JOINT FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE
BY CADETS VALYNCIA MANCINI AND VIRGINIA KAUTZ

On the third day, Cadets were tested on the situational training exercises (STX) lanes, completing a variety of mini missions. The MSIII (third year) Cadets were evaluated on how they presented their OPORDER and their leadership ability. They either failed or passed depending on how well their team worked together, and how well they could control their squads.

On the second day, Cadets test their land navigational skills on the rough Capitan course. They climb mountains, walk through ditches and bushes, finding point after point. Cadets that score high rest for the day, while other Cadets retrain and become better at day land navigation. The night land navigation course teaches them to find their objectives during the night.

Every Spring semester, the Cadets get together for a camping trip, but it is not any ordinary camping trip. This camping trip goes by the name Joint Field Training Exercise (JFTX). During the JFTX, Cadets are tested constantly through the day and night. They push themselves to the limit and learn to endure hardships for four straight days. The first day, Cadets from UNM, NMNI, UTEP and NMSU gather together into two companies. This not only strengthens the bond between schools, but teaches Cadets to learn from each other. Everyone is taught differently, but not everyone knows everything. They learn about each other and form a bond as a newly formed squad, platoon and company.

The final day, Cadets conducted patrolting missions. Cadets lead two squads to conduct and complete a mission tasked to them by their evaluators. It was their last day to bond and show what they had learned. The award ceremony followed shortly after the return of the patrolling units. NMSU was awarded three awards.

Cadets said their goodbyes; some will later meet up at LDAC, others will have to wait until rivalry games between the schools, or even until 2014 JFTX. One thing is for sure, in the four days Cadets spent training, they came back with new friendships, new stories and new knowledge that will help them out in the future.
10TH ALUMNI DINNER AND HONOR COMPANY
BY CADET NICOLE LESIEUR

The 10th annual ROTC Alumni and Honor Company Dinner took place on February 9th, 2013, and it was a huge success - as well as the largest dinner to date! The dinner is a great opportunity for Cadets to mingle and socialize with the alumni that so generously support our program. This year all the Cadets graduating and commissioning in May and December 2013 were recognized for their achievements. Alumni members kindly sponsored an additional 15 Cadets to attend the dinner and enjoy the festivities.

During the dinner we were treated to a 'History of Army ROTC at NMSU' presentation put together by LTC (R) Cataldo, and that was followed by a video put together by Dan Robillard, that showcased what Cadets have done in the past few semesters. Both presentations were eye-opening to alumni and Cadets alike. After the commissioning, Cadets and all the scholarship donors were recognized.

The event was a great success, and the Bataan Battalion is excited for next year's Alumni Dinner.

SPRING CANYON
BY CADET JARED GREEN

The NMSU Valor Bible Study went on a spiritual training retreat to Spring Canyon, Colorado from March 8, 2013 to March 10, 2013. Spring Canyon is located in the mountains west of Buena Vista, Colorado. A total of seven cadets, three from Air Force and four from Army accompanied by two civilians and one cadre member participated in the retreat.

Spring Canyon is a camp sponsored by Officers Christian Fellowship as a place of vacation and spiritual growth that includes a number of programs throughout the year. While at this camp, we participated in a number of activities ranging from indoor rock climbing to praise and worship. During the weekend trip we met stories that pertained to the pressures we face as leaders.

The conditions and accommodations at Spring Canyon were exceptional. The weather was cold with close to a foot of snow which almost prevented our group from arriving back at NMSU on Sunday. Overall, the trip was a great experience. I believe that any Cadet that went would highly recommend this for future Cadets and that we continue this activity in our program.
AMERICA’S STRATEGIC CLIFF
BY CADET PABLO ROMERO

On April 18, 2013 the Army ROTC Bataan Battalion had the privilege to host Dr. Gary J. Schmitt from the American Enterprise Institute (AEI). Dr. Schmitt is the co-director of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies at AEI and the director of AEI’s Program on American Citizenship. He is also a former staff director of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and executive director of the President’s Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board during President Ronald Reagan’s second term.

The morning of the 18th, a group of Cadets were allotted one-on-one time with Dr. Schmitt to ask questions off-line as well as eat breakfast with him. This was a very successful event as the Corps of Cadets increased their knowledge and were free to ask questions on what is currently happening with Defense Sequestration. The meeting was important as these future officers prepare to take their place in the United States Army as 2nd Lieutenants. Additionally, later on that afternoon, Cadets Kyle Murphy and Pablo Romero appeared on KRWG-TV to ask more questions to Dr. Schmitt on-air. The Bataan Battalion looks forward to the future with hopes of being able to host more people like Dr. Schmitt and thank him for his time.

BATAAN MUSEUM AND SANTA FE ALUMNI CHAPTER
BY RAY HARLESS

On January 25, 2013, the Sante Fe NMSU Alumni Chapter held a dinner at the New Mexico National Guard Bataan Memorial Museum. The Bataan Battalion sent five Cadets to attend the dinner: Kyle Murphy, Ray Harless, Michael Yabumoto, Felix Ortegon, and Pablo Romero along with cadre members LTC Taylor and CPT Maestas. The Cadets were intrigued by the museum as it not only tells the story of the New Mexico National Guard, but showcases many items from the Bataan Death March—which also has our Bataan Battalion patch displayed. The cadre and Cadets met with many New Mexico State alums as a socialization opportunity for the Cadets to become familiar with our supporters. We also had the opportunity to view a local film called Among the Dust of Thieves which is about the 1896 disappearance of Albert Jennings Fountain and his son, directed by Sean Pilcher and takes place near White Sands, New Mexico. These kinds of events help us gain a better understanding of our military heritage and to thank supporters of the Bataan Battalion.

Cadets Murphy (L) and Romero (R)
BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH
BY CADET CALEB HALL

On March 16-17, 2013, the NMSU ROTC Bataan Battalion had the privilege of hosting the 24th Annual Bataan Memorial Death March. This year's edition of the event saw an estimated 5,800 marchers from 47 states and 5 countries descend on White Sands Missile Range for the weekend’s festivities. Twelve soldiers who survived Bataan also were in attendance.

