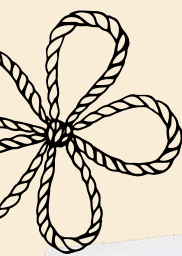


2026





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TO NMMI TRAIL RIDE
2026 RIDERS

**THANK
YOU!**



ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US AT THE BEAUTIFUL CAMP OF THE TALL PINES IN MAYHILL, NEW MEXICO, FOR THE 2026 NMMI TRAIL RIDE. WHETHER YOU ATTENDED, SPONSORED, DONATED AUCTION ITEMS, VOLUNTEERED, OR SIMPLY HELPED SPREAD THE WORD, YOUR SUPPORT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE GENEROSITY, DEDICATION, AND ENTHUSIASM OF EVERYONE WHO HELPED CREATE ANOTHER MEMORABLE TRAIL RIDE EXPERIENCE. THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THIS CHERISHED NMMI TRADITION, AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ON THE TRAIL AGAIN NEXT YEAR!



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Behind the Scenes: Developing Leaders at NMMI

When alumni think about leadership training at New Mexico Military Institute, they often picture formations on Stapp Parade Field, inspections, or cadet officers leading troops. While those visible moments remain an important part of the cadet experience, much of NMMI's leadership development happens behind the scenes. For 135 years, NMMI has remained committed to developing leaders of character. Today, that mission is carried out through a deliberate partnership among the Corps of Cadets, the Service Academy Preparatory Program, and the Early Commissioning Program (ECP), each playing a unique role in preparing young men and women for success at the Institute and beyond.

Leadership development begins long before a cadet wears rank. Before each academic year begins, newly selected cadet leaders participate in specialized training programs designed to prepare them for cadet cadre responsibilities and beyond they will assume. Future squad leaders, noncommissioned officers, and cadet officers attend leadership courses that focus on mentorship, accountability, communication, and servant leadership. Experienced cadets teach and mentor the next generation of leaders, creating a cycle of development that has defined NMMI for generations.

What many people do not see is the constant coaching and mentorship that occurs throughout the year. Cadet leaders are challenged to guide younger cadets, address performance issues, maintain standards, and create environments where others can succeed. LTC Steve Duran '83HS/87JC Deputy Commandant notes, Leadership at NMMI is not simply about authority; it is about setting the example and taking responsibility for the welfare and development of others.

For cadets in the Service Academy Prep Program, leadership training takes on an additional dimension. These cadets are preparing for some of the most demanding academic and military institutions in the nation. The goal is not simply to earn an appointment to a Service Academy, but to ensure they are prepared to thrive once they arrive. Prep cadet leaders emphasize resilience, emotional maturity, discipline, and accountability. Many cadets arrive with tremendous potential but have limited experience operating under sustained expectations and structure. Through mentorship and daily challenges, they learn to manage adversity, regulate emotions, communicate professionally, and lead under pressure. LTC Adam Villegas '88JC, Prep Program Director, notes that some of the strongest leaders are not always the most confident upon arrival. Instead, they develop through failure, accountability, and growth, ultimately becoming the cadets others seek out for guidance and support.

Meanwhile, cadets in NMMI's Early Commissioning Program (ECP) are preparing to become Army officers. Within Army ROTC, leadership development centers on planning, decision-making, and execution. Cadets learn to apply military planning processes, manage complex projects, and coordinate teams to accomplish missions. One recent example, LTC Karl Harness '00JC PMS, observed involved a cadet tasked with planning the Zia Rising exercise. Initially focused on tactical details, the cadet struggled to see the broader scope of the event. Through months of planning and coordination with outside organizations, the cadet learned the importance of communication, collaboration, and strategic thinking. By the conclusion of the project, the experience had expanded his perspective and strengthened his leadership abilities, exactly the type of growth NMMI seeks to cultivate.



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Although each program approaches leadership development from a different angle, all three share common themes: standards, accountability, mentorship, and service. Cadets are taught that leadership is not about telling others what to do. It is about understanding the mission, caring for people, making difficult decisions, and setting the example.

Today's leadership training may look different from what it did decades ago. Smartphones, social media, and changing societal expectations have altered many aspects of cadet life. Yet the fundamentals remain unchanged. Duran, Harness, and Villegas all affirm that standards, discipline, and even joy remain constants across generations. Cadets continue to learn through experience, guided by faculty, staff, ROTC cadre, and fellow cadet leaders who teach, coach, and mentor them every step of the way. The methods may evolve, but the mission remains the same. Whether preparing a recruit for life in the Corps, a Prep cadet for a Service Academy, or an ECP cadet for commissioning as an Army officer, NMMI continues to develop leaders who are resilient, disciplined, adaptable, and committed to serving others.



Behind every formation, every inspection, and every leadership position is a deliberate process of growth. It is a process that has shaped generations of graduates and continues today as NMMI prepares the next generation of leaders to carry forward the Institute's enduring values of Duty, Honor, and Achievement.

Special thanks to LTC Steve Duran '83HS/'87JC, LTC Karl Harness '00JC, and LTC Adam Villegas '82JC for sharing their perspectives and experiences for this article. Their dedication to developing the next generation of leaders helps ensure NMMI's tradition of Duty, Honor, and Achievement continues to thrive.

Janice Weed 1993 HS
Deputy Director of Institutional Advancement



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COL	Alfred	J.	Iller Jr., USA (Ret)	5/5/2026	1949	JC
	James	H.	Cherry Jr.	4/12/2026	1951	HS
	Francis	G.	Coates	5/25/2026	1954	HS
	Linton	L.	Miller	4/16/2026	1956	SC
	Raymond	A,	Sanders	5/16/2026	1961	JC
	William	L.	Thomas, III	5/04/2026	1963	JC
	Alexander	Skip	Blake	5/31/2026	1966	JC
	Larry	W.	Williams	5/14/2026	1970	JC
	William	A.	Driscoll, III	5/18/2026	1970	JC
	Patrick	B.	Lewis	3/21/2026	1970	HS

Alumni Reported Deceased
June 25, 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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	Dennis	K.	Miller	6/8/2026	1971	HS
	Miguel	A.	Sotelo	5/28/2026	1982	JC
COL	Anthony	P.	Bolante	5/21/20236	1987	JC
	Stephens	C.	Jones	5/10/2025	1988	HS
	Daniel	J.	Haider	4/9/2026	1991	HS
LTC.	Burl	D.	Magee	5/31/2026	Staff	





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As we move through June 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 helps preserve the traditions and values that define NMMI.

June is a time of reflection and renewal as we celebrate the accomplishments of the academic year and look ahead to new opportunities. It is also a season marked by meaningful gatherings, including the successful completion of the 36th Annual NMMI Trail Ride, where alumni, friends, and supporters came together to celebrate fellowship, tradition, and the enduring spirit of the Institute.

As summer begins, preparations are already underway for the opportunities and events that lie ahead. Across our community, the commitment to leadership, service, and excellence continues to inspire the next generation of cadets while strengthening the bonds that unite our alumni and supporters around the world.

We are deeply grateful for your continued involvement and partnership. Whether through attending events, volunteering, mentoring, giving, or simply sharing the NMMI story with others, your support makes a lasting impact.

Thank you for standing with us and for being an essential part of the proud legacy and bright future of New Mexico Military Institute.

