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ALUMNI BBQ
BY CADET VIRGINIA KAUTZ

At the beginning of each semester, there is always the usual barrier between the old and new Cadets that needs to be broken down. What better way to bring down the wall than having an annual BBQ. It starts off with comments from the PMS, Lieutenant Colonel Taylor, who then introduced the guest speaker and the President of New Mexico State University.

This year there was also a surprise for the Cadets when one of the former cadre members, Major Stewart, was recognized for his accomplishments. After awarding Major Stewart with the Meritorious Service Medal, the new Cadets were called forward to take part in the NMSU President’s Coin Challenge. Each new Cadet is presented with a coin. When they accept the coin they also accept the challenge of keeping GPA at or above a 2.5, they will work harder, never quit and that they will graduate from the university in four years.

After the ceremony, the Cadets took part in another tradition of chatting with veterans and eating a delicious meal. This is a once-in-a-life time experience for new leaders to learn from past leaders, and to hear their experiences. It also gave Cadets a chance to learn more about each other, share jokes, tell stories and explain upcoming events to each other. At the end of the BBQ, the Cadets go home with better connections with each other, advice and knowledge from the veterans of our community and with full bellies.

HOMECOMING
BY CADET ERIC PAUL

As the rest of the community was celebrating Homecoming here on campus, a much more somber event was taking place. In a rare memorial, the doors of the Memorial Tower were opened in order to commemorate all the Aggies who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country during World War II. Many prominent Aggies and veterans were in attendance, including Walter Hines, the author of the book "Aggies of the Pacific War."

Cadets from NMSU ROTC attended the event to show visitors around at the memorial. One of the exhibits on display was a collection of newspaper clippings and photos from Las Cruces newspapers printed during World War II. In one emotional instance, a man from Las Cruces came to see his brother's picture on the memorial wall, and found a newspaper article about his brother in one of the scrap books.

As a token of gratitude for assisting in the memorial, and for representing the legacy of those who fought on Bataan, the Cadets who participated in the memorial were each given a signed copy of "Aggies of the Pacific War."
FTX
BY CADET PRISCILLA PERRY

Each semester, our Bataan Battalion conducts a Field Training Exercise (FTX) in order to train new Cadets on basic Soldier skills and to prepare the junior level Cadets and MSIIIs, for the Leadership Assessment and Development Course (LDAC) at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. This semester we conducted our annual fall training at Ft. Huachuca, AZ for four days where our Cadets participated in an Obstacle Course, Day and Night Land Navigation, Rappelling, and the Field Leadership Reaction Course.

The Cadets also had an opportunity to engage in a Pest Familiarization, which exposed the new Cadets to certain aspects of life on a military installation. For the duration of the FTX, the Cadets slept outside, which gave new Cadets the experience of life in the field, many who have never experienced being in the outdoors.

During training, our MSIIIs were evaluated in various leadership positions in order to simulate the type of evaluations that they will experience at LDAC. During each cycle of evaluations, each Cadet would write self-evaluations on their individual performances, and then each Cadet would be counseled on their overall performance by a senior Cadet in a Blue Card evaluation.

Overall, this field training allows Cadets to develop their Army Values, esprit de corps, and an understanding for the type of training many of them will conduct as new 2LTs when they get to their units.

LDAC
BY CADET KERRY WAUSON

This summer break found our 2011-2012 MSIII Cadets at the Leadership Development Assessment Course (LDAC) located at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA. The first regiments began the course in the first weeks of June, and the final regiments had their graduation and commissioning ceremonies August 3. For the duration of this course they are challenged and tested on their knowledge and leadership attributes.

We prepared for this course with weekly road marches and our own squad tactical exercise (STX) lanes every Thursday. Our cadre regularly tested our knowledge of tactics and operation orders, our teamwork and our physical fitness before a final end of semester patrolling field training exercise right before we left for LDAC.

The course starts with a physical fitness test and medical in-processing. It continues through a land navigation course and several days of training on individual training and development. There is a short transition period where it focuses on team building, first aid and an obstacle course before the Cadets “deploy” and start STX lanes. After four days of STX lanes, the Cadets complete two days of patrolling lanes where they combine two squads and conduct the exercises as a larger group. They wrap this up with a ten kilometer road march to the buses for a ride back to the barracks. Once back at the barracks, they begin the out-processing procedure and receive their exit counseling.

