



NEW MEXICO MILITARY INSTITUTE

Office of the President / Superintendent

101 West College Boulevard
Roswell, New Mexico 88201-5173

Office (575) 624-8001 • Fax (575) 624-8025

TO: NMMI Constituents

FROM: MG Jerry W. Grizzle

DATE: April 7, 2021

Re: Current Update

Every time I start to write an update, more things come in that need to be included, so I hold off. Now I realize I have waited until I have so much to share, I should have gone ahead and released an update earlier. Please bear with me at the length of this note, but I hope you will appreciate the content's value and quality.

NMMI Personnel:

By now, I know you are aware that the new Commandant is on board and still doing the proverbial "drinking from the NMMI fire hose." We now have the Deputy Commandant for Operations (DCO), LTC Zack Zmayfeski on board. Zack is a six year Cadet, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Army Reserve. Zack's appointment fills out the Senior Management in the Commandant's Office. We will be losing some SLA and TLA positions due to retirements, but the Commandant will be at full strength by the beginning of the new school year.

BG Murray will be retiring at the end of the school year. A search is currently underway for his replacement. We have a 14 person committee reviewing applications. I have asked that, if possible, we complete the process and have the new Dean here by June 1 so that the new person can have a 30 day "right seat ride" with BG Murray.

COL Judy Scharmer is retiring after over 21 years of service to NMMI. LTC Deana Curnutt has been selected as the new Chief Financial Officer.

New Mexico Color Coded System:

Chaves County is now a turquoise level for COVID – 19 restrictions. Turquoise is the highest level of relief from limitations in the color-coded system. What this means is that we can use 75% capacity of our facilities. We must still wear masks and practice social distancing.

2021/2022 School Year:

We have started to draft our Back to School Protocols for the 2021/2022 School Year. We will use the color coded system as our guide line, and we will assume we remain at the turquoise level to begin the year. We will assume that all operations will return to regular format, pre-COVID. All classes will be fully in-class, no split classes or remote classes unless an individual is placed in isolation or quarantine. We will plan for full participation from the Corps in sporting events (indoor and outdoor), parades, etc. We will plan on the Corps having the ability to leave Post, assuming they are in good standing, to go into town to restaurants and movies. Cadets will always have to wear masks, on or off Post. Cadets will always have to practice social distancing, on or off Post.



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We will allow visits to Cadets but the visits must be coordinated. We cannot tolerate unrestricted and unannounced visits. Parents, families, or friends, will need to make an appointment prior to any visit. Visitors will have to report to a sign in location on Post. The Cadet they are visiting will be contacted, and notified, to come to the coordination point.

As long as there is a Health Order in place, we will have protocols to address the provisions of the Health Order. Those protocols must be followed.

Testing:

We have tested more than 2,000 Cadets, Staff and Faculty in the month of March. We have not had a positive result since March 2. We currently do not have a single Cadet, Staff or Faculty member in isolation or quarantine. We continue to test all sports teams per the Health Order and random test other Cadets, Staff and Faculty in our surveillance testing. We believe that approximately 50% of the Staff and Faculty have been vaccinated based on reports to our HR department.

Sports:

With the positive increase in the color coded system, we have been able to not only play sports but have Cadets and spectators at the events, both indoors and outdoors. Below is a recap by sport by division:

Junior College:

Volleyball – The team only lost to Odessa College, in conference play, this year. Unfortunately, they lost both season matches to Odessa. In the Conference tournament we were seeded second and Odessa was seeded first. We both won our preliminary games and met in the Conference championship game. Odessa won the Championship and will play in the National Tournament next week.

Basketball – The team made it to the Conference tournament only to lose to Frank Phillips College in the first round.

Baseball – Still playing conference games and has a great chance to finish in the top four in the conference tournament. If they make the regional tournament, we will need to hold an early graduation for our sophomores.

Football – The season has actually just started. The team started the season ranked #11 in the nation. They lost the first game to Cisco and then defeated Navarro, the number 7 rated team in the nation. Our running back, Anthony Grant was named NJCAA Offensive Player of the Week. He rushed for 263 yards on 21 carries and scored 4 touchdowns. He also had 127 yards on kick returns for a total of 390 all-purpose yards. The last Bronco game is May 15th, graduation day. We are planning an early graduation on 14 May.

