THE DISPATCH

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WELCOME BBQ
BY CADET JOAN FERGUSON

The Fall 2011 semester began with the Welcome BBQ, which included the introduction of our alumni to the Corps of Cadets, the introduction and coining of the incoming Freshman, the BBQ and visiting with other Cadets truly learned about the history of the alumni and also the history of the Bataan Battalion by the introduction of each alumni and their respective stories.

Following the introduction of each alumni, the new Cadets soon met the PMS (if they had not already). Upon the closing remarks of LTC Taylor’s welcoming speech, the Alumni coined each incoming freshman with the memorable NMSU President’s coin with words of advice that the incoming freshman will not forget.

After being coined, all the MS classes were assigned to their mentors and got to briefly know each other. Each MSIV is to mentor an MSIII about LDAC and other ROTC activities; An MSIII is to counsel the MSII about being an MSIII and knowledge that is needed to be successful in ROTC. The MSIs mentor the MSIs about beginning ROTC and some basic, and useful knowledge. Throughout the semester, the mentee and mentor relationship continue to grow.

Following being introduced to mentors, Cadets began the informal part of the BBQ and began eating the delicious food cooked by fellow Cadets. They mingled amongst each other and many others also mingled with the knowledgeable alumni that attended. Overall, the BBQ was a success!

FTX
BY CADET BARRY CHAVEZ

September 11, 2011 marked the ten year anniversary of the horrific attacks that changed our Nation. In recognition, the Cadets of NMSU Army ROTC conducted a three day Field Training Exercise (FTX) at Fort Huachuca, Sierra Vista, AZ. The event began with the annual 9/11 Run - a memorial run in which the Army and Air Force Cadets come together and run in silence in memory of those whose lives were lost, and to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice since. The Cadets were joined by veterans and NMSU alumni as the cannon fired at the four aircraft impact times. The American flag was raised half-mast before Taps was played by an Air Force Cadet bugler.

Shortly afterwards, the Army Cadets made their last minute preparations and deployed to Fort Huachuca. The focus of the FTX was on team building, developing unit esprit de corps and preparing younger Cadets for future leadership responsibilities. The training agenda included day and night land navigation, a field leadership reaction course, a confidence and obstacle course, a grenade assault course, individual and fire team movement techniques, first aid training and military installation familiarization.

Although inclement weather conditions impacted some of the training, the Cadets were still afforded the opportunity to challenge themselves, both physically and mentally, as they gained valuable experiences in preparation for Warrior Forge 2012 and their future as Army officers. Although inclement weather conditions impacted some of the training, the Cadets were still afforded the opportunity to challenge themselves, both physically and mentally, as they gained valuable experiences in preparation for Warrior Forge 2012 and their future as Army officers.
CWST
BY CADET MICHAEL YABUMOTO

On August 29, the Cadets of the NMSU ROTC program successfully completed their semester Combat Water Survival Training at the NMSU Natatorium. This was a mandatory event for Cadets and must be completed before Cadets can proceed to the Leader’s Development Assessment Course (LDAC). CWST consisted of five events: The 25-meter continuous swim, 15-meter rifle swim, don and ditch, 5-meter drop with a weapon, and treading water for 10 minutes. Each event possesses its own set of challenges and obstacles for Cadets to overcome and Cadets must successfully navigate each event in order to complete the training.

Now there are several of opinions among the Cadets as to what event poses the greatest challenge but many felt that treading water for 10 minutes was among the hardest and most difficult. The premise of the event seems simple and easy enough, float unaided for 10 minutes without touching the bottom or the sides of the pool; however, Cadets stated that it can be both physically and mentally exhausting. Not only are you working and straining to keep your body afloat for an extended period of time but you are also trying to maintain your composure and not panic.

Whatever the opinion may be, CWST is an invaluable training exercise for Cadets to experience. It exposes Cadets to reacting when placed in an aquatic environment, but more importantly it tests Cadets’ mental and physical capabilities in dealing with situations they may not be accustomed to or comfortable with and forcing them to maintain their poise and composure when faced with fear or adversity.

LDAC
BY CADET BARRY CHAVEZ

The 2011 summer was another success for the NMSU Army ROTC Bataan Battalion. Thanks to generous support from alumni, the high standards set by cadre, and hard work, Cadets have continued to improve as scholars, athletes, and leaders. The MSIII Cadets spent their summer vacation at the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) in Ft Lewis, WA. Beginning in June, the Cadets finally put their well-earned knowledge and skills to the test.