Our Cadets did well at LDAC this year with everyone who went through the course successfully passed it and over twenty percent getting an overall “E” or “excellent” on their LDAC evaluation. And looking forwards to the 2012-2013 MSIII class, I expect even better results as they have shown a great deal of motivation and drive in their preparation this semester.
ACE INTERNSHIP
BY CADET JOSEPH HERNANDEZ

Throughout human history we have waged war against one another, and as long as there has been war, there has been the need to relay messages and information. In the beginning, opposing forces would just kill the messengers and steal the message, but as technology advanced so too did the means of communicating. The information became encrypted, relay speeds brought nearly to the speed of light, and now the boundaries deciding what is an act of war get pushed hundreds of times per day. When one thinks of unconventional warriors, images of men jumping from airplanes to perform night ops come to mind, but what is more unconventional than destroying a key component of a country's nuclear program from an isolated building millions of miles from the nuclear facility—all from behind a computer monitor.

This is the future of warfare, and it is the reason the ACE program was created. ACE, or Advanced Cyber Education, is meant to train and inspire the future officers that will one day be leading our nation’s finest cyber warriors. The ACE program is currently being run out of the Air Force Institute of Technology, AFIT, where you are surrounded by some of the greatest minds in or out of a uniform. Not only does this give ACE a great learning environment, but it makes it easy to get these scholars to teach a few of the classes for the program. These classes had a range of topics, which covered: cyber defense and offense, digital forensics, penetration testing, networking, Bluetooth and wireless security, malware analysis, reverse engineering, cryptography, wireless concepts, Schmitt analysis, and Servers.

We had a few days to meet and greet the people in charge, and then we jumped right into it. We had class on Mondays and Fridays with a weekly paper due on Mondays and a book critique do on Friday. For the rest of the week, there was a variety of internship opportunities from software analysis to fortifying a real network defense system. In my internship with Science Applications and International Corporation, we were trying to refine a course taught to new penetration testers. To do this we took the test that all penetration testers must pass to be-

come certified twice. Once when we started and another before we left to see how much we improved. So we mostly re-iterated most of the above classes, only this time more in-depth and with a greater emphasis on penetration testing. All of the courses I took at ACE were always engaging, I also learned a fact of life at AFIT. I learned that you can only stare at a computer screen for so long before you go insane. It was weird how exhausted you can get from pondering how to break into a computer system for hours on end. At some point you just have to get up to move around.

ACE will illuminate all the mysteries you may have been wondering lie behind that screen, but where the program really shines is by bringing future officers in and emphasizing how important it is that America gain a superior military power in cyber-space. This must be done before other countries have the time to become truly dominant in this area. By coming to AFIT, I not only picked up a set of skills that you could not get legally in most parts of America, but more importantly, I gained a deep respect and understanding for current trends in cyber warfare and just how effective a cyber operation can be.
LEADERSHIP TRAINING COURSE
BY CADET MAYLYNN PADILLA

Leadership Training Course (LTC) is an intense four-week introduction to the Army life and leadership training of the Reserve Officers’ Training Corps (ROTC) program. The purpose of this course is to motivate and qualify Cadets for their entry into the ROTC program. With the completion of this course, Cadets who graduate from LTC are able to take part in ROTC program at their college as a third year (MSIII) Cadet in the four year program.

The first couple of days at LTC consist of Cadets being terrorized by drill sergeants. The drill sergeants served a purpose to mold the Cadets to obtain proper discipline within Army standards, and to also instruct Cadets on the Army basics. Shortly after the Cadets get their feet wet into the Army lifestyle, they are then introduced to team building exercises and are placed in leadership positions, where senior noncommissioned officers and newly commissioned second lieutenants served as coaches and mentors. The benefits of this are that Cadets are able to learn the basic Army Regulations through their drill sergeants, while also learning leadership on the ROTC side through their second lieutenant mentor.

As a recent LTC graduate, I will never forget the experiences LTC has provided me. Before I attended LTC, I was enrolled in the ROTC program for a year and I didn’t expect any training that consisted more than land navigation, physical training (PT), combat water survival test (CWST), and situational training exercise (STX) lanes. However, to my surprise, additional events such as stream crossing, rappelling, and basic rifle marksmanship (BRM) were also offered to us. One of my personal favorite events was the waterborne operations. In the water, Cadets perform the Zodiac capsizing drill. It is done by squads who compete against each other by rowing the Zodiac boat to the middle of Tobacco Leaf Lake, then flipping the boat upside down, and back to its original state. Once the capsizing is complete, Cadets continued to row towards the finish line. Not only did this event cool us off from the dreadful Kentucky heat, it conveyed teamwork. We learned that every single person in our squad served a purpose, and without them, we couldn’t move forward. Also, the winning squad got to compete against cadre, and that was fun to watch.

