



BATAAN BULLETIN

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY ROTC NEWSLETTER



Letter from The New Honorary Colonel

By Brigadier General Eric L. Sanchez (Ret.)

Greetings,

I am honored to be selected to serve as the Honorary Colonel for the Bataan Battalion Alumni Organization (BBAO). I was commissioned in 1987 and the Bataan Battalion provided me with the tools to succeed as an officer in the United States Army. Being part of the BBAO now affords me the opportunity to give back to the Battalion and University that provided me the tools to be an effective leader of Soldiers.

I was a young Specialist 4th Class in the New Mexico Army National Guard when I decided to pursue my commission through AROTC. Upon my graduation and commissioning, I attended the Air Defense Artillery Officer Basic Course, at Fort Bliss Texas. During this time, I decided to compete for a three year active duty position with the intent to fulfill my three year obligation on active duty and return to the New Mexico Army National Guard with the a better understanding of how the active force runs. Three years turned into 32 and I culminated my career as the Commanding General of White Sands Missile Range and retired in 2018.

I knew I wanted to give back to NMSU but was unsure in what capacity. A great opportunity arose and I was hired as the Deputy Director of the Physical Science Laboratory (PSL) in October 2019. In June of 2020, I assumed

the role of Director of PSL. As a leader on the NMSU campus, I have the opportunity to interface with many key decision makers within the university. This allows me to advocate for the ROTC programs and potentially provide opportunities for further collaboration with key stake holders on campus.

I want to thank Gary Cataldo and Jack Fox for having the faith and confidence in my ability to fill this vital position and look forward to working with the Bataan Battalion Alumni to continue supporting this great program that has done so much for all of us.

LTC Adam Buchanan and his staff are doing great things and he's provided a strategic vision for the battalion to ensure future success. We have an opportunity to support their efforts as alumni and enhance the small but effective battalion staff/cadre.

We need your help to make this become a reality. As the Honorary Colonel, I'm asking for your support by volunteering to become a BBAO officer. We intend to expand our social media presence and need someone to fulfill this role. Additionally, we need a financial officer to assist with fundraising. Please reach out to BBAO Vice President Karen Conley at karen.conley@outlook.com if you are interested in volunteering or have questions.

Additionally, we need your help with fundraising. The Joint Ethics Regulations restrict what the staff/cadre are able to in this regard but as Alum, we can work with the NMSU Foundation to provide critical funding for the program and assist the battalion in many ways. We are looking at a fund drive this Spring so please be on the lookout for additional information and consider donating to this important cause of enabling the success of our next generation of Army leaders.

Thank you for all you do for our cadets and hope to hear from you soon!

Bataan Battalion Alumni Organization Update

By LTC Karen S. Conley (Ret.)

Last November, we celebrated the 120th anniversary of the New Mexico State University (NMSU) Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC). As a graduate of the program (87), I was very excited to work with classmate BG Eric Sanchez (Ret.) in planning events to celebrate this momentous occasion. We also teamed with NMSU Military and Veteran's Programs to host a dinner honoring veteran faculty, staff, and ROTC alumni. Following a Veterans Day Ceremony and the dinner, alumni and veteran students enjoyed a morning tailgate party and the afternoon NMSU football game against the Lamar Cardinals on Saturday. It was great to see LTC Robert Wellborn (Ret.), COL Alan Napier (Ret.), and their families. Other alumni were in attendance, and we hope to see more at future events like the annual spring dinner to honor commissioning cadets.

BG Sanchez is now the Honorary Colonel of the BBAO, and I am the Vice President. We are very grateful to BG Jack Fox (Ret.) and LTC Gary Cataldo (Ret.) for their leadership and dedication to the BBAO. Our vision for the organization is to increase alumni participation in events that promote the future of the NMSU ROTC program.

Currently, we are working with LTC Adam Buchanan to identify how we can assist him in furthering his goals. We are committed to providing financial support through the ROTC Alumni Fund, operated by the NMSU Foundation. Last year we provided financial support for uniform purchases, which we are doing again this spring. In the future, we are looking to support the purchase of equipment to enhance cadet training, Bataan Memorial March Team Sponsorships, and scholarships for PMS-identified emergency circumstances (think AER funds for cadets).