Also known as Warrior Forge, LDAC is a requirement and traditional rite of passage for aspiring officers. Preparation for Warrior Forge has been challenging for Cadets in many aspects. In addition to balancing academics, work, and social life, Cadets have taken on various leadership roles within the program. These roles are essential in determining whether Cadets have the time management skills, work ethic, motivation and desire necessary to become an Army Officer. To improve physical fitness, Cadets have attended Physical Training and completed a tactical ruck march every week in order to excel on the mandatory Army Physical Fitness Test.

Critical thinking skills were assessed during land navigation training, in which Cadets learned how to orient themselves and adapt to difficult terrains and situations. Leadership potential was measured during Squad Tactical Exercises as Cadets implemented basic infantry tactics while simulating battle field troop leading procedures. All the above were evaluated at Warrior Forge as every ROTC program from around the country collaborated to gauge the dexterity and ambition of the Army’s future leaders.

Though it has not been easy, this year’s senior class is ready for whatever challenges may be presented. From Ranger Challenge to the Bataan Memorial Death March, the Cadets have been physically groomed. From rappel towers to Combat Water Survival Training, Cadets have been mentally prepared. Morale is high as NMSU Army ROTC is adept and eager to set a new standard and raise the bar for the years to come.
AIRBORNE
BY CADET VALYNCIA MANCINI

What a great experience! Airborne School was a remarkable memory that I will always remember for the rest of my life. I was selected for a spot at airborne school after training and running a four mile run in less than 36 minutes competing against other Cadets. Out of about 15 Cadets that tried out, only 3 were selected, so I was honored to get it. I was prepared mentally and physically, knowing that there will be a lot of physical training at the school for three weeks. I was overwhelmed with joy talking to my father constantly about how motivated I was to have the chance to jump out of a plane. I packed my duffle bag with items on the Airborne list that was needed to be taken and was ready to go to school in Ft. Benning, GA.

I woke up around 2 a.m. at the beginning of May during finals and had one of our Cadre members drive CDTs MacAloney, Burnettie, and I to the airport in El Paso. Once we got to the Airborne School, we had all our papers ready to be in-process and were issued all our gear and were sent to our barracks where we would be sleeping for the next three weeks. I didn’t start off well because once we were placed in our platoons, there were about 550 soldiers to be put in platoons; they were telling us which one to go to, one of the airborne instructors known as “Black Hats” told another Soldier and I to go to fourth platoon. I didn’t know who was to go where and asked the Black Hat, bad idea. I got chewed out right away and was told to listen and sent me to first. It worked out for the best because MacAloney and Burnettie were in first platoon.

We were briefed of what was to be expected from the Black Hats and how the training consisted for three phases: Ground Week, Tower Week, and Jump Week. The next morning at 0300 we all began the PT test. I was shocked to see that all the platoons had diminished from all the PT failures. Once you failed, you were sent home but NMSU passed with flying colors. I rarely saw Burnettie after that day but MacAloney and I were inseparable for those three weeks, trying to push each other to strive for those wings at the end of the tunnel. We did PT every morning and every other morning we would go for a three to four mile run. After PT, we would go change into our ACUs and run to our training area.

After about three hours of training, we would run to chow and have, literally a minute, to shove down our food before we had to run back to training. Our Black Hats would say, “Eat your food now, and taste it later.” After chow, we would train for about five hours and head back to chow, then head to our barracks to have some down time. During the whole day, before formation, before and after chow, and before and after training, we would have to do 10 pull-ups and 10 push-ups to strengthen our arms. By the time the weekend rolled around, everyone was happy because this was our down time.

Our first day of Ground Week, we learned one thing the hard way; we were walking and got stopped by a Black Hat. He started screaming at us calling us “Caddiots” and asked why we were walking and told us that he better not catch us walking again. The lesson learned was that you weren’t allowed to walk anywhere, and that when you go to and come from chow, get water, go to your room etc., you had to RUN. The reason being is to make your muscles stronger to be prepared to land with great impact on your legs.

We were taught about the different kinds of parachutes such as the T-10 and the T-11 that we will be jumping and knowing everything and about the reserve parachute because if the main one had any kind of malfunction, we have to use our reserve. Mock doors were our best friend during ground week, showing us how to properly exit out of an aircraft and learning PLF (Parachute Landing Fall) to properly land. You would be graded on how well you did your PLF, but almost everyone passed because you would do it over and over again until it was embedded into your head and you were doing it literally in your sleep like MacAloney and me.