The festivities surrounding the Memorial March began on Saturday, March 16, with a host of activities for march participants. Among these activities was the Bataan Historical Seminar held in the WSMR Post Theater. The seminar was put together by NMSU and covered the deployment of the New Mexico National Guard to the Philippines, the Battle for the Philippines, and the subsequent surrender and fall of Bataan to Japanese forces. After this, an opportunity was offered to march participants for them to meet Bataan survivors who were on base to talk memories of the Memorial from the Bat- hand for both ing ushers and survivors’ memories. The final event was a showing “Forgotten Sol- deryary focus- U.S. Army Scouts, the regidor and the Bataan about their 60 mile and to observe March. Cadets talion were on events, serv- for the semi- hosts for the presentations. for Saturday of the movie fighters”, a docu- on the Philippine Battles of Cor- Bataan, and Death March.

Sunday, the day of the Memorial March, saw things kick-off early. The opening ceremonies began at 0630 and included a presentation of the National Colors, the singing of the National Anthem, the playing of “Taps”, and remarks made by WSMR Commander BG Birmingham. A roll call of survivors who were present at the March was made as was a reading of a list of Bataan survivors who had passed away since the 2012 March. A Battalion Cadet was in the ceremonies, dressed in a World War II doughboy uniform and carrying the Battalion Colors for the playing of “Taps” and the procession of the marchers to the starting line. At the starting line, a cannon was fired by a group of Cadets as different groups of participants began either their march or run. The Battalion had three teams participate in the march as runners competing against other ROTC teams.

Cadets from the battalion served over the weekend in a variety of roles: ushers, drivers, serving water and food to the participants, or even being participants in the march themselves. Whatever capacity they served in, each did an outstanding job and the Battalion received a lot of praise for its performance throughout the weekend. It was truly a great weekend and definitely helped the Battalion live up to its motto, to “Remember Bataan.... ALWAYS!”
BATAAN OPENING CEREMONY
BY KYLE HARBISON

The Bataan Memorial Death March took place this year on March 17, 2013. Every year, NMSU Army ROTC performs multiple tasks throughout the weekend in order to educate the public on the Bataan Death March, assist in the opening ceremonies of race day, or compete in the marathon itself. As part of the opening ceremonies this year, I was responsible for establishing a group of Cadets that can operate a 75mm pack howitzer with the purpose of firing to signal the start of the different running classes that would be participating in the race.

CDTs Hernandez, Lerma, and Rouse and I made up the cannon crew this year. Prior to the opening ceremonies kicking off, we performed a few rehearsals to ensure everyone’s proficiency with the 75mm pack howitzer. The morning of the race we reported to our position near the starting line of the marathon. When the racers reported to their positions and we were given the ok, we fired off a 75mm blank round. The explosion was a shock to everyone around as the echo bounced off the Organ Mountains. This shot was followed by three more, each causing people to shudder as they ran by.

The Bataan Memorial Death March is how we honor those we lost at Bataan and show our support to those few who did survive. For CDTs Hernandez, Lerma, and Rouse to be a part of the opening ceremony for such a significant event is a privilege. For me personally, this having been the third year I have taken part of the cannon crew for the Bataan Memorial Death March, I still get chills to see everyone come together to honor those we have lost. Waking up everyone else on post that was still sleeping makes me smile a little bit too. “Remember Bataan!”

CSM Moore and COL Dodson receive an award from BG Bingham

PERSPECTIVE ON THE BATAAN MEMORIAL DEATH MARCH RUN
BY CADET FELIX ORTEGON

On March 17, 2013, Soldiers and civilians gathered at White Sands Missile Range to get a taste of what the 24th annual Bataan Memorial Death March was all about. The opening ceremony for the March started at 0630. By 0700 they started a challenging journey that tested their heart and motivation. The NMSU Bataan Battalion had three teams that competed in the marathon in the ROTC light category. The members that were a part of the first team to cross the finish line were, Pablo E Romero, Andrew Vandiver, Matthew Bloomfield, Brennan Lauritzen, and Felix Ortegon with an overall team time of 4 hours 13 minutes and 30 seconds. The team members for the second team were Brian Athia, Jarred Green, Carlos Lopez, Bucky Carlington and Jose Urquijo with an overall team time of 5 hours 39 minutes and 43 seconds. The third team was a female team and the team members were, Tessa Thompson, Melissa Hernandez, Sara MacAloney, Emilia Juchiewicz with a total team time of 6:15:00. Each team finished the race and was honored to be a part of the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Before the marathon length competition, the teams had to prepare for this long mountainous course through the desert. The teams started to train at the end of January and kept training up until the week before the event. The marathon training consisted of 8-10 mile runs and the longest the teams ever ran was 12 miles. The last week of training saw all teams in the pool to release the pressure on their joints from the constant pounding.

The most common question asked after the marathon is “What was it like?” Pablo responded with this answer “It’s an incredible experience!” Zubia said “It was a challenge” and Thompson said, “The marathon was a great experience.” This marathon is not your ordinary marathon, and I encourage all to experience the next Bataan Memorial Death March on March 23, 2014.

Army ROTC Male Bataan Team
ARMY PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST
BY CADET ANDREW VANDIVER

On March 6, 2013, the Cadets of the Bataan Battalion took the Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT). The APFT consists of three events. First is the push-up, which measures the endurance of the chest, shoulder, and triceps muscles. Second is the sit up, which measures the endurance of the abdominal and hip flexor muscles. The last is the two-mile run, which measures aerobic fitness and endurance of the leg muscles.

The Cadets of the Bataan Battalion boasted an impressive 89% passing rate (not including those Cadets on profile), up from 73% of the diagnostic APFT taken on January 21, 2013. Their strongest event was the push-up, in which 95% of all cadets passed. Notably, the Cadet Battalion Commander, Cadet Murphy was the overall top performer, scoring 332 on the extended scale.

When asked what contributed most to the improvements of the Cadets, cadre member MSG Doolan replied, “The bottom line was the will of the Cadets. They pushed, mentored, and encouraged each other in training.” MSG Doolan provided the junior-level Cadets with a training plan to implement in the weeks leading up to the APFT. “I can only provide them with the tools,” MSG Doolan said, “they have to put them to use, or the house won’t be built.”