Most people say that being constantly tormented by the drill sergeants is one of the most frightening experiences in any type of military training. Although that is extremely true, one of my most shocking experiences was getting issued my first operation order (OPORD). I was the first Cadet in my squad to be placed in a leadership position and it was the first time I realized that OPORDs were not just issued out on STX lanes, but in garrison too. I remember sitting in the room, prepared to copy with my skeleton ready on my notebook, and once the lieutenant started reading, it sounded like the lieutenant was talking in tongues.

Everything was read extremely fast. I was writing down random information, and when I looked at the Cadets next to me, they all looked as bewildered as I was. With that, I learned what key points to listen to and what information to pass down.

LTC taught me a lot and I’ve been able to use those skills by being able to adjust to constant changes, to quickly make decisions, and to confidently leading from the front when spontaneously told to do so. I continue to learn more as I proceed with the ROTC program and look forward to future impediments to overcome in order to be a successful future Army officer.

Photo from Leadership Training Course, Fort Knox Kentucky
I-25 RUN
BY: FELIX ORTEGON

NMSU cBC and UNM cBC exchange the game foot-

On September 20, 2012 the NMSU Bataan Battalion met up with the University of New Mexico ROTC at Fort Craig rest stop. At the rest stop the game ball was handed over to Cadet Murphy. Each Cadet from the NMSU Bataan Battalion ran two miles and handed the ball over to another Cadet.

This exchange continued all the way until they reached their destination.

The I-25 run continued throughout the night of September 20th and did not end until the 21st of September. With two miles left in the run the ball was put into the hands of Cadet Murphy, who delivered the ball to Bill Overmeir, a survivor of Bataan. The I-25 run was an extraordinary experience for all the Cadets that participated.

Bataan Veteran, Bill Overmeir, surrounded by NMSU Cadets during the NMSU vs UNM pep rally 21 SEP 12

TURKEY BOWL & DINNER
BY CADET ERROL LOCKETT

On November 15, 2012 both NMSU Army and Air Force ROTC had our annual Thanksgiving Dinner. This is a traditional dinner prepared by the cadre. Our cadre dresses in their formal dress uniform and serves each Cadet from both the Army and Air Force. As we sit together on the first floor of Young Hall, eating a fantastically well prepared dinner, we get ready for our football game. We march together to the Aggie Memorial Football Stadium and warm up for the big game.

After the teams are ready and everyone has found their seats, we are ready to enjoy another rivalry game. This rivalry is one that dates back twelve years with Army leading in the standing with 12 wins and only one loss. With the conclusion of this year’s football game Army ROTC has once again secured another win in the record book with a 48-39 victory over Air Force.

During the game Cadet Joliff was the starting quarterback throwing four touchdowns. As the backup quarterback, Cadet Ortegon also did well by throwing the other four touchdowns which iced the game and ended it at 48 points. These two Cadets, however, did not win this game alone. With the help of Cadet Burnette as wide receiver, who without doubt had the best hands in the game, caught all but one of the game winning touchdowns. The one that shined at the most pivotal moment in the game was Captain Geiger, who without him intercepting the ball, Air Force would have scored at the end of the game, sent us into double overtime. This game was filled with emotional ups and downs on both sides, but once again Army played one of our best games of the year.
CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
BY CADET KYLE HARBISON

This summer for 28 days, Cadet Michael Yabumoto and I were sent to Croatia along with a handful of other Army ROTC Cadets in order to become more aware with Croatia as a country and its history, as well as the Croatian military and their current involvement in the Middle East. While doing all of this, we were simultaneously building better relations with Croatia and the U.S.

The beginning of our excursion to Croatia began with a briefing with former U.S. Ambassador to Croatia James Foley at the U.S. Embassy. We discussed our reason for coming to Croatia and what we would be doing in the country. This was the first time U.S. Cadets had been sent to Croatia, therefore our professionalism would be very important of the next 28 days.

We made our way to the Croatian Defense Academy located in Zagreb, the capital of Croatia. The Croatian Defense Academy is effectively the Croatian equivalent to West Point on a much lesser scale; however this does not take from the quality of their cadets. While there, we learned of the similarities and differences of the paths Croatian soldiers take to become officers, which is very similar to the U.S. system, utilizing academies as well as universities that offer ROTC-like programs. Classroom instruction is daily and field training is conducted during summers for cadets, which we would get involved in later on in the trip.

