

TO: Faculty and Staff

FROM: MG Grizzle

DATE: 6 April 2020

Re: Update

Week Two Recap – At approximately 1830, I received a message from the Governor’s office extending all existing, outstanding orders, including the “stay at home” order, until April 30, 2020.

Cadets – As of yesterday we had 10 Cadets still on post. Three Cadets are scheduled to leave this weekend. The seven remaining, 6 from China and 1 from India, are all minors. During our meeting today, Cristhina Starke, our International Coordinator sent us a note that the Chinese Government is considering chartering a flight to provide a means to get all their remaining students in the United States back to China. If this does take place, we will ensure that our Cadets are included. If this does not occur, we are taking steps to find Ambassador families to house the Cadets until we can plan to eventually get them home. Cadet’s personal belongings: we have three categories we are working on. First are New Mexico residents. We will work with them and allow them to make an appointment through the Commandant’s office to come to Post and pick up their belongings. The second group are those Cadets returning next year. We are working with them to secure all their belongings in their wall locker, lock it with a lock they provide and keep them here until August. This will allow our Facilities crews to perform maintenance. The third category are those that are leaving, graduates and preps. We are working with the local offices of FedEx, UPS and the USPS to coordinate rates, packing materials and instructions as to what can or cannot be shipped. We will leave the choice of carrier up to the Cadet and their families. We will pack the belongings and provide a shipping cost. The family will be responsible for the cost of shipping. We will also ask for a release of liability to be signed by the family.

Facilities – We learned this week that the reason our Cahoon contractor decided to stop work was that a member of his family tested positive for COVID-19 and he needed to put himself and his crew into 14-day self-isolation. Grounds crews and janitorial crews will be working a 0700 to 1200 shift. Their assignments will be staggered to comply with social distancing. Daily checks of all buildings, all systems in all buildings will continue.

Academics – Enough cannot be said to recognize the job our Faculty and Senior Academic Administration have done to make this transition occur. We will be bringing four waivers to the Regents for approval. These waivers relate to graduation requirements that cannot be met in an online education environment. The waivers are for this academic year only. HLC confirmed that our Accreditation visit is still scheduled for September 12-14. We will drive on with full anticipation that we will be in session and HLC will make their on-campus visit. Our online education continues to attract attention and possibilities. I had an Active Duty Sergeant Major contact me and ask me if he could complete his Associates degree online, through NMMI? He never was able to complete the degree and wants an NMMI diploma. The Commandant has been told that if we offer a Certificate in Leadership program, many Alum’s wanting to participate. I have asked the Dean to coordinate with our Faculty and with HLC to bring a fully accredited Associates degree online for the 21/22 school year.

Admissions – Our military school organization, AMCSUS, held a Zoom conference with Admissions Directors. The news is not good for several of our member schools. We have at least 6 Prep Schools that

only have 100 or less students to begin with. A keynote presenter at our annual conference said that if you do not have 300, you will not survive. Many of our member schools have relied heavily on the Chinese student for their numbers. I asked our staff to prepare for a late surge in applications. When it becomes evident that many of the member schools will not open for the 20/21 school year, I think we will be the school of choice.

Senior ROTC – We are still waiting for instructions from Cadet Command as to how they want to handle the final requirements for commissioning. The long pole in the tent is Advanced Camp.

Graduation – We have started the planning for a virtual graduation in May. We are looking at possibilities for an actual graduation at either Homecoming or combine it with the December 2020 graduates.

Budget – The State of NM has extended our budget deadline until 15 May. We will hold a Board meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup> to approve the budget and the Graduates.

Athletics – After screening all our spring Athletes that would have a year of eligibility restored, we think we only have five that will want to return. We will be able to handle this from a cost perspective and these five will not count against our yearly scholarship quota. In talking with coaches, they all feel that we will have many walk-ons. Many good athletes missed some or all their season and did not get considered by many schools.

Thanks again for your support. I encourage each of you to stay in contact with your committee representatives here on Post. I will send an update each week until we can resume normal operations.

MGG