STAFF RIDE TO THE BATTLE OF HEMBRILLO
BY CADET JOSHUA REYES

On 14 August 2012, NMSU’s Army ROTC Bataan Battalion conducted the first of two staff rides for the academic year. The MSIV (senior) class had the opportunity to visit Ft. Stanton, NM. Ms. Lynda Sanchez, Mr. Jack Shuster, and Mr. Phil Schreiber made this visit possible. While on site the Cadets were given a tour of the grounds, participated in a reenactment of how the early army would conduct garrison operations and given a brief history of the significance behind Ft. Stanton. The program would like to thank these individuals for this opportunity and look forward to planning another visit to this site. This first staff ride set up the class for the second to be conducted in the spring semester.

On 16 February 2013, NMSU’s Army ROTC Bataan Battalion conducted a staff ride to visit the Hembrillo Basin. On 6-7 April 1880, there was a battle between US forces and the Warm Springs and Mescalero Apache tribes lead by Chief Victioria. This battle is relatively unknown to the history of this country, but there has been a lot of research done to uncover this history. The MSIV class performed extensive research on the battle. They then prepared presentations on the different units involved in the battle, giving those involved on the staff a greater understanding of what occurred during the battle. During the presentations the class had two experts present, Dr. Karl Laumbach and COL(R) Dan Rathbun, as they sat in they provided further feedback and conducting more research. The class benefitted from the involvement these two men had in the staff ride. Upon arrival at the Hembrillo Basin, the Cadets and guests walked the battlefield and listened to the explanations given by the experts in attendance on historical background and the significance of the battle. There were other sites visited along the way that touched on some Apache and Mogollon history. The Staff Ride event was a great success for the ROTC program. It helped further develop both the critical thinking and analytical skills of those involved. The Bataan Battalion looks forward to conducting more exercises like this in the future at different sites throughout the area.

Cadets Murphy (L) and Wauson (R)
This past year the MSIV class participated in the Professional Reading Challenge (PRC). The PRC is designed for the Cadets to read an assigned book and answer questions based on that book through a discussion page on platoonleader.army.mil. The two books the MSIVs read during the fall and spring semesters were: *On Combat* by LTC(R) Dave Grossman (fall) and *Beyond Courage* by Dorothy Cave (spring). Dave Grossman's book, *On Combat*, discusses and analysis the psychological and physiological effects the body goes through when engaged in close combat. The book was thought provoking and very well written, offering each Cadet insight into the mysterious subject of combat. Dorothy Cave's book, *Beyond Courage*, is about the soldiers of the 200th Coast Artillery and their perils during WWII in the Philippines, specifically on the Bataan Peninsula and Corregidor. This book has extra special meaning to our battalion, since our lineage and roots come from these men. *Beyond Courage*, is extremely well written and meticulously detailed offering an amazing insight into the courageous men who endured the Bataan Death March and Japanese POWs camps.

The Pro Reading Challenge was a great opportunity to explore our history and learn about the fine details of what one endures during combat operations. As an MSIV, I can say I learned quite a bit by reading these fine books, and I know my counterparts did as well.
MY EXPERIENCES IN ISRAEL
BY 2LT KEVIN D. MACKLIN
CLASS OF 2012

I'm surrounded by dozens of men swaying back and forth, praying silently. The rocket siren rings through the synagogue. I looked up along with several other men; we gazed at each other and back we go into our prayers. I experienced this a couple times during Operation Pillar of Defense when the rocket sirens went off while I was in Jerusalem. What I experienced was nothing seen in the biased U.S. news. While we heard the rocket sirens in Jerusalem, we knew the rockets would land dozens of kilometers south of our location. As most people know, Operation Pillar of Defense was a major 7-day Israel Defense Force operation performed in the Gaza Strip in early December.

A month later I visited Sderot, the closest Israeli city to the Gaza Strip. Hundreds of rockets fell there during the operation and rockets have and will continue to fall on Sderot. When the sirens go off, citizens have ten seconds to get to shelter before the rocket lands. It is so tormenting that almost half of Israeli preteens in Sderot show signs of PTSD. Terrorist factions on different sides shoot hundreds of rockets into Israel every year. If one rocket fell in the U.S., things would not be taken so lightly.

I am privileged to be able to visit places like this because of my fellowship here in Israel. I am part of the Anna Sobol Levy Fellowship. They allow me to participate in briefings and visit Israeli military bases during my studies. I found that the best insight I got from these trips was the ability to speak with soldiers and gain their understanding into the Israeli situation.

I was in Israel during the summer of 2010, when I was doing volunteer work for the Israeli Defense Forces. I was able to live and work with the soldiers here on a daily basis. It was interesting to see the similarities and differences between our two militaries. I came out with a much better understanding how Israelis survive sur-

rounded by enemies.

I'm in Israel during interesting times. I graduated from NMSU and was commissioned in May 2012 as an Army Air Defense Artillery officer. I am now attending the Hebrew University of Jerusalem on an educational delay. Since I have been here in Jerusalem, I have lived through a war, a 20-year snowstorm, and a major election.

Last year a lot of snow fell in Jerusalem, about a quarter-inch. This year almost 6 inches of snow fell in one night. People here were ecstatic! I did not fully understand until one of my Israeli friends told me that he has lived in Jerusalem his whole life and has never seen more than an inch of snow. It created quite the photo opportunity.

The conjunction of last year's prisoner swap and large-scale socio-economic protests greatly affected this year's election. We saw a disappearance of the Left and an emergence of the Center-Left and stronger Right religious parties. It doesn't sound like much, but it can completely change peace in the Middle East. I am predicting that we will see more support for settlements in the West Bank and less support for a two-state solution. The religious parties believe that this land is our land. As the Manifest Destiny took Americans West, Jews also want to spread East for a Greater Israel.

It has been great to be in the thick of things here. I have gained a lot of experience from it. I look forward to finishing my degree and getting on active duty where I hope to use what I learned from this experience.
In the predawn darkness I stood there. “ATTENTION!” Oops I was a little slow. “PARADE REST!” Uh oh, I pulled up the back of my shirt. “ATTENTION!” That was a little better. “PRESENT ARMS!” “Hey tilt your hand more.” “ORDER ARMS!” What time is it? These were my thoughts the first time we practiced for the Spring 2013 NMSU Presidential Pass in Review.