Tower Week came around pretty quick and it was time to train on the swing landing trainer. This is where we all jump off a 30 foot platform and swing to practice being able to land properly. We also were put into harnesses and learned about the slips and which slip to pull to slow down when the wind was blowing in a given direction. One thing that I absolutely loved about Tower Week was jumping out of a 34 foot tower with a bungee cord strapped to our harness and learning how to actually jump out of the aircraft and get a feel for how to hold our reserve as we jump. There is also the 250 foot tower, but not everyone got to do it because the winds started to pick up.

By Jump Week we lost over 100 Soldiers, and in my opinion, this was the most crucial week out of them all. Every morning we woke up around 3:30 a.m. and ran about a mile to the hanger. The hanger is where all the parachutes are and where we sit and wait for hours and hours before it’s time to get on board the Air Force C-130. Jump Week consisted of five qualifying jumps in order to graduate Airborne School, and two of the jumps were supposed to be night and combat equipment jumps. Once we got to the hanger, we would go over our PLFs one last time before we sat down and waited for further instruction to dun parachutes.

Once they said to gear up and we did, each and every Continued p. 3
AIRBORNE, CONTINUED
BY CADET VALYNCIA MANCINI

Black Hat would go to each and every Soldier and check to see if they put the T-10 on correctly and to make sure it was safe for us to use. After two hours of waiting for every Soldier to be checked, it was that time to get on board and jump.

The only thing is that there are about 450 Soldiers and one C-130 that only holds 30 people because the other broke down. So that means you sit there for hours waiting for your chalk to get on and the T-10s are so tight and uncomfortable, that people start touching their parachutes not knowing that after they have been checked. Once the Black Hat catches you, you will be doing the duffle bag drag which means you are going home. It is no game, but it’s for your own good because now you are a safety hazard and they don’t have time to come back and check your harness all over again.

It was my time to get on board and my adrenaline and mind was going a hundred miles per hour. I was excited, but at the same time nervous because I came this far and there was no turning back now. Once we took off, the first group got up and jumped out the door. I didn’t know what to think anymore. The only thing that was on my mind was why in heck I wanted to do this. We were up next and stood up waiting to jump. Before I knew it, I was handing my line off to the Black Hat and jumping out that door. It was the best feeling that I have ever felt. It was almost like a roller coaster, just loads of fun being sucked out and just the way your body is positioned and all the tugging and pulling while your parachute opens. I was so disoriented that when I looked up my parachute got twisted and I almost pulled my reserve because I thought I had a malfunction. But a Black Hat on the ground was talking into a microphone calming Soldiers down like me. I finally got my parachute untwisted and just looking at the beautiful view while you’re floating down; it made me realize how precious life is. I had the softest landing; it was just graceful. But when our jump was finished, there graduated day was finally here and I had one last jump. I was the last chalk to jump and two from the front to go out that door. The last jump was just amazing because not only were MacAloney and Burnett jumping with me, but this hard rock song was playing called “Let the Bodies Hit the Floor” by Drowning Pool, and it got me so pumped up and excited to do my last jump and make it the most memorable jump yet. The winds started picking up and though you’re supposed to wait till it dies down, there was no waiting; we were going out the door. As I made my way to the door, I will admit I was pretty scared because my line started snaking out the door. The wind was sucking everything out of that plane, and once I handed my line to the Black Hat, I didn’t really have a chance to turn and jump; it pulled me right out without hesitation. When I jumped out, I was close to the graduation site, but the wind would not let me stay there, it blew me so far that I was close to the tree line area and landed the hardest out of all my jumps. I really thought I broke something for a moment, but in reality there was only bruising which is always good. I had to run two miles back to the graduation site and because I was the last jump, I had to run it so we could start our graduation.

As I finally approached the area, I saw my father; who traveled from Fort Polk, LA, in his ACUs taking billions of pictures, just to see me jump and pin my wings. I couldn’t be any happier to see him with the biggest smile on his face, making him proud. Once we were given the wings to pin on us, my father pierced my skin, giving me blood wings and coined me. Instead of cleaning parachutes after graduation, Macaloney, Burnett, and I had a plane to catch so my father got us out of it and took us to the airport. We were then on our way home with some fantastic memories to hold on to.

