

TO: Staff and Faculty

FROM: MG Jerry W. Grizzle

DATE: 14 July 2020

Re: Weekly Recap

Due to a short week last week and many moving pieces to this puzzle, I was not able to produce a weekly report last week. This report will cover two weeks but in reality it worked out for the better because a number of questions or “unknowns” became “knowns” since the last recap.

ADMINISTRATION:

Let me start here first. This Thursday we will be hosting a You Tube live event. The focus will be on New Cadets and Parents. We will attempt to convey information that a new Cadet or Parent need to know prior to arriving at NMMI, and to go over Matriculation procedures. New Cadets and families will be limited to two individuals accompanying the Cadet, one must be the Parent or legal guardian for minors, and the Cadet. So, three per family allowed to participate in Matriculation.

Much of the information we go over will be applicable to any visitor to the campus. We are installing fencing in an attempt to channel or prevent direct entry to the campus proper. Our intent is to channel all visitors to the perimeter of the facility where screening stations will be available. Until you are screened, cleared and issued a color coded arm band, you will not be allowed to enter the campus.

This is difficult to ask, however, everyone must help us with the following policy. During the 20/21 school year, or at least until some significant change occurs, the only visitors to the campus must have NMMI specific or centric business. All others will be denied access. What does “NMMI specific or centric” mean? An example would be our Parents Club that runs the Free Store. This is a much needed and appreciated service. Those Parents participating in the running of the Free Store, must be screened and possibly even tested, before we would allow them to come onto the campus proper and operate the store.

ATHLETICS:

We have probably had more “knowns” occur in this area than any other. Since the last recap, the NJCAA has made a decision to move all sports to the spring except cross country and half marathon and Division III Women’s Tennis. For us that means all sports will move to the spring for competition. The teams will be allowed to practice in the fall and even play scrimmage games (non-conference) but no actual conference participation will be allowed. This protects the eligibility of the athlete and still provides for a full schedule of play in the spring.

At the high school level, the Governor has banned contact sports, defined as football and soccer for the fall. No mention of volleyball or basketball. We anticipate that the NMAA will follow the NJCAA and move all sports to the spring.

The challenge for us will be transportation. We do not own our own buses. We will be competing for transportation with all other schools in the state. In addition, you will now have almost double the number of teams participating at one time, fall and spring sports.

ACADEMICS:

Preparation continues for accreditation. Our outside reader completed his first review and commented that he thought the document, overall, was well prepared and well written. He found some grammatical errors and typing errors that need to be corrected. His biggest catch was that some of the sections were written in first person and some in third person. Obviously those need to be corrected and a common voice selected. He was extremely complimentary about our Section Five, which is Strategic Planning. Our outside reader is the Vice Dean of the Air Force Academy, also accredited by HLC, and led the Air Force Academy's accreditation effort just one year ago.

The Federal Ruling about International students will not affect NMMI. We took the position that online education is not an option. You will be on campus for in class education unless circumstances, travel restrictions or visa issues, prevent you from being here. Only those that initially fall in the category of, "can't get here because of issues outside their control," will be allowed to utilize online education.

Still working on three initiatives; dual graduation, online associates degree and/or certificate in leadership development and aviation.

COMMANDANT:

The new Blue Book is published and available. Learning Objectives in the Blue Book changed to align with Co-curricular activities.

Possible uniform alternatives were shown to the Board during the recent Board meeting. A desert tan alternative to the current ACU. The uniform itself is light weight compared to the Army proposed ACU-ODP, and is approximately \$40 per set cheaper. The original uniform worn by NMMI from 1891 until about 1918-1920, was shown as an alternative to the Army suggested "Pinks and Greens." This would return us to an NMMI distinctive uniform similar to what West Point, VMI and the Citadel wear. The uniform is more expensive than the current ASU alternative but the net cost between the savings on the desert tan uniform and the increase on the distinctive uniform is still an overall savings. No decision has been made. We will wear the current uniform for the 20/21 school year. However, we will need to make a decision in time for Hanover, our uniform supplier, to get the uniforms shipped here so we can issue the new uniforms to RATS for the 21/22 school year. Also, we will make this change and then not change again. We are not required to follow the Army approved uniform and we are not going to continue of his revolving door of uniform changes the Army seems to be following.

We will conduct two Parent Night Presentations for this year's Matriculation. Wednesday night will follow the already published guidelines and those Cadets and families whose last name begins with the letter A through M will participate in the Parent Orientation. Thursday night those families with the last name beginning with N through Z, will participate in the Family Orientation. This will then necessitate the briefings by the Dean and the Commandant, usually given the day after Parent Orientation, to be conducted twice. Once on Thursday afternoon for the A through M group and again on Friday for the N through Z group.

The Commandant's staff are finalizing the in-service plan for TLA's and SLA's. Frank Coggins will return and work with the Honor Board, senior leadership of the Corps and TLA's and SLA's.

Rooms in Third Squadron, Saunders Barracks, have been designated as quarantine rooms. They will not be assigned, they are closest to the Infirmary and the mess hall for servicing.

All Cadets will be tested immediately upon arrival. Masks and social distancing will be required while we wait on the test results. If a Cadet test's positive, they will be moved to a quarantine rooms, either in the Infirmary or the barracks. If the Cadet is from New Mexico, the family will be notified and asked to pick up the Cadet and keep them at home until they test negative. Out-of-state and International will be isolated until they test negative.