In the weeks leading up to the actual event, Sergeant’s Time was always punctuated by a reminder to remember pass in review, and to be organizing the proper uniform to wear. The Bataan Battalion met at Pride Field almost daily to rehearse our part in the annual event. Between the alternations of attention and parade rest there were some long stretches just spent standing. It didn’t take very many of those mornings before at least a few of us learned that it is quite possible to sleep on your feet.

Since it was my first semester in the ROTC program, and I have no military background whatsoever, the practice leading up to pass in review was a great opportunity to practice simple things other Soldiers or Cadets have perfected to a science. Moving between parade rest and attention, saluting, marching properly, and maintaining good posture aren’t always easy the first time around.

Manuel Pacheco’s speech was an opportunity to remember the privilege we have of living in the United States of America, and our role in protecting individual freedom.

All of us had our military discipline tested one morning. Our cars were parked around the eastern end of Pride Field, and most were front of parking meters which we had not paid since the meter attendants don’t start work until 0800, and we finish Sergeant’s time around 0730. However, on this morning someone did come, and started walking to every meter in turn. Some of us worried momentarily, and would’ve liked to broken ranks and move our cars. No one did, and soon we realized the person wasn’t writing tickets, but just collecting change out of the meters. It was a simple thing but I’m glad we all stood our ground.

When the day of the actual ceremony arrived, even the most novice among us were feeling confident in our ability to perform our task and just wanted to get it done. Our uniforms were crisp clean and ordered. We were set, our salutes were sharp, our marching was orderly. The band played traditional music masterfully. When the National Anthem was played, in a way convenient enough for poetry, the wind stirred the other flags little, the American flag stood up beautifully. Interim President
PURPLE HEART AWARDED TO WWI VETERAN
BY CADET POLLY RALEY

On Thursday 25 April 2013, at the annual New Mexico State University Army ROTC award ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Andrew A. Taylor and Major Paul Saiz had the great honor of awarding Retired Lieutenant Colonel Kirk McCarter with his father, Sergeant First Class Thomas A. McCarter, awards and ribbons from WWI. Included in the set of ribbons was the prestigious Purple Heart, a ribbon awarded for both WIA and for meritorious performance of duty. In September of 1943, after the establishment of the Legion of Merit by an Act of Congress, the practice of awarding the Purple Heart for merit was discontinued. Because of this, SFC McCarter never received his award. LTC McCarter was beyond surprised when he realized what was going on after LTC Taylor kept him on stage after presenting an award to the ROTC cadets. Lieutenant Colonel McCarter stated that he didn’t know much about what his father did during his time of service. He recalled that the one time he did ask his father about the war, all he said was that he hoped he didn’t kill any Germans. After Lieutenant Colonel McCarter was presented with his father’s ribbons, he was then again surprised by the presence of his family, which showed up in support of both Lieutenant Colonel McCarter and his father.

Lieutenant Colonel McCarter surrounded by his family at the ROTC Awards Ceremony

AWARD CEREMONY
BY CADET BRENNAN LAURITZEN

Cadets are annually recognized for their effort at the NMSU ROTC Awards Ceremony. The recognition and the opportunity to learn about the community and military history motivates Cadets to perform better and resolve to be the best officers they can be for the Nation.

An Army and Air Force Cadet practiced leadership skills as they coordinated the reservation of Hardman Hall’s auditorium, equipment and decoration checkout, confirmed some of the awards for the event, and supervised Cadets while preparing for the event and cleaning up after the event.

Army Cadet Polly Raley and Air Force Cadet Michael Duran narrated the event. They spent an hour Monday and Wednesday rehearsing while the script received finishing touches. These Cadets willingly took advantage of the opportunity to hone their public speaking skills.

The WSMR community recognized our Corps of Cadets. Each year NMSU Army ROTC sponsors teams, the cannon crew, and a water point at the Bataan Memorial Death March. BG Gwen Bingham and CSM Felipe Paul gave us the honor of recognizing the extra effort the three Bataan Teams and Cannon Crew undertook during the Bataan Memorial Death March.

Air Force and Army Cadets were then recognized for the academic achievement, physical fitness, character and exemplary leadership abilities that were demonstrated while training. The potential officership skills of these Cadets made them stand out from their peers. Numerous organizations from the community participated in the ceremony.

Cadets also enjoyed the honor of receiving scholarships, many given for alumni and in memory of those who have fallen defending the United States. LTC Taylor had the honor of presenting LTC (R) Kirk McCarter, son of a WWI veteran and alumni, with posthumous awards for his father’s service including a Purple Heart.

The 2013 Awards Ceremony exposed Cadets to the past through the stories from military history, to the present with the various patriotic organizations in our community, and inspire them to carry military traditions into the future.
The Student Veterans' Association of New Mexico State University (SVA of NMSU) is committed to helping our brothers and sisters of our armed forces transition from military green successfully to NMSU Crimson and beyond. Whether you are the military veteran, spouse, dependent or supporter of our brave service members, we pride ourselves in providing a support network that can help navigate the academic life of NMSU, veteran programs, or being a member of our community.

The SVA of NMSU will make every effort to help your academic career be a successful one and will also be here to listen; not only to your needs and ideas on how to make it better but also for support. If we do not know an answer we will make every effort to find the correct direction for you to find that answer.

Our motto is "Nunquam Unus", Latin for never alone. These simple words ring true for our mission that no veteran will ever be alone and that we will strive to take care of our own and all that support us.

We have helped develop different programs here on NMSU to help our fellow veterans as well as military personal. One of the programs is Veteran housing; we have helped NMSU become the first University in the nation that offers this kind of housing program. We have also been very active with the ROTC here at NMSU as well. We have helped several labs and classes; one of the biggest ones that we help with is the Lines training that we do in the spring. We are hoping that with all of the different backgrounds that we have in the SVA can help mentor the future of our Army Officers so that they can learn and grow as they move forward toward their military careers as Army Officers. We have also been a part of setting up the Vet Center Van that comes once a week to help veterans with counseling and well as helping them find the resources that they need to help them move forward in their time as college students. We have also helped start a group for combat veterans here on campus as well.