Included in our immersion to the Croatian military were trips to the Croatian Naval Base in Split, as well as tours of the Croatian Air Force Academy. At both locations were briefed on the branch’s defensive capabilities as well as involvement with ISAF. Two days were spent with the Croatian Army, introducing us to their Armor and Mechanized Infantry Brigades; the only two making up the Croatian Army. While learning of the composition on the mid-nineties.

The capstone to our experience involved us participating in the first phase of the Croatian equivalent to LDAC. This week consisted of classroom time in the mornings and then execution in the afternoon in which we conducting hands on training including weapon qualification ranges with the AK-47 and the HS2000 handgun, mass produced in the United States as the Springfield XD-9. We conducted patrolling exercises in which we engaged, and were engaged by, an enemy force and we, mixed with Croatian cadets, had to react and neutralize the threat. Despite the nearly identical similarities to Croatian battle drills, the language barrier between us and the Croats and their Cadre often times became very difficult.

As a result of the trip, my counterparts and I became much more aware to the cultural differences of people living in outside countries as well as the difficulties that can arise from consulting with them. At the same time, we gained the confidence of working and training with cadets of a foreign military which may very well become advantageous to us as we commission and need to utilize outside resources in order to accomplish any given missions assigned to as leaders.
**CADET TROOP LEADING TRAINING**

BY CADET KYLE MURPHY

This past summer I traveled to South Korea and participated in Cadet Troop Leader Training (CTLT). CTLT allows Cadets who have completed the Leadership Development and Assessment Course (LDAC), to shadow an active duty Lieutenant and live the daily life of a junior officer. I was fortunate enough to be placed with Bravo Company, 1-72 AR, Camp Casey, ROK. Bravo Company is forward deployed, Bradley Fighting Vehicle-equipped, mechanized infantry company.

When I first arrived at Bravo Company, I was assigned to 3rd Platoon, directly responsible for the training, readiness, welfare, and development of 41 Soldiers. I was also responsible for the maintenance and accountability of four Bradley Fighting Vehicles and associated equipment. My role as the platoon leader also included planning and executing mounted and dismounted operations.

The training Bravo Company conducted was vast and incredibly fun. I learned a great deal and took away invaluable experiences. The highlight of my time with 3rd Platoon came when we were conducting day and night live fire exercises. I planned and led 3rd Platoon, through eight iterations of the exercise, which ranged from movement-to-contact, breach a mined wired-obstacle, enter and clear a trench, and prepare for a counter attack.

CTLT was a great experience and is an awesome opportunity for future Lieutenants to get their hands dirty and prepare for their future endeavors as commissioned officers.

- CDT

**KYLE MURPHY**

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**COMBAT WATER SURVIVAL TRAINING**

BY CADET VALYNCIA MANCINI

The Company as a whole prepares for LDAC (Leadership Development and Assessment Course) by doing a combat survival water test (CWST) which consists of five different stations at the NMSU Aquatic Center. Each station has a challenging physical and mental task that includes: 25 meter continuous swim, 15 meter rifle swim, 5 meter blindfolded drop with weapon, the don and ditch, and a 10 minute water tread. For some, it may be a piece of cake but for others, it is a mental challenge. Not only is it training, but it is also enjoyable. Each Cadet has three attempts to complete each station before they can go on to the next. The Cadets come together as one and sound off to motivate others that are having difficulty completing the stations. All these stations promote physical strength, agility, and team work throughout the Corps.

(Above) Cadets executing the 10 minute water tread

(Left) MSIV Cadet demonstrating how to do the blind fold drop with the M16 dummy rifle

Photos by Cadet Lesieur
either an M4 or M16 rifle. After this, the bulk of the competition started with a military-style scavenger hunt. With provided grid coordinates, our team had to make our way to each station and complete the given obstacle as fast as possible. Obstacles included a rope bridge, in which we tied Swiss seat harnesses and secured our gear to a rope that we had shimmy across, a casualty assessment and evacuation situation, a standard military obstacle course, a litter carry, and other obstacles that tested our mental capacity covering military subject that, when completed, would give us a number to a lock combination required to complete the last challenge—weapons assembly and function checks with an M4, M249, and a M9 handgun. The entire length of the competition was completed with field gear including a ruck sack.