We are developing a standardized letter for our Mexican families that authorized them to accompanying their Cadet to NMMI for the purpose of enrolling them in school. This is required at the border. The letter will be standardized in its content but must be personalized with the name of the Cadet, to fulfill the crossing requirements.

We anticipate that there are two distinct groups of Cadets who will not return to NMMI on time. The first group are those that for various reasons, such as attending Army Basic and AIT, cannot return on time. If they are a new Cadet the will be expected to return no later than one week after class starts on August 17. For the returning Cadets, that date will be 7 September and can be evaluated/extended on a case by case basis. During this period Cadets will work with their counselors and instructor to determine what work will be needed to catch up the missed work. They will not be part of the Distance Learning/Online program which is reserved for primarily international Cadets who cannot travel due to travel or other regulatory restrictions. Those Cadets who are admitted to the Distance Learning/Online program will remain in the program for the semester.

SUPPORT:

The NMMI return to school plan has been released and is posted on the NMMI website. COL David West is the POC on the plan. Please review the plan and provide any input, suggestions or questions to COL West.

New fencing will be installed this week. An explanation is given in the Administration section of the recap.

Visitor Protocols will be the focus for the next few weeks. Parents, Alumni, Chapel, Tutors, Parents Clubs, etc. All must understand and abide by the Protocols. As stated in the Administration section of this recap, we need everyone to comply with the guidelines of "Only NMMI specific or centric business." We always promote, and encourage family involvement. However, this year we have to be mindful on the safety and security of everyone on this Post. In a specific, concise statement:

The general public at large will not be allowed on campus for the 20/21 school year.

If a necessary, authorized visit occurs, the visitor must go to a testing site. The individual they are visiting will come to the testing site and escort them to where they need to go on the campus.

Construction continues at Cahoon. The floor in the basement is poured. Heating and Air conditioning installation start next, then framing of the rooms. We received the drawing on the latrines (sinks) and the RFP for construction will be released on July 19th with a required finish date of July 2021. The move of the barber shop is on schedule. However, the Commandant has asked that a large tent be set up outside and that matriculation haircuts be conducted in the tent to comply with social distancing

requirements. Engie, our energy performance contractor is completing LED light replacement. They were notified to be out of the barracks by the end of this week. They will start mechanical exchange and replacement in two week, boilers and chillers.

FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES:

Mandatory testing of employees started on July 10th. 235 employees were tested and all test results were negative. Mandatory daily screening will continue. Our Seek/Scan machines are here and in use. Still waiting on delivery and installation of the FLIR cameras and the actual testing device for the Infirmary.

Any employee that leaves New Mexico, other than for a medical appointment, and returns, they will notify NMMI of their return. They will not be allowed to return to work. They will self-isolate for four days. After the four day period, they will be tested by Pathology Consultants. If the test is negative, they will be allowed to return to work and resume daily screening. This is just an example, but if an employee were to go to Lubbock, TX for a doctor appointment, they drove straight to the doctor, had their appointment and immediately returned, they would not be subjected to the four day isolation period. Some Institutions in the state are requiring a signed statement by the employee that they will not stop along the way. They will not go shopping, eat at an indoor facility, etc. We realize that you cannot cover all circumstances in a statement or a policy. If there are individual situations that need to be addressed before the employee leaves the state, do not hesitate to contact our HR Department for guidelines or a determination on how to handle the situation.

We are looking at the potential to our employees of the current PED proposed hybrid model. We have a number of employees who have children in public school. This concern is compounded if PED and or the Governor decide to not allow schools to open and only rely on online instruction. We need to research all of our stated protocols and be prepared to adjust, modify, amend or suspend if necessary to support our parents who may be put in an untenable situation.

We implemented a revised family leave policy that provided an additional 80 hours of “free” time related to the COVID situation. If any employee has questions, please contact our HR Department.

We will conduct mandatory Title IX training for all Faculty and Staff. The first date will be July 21st in Pearson auditorium. Our HR Attorney will conduct the class. August 11th is a possible second day for make-up and for Faculty. Also at that time, our Infirmary and our Facilities personnel will go over all Health Care and Cleaning protocols.

We still have outstanding Accounts Receivable we are trying to collect. We still have laptops that have not been returned.

ADMISSIONS:

Applications and visits to the campus continue. We are sitting at a fairly solid 800. We still have 297 pending applications. We accepted 19 new Cadets last Thursday during the Board of Regents meeting. Yesterday, I received a personal call from a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives wanting to know if they can still nominate someone for their Legislative Scholarship. She said she had the application in hand and would send it in immediately.

I have been approached by a number of Parents who have indicated that if PED goes to a full online format, they will be moving the child to NMMI. Not counting on any big surge if that occurs, but it apparently is a concern among parents who want their children in an actual classroom environment.

I apologize for the length. We are still trying to turn “unknowns” into “knowns” so we can react. The first Cadets arrive in five days. The NMMI 20/21 train will be leaving the station on the 19th of July.

Thanks again for all of the understanding and support.

MG (Retired) Jerry W. Grizzle, PhD