We are also meeting with the leaders here on the University to help them better understand us as Veterans. We have several things that are currently being worked. We are still working on a permanent home for the Veterans resource center, but for the time being we will be setting up an office in the Veteran housing area on Standley Drive so we can help support our fellow veterans and their families. We want to ensure that NO ONE GETS LEFT BEHIND, or as our motto says "NEVER ALONE".

**ANNUAL RAY RIVAS COMMEMORATIVE BIKE RIDE**

1 Lt. Col. Raymond Trejo Rivas (USAR Ret.) died July 15, 2009, at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio after battling to recover from head injuries suffered nearly four years ago. The 53-year-old veteran of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq suffered from traumatic brain injury and other ailments after an Oct. 12, 2006, mortar attack.

Military operations in which he participated included Africa, Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. He attended Army Special Operations School, Army Command, General Staff College and Army Advanced Engineering School. Ray Rivas lived the life of a hero. He wanted to serve his country as best he could. He often volunteered for dangerous combat missions as he did not want someone else standing in for him in the war zone.

Youngest of five brothers, AD1 (AW) Andrew Rivas USNR (Ret) will honor Ray's memory by completing a 509 mile un-supported bike ride from his home in Flagstaff, AZ to Las Cruces, NM where the Rivas brothers grew up. Lt. Col. Rivas was one of five brothers whose combined military service totals 93 years of continuous unbroken service in the US Army, US Marine Corps and US Navy.

At the conclusion of the ride on June 1st, a memorial service will be held at the Las Cruces Veterans Memorial Park at approximately 4 PM.

I am encouraging riders to join me anywhere along my route in honoring Ray and all those that have served in the armed forces.

"Duty, Honor, Country"

---

**Proud Supporter of**

**WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT**

LTC (R) Raymond Rivas
Our mission is to train the future Officers of our Army. Our job is important because these officers will lead Soldiers into combat within two years of their commissioning. For this reason, it is imperative that we lead by example. As the Senior Non-Commissioned Officer of this Battalion, I will never direct you to do something I would not do myself. I guarantee you that this battalion is going to be the best battalion in ROTC. Keep in mind these basic tenants that serve us well:

Caring: Treat others as you would like to be treated; Always maintain proper military courtesy when addressing anyone; Be safe; Use the common sense approach; Take care of the needs of your family first and foremost, as one day the Army will be all but a fond and distant memory, but you will still have your family. Maintaining: Maintain an appropriate level of physical fitness and appearance; You're a Cadet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and represent the United States Army. Leading: Lead by example! Train as a team; Utilize the chain of command and delegate accordingly; Ensure each task is understood, supervised and accomplished - Task, Conditions and Standards! Take the initiative and seek responsibility. Training: Train to the Army standard. Don't take short-cuts! Idiosyncrasies: Always keep me informed, No surprises! Don't make excuses; Zero tolerance for those who lie, steal, or cheat; Be on time! We all make mistakes, learn from them, but don't make the same mistake twice; Insubordination will never be tolerated. I will treat you in a professional manner and expect the same from you; I don't believe in micro-managing anything. If you have a problem, bring it to my attention, but also bring the possible solutions and your plan of action.

Once again, I am proud and honored to be your Senior Military Instructor. Always remember we're a team and will always work as one. I only ask that you use your judgment and "do the right thing". Maintain your honor and remember do not bring shame or disgrace your family name.

MSG Doolan as water safety during CWST
ALL THE WAY! PMS NOTES
BY LTC ANDREW TAYLOR

Congratulations to our nine newest Second Lieutenants on earning their degrees and commissions. We welcome 2LTs Adam Arnold, Luke Candelaria, Amanda Johnson, Joshua Johnson, Emily Juchniewicz, Nicole Lesieur, Kyle Murphy, Priscilla Perry and Shane Roche into our Army as its newest commissioned officers.

As has become the new normal, this has been a busy, challenging and rewarding semester, the story of which is reflected throughout this edition of The Dispatch. As this semester ends and summer begins, our Cadets and cadre will again spread out across America and the world (budget permitting). This summer we have Cadets at Airborne and Air Assault Schools, CTTI in CONUS and Korea, an internship with the Army Research Lab in Stanford, a Cadet in Romania with CULP (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency program), and cadre supporting that training. This is even more impressive during this time of shrinking budgets and fiscal uncertainty. One thing that is certain is that NMSU Cadets are high quality and will excel – thus we get more than average allocations to summer training. NMSU has a reputation for excellence throughout Cadet Command and our Army.

Despite the shrinking Army and Cadet Command, NMSU is growing based on our performance and potential. We have Lieutenant Colonel David McCoy (incoming PMS) Captain Michael Rivera and Sergeant First Class James Walker inbound this summer. This is in addition to our new NMSU Administrative Assistant, Ryan McInnes (also a member of the NM ARNG) and Mrs Sarah Schatzman, our Human Resources Assistant who joined us last August (anyone familiar

with the Bataan Battalion will agree with me that she has made a huge impact in a very short amount of time). Unfortunately, we have to say goodbye to Captain Warren Maestas. During his two years with the Bataan Battalion, he has made vast improvements and been a large influence not only in ROTC, but also at NMSU. He leaves big combat boots to be filled.

During NMSU’s 125 years, we have had 26 Presidents; during Army ROTC’s 111 years, we have had 38 Professors of Military Science (see LTC(R) Cataldo’s Alumni Article to see that we have had six Cadets lead ROTC in the absence of Army officers during our first 18 years); and NMSU Army ROTC has commissioned over 1,700 officers – that is a lot of impact for a Land Grant University with humble beginnings. Transition is a way of life, and regretfully, that time has come again. Serving as your PMS for these past four years has been an honor and culmination of a wonderful and amazing Army career. Time passes quickly, especially when you enjoy what you do. Success should be defined individually – follow your own path. Our path took us around the world through some amazing units: mechanized, airborne, light, Stryker, but the best was saved for last. NMSU has left such an indelible mark on us that rather than move on with the Army and regret it, we have chosen to grow roots here. Our legacy is not worn upon our chests, it is in the future leadership of our Army through the Bataan Battalion; our future is in very capable hands. While we can only imagine what our Cadets and officers will encounter, we can rest easy knowing that they have the skills to accomplish whatever they come across. A commission from the Bataan Battalion means something – in the past, present and future.