We need to hear from alumni. How would you like to support BBAO and the NMSU ROTC Program? We also want to know more about our alumni. Where did your Army career take you? What exciting jobs are you doing after departing from the Army? Please email me at karen.conley@outlook.com and let us know how you would like to help.





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1 Newly contracted cadets holding the colors



2 Cadets and cadre after training

Fall FTX

By CPT Jay Kubler

In late October 2022, our program hosted a Field Training Exercise with the UTEP ROTC program. We conducted our training at Camp of the Tall Pines near Cloudcroft, New Mexico at an elevation of 7,000 feet. This training environment provided our cadets with intensely rugged, and forested terrain. Our field training exercise tested our cadets on a wide variety of tactical skills from land navigation to squad tactics. This was a joint training event with UTEP which required our cadets to adapt and work with cadets from another program.

Our tactics lanes stretched from 400m-800m in length, with many of the movements to their objectives over mountainous and rocky terrain. Cadets were tested in their skills as squad leader and team leader positions in preparation for Advanced Camp.

Culminating their training exercise, cadets held a patching ceremony for our newly welcomed contracted cadets! They then enjoyed a catered BBQ meal from a local vendor, which was a huge morale boost for all cadets participating. Not only was it fun but they gained immeasurable leadership and tactical experience which will help mold them into successful leaders.

Ranger Challenge

By MSG Emerald Galindez

The Ranger Challenge is the Army ROTC's competition event that has been going on for over 35 years. The Ranger Challenge is made up of nine graded events that test the Cadet's mental and physical toughness, technical and tactical expertise while building teamwork and individual leadership skills.

At the start of the fall semester, the NMSU Army ROTC hosted tryouts for the Cadets that consisted of a Ruck March, Combat Water Survival test, Army Combat Fitness Test, and multiple team-building tasks. There are ten slots in the team and only the Cadets that meet or go above the standards continue to compete with the team.

This year, the Ranger Challenge was hosted by the University of Arizona and conducted at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. After nearly 100 days of training, the cadets completed two grueling days of different events. They persevered through rigorous events like the ACFT, Ruck March, Basic Rifle Marksmanship, Obstacle course, and various basic and leadership tasks. The emotional well-being of Cadets was tested while pushing themselves to their limits.

At the end of the Ranger Challenge, NMSU Army ROTC placed 7th out of 10, beating out their rival, UTEP. Our team placed first in the call for fire event. The participating cadets learned valuable lessons in managing a training plan and teamwork. Go Bastards!



3 Cadets attempting an obstacle

December Commissioning

By SFC Jesus Diaz

Friends and family were invited to celebrate the commissioning of three recent NMSU ROTC graduates. The Garrison Commander of White Sands Missile Range, Colonel David A. Mitchell gave words of advice and encouragement to the soon-to-be officers. Following the speech, cadets James Brady, Tomas Cano, and Rita Jennings took an oath to their country, sealing their admittance into the Officer Corps of the United States Army. In accordance with tradition, family members or friends pin the Second Lieutenant's ranks onto the shoulders of the new officers. After years of training, the newly commissioned officers are finally a part of a long legacy of America's finest leaders. We will be adding a video featuring the commissioning cadets on our website soon.



4 2LT Brady with father, grandfather, and younger brother



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5 Cadets Darsey and Zambrano conducting outreach brief

Cadet Recruiting

By 2LT Jacob Schmidt

Our cadets within the Battalion are the best recruiting tool we have. When we can encourage cadets to be involved with their peers and with our program outreach, there is no goal too high for fundraising or enrollment. We are making waves with our Bataan Leads program, where cadets volunteer to brief or conduct physical training with high school JROTC classes. We are also advancing our on-campus recruiting with class briefs and making close ties with the Aggie Welcome and Orientation committee. Through these efforts, our program is sure to continue growth into the future.

Honoring Those Who Came Before

By MSG Brandon Knobloch



6 Statue of SSG Miyamura

Staff Sergeant Miyamura earned his Medal of Honor during the Korean War. He was a machine gun squad leader when a particularly brutal attack from the enemy threatened his entire squad. Knowing his soldiers were wounded and tired, then-Corporal Miyamura ordered them to retreat while he provided defense and cover. With a machine gun and bayonet, he eliminated 50 enemy soldiers before his capture. Once repatriated, Miyamura received his Medal of Honor and was promoted to Sergeant. Hiroshi Miyamura died in Phoenix, Arizona, on November 29th, 2022 at the age of 97.