Ranger Challenge has definitely been improved and will definitely be a much more competitive and intense competition in the years to come with the hopes that an ROTC team from 5th Brigade will go to Sandhurst and compete with teams from around the world.
"You guys should seriously consider studying abroad. It will change your lives...." These, along with many other words of encouragement, were the words of Captain Adrian Velez to our Military Science II class in the fall semester of 2011. Before then, I had never even considered it, but it was then that I decided studying in a different country would be a great new experience for me.

My experience abroad in Seville, Spain has been surreal. Experiencing and becoming part of the Spanish Culture has, without a doubt, expanded my horizons of the world, and with me being a first timer in Europe, everything about the area is completely new to me. I currently study at the University of Pablo Olaide and within my studies, I have come to widen my network of connections with people that study there and come from other parts of Europe as well. I remain completely fascinated by all that there is to experience here and the many friends that I have made during my stay.

One of my favorite and, more important fixations about being here is the knowledge I have attained during my stay; it has been in abundance. I am confident that this knowledge is something that has helped me develop into a better, more educated, leader.

"I am confident that this knowledge is something that has helped me develop into a better, more educated, leader."
HALLOWEEN RUN
BY CADET NICOLE LESIEUR

New Mexico State University Army ROTC sponsored the Annual Halloween Food Bank Run on October 31, 2012. The goal of the run was to collect as many canned good items as possible for the Gospel Mission Food Bank of Las Cruces. The run was one mile and participants ran in costumes. Prizes were awarded for best costume. Both Army and Air Force participated in the run with over 400 cans collected.

MILITARY APPRECIATION GAME
BY CADET JOSHUA REYES

The Military Appreciation Game is a football game used to honor those who have served and are currently serving in the nation’s military. This year the game was held on 10 NOV 12 at Aggie Memorial Stadium. To help celebrate these courageous men and women, the NMSU ARMY and Air Force ROTC programs worked together on a flag presentation prior to the kickoff of the football game to occur that afternoon.

Also involved were soldiers from Ft. Bliss, WSMR, and the 2nd Engineer Battalion. The Ft. Bliss soldiers and 2nd Engineer Battalion brought out static displays for the people to explore. The Engineer Battalion presented a jumbo sized American flag. The event was an overall success and we look forward to putting it on again next year.
SUPPLY TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR

BY: TONYA SUTHER

Each time you feel the blast of a cannon during a New Mexico State University football game, one thing is certain -- the home team just scored. What you may not know is that NMSU Army ROTC supply technician Jose Vargas helps to ensure that cannon fires properly. Vargas was recently recognized as the 2012 Supply Technician of the Year from the U.S. Army Cadet Command.

The command, located in Fort Knox, Ky., recognizes individuals for their contributions to training excellence and their roles in furthering the command's dual missions of preparing the next generation of the Army's leaders as well as a new generation of productive, responsible citizens.

"I'm very honored and very humbled," Vargas said. "I picked logistics because it's behind the scenes. I don't like being out front. I just like helping to make stuff happen, and ensuring that things get done. That's my reward."

Vargas provides logistical support, supplies and resources for NMSU's Bataan Battalion, a unit of more than 100 Cadets and nine cadre with more than $100,000 in equipment and supplies. He oversees the property book, manages the battalion's three government vehicles and requests ammunition for the firing range.

"The best thing about my job is the people," Vargas said. "In the Cadet Command we have a mission to commission lieutenants into the Army, and I like that I have a direct part in making that happen."

He also orders the 75-millimeter howitzer blank rounds used in support of the NMSU home games. Every year, Vargas orders 60 to 90 rounds from Ft. Bliss to support all Army ROTC related events such as the Veteran's Day Parade, the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and the opening ceremony for the Bataan Memorial Death March, started by the NMSU Army ROTC in 1989.

Jose Vargas is one of those true professionals who genuinely cares about his job," said NMSU Army ROTC Commander Lt. Col. Andrew Taylor. "He is even more impressive as his work often goes unnoticed, and he doesn't care who gets the credit for mission accomplishment."

Additionally, Vargas is a coach for the annual Ranger Challenge, an ROTC varsity sport, and he participates in training during weekly leadership labs and field exercises.

Vargas said he originally joined the army as a way to go to school, and in 2005, he enrolled as a business management major at NMSU. The non-traditional student has found time to take a couple of classes each year, and plans to graduate in May 2013.

"Mr. Vargas clearly deserves this recognition as the 2012 ROTC Supply Technician of the Year," Taylor said. "The Cadets, cadre, ROTC and NMSU are very fortunate to have him in our family."

"Mr. Vargas clearly deserves this recognition as the 2012 ROTC Supply Technician of the Year," LTC Taylor.