To our Cadets, enjoy your time at NMSU as it passes all too quickly. To our newly commissioned second lieutenants, enjoy your time serving with the greatest Americans – the sons and daughters of our great Nation. To our alumni (to include newly commissioned 2LTs), thanks for all you do and know that your contributions truly do make a difference. To our cadre, thank you for all your energy, spirit, compassion and going the extra distance for our Cadets.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your PMS and for the great memories. As a Jumpmaster who lives “All the Way”, the last jumper has left the aircraft and it is my turn to pass off the static line to the safety and enjoy my “Knees in the Breeze” for the last time.
Emily Juchniewicz fought hard to maintain the group’s cadence. With 55 pounds of military gear strapped to her back, she struggled to keep up with the taller cadets’ longer strides. Trudging down Triviz, up Missouri and then back around to the New Mexico State University campus, the Army ROTC cadet completed the eight-mile ruck march, earning the respect of her teammates.

In May, when she graduates with a degree in community health, Juchniewicz will leave a legacy as the first female Native American to graduate from NMSU’s Army ROTC program in the College of Arts and Sciences. A member of the Navajo Nation, she also will be the first among her siblings to receive a bachelor’s degree, and the first in her community to become an officer in the United States Armed Forces. Two men from Apache tribes have previously graduated from the NMSU program.

“Cadet Juchniewicz has opened the door wide, not only for herself, but for her family, tribe, Native Americans and females,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Taylor, professor of military science at NMSU Army ROTC. “She is a leader and will make a huge difference for our Army, our country, and her community.”

Juchniewicz hails from the Tohajiilee Indian Reservation, a small tribe located about 45 miles west of Albuquerque. She said she enrolled in ROTC at NMSU to support a friend. While her friend dropped out after the first semester, Juchniewicz stuck with it and found her calling. The goal that kept her going — becoming an officer.

“I guess it’s more of how much do you really want it,” Juchniewicz said. “I think that’s what kind of got me. I’m the first in my family to ever become an officer; even in the community there are no officers. It was more of making a difference and setting an example that Native Americans can overcome and rise up.”

NMSU’s Department of Military Science and Tactics program was activated during the 1902-03 school year. Since then, the Bataan Battalion has commissioned more than 1,200 officers. Juchniewicz is among nine ROTC cadets graduating next month. When she enters the reserve component, she will join an elite group -- less than one percent of reservists self-identify as Alaska Native/American Indian. Fewer still are female and officers.

Juchniewicz will enter into the reserves and begin a basic officer leadership course, which is the first step in becoming a medical service officer. She has been assigned to Fort Lewis in Washington where she will begin duties as a second lieutenant. The community health major plans to return to her community one day where she will work to improve health conditions in the Navajo Nation, the largest indigenous tribe in the U.S.

“I want to change and minimize all the health issues you hear about on the reservation, and educate them about different alternatives,” Juchniewicz said. “By demonstrating and educating how you can eat better. This is how you can reduce getting diabetes.”

Currently, 80 cadets are enrolled in the program. Like Juchniewicz, they joined for various reasons including financial incentives and service to country. In the program, cadets acquire skills in leadership and time management, essential tools that employers seek.

“We are the best leadership course in the United States,” Taylor said. “Once you’re commissioned, you’re guaranteed not only a job, but a career as long as you want, either in the reserve component or active duty.”

“The best thing is the relationship building,” Juchniewicz said. “You would never expect the relationships or the people you meet, because later down the road, the Army is a small world and you’ll see them time and again.”

For Juchniewicz, an important aspect of the program is the confidence that students gain while getting into top physical condition.

“You have to get over your fears,” Juchniewicz said. “For me, I had to do a water confidence course and that is what scared me the most, because you have to trust your equipment and just kind of throw yourself in the water.”

Each week, cadets participate in rigorous physical fitness training, military science classroom instruction and leadership activities where their knowledge is used in a field setting. Twice a year, the cadets participate in field training exercises.
FIRST FEMALE NATIVE AMERICAN TO GRADUATE NMSU
ARMY ROTC PROGRAM, CONT.

BY TONYA SUTHER

“In the fall, it’s more of a fun team building event where we go to an installation to learn, do an obstacle course, a hand-grenade assault course and have team building,” Taylor said. “The spring FTX is usually a combined exercise with other schools where we do tactical training for four days.”

Traditionally, the NMSU program lasts four years, but cadets also may enter during their junior year after attending a four-week leadership-training course at Fort Knox, Ky.

In 1989, the NMSU unit was renamed the Bataan Battalion by the U.S. Department of the Army. Every year, NMSU’s Army ROTC heads up the Bataan Memorial Death March at White Sands Missile Range. The first official march began in 1989, when Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ray Pickering in 1987, who was then a cadet at NMSU, had planned to have 25 cadets march 25 miles. Today, thousands come from all over the world to march the 26.2-mile grueling course at White Sands Missile Range.

“It’s amazing how an Aggie saw a need to identify this great group of veterans and it has grown to this world class event we have today,” Taylor said.

Taylor, who has been with NMSU’s Army ROTC as a professor of military science in 2009, has served in both Bosnia and Iraq, and is the recipient of a Bronze Star Medal with two oak leaf clusters and a Meritorious Service Medal with three oak leaf clusters. Taylor is retiring and this is his last semester at NMSU.

“I truly believe that service to your country is a fundamental right of all Americans,” Taylor said. “The cadets we have now are great Americans because they are volunteering at a time of war.”

The Army ROTC produces 75 percent of today’s Army officers. Upon graduation, cadets who meet the commissioning requirements, join the National Guard, the U.S. Army Reserve or report for active duty.

“Coming from a Native American background, it’s important to serve because we have so many privileges and rights in this country and we have to protect them,” Juchniewicz said.