The NMSU Army ROTC program was honored to receive the call to attend the funeral and dedication ceremony for Staff Sergeant Miyamura by the JROTC program instructor at Miyamura High School in Gallup, New Mexico. Both cadre and cadets were on the cannon crew for his gun salute.

PMS Corner

A New Sherriff in Town

by LTC Adam Buchanan



Happy New Year Aggies! I hope you had a wonderful holiday with your families. For those Aggies currently serving, thank you for what you are doing to serve our nation. There are a lot of exciting things going on in the Bataan Battalion, so we decided to implement the Bataan Bulletin to share what the program is up to with alumni.

My first fall term on campus went really well thanks to the help of the cadre and staff and the hard work of the cadets. We are excited to keep the momentum going as we start the Spring Term, which will hopefully end with five more Aggie's becoming officers. I hope after reading this newsletter you will understand ways that you can volunteer

and get on board and be a part of shaping the next generation of leaders here at NMSU.

With a focus on engaged leadership from my cadre and staff, we are building an organizational culture that connects with the proud history of New Mexico and the survivors of Bataan. Lasting changes take time and we are enjoying the work of instilling the type of leadership and values that our cadets will need to succeed in the Army and at life. All of my commander's initiatives have this goal in mind. Our 9/11 Memorial Run, our Fall contracting ceremony done this past Veterans Day, our Fall Scholarship board, and a more hands on approach to cadet counseling are just a few examples.

The pride we are instilling in our cadets is helping our success with recruiting on campus. But we aren't stopping there. We are getting in the game in the national recruiting process as well. I have worked with Chancellor Dan Arvizu to institute the BG (Ret.) Eric Sanchez Scholarship. With this scholarship the University has agreed to provide tuition matching for six national scholarship winners. This will greatly enhance our ability to attract top talent by offering a "free ride" scholarship. We hope to get additional commitments from the school once we utilize the existing allocations. We already have our first recipient on campus, MSL I Cadet Nathan Burrows. We are waiting hopefully on the results of this year's national scholarship boards to see who our next recipients will be.

If you are a proud ROTC alumni and you want to help the program recruit future leaders that live in your local area, we are exploring ways to do this as well through this site. With virtual tools my staff is able to host meetings with prospects all over the nation, but what better way to complement the official communication from the program than with a face to face visit with an Aggie ROTC alumni in the area? If you live in Santa Fe, NM, Albuquerque, NM, Phoenix, AZ or anywhere in Texas, I want to get you involved and helping out our recruiting efforts. Please reach out to me at rotcpms@nmsu.edu if you are interested in supporting this initiative.

To aid in our recruiting efforts we have redesigned our website with the focus of making it a recruiting tool. Check it out: armyrotc.nmsu.edu

We also intend to leverage this tool to help keep alumni connected and engaged, with a separate Alumni page hosted on our site. I envision using this as a place where Aggies on active duty can volunteer to mentor our current cadets. As they compete for active duty and deliberate on what branch to shoot for, what better way to help inform that decision than to talk to Aggies who have graduated in the past 10 years and want to offer their valuable experience and insight? Reach out to me at rotcpms@nmsu.edu if you are interested in supporting this initiative.

I am also very proud to announce the Bataan Battalion Alumni Organization (BBAO) has a new Honorary Colonel, BG (Ret.) Eric Sanchez. Thanks to Gary Cataldo for all of his involvement in the program to date. Eric currently works on campus as the Director of the Physical Sciences Laboratory and has been instrumental in getting NMSU senior leaders bought in to the vision I have for the Bataan Battalion. Please reach out to BBAO Vice President Karen Conley at karen.conley@outlook.com to volunteer to be on the BBAO staff. We are in great need of a Chief Financial Officer to help with fundraising and a Social Media Manager to run the BBAO Facebook page.

We need your help to continue growing the program and building the legacy of the Battling Bastards. It is time to Aggie Up! Reach out to us and get in the game. Vamos Aggies!!

Remember Bataan! Leadership Excellence! Army Strong!