Vargas, who is originally from San Diego, came to the NMSU ROTC as an active duty supply sergeant in January 2001. When the position transitioned to a civilian one, Vargas chose to extend his enlistment for one more year before beginning his new job.

LTC Taylor congratulating Mr. Vargas on his award during the Fall 2012 awards ceremony.
MSG Colin D. Doolan entered the military on 14 August 1990 at Fort Benning, Georgia. His assignments include tours with the 8th Infantry Division, 4th Infantry Division, 2nd Infantry Division, 101st Infantry Division, 10th Mountain Division, and 1st Armored Division, and the Senior Military Science Instructor at New Mexico State University.

MSG Doolan has served as a First Sergeant of a Heavy Weapons Company, Infantry Company, HHC Brigade, Scout Platoon Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Squad Leader, and Team Leader.

MSG Doolan’s military education includes Air Assault School, Master Gunner School, Senior Leader Course (SLC), Advanced Leader Course (ALC), Primary Leader Development Course (PLDC), and First Sergeant Course.

MSG Doolan’s awards and decorations include 2 Bronze Star Medals, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, 7 Army Commendation Medals, 1 Joint Service Medal, 12 Army Achievement Medals, 2 Meritorious Unit Citations, 7 Army Good Conduct Medals, 2 National Defense Service Medals, 1 Afghanistan Campaign Medal-Combat Service, 2 Iraq Campaign Medal-Combat Service, 1 Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, 1 NATO Medal (ISAF), 3 Non-Commissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbons, Army Service Ribbon, 5 Overseas Ribbons, Combat Infantryman Badge, Expert Infantryman Badge, and Audie Murphy Club Member.

MSG Doolan’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 Doolan great success in the NMSU AROTC program.
ALL THE WAY! PMS NOTES

BY: LTC ANDREW TAYLOR

Congratulations to our five newest Second Lieutenants on earning their degrees and commissions. We welcome 2LTs Austin Brackeen, Justin Cross, Joan Kamara, Raymod Lazos and Sharrod Quillon into our Army as our newest commissioned officers.

As anyone reading The Dispatch over the past decade knows, Mr Jose Vargas is much more than the Bataan Battalion Supply Technician. Mr Vargas’ hard work, dedication and professionalism paid off as he was named the Cadet Command Supply Technician of 2012 – Congratulations, Mr Vargas; it is well deserved!

This has been a busy, challenging and rewarding semester, as you can read through the pages of this edition of The Dispatch. All the stories throughout these pages, and many not told in print, are reflected in the awarding of the Cochise Award by our higher 5th ROTC “Apache” Brigade for the best small battalion in our brigade composed of 36 universities across eight states and three time zones. Even more impressive is that we won this prestigious award two years in a row (unbeknownst to us until its presentation in early November) – making NMSU the best two out of three years of the award’s existence. It is this success, in this era of increased requirements and exponentially decreased resources, the Bataan Battalion continues to excel. Even so much so that we have grown into a medium-size battalion with increased resources. Our mission to commission adaptive, agile and ready lieutenants is above standard.

Once again, the summer saw all our Cadets and cadre spread across our great country and the world. If it wasn’t for our two great Gold Bar Recruiters, 2LTs Anthony Barcena and Justin Bonds working with CPT Warren Maestas, along with Mrs Laura Lujan, there wouldn’t have been any presence on campus. We had Cadets at Airborne and Air Assault Schools, CITL in CONUS and Korea, an internship with the Air Force Institute of Technology, two Cadets in Croatia with CULP (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program), and cadre supporting that training.

Improvements and upgrades continue on all fronts. The Cadet Lounge, cadre offices and the Army Dorm have all undergone incremental upgrades. The history of our battalion and its alumni is on display throughout. Now more than ever, we know where we have been and the legacy we have inherited. Perhaps most exciting are the legacies that will be made with our Cadets.

The battalion didn’t bade farewell to anyone this semester (probably because there is no one left); however, we did get to welcome some new cadre. MAJ Paul Saiz assumed the XO position after a successful five year command of the Las Cruces-based NM ARNG aviation unit. At the end of the semester, MSG Colin Doolan joined us as the Senior Military Instructor. Both leaders bring a lot to the Bataan Battalion to make us even stronger.