I do plan on going back on the C-130 in the future to do many more jumps and becoming a Jumpmaster. I met some great people there that taught me a lot and just listening to stories about their lives was just interesting. It’s not all seriousness if you are doing the right thing; MacAloney and I had many laughs watching people do PLFs off the top of their bunks and just hanging out with other Cadets from different Universities. We do have a lot of great memories that will live with us for the rest of our lives, and it can’t get any better than that.
CTLT
BY CADET MICHAEL ARCHULETA

Upon my graduation from the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC) on 5 AUG 11, I traveled to Ft. Polk, Louisiana and the Joint Readiness Training Center to start my Cadet Troop Leader Training program (CTLT) with the 1-509 Infantry Battalion. This was an amazing experience that would give me insight on my future profession of being a platoon leader.

Upon the first day of training, I was immediately placed in the position of platoon leader and was expected to execute everyday tasks. This consisted of leading my platoon in physical training (PT), and in a Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE) where I served as an opposing force (OPFOR) Taliban Cell leader for seven days. I was expected to successfully execute numerous cell level attacks and coordinate an IED cell. I also participated in weapon familiarization training to become proficient with the platoon’s weapon systems.

During my training, I was fortunate to participate in a foreign airborne jump with the unit and was awarded my foreign jump wings out of a New Zealand aircraft. Half the day I was jumping out of an aircraft and the other half learning and gaining experience in attending a company operation order (OPORD) and being expected to break down the OPORD to a platoon level and brief my platoon.

The opportunities for me to learn were endless. By being able to pick the brains and be educated by NCOs and officers, learning from their past experiences, I was privileged to receive the opportunity in participating in CTLT and believe it is a great experience for Cadets to learn what they will be doing during their time of duty as lieutenants.

LTC
BY CADET LUKE CANDELARIA

Leaders Training Course is a four-week introduction to Army life and leadership training of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps. The objective of this course is to qualify Cadets for admittance into the Senior ROTC program. LTC, as it’s known, is designed for college students, typically between their sophomore and junior years. Upon successful completion of the course, graduates can take part in ROTC at their college as a third-year student in the four-year program.

While attending LTC at Fort Knox, KY, Cadets gain experience and what responsibilities one needs to become an officer. The course instills confidence and decision-making abilities to become a leader in the Army and in life. Each Cadet takes on a leadership role among his or her fellow Cadets while at LTC where their confidence and decision making abilities will be tested. Senior officers and newly commissioned second lieutenants coach and mentor Cadets throughout the course, providing daily critiques and recommendations for improvement.

There are four phases that make up LTC. The first phase is Soldier First Phase. This is where Cadets are immersed in the ways of the Army where Cadets participate in Physical training (PT) and

Drill and Ceremony (D&C). The second phase is Warrior Leaders Phase. Events for this phase include squad tactics, urban combat simulations, Combat Water Survival Training, rappelling, and land navigation. The third phase is Bold Leader Phase. This is where Cadets learn squad level operations by leading their squad in every part of a mission. The Fourth Phase is the Future Leader Phase where they will be given guidance counseling from their LTC instructors. This is also when Cadets will participate in Family Day and Graduation Day.

“THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ME TO LEARN WERE ENDLESS.”

- CDT ARCHULETA
AIR ASSAULT: FIVE AND DIMES!
BY CADET KYLE MURPHY

Every time an Air Assault student enters or leaves the Air Assault training grounds, they must complete five pull-ups and ten elevated push-ups; these are called five and dimes. Not to mention every time their left foot strikes the ground while running, they sound off with a loud “AIR ASSAULT!” This summer I attended “THE” Air Assault School at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I was there for seventeen days and graduated on the 25th of May. I had an awesome time and can say I truly enjoyed the experience.