“We take pride in the accomplishments of all our cadets, either serving our Army or as citizens,” Taylor said. “Cadet Juchniewicz’s commissioning will serve as the end of her undergraduate chapter and the beginning of another chapter of commissioned service. Watch for her in the future — She will go places and make the world a better place.”
On 14-15 JAN 13, MSIVs reported to Young Hall for a two day workshop before the start of the semester. They had been told to be ready to take APFT the 14th. After taking the APFT the MSIVs attended a lecture on the Battle of Hembrillo by COL(R) Rathbun. Once the lecture was completed, MSIVs found out that they were going to be conducting a battle analysis on the Battle of Hembrillo. They were assigned different leaders and were told to be prepared to brief their part in class.

On the 15th, LTC Taylor, Dr. Skaggs and the MSIVs went to White Sands Missile Range for a guided tour. Scheduled first was an orientation on the White Sands Missile Range mission and then had an open discussion forum with the WSMR Command Sergeant Major, CSM Paul. He spoke to us about what he expects from 2LTs and officers in general.

After lunch, they attended some of the different research facilities that form White Sands Missile Range. One of these facilities is the famous ICE (Improvised Explosive Devices Countermeasure Equipment) device was built by White Sands Engineers and Soldiers. The ICE device uses commercial and military technology to jam signals that detonate enemy IEDs. During the tour, Dr. Skaggs gave an unclassified brief on the armor that he helped develop for the military. MSIVs were able to learn about the new technologies that are being developed at local Army laboratories, as well as build camaraderie with cadre and other MSIVs.

MSIVs were able to learn about their past and present to prepare for the future Spring 2013 semester. When asked if they would suggest this type of training for future MSIV classes they said yes. It opened their eyes how important the civilian role is when making U.S. troops combat effective.
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWEST SECOND LIEUTENANTS!!!

Adam Arnold

The first eighteen years of Adam Arnold’s life were spent in Carlisle, Pennsylvania where his life pretty much revolved around faith and sports. His senior year of high school he met his future wife, Brooke Cusimano whom he will be marrying on May 25th of this year. Upon graduation from high school in the spring of 2008, Adam enlisted into the Army Reserves so that he could attend college after initial training. He began attending New Mexico State University in the spring of 2009 and joined the Bataan Battalion. Adam Arnold assessed into active duty and received his first choice of Infantry.

Luke Candelaria

Luke Candelaria will be receiving his Bachelors of Criminal Justice with a minor in military science. Luke decided to attend NMSU after he was lovingly pushed out of his parent’s house after graduating high school. Growing up in a long lineage of police officers, he was destined to be a public servant. Growing up he had a very active lifestyle; he was constantly enrolled in local sports program. He spent the majority of his adolescence in the town of Torreon NM on his parent’s ranch. Always being told of the importance of higher learning by his parents, he had always planned on attending a university.

Amanda Johnson

Amanda was born and raised in Alamogordo, NM. She joined the Army as a 68W, in July of 2000, two months after her high school graduation. She has been married for almost seven years and have two wonderful children. She served in Iraqi Freedom 06-08 as a combat medic. She had been enlisted 11 years when her packet was selected for Green to Gold-ADO. She has earned her Bachelors Degree in Sociology and branched AG. She would like to thank her husband, Kevin, mom, Carmen, and my sisters, Gina, Bo Ray, and Tianna for ALL there help through this process.
Joshua's hometown is Ruidoso, NM. He earned his degree in History and branched Quartermaster in the Army Reserves. He is thankful for all of the experiences NMSU and ROTC has given me. He wishes the best for his fellow classmates!

Emily Juchniewicz is from To'ahjiilee, New Mexico, located about 45 miles west of Albuquerque. She will be getting her Bachelor's degree in Community health. Juchniewicz has branched Medical Service Corps. She will be going into the US Army Reserve component and has been assigned to a unit in Washington. She is grateful for her family who has supported her throughout her undergraduate career.

"The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing."
— Socrates

"Be the change that you wish to see in the world."
— Mahatma Gandhi

"Knowing yourself is the beginning of all wisdom."
— Aristotle

Nicole Lesieur was born on July 12th, 1990, in Ft. Belvoir, VA. She was granted the opportunity to live around the world as an Army kid. Her father is now retired Army, and that was one of the driving factors of her joining the Army. She will be getting her degree in Foreign Languages - French, and will branching Military Intelligence and joining the Georgia Army National Guard. She would like to thank her parents, Dawn and Brian, her sister, Gabriele, and her brother, Brian Roger. She would also like to thank J.K. Rowling, for making her childhood magical, and most importantly, Uncle Charlie, for being her best champion and always believing in her.
Kyle Murphy earned his degree in History. He Brunched Infantry, Active Duty. Kyle was born and raised in Albuquerque, NM. He grew up playing baseball, which he played from T-Ball through high school. He graduated in 2009 from Hope Christian High School, a small private Christian school in NE Albuquerque. While growing up he always knew he wanted to be a Soldier, especially an Infantry Soldier. As he continued in his career, it has been his dream to one day serve in one of the three Ranger Battalions. He looks forward to the challenge and cannot wait to lead warriors.

Priscilla Perry is from Soledad, CA. She earned her Bachelors Degree in Nursing and minored in Military Science. She would like to thank the De La Torre/Perry clans for supporting her through this 6 year journey to her degree. "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us. We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be?" -Marianne Williamson

Shane Roche is originally from Frankfurt, Germany. He received a bachelor's degree in business management in the fall of 2012 and will commission Active Duty. He currently works as a manager in training at Big 5 Sporting Goods and reports to AG BOLC June 2. From there he will be stationed at Fort Bliss. He would like to thank my family and my extended family, the Ponders, for all the support they have given him throughout this journey. He would also like to give special thanks to his girlfriend for sticking with him through all the good and bad times, and by being able to accept and appreciate the role of which he is about to enter.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
BY GARY R. CATALDO, PRESIDENT AROTC ALUMNI

It is with a great deal of pride and more than a touch of sadness that I once again mark the passing of another semester as President of the Army ROTC Alumni chapter. Pride - in what has been accomplished over the past 10 years; sadness - in farewell to LTC Andy Taylor, an "Aggie" in every sense of the word.