We live in a turbulent and unpredictable time in history, as is evidenced with our current economy, domestic and international situations, and the abrupt departure of our NMSU President and Provost. Solace comes from knowing that this is not the first time, as evidenced throughout our history. As we did then, we will persevere - through our patriotism, love of country, love of our brothers and sisters, and by the quality of our past, present and future. As our forefathers dating back to the 1540s passed the torch to their children and grandchildren, you have passed the torch to our current generations. And I assure you, we will pass the torch on to the next qualified, devoted, trained and ready generation. Sleep well at night...for we have the watch and won’t falter or forget.

Our present and future is built upon the successful foundations from those who came before us. I encourage you to join us for the 10th Anniversary of the Bataan Battalion Alumni Dinner and Senior Recognition on 08-09 FEB 13. Army ROTC Alumni President LTC(R) Gary Cataldo has a great program and it promises to be the one to be remembered. Come on out and make our Corps stronger through your presence.

Enjoy the semester break and get some rest (but don’t rest on your laurels) as the spring semester promises to be busy, challenging and rewarding.

Cadet Hernandez swearing in after the homecoming parade

LTC Taylor during CWST
The Bataan Battalion was honored when Father (and US Air Force Reserve COL) Scott Ruthven asked us to participate in the Reverend Frederick B. ‘Ted’ Howden Commemoration Service on Tuesday, 11 December 2012. Chaplain “Chappy” Howden was an Episcopal Father who was also the New Mexico’s 200th Coast Artillery (Anti-Aircraft) Chaplain who succumbed to dysentery and starvation-induced pellagra on December 11, 1942 at the Davao Penal Colony on Mindanao.

Chaplain Howden’s life was celebrated at noon at Episcopal Churches throughout New Mexico. Father Howden has been recognized by the Diocese of the Rio Grande with a feast day on the liturgical calendar – the equivalent of canonization in the Catholic Church. This is one of the steps to recognize Father Howden as a saint.

Four Cadets wearing our Bataan Battalion patch served as ushers, with Cadet Jarred Green and LTC Taylor presenting readings during the service. One of the most poignant moments in a very somber and wonderful service was when Father Scott introduced Ms Betty Jane Corn. As this distinguished lady stood in front of the congregation, Father Scott told the story of Ms Corn being baptized in Roswell's Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church in July 1932 by Father Howden! Father Howden’s legacy definitely lives on.

Father Howden lived a remarkable life and you are encouraged to look him up to learn about his amazing faith and service to his fellow soldiers.

We Remember Bataan...Always!

The Bataan Battalion is indebted to the caring, compassionate and dedicated support of Harriet Pinnock. Ms. Pinnock has been a foundation of our program since hosting officer calls for then Cadet LTC Cataldo in 1969.

Besides being the mother of two (LTC(R) Gary Cataldo and Ms Shelley Hayner of Hatch, NM), grandmother of two, and great-grandmother of four, Mrs Pinnock has been an influential member of Las Cruces since moving here in 1961. Born and raised in north-central Wisconsin, Harriet graduated high school in 1942 before working as a welder at the Global Shipbuilding Company, Superior, Wi in support of our war effort. In May 1944, she joined the Women's Air Corps (WAC) serving as a lab technician at Kelley Field, San Antonio, TX.

Harriet Pinnock and Mrs Grace Cataldo pinned then 2LT Gary Cataldo at his commissioning in May, 1970. Her support of the annual Army ROTC Recognition Dinner began in 2004, and has been continuous since. She has also presented books at commissioning ceremonies, making presentations to Cadet classes, and has hosted dinners for our female Cadets, Provost and NMSU President.

Harriet Pinnock was inducted into the Class of 2007 Honor Company as a Distinguished Friend of the Corps. She is also the author of Grandma’s War, an autobiography from her time in service from 1942-1957. Perhaps her most famous contribution that she will be remembered are her “Finals Cookies” she has given both Army and Air Force ROTC Cadets for the past 10 years. Regrettably, this is her last year for the “Finals Cookies”. I could not let the feats, generous contributions and love of this incredible lady go unnoticed. Harriet Pinnock has served the Bataan Battalion admirably and we are all better for knowing you.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BY: LTC (R) GARY CATALDO

As you can see by the variety and number of the Corps' activities, the pace has not slackened. Keeping up with the Cadets is a real challenge. I could not do it without the support and involvement of my fellow alumni. This was brought home last week as I was preparing to e-mail an update on the planning for the annual Recognition Dinner. Nine years ago there were three names on the address line, today there are twenty-two. That bodes well for the future of alumni support of the Corps of Cadets. Thanks to all whose interest and support have made alumni support matter.