The first day starts off with what is called “Zero Day”. O Zero Day the student must complete the obstacle course and a two mile run to continue with the school. I passed Zero Day and moved on to Phase One “Combat Assault.” This phase included air craft orientation, aero medical evacuation, pathfinder operations, hand and arms signals, and close combat attack. After the three days of Phase One, I moved on to Phase Two “Sling Load Operations.” Phase Two was the hardest phase of the school. Sling loading (hooking up equipment under air craft) is a very detailed and meticulous operation. We had to properly inspect a howitzer cannon, HMMWV, a 22 cargo bag, and a water buffalo for a sling load to pass this phase. During these three days I probably studied more than I ever have. I passed this phase and moved on to Phase Three “Rappelling Phase.” This was the most fun phase out of the three. For three days we rappelled and fast roped non-stop, with and without combat gear. At the end of the phase I was happy it was over because the Swiss seats were killing my groin. On the last day of Air Assault School, we had to complete a 12 mile ruck march and pass an inspection of our gear after we completed the ruck march. I successfully completed both the march and the inspection. We graduated on the same day and I got my Air Assault badge pinned on my uniform. I recommend the school to anybody who is looking for a challenge; it was gratifying to graduate from this school.

“EVERY TIME YOUR LEFT FOOT STRIKES THE GROUND WHILE RUNNING, YOU SOUND OFF WITH A LOUD AIR ASSAULT!”
-CDT MURPHY

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MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME
BY CADET STEWART LACLAIR

On November 12, the Aggie football team faced off against Fresno State in a home game. This was the University’s “Military Appreciation Game”, and there were several unique opportunities for students and members of the community to interact with soldiers from nearby bases. The 3-41 Infantry Battalion of 1st BCT, 1st Armored Division came up from Ft. Bliss, bringing with them, two Strykers. They showed the vehicles off to the public from noon until the start of the game at 1800. A number of the Soldiers from the 3-41 Infantry Battalion were outfitted in full combat loads to so people could see the true weight of choosing a military lifestyle. Locals were able to eat and get refreshments as they toured the vehicles and conversed with the Soldiers.

Before the start of the game, NMSU Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets marched onto the sideline, each carrying one of the fifty state flags. A Soldier from the 2nd Engineer Battalion out of White Sands Missile Range sang the National Anthem. The Army ROTC cannon crew kicked the game off with a bang and then added more excitement to Aggie touchdowns with a shot every time NMSU scored on Fresno. At half time, the 2nd Engineer Battalion—fresh from a recent deployment—marched onto the field with a large American flag and received applause and fanfare from the crowd. To start off the second quarter a shot from the cannon was fired by three distinguished guests, one of which was a veteran from the United States Marine Corps.

The game progress with intense back and forth possessions and scores, and in the end the Aggies were victorious with 48 points to Fresno’s 45.
I was a young and easily influenced 17-year-old the day I enlisted into the Army Reserve. I vividly remember standing in line for my first day of drill waiting to see the S-1 personnel for in-processing. Everything was so confusing for me. I didn't know whom I needed to call sir, ma'am or sergeant, whom I needed to salute, or who was in the Marines or Army! I will never forget that there was one individual in particular that seemed to generate much praise, and above all respect, from everyone that passed by on that day. It was so interesting to me because like myself, he was new to the unit but had just left active duty for the reserves. I asked another Soldier in line behind me what the guy's rank was and what was different about him. He said, "He's a badass as they come, he's a Ranger." I then asked him several questions, which he impatiently answered and then it came, the one response that I will never forget. I asked him how does one become a Ranger and his response was, "Son, keep dreaming. That school is for the real men." Hence officially setting my first Army goal, earn that Ranger Tab.

That was ages ago in January of 2001. Officially one week ago, on 9 December 2011, Army Goal #1 finally completed. Several people along the years told me that the hardest part of Ranger School was to get there, and let me tell you that they weren't kidding. I was very fortunate as a National Guard aviator to have a shot at Ranger School. It's difficult for non-combat branch Soldiers to get a shot, but not impossible. In the course of 10.75 years I've been mocked, laughed at, and even received heart-to-heart talks about why Ranger School won't benefit an aviator...especially a guard aviator. Through it all, I always remained stubborn and refused to give in. Finally, as the Brigade Aviation Officer of an Infantry Brigade Combat team, my brigade commander took a risk on sending his only pilot to Ranger School. "It will give me the fuel I need to motivate my infantry battalions to get their troops to, and most importantly graduate from, the damn school. So no excuses, Adrian, you will return with a tab. Don't care if it will take you a year to get it," he said. And that was that; I had seven weeks to prepare to fly out to beautiful Fort Benning on 23 SEP to begin Pre-Ranger and fly back on 9 DEC with a tab. Easier said than done.