Nothing better personified the success of the last ten years as the events marking the Tenth Annual Recognition Dinner on Feb 7 and 8. The strong undertone of fellowship and support to the Alumni Chapter and the Corps of Cadets shown at the Friday night welcome dinner, the Saturday morning breakfast with university staff, the private tour of Trinity Site (site of the world’s first nuclear explosion), and of course the Recognition Dinner, far exceeded what we envisioned as possible ten years ago. Even the three Friday afternoon golfers had a good time.

The Recognition Dinner program spanned a number topics, each a piece of the fabric that is the character and culture of Army ROTC at New Mexico State University.

- The history of the first 18 years which highlighted the six occasions where the PMS slot was vacant requiring the Cadets to step up and lead the Corps.
- The induction of Ms. Debbie Wdicer as a Distinguished Friend of The Corps, which emphasized the critical role individuals have played in the growth and success of the Corps.
- Recognition of those who bore the trials and pains that were the Bataan Death March and whose sacrifice gives a unique sense of duty to the Cadets of the Bataan Battalion; represented by their family members, COL Gerald Schurts, Ms. Anita Dawson, Ms. Sandy Heath, and Ms. Margaret Garcia
- The fast-paced video presentation "Our Year as Cadets" which so clearly demonstrated the multitude of demands facing a Cadet of today;
- LTC Taylor’s introduction and the remarks from those Cadets who would soon take on the mantle of leadership, individuals in whose faces we all saw a bit of ourselves from so many years ago;
- And, last, a tip of the hat and a profound thank you to the hundreds of Alumni and Friends of the Corps who have time after time “Put their money where their mouth is”, making over one-thousand six hundred contributions to fifteen individual funds and endowments providing on-going financial support to the Corps of Cadets.

Also a sincere thank you to Steve Fox, of Hoy-Fox Toyota of El Paso, our first corporate sponsor, for their $10000 donation and camo ready" ROTC baseball hats. LTC Taylor presented a Bataan Battalion Challenge Coin to Mr. Fox that reflected better than words the depth of appreciation shared by the MS Department and the Alumni.

All in all, it was an evening to remember.

A note on Alumni Chapter business - if there was ever an example of "success can kill you" our Alumni support is it. The scope of the program and the number of active supporters has grown to the point where we must rethink our organization and processes. Therefore, on August 10, 2013 in Roswell, NM, Army ROTC Alumni will meet to lay out a plan for the next ten years. If you have a desire to assist in this effort or an overwhelming urge to see the UFO Museum, here is your chance. Just give me a call. If you cannot come in person, I sure could use your ideas and insight.

And now for that touch of sadness. I prefer not to bemoan what we are losing as LTC Taylor retires, but to feel fortunate and honored for what we have had these last four years. That being a strong, active relationship with a Professor of Military Science whose passion for the Cadets of the Corps matched our own. He saw what the alumni could do, and he helped us do it. On behalf of my fellow Alumni, we wish Andy, Jennifer and their children, all the best as they begin their new lives. Whoever said life was an adventure, had to be thinking ARMY. Rest assured Andy, we will carry on, always keeping in mind WWAUTD - What Would Andy Want Us To Do.

God Speed Andy Taylor - You done good!!

NMSU Alumni and Cadets pose by the Trinity Monument
MAJ (R) WES WALKER BIO

The Bataan Battalion is honored to have MAJ(R) Wes Walker among its ranks of distinguished alumni. MAJ(R) Wes Walker further honored us by choosing to have us display his memorabilia collected over a lifetime of service. Here is the background on the amazing collection of military memorabilia, particularly the collection of foreign military airborne wings and certificates.

Wes Walker was born “back when” (in his words) in Deming, New Mexico and resided in Snow Ranch (Mesilla—the Snow Ranch photo is dated 1928), Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and now in New Jersey. He attended school in Alameda, Central and Las Cruces Union High School, serving on the Student Council and Honor Society as the Secretary and Treasurer, and was left end on the 1943-44 Bulldogs undefeated football team (Coach Durham’s rally was “You ain’t having fun till you bleed”).

After the Army, Mr Walker’s career was in banking, auto dealer, rancher and most recently Tavern’s in the East. He served eight years on the Small Business Administration Executive Committee under President Reagan, served on the Alamogordo City Commission, and is a Life Member of both the Special Forces (LXXX Chile Pepper Chapter) and 82d Airborne Associations.

MAJ(R) Wes Walker resides in Millville, New Jersey, remaining active in his community. His legacy is felt throughout the Bataan Battalion with his displays and updates on our colorful history of ROTC and the New Mexico Army National Guard (his family served in the 11th Cavalry and 200th Coast Artillery Regiments. We are honored to share his legacy to prepare our present Cadets for our future Army.

MAJ Walker joined the US Navy and served in the Pacific as a Petty Officer Second Class with the nickname of “Ready”. After World War II, he attended New Mexico A&M “Cow College” where he joined the TKE fraternity, Army ROTC, and was a Distinguished Alumni in the Class of 1950. After graduation, he returned to service in the US Army as a Second Lieutenant, serving in the 2d Armoried Division, 82d Airborne Division, then the NM ARNG 716th Anti-Aircraft Artillery/200th Coast Artillery, and became the first commander of Company B, 9th Special Forces. Over his military career, he earned over 20 foreign military wings, most of which are prominently displayed in the Cadet Lounge and cadre common area.
Cadet chain of command

BC - eLTC Murphy
CSM - cCSM Romero
BXO - eMAJ Johnson
S1 - cCPT Macaloney
S2 - cCPT Perry
S3 - cMAJ Mancini
S4 - cCPT Reyes
S5 - cCPT Rudisill
S-6 - cCPT Lesieur
CO - cCPT Harbison
CXO - eLTL Joliff
1SG - ctSG Kautz

FAREWELL

Wishing all the best to the new 2LTs!

Farewell to LTC Andrew Taylor.

YOU WILL ALL BE MISSED!

"Lead me, follow me, or get the hell out of the way"

- Patton

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