Tennis and Golf are just starting their seasons.

High School:

Cross Country – Boys team took second in the State and Girls took third.



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Soccer – Seeded # 2 in the state. Lost in the state semi-finals 2-1.

Volleyball – 2/2 in district for the season. The first time our girls played in a district. They did extremely well.

Football – 1/4 for the season. Very difficult, different season. Should set the stage for a good year next year.

Basketball (Boys and Girls) – Season just starting.

Tennis/Golf/Track/Baseball – Season just starting.

Numbers:

As of last Friday we had 723 on Post. The current Cadet population is the highest number of Cadets on Post, at this same time, over the previous five years. We have only lost 30 Cadets this semester, the lowest number over the last five years.

Applications are coming in at 84% of our five year average. Acceptance of applications is at 121% of our five year average. So, even though we have not received as many applications at this point, we are accepting a significant number of those we receive.

April, May and June are our most significant recruiting months, especially for High School. Last year we lost all of this recruiting time and momentum.

Grades:

I receive a complete recap of grades at the end of every semester. The summary is by class and a composite for the Corps. The summary is for every year back to 1987. For the semester ended December 2020, the composite GPA for the Corps was 2.85, the highest in the report's recorded history.

The 1st and 3rd Class, our two graduation classes, each had a composite GPA of 3.09. Again, the highest GPA in the history of the report.

Graduation is 15 May. We are planning on two graduation ceremonies in Pearson. We are still limited to the number of individuals we can put into Pearson according to the color-coded system. We will be graduating over 180 for both classes. Each graduate will be allowed two guests. The graduate plus two guests, plus support staff to conduct the service, will put us very close to Pearson's reduced capacity. If the color code changes, and is reduced, we will still have the graduation service, it will be moved outside.

Alumni:

Please go to the Alumni page on the NMMI Website and look for Alumni Meet and Greets schedule. Danny Armijo and I will be back on the road. We are both vaccinated and ready to travel. The motorcycle rally is May 20-23. The Trail Ride is June 16-18. Contact Danny or his Staff if you want to schedule a Rally in your area.

STEM:



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Last year our STEM Team took second place in the State Competition with a medical drone that could fly into remote areas and land next to an injured person. The drone could attach wires to the individual and send back vital medical statistics to medical professionals. Each member of the team won \$500. This year the team took second place again by inventing an all-natural organic hand sanitizer out of pecan hulls and aloe leaves. Again, each member won \$500.

The NMMI Science Department is working with the City of Roswell to bring the Voyager II project to Roswell. The Voyager II project is a 1 over 10 billion scale reduction of the solar system. It is a walking educational experience. The concept is to start at the Planetarium with the Sun and walk north on Main toward NMMI. At the equivalent reduced distance, you will encounter each of the planets in the solar system. You will reach Pluto, the last planet, at McClure Hall, the NMMI Science Building.

DATES:

Parents – this is real important that you read and understand this section. In the last update, I went over the academic calendar for next year. One of the most important things I hoped you understood was the approach to Thanksgiving. We will not, I repeat not, be taking the entire week of Thanksgiving off. We will conduct classes on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 22, 23, and 24. After classes on Wednesday, Cadets will be free to check out and be gone until 1700 on Sunday, November 28th. Classes will resume on Monday, November 29th. There will not be any excused or early absences or releases. If a Cadet leaves early or returns late, they will be recorded as absent class or absent formation.

Parents – we listened to you over the years. You have said you did not like to have to buy two airplane tickets three weeks apart or did not like having to make other living arrangements for the nine days the barracks are closed. This approach avoids that. The barracks will not be closed. We will provide a full Thanksgiving meal for those that remain on Post. The remainder of the holidays, we will organize activities, movies, intra-murals, etc. This approach reduces the semester by one week and gets the Cadets home for the Christmas break one week sooner.

I will close with a reminder that we are only five weeks (including this week) away from the end of the semester. I want to continue to thank all parties for their cooperation and participation. As I have said in this update, we are planning on returning to operations as usual, pre-COVID, with the start of the fall semester, with the exception of wearing a mask and practicing social distancing.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry W. Grizzle".

Jerry W. Grizzle, PhD
Major General, USA, Retired
President and Superintendent