I was very blessed and fortunate to have completed Ranger School without any recycles. In Pre-Ranger alone, only 59 out of 118 passed. In Ranger school, out of 385 ranger candidates that reported on 9 October, only 52 made it straight through. Granted, of those 385 another 125 will eventually graduate according to the statistics posted on the RTB website. The entire course, to include Pre-Ranger was grueling. It tested me in ways that I had never been tested before. On a daily basis you thought of quitting and going home to your warm house with your wife and dogs by your side. Your mind had endless time to think of the excuses you would tell your friends, the Cadets at NMSU, your brothers, and eventually wife on why Ranger School was not meant for you, for an aviator. But then you would think of how much they all believed in you with blind confidence that you would be home on 9 December and you had no other option but to drive on. Pain is temporary; quitting is forever, is what I kept telling myself. God knows how much fuel I found by thinking of all those individuals that blindly believed in my ability.

We walked so many "clicks" with 70-100 lbs. on our backs on average with 2.5 hours of sleep per night during the field training exercises. For the entire course (61 days) we averaged 4 hours of sleep. We fought daily against inclement weather and terrain. Mountain phase was by far the worst; it had us going to the ridge tops of mountains and hills in the Appalachian trails, and in Florida we rucked-on through chest level swamps and knee level mud. This all reminded us daily that we could have been at home drinking hot cocoa with an MRE ready to eat on our lap (we only craved MREs for some odd reason), doing the ruck sack flop in front of our television sets.

And if that wasn't enough "stress," you still had to lead 39 men on missions while most of them were fighting their own inner battles. Did I mention that I thought of quitting a lot... Looking back at it now, Ranger School was not as hard as I made it to be. Nothing we did in that school was impossible. It's a matter of being stubborn with your goals and not giving in, one step at a time...literally. All those that quit or didn't finish focused heavily on the challenges they were going to face as a whole, and it made Ranger School impossible for them. What they did not see was that the challenges were spread throughout the course and that we would have programmed recovery and preparation time. Honestly, getting to Ranger School was the most difficult thing I accomplished. Once getting there, it was automatic mode. I was going to show up the very next morning regardless of how many push-ups and mountain climbers they made me do because this is where I wanted to be. I have dreamed of being there the past 10.75 years of my Army life. No mountain, swamp, 16km night movement, or 22-degree night was going to get in my way of that Ranger Tab. No other option, it came down to being a Ranger or an excuse why I wasn't.

I would highly encourage all those that dream of doing the impossible to remain stubborn with your goals. I found it most interesting that all those that attempted to talk me out of going to Ranger School did not have a Ranger Tab and those that were the most supportive were tabbed. My challenge to our future leaders, our Cadets at NMSU, is to put it all on the line and go find out how much you can take, what your limits are. The only way to find this out is by challenging yourself and if Ranger school is the way to do it for your persona, then Ranger-up and get that tab. And if Ranger School is not the way to test your limits, even better. But I do urge you to find a way, to grow as a leader who fully knows their abilities. This is what Ranger School did for me; it showed me that I can do way more than what my mind WANTS to do.
ALL THE WAY! PMS NOTES

LTC ANDREW TAYLOR

Congratulations to our five newest Second Lieutenants on earning their degrees and commissions. Take the time to conduct a SLLS (stop, look, listen, smell) and nominate on your long and challenging journey to earn your rank. Your journey has just begun...savor the moment. Now move out and draw fire!

Former Chief of Staff of the Army, General Eric Shinseki once said, “If you dislike change, you’re going to dislike irrelevance even more.” This quote is very applicable to the Bataan Battalion where the only constant is change. This semester has proven that exponentially. With the changes in our Army, Cadet Command and battalion, we continue to prove daily that our leaders need to be adaptive, agile and in shape – both physically and mentally.

The challenges and changes began with our semester as everyone (and we mean everyone except our very talented and overworked Administrative Assistant) returned to NMSU after a busy summer. The battalion was well represented at Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), Leadership Training Course (LTC), Airborne, Air Assault, the United States Military Academy at West Point, and Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT) at Army posts across our great nation, Germany and Korea (This is in addition to our Aggie Alumni deployed across Europe, Korea, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan).

With the Army's force reduction in process, our future may seem questionable, but I assure you it is not. We will always need leaders and we will prepare you to take the mantle of leadership. While the numbers will thin out, quality will never be diluted and we will continue to prepare you for the challenges ahead. Always prepare yourself mentally and physically because luck is in reality where preparation and hard work meet opportunity. For proof, this battalion produced two Recinos at LDAC this summer, and a newly minted Ranger in December. Summer 2012 training opportunities will be more rare, but we will get slots – be ready!