One way to measure support for the Corps is to compare the status of Army ROTC financial accounts. In 2000, Army ROTC had three endowments, two of which were shared with the Air Force ROTC program and two current use scholarship funds totaling a net value of approximately $55,000. As of Oct 1, 2012, the Army ROTC Department had eight Army ROTC and two shared endowments as well as five current use scholarships, totaling a net value of $201,952.00. This does not include donations of $8,500 for the purchase of an ATV and approximately $4,000 for 150 Cadet meals at the annual Recognition Dinners. Since 1999, endowments and current use scholarships have provided approximately $72,000 in financial aid to over 100 Cadets. The assets of the Army ROTC Alumni Chapter have shown similar growth, increasing from $1,200 in 2001 to $9,500 as of April 2012. The fact four endowments have come from non-alumni sources show the respect and widespread support earned by the NMSU Army ROTC program.

On February 8 and 9, 2013, the Army ROTC Chapter will host a weekend of activities honoring 110 years of NMSU Army ROTC. The highlight will be the 10th Annual Recognition Dinner to recognize those Cadets being commissioned in 2013. We will induct Ms. Debbie Widger, long-time director of Alumni Relations, into the Army ROTC Honor Company. Since 1995, Debbie has been directly involved in Army ROTC alumni efforts to support the Corps of Cadets.

As for weekend activities, they include golf on Friday afternoon and a welcome at La Posta Friday evening. Saturday starts with a 'meet and greet' breakfast, followed by trip to Trinity Site (or free time) and finishes with the 10th Annual Recognition Dinner. For those who cannot be there in person, the Recognition Dinner will be webcast by NMSU Public Affairs. Dress for those watching from home is informal - dress blues and tennis shoes.

For updates and additional information you may go to the NMSU Alumni website homepage at www.alumni.nmsu.edu — Events — NMSU Army ROTC Reunion and Recognition Dinner.

Please join us as we swap tales and honor the tradition that is NMSU Army ROTC. Take care this holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

Gary Cataldo, ’70
President
NMSU Army ROTC Alumni
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SECOND LIEUTENANTS!!

Austin Brackeen

"My best memory of ROTC was being in charge of the Running Improvement Program and seeing all the Cadets improve their run times."

Austin’s hometown is Chickasha, OK. He has earned his Bachelors Degree in Criminal Justice and Branched Infantry.

Joan Kamara

"However mean your life is, meet it, and live it."—Henry David Thoreau.

Joan is from El Paso, TX. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Education and Branched Quartermaster. Joan met her husband, Beyan in Airborne School in the fall of 2010. They married Sept 1, 2012.

Sharrod Quillin

"The best ROTC moment I’ve had here at NMSU was when I was a MSIII coming back from a FTX. A group of MSIIIs including myself decided to have a food fight all the way till we got back to campus. Cadet Harbison, who rode in a different chalk did not have prior knowledge to the condition that the bus was in when he decided to volunteer to clean it. When he saw the mess on the bus, he was so mad that he did not talk to me for week."

Sharrod is from Kileen, TX. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Psychology and Branched Signal Corps.

Justin Cross

"My best ROTC experience would be the overall bond that I shared with my classmates. I met some guys here and at LDAC that I connected to, who I am closer with than any of my other friends because of our shared experiences."

Justin is from Las Cruces, NM. He earned his Bachelors Degree in Engineering and Branched Engineer.

Raymond Lazos

Raymond Lazos is from Las Cruces New Mexico. He is graduating with a Bachelors Degree in Psychology and is commissioning in the Signal Corps. His best experience in ROTC was each spring semester. He enjoyed training for and running in the Bataan Memorial Death March Marathon, and having the opportunity to meet the brave veterans of Bataan. He would like to recognize his fiancée Sonia Vargas and his three wonderful children Frankie, Mali, and AvaLee. He would also like to thank his family and friends.
Cadet chain of command
BC--cLTC Murphy
CSM--cCSM Adams
BXO--cMAJ Johnson
S1--cCPT Macaloney
S2--cCPT Reyes
S3--cMAJ Mancini
S4--cCPT Candelaria
S5--cCPT Rudisill
S-6--cCPT Lesieur
CO--cCPT Harbison
CXO--c1LT Cadet Smith
tSG--c1SG Ortegon

WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Good luck to all the new 2LTs on earning their degrees and commissions from your Army ROTC Family!

Austin Brackeen, Justin Cross, Joan Kamara, Raymod Lazos and Sharrod Quillin

THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT, IT IS ALWAYS APPRECIATED AND NEVER FORGOTTEN!