Professional development continues to be a main focus. Our library continues to grow with generous donations, including books from LtCol Chris Knutson (found out our Cadets like to read military history), Mrs. Trudi Pickett, Mr. Phil Schriber, Dr Conrad Milne and a few others (you know who you are). Even more impressive is watching Cadets reading military history in our Cadet Lounge.

There have been major upgrades in the Cadet Lounge and Cadre area with the addition of historically significant Aggie memorabilia. Maj(R) Wes Walker, Class of 1948 and WWII Navy Veteran, has been instrumental in donating artifacts, and filling in gaps of our history; from his long and illustrious career spanning over 40 years. Our Gold Bar Recruiter and recent graduate, 2LT Jessica Hoffman, found more historically significant photos and has displayed them throughout Young Hall, giving us all a better appreciation of where we’ve been.

This semester we bade farewell to CPT Adrian Velez as he departed for Ranger School. He was a rare first time Go and returned as the semester ended.

He will be missed as he transfers to UTEP to be closer to his newly expanding family (their first child is due early January). In his absence, we welcomed, then said good bye to CPT Reinaldo Rios. CPT Rios made his significant contributions and transferred to ASU to also be closer to family. Mrs. Pam Lee also departed after 22 years of service at NMSU. On the gain side, CPT Warren Maestas joined us from our fantastic partner that is the New Mexico National Guard. Coming off his fifth deployment, MSG(P) Burleson made his impact felt across the battalion. With transition comes great change.

The successes listed throughout this edition of The Dispatch are but a reflection of the changes. The battalion is strong – and keeps getting stronger through the efforts of the Corps of Cadets. Our present and future is built upon the successful foundations from those who came before us. Enjoy the break and hold on – Spring 2012 will be busy, challenging and changing!
MSG (P) Walter P. Burleson entered the military with an airborne option on 10 November 1986 at Fort Benning, Georgia. His assignments include tours with the 82nd Airborne Division, 2nd Ranger Battalion, and the 10th Mountain Division (LI), and the Senior Military Science Instructor at New Mexico State University.

MSG (P) Burleson has served as a First Sergeant of an Infantry Company, Scout Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Squad Leader, and Team Leader.

MSG (P) Burleson’s military education includes Airborne School, PLDC (Primary Leadership Development Course), Advanced Leader Course (ALC), Equal Opportunity Management Course, Drill Sergeant School, Senior Leader Course (SLC).


Though MSG (P) Burleson’s true motivation is to help the Cadets better understand the relationship “between the Army Officer Corps and the NCO Corps. It's a command team effort, you cannot have one without the other.” We can expect many changes to the program to come. While some old programs remain, others are reinvented. As far as the Cadet Corps as a whole, the most important thing is PT. Improving PT is probably the most single important thing one can do in a day.

We are glad to have a new addition to our Cadre members and wish MSG (P) Burleson a great year in the NMSU AROTC program.

- MSG (P) Burleson

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Introduction of MSG (P) Burleson to Cadets
Photo by CDT Ferguson

MSG (P) Burleson and LTC Taylor observing rappelling off of Young Hall
Photo by CDT Ferguson

MSG (P) Burleson with MSIIIs drinking from grog bowl
Photo by CDT Harbison
NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY RESERVE OFFICER TRAINING CORPS

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The Battalion is commanded by LTC Andrew Taylor. The Senior Military Instructor is MSG(P) Paul Burleson. For Questions please feel free to call (575) 646-4030. For enrollment information call MAJ Gary Stewart at (575)646-ROTC (7682).

Home of the Battling Bastards of Bataan

The Bataan Battalion annually co-sponsors the Bataan Memorial Death March conducted at White Sands Missile Range (WSMR).

Thank you to all Cadets who submitted articles!

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

We would like to welcome MSG(P) Walter Burleson and CPT Warren Maestas. We are honored to have you as Cadre in this program and know you will offer the Cadets so much.

We say farewell to CPT Rios; good luck at all your adventures at ASU. We also wish CPT Velez well at UTEP. We also say farewell to Mrs. Pam Lee. Good luck to you all!

A CONTINUED THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI.
WE WOULD NOT BE WHERE WE ARE IF IT WAS NOT FOR YOUR CONTINUAL SUPPORT!