

MMA Leader

Current information for our Special Friends. Dedicated to our Cadets--Leaders of tomorrow.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

12 Pages

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MMA 40th Birthday Ball Commemorates USMC 230th Birthday

“Stay the course and understand that nothing worthwhile in life comes easy; there is a price for everything.”

- THOMAS E. KOLONGOWSKI

From all points of the globe they came--parents, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and friends--to join MMA's Corps of Cadets in celebration of not only MMA's 40th Birthday but also in honor of the United States Marine Corps' 230th Anniversary.

The weekend's events, dubbed "Parents' Weekend", kicked off with a reception for cadets' parents held in MMA's Peacher Hall Cadet Activities Center at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, November 4th. Parents received a warm MMA welcome from Academy Acting President Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret) as they caught a sneak peek at MMA's Silent Auction items up for bid. At precisely 8:35 a.m., Colors Ceremony began as the MMA Band's drum roll sounded. All in attendance came to attention as strains of the National Anthem filled the warm humid early-morning air. Onlookers enjoyed the traditional recognitions of honorees for Company and Cadets of the Month. Warning bells rang out across Campus as parents and guardians scurried to get to their cadet's classes on time. "Got a hall pass?" quipped a father to another as they hurried past one another. "Nope, guess I'm up for IPT!" replied the other, chuckling.

The Leatherneck Football team roared onto the field and would emerge victorious against University of Tamaulipas. Silhouetted against the brightly illuminated Iwo Jima Memorial, the MMA Band provided a stirring halftime performance--complete with the antics of the Leatherneck mascot. Birthday Ball Guest of Honor Thomas E. Kolongowski, Class of 1982, addressed the crowd and reflected upon his days as a Fighting Leatherneck. Kolongowski, born in Riverside, New Jersey, graduated from Moorestown High School in 1981, then attended MMA as a Post Graduate in 1982. Upon completion, Kolongowski was nominated and appointed to the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland where he graduated with a degree in Physical Science in 1986. He was commissioned and designated a Navy Supply Corps Officer, then was assigned to the U.S. Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Three as Supply



BIRTHDAY BALL GUEST OF HONOR THOMAS E. KOLONGOWSKI (left) and MMA Acting President Col R.G. Hill salute MMA Corps of Cadets' Battalion Commanders during MMA's 40th Birthday Parade *Pass In Review*.

Officer, responsible for supply and logistics-related operations of the 1,200 man (heavy construction and combat) battalion, in addition to platoon commander for the battalion's 81mm mortar platoon. Kolongowski trained in the crew serving weapons teams and achieved designation as a Seabee Combat Warfare Officer. Upon completion of the 3-year tour he was assigned to the U.S. Naval Aviation Supply Officer where he completed the Integrated Logistic Support Manager Program and the Aviation Contracting Officer Program. As a warranted contracting officer Kolongowski worked in the procurement of Strike Fighter Aircraft in the F-14 and F/A-18 Divisions, then was assigned as Department Head for the acquisition of spare and repair parts. Upon achieving the rank of Lieutenant Commander and honorably resigning his commission as a U.S. Naval Officer in 1992, Kolongowski joined the Creative Financial Group as a full service financial planner, specializing in Business and Personal Estate Planning and Executive Benefits Planning. He then joined a large regional Property and Casualty Insurance Brokerage Company before moving to The McIntyre Group in October 2003 as Market Executive responsible for new business development. Kolongowski is also President of the Collegium Charter School Foundation Board and is a Trustee of the United States

Continued on pages 2, 6-7

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Naval Academy Alumni Association. Kolongowski resides in West Chester, Pennsylvania and has two children, Thomas and Lauren.

Mother Nature cooperated and blessed MMA with sunny skies for the traditional Birthday Ball Parade held on Saturday. MMA's Drill Team delivered a stellar performance in front of a 'standing-room only' audience. The Drill Team handed off to the Band. As strains of *Final Countdown*, *And All That Jazz*, and *Simple Gifts* filled the air, the Band stepped smartly to the far right field, then turned in precision, coming front and center past the Iwo Jima Monument, continuing on to the far left, then front and center once again. With a sharp flash of his gold mace, MMA Drum Major Cadet Travis Duncan brought the Band to a distinct halt moments before "ATTENTION" sounded and the Corps of Cadets marched onto the grounds.

The General Vernon E. Megee Award went to Cadet Major Stephen C. Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael E. Cooper of Orcas, Washington. General Megee, USMC (Ret) became the first superintendent of Marine Military Academy following a Marine Corps career spanning 40 years. In 1986, an award bearing his name evolved to be presented annually to a MMA cadet who is a member of the senior class; a cadet officer; a significant participant in sport/extracurricular activities; possesses commendable conduct; and typifies the kind of cadet that best represents MMA. **A hearty round of applause and congratulations go out to Cadet Cooper on earning this prestigious award.**

The Campus took on a formal air as the sun became a distant orangish-red ball in the far distance. Cadets in their dress blues offered their arms to proud Moms and beaus—all decked out to the "nines" in Ball finery. Equally-proud Dads, grandfathers, and guardians browsed through the Silent Auction, placing bids here and there in hopes of landing the final nod. Authors Ed and Corrinne Swaney were on hand to personally autograph copies of their book, "Marching In Cadence," a historical account of Marine Military Academy.

The Anniversary Ball Reception, held in MMA's Neuhaus Mess Hall from 5:30-8 p.m., touted a palm tree centerpiece with live palm frawns atop a base composed of hollowed

pineapples, the traditional sliced baron of beef, and scrumptious hors d'oeuvres.

At precisely 8:30 p.m., the MMA Band sounded the beginning of the Anniversary Ceremony. Col R.G Hill, USMC (Ret), MMA Acting President, introduced the Birthday Ball Guest of Honor Tom Kolongowski, MMA Class of 1982. Kolongowski, reminiscent of his days as an MMA cadet, kept his message brief and pointed:

"It is an honor and a privilege to be invited to join you this weekend for the 40th Anniversary Celebration and Parent's Weekend. Twenty-three years ago I sat in this room as a cadet with my parents in attendance. I was proud to be here then, and I am proud to be here today..So, what can I say to you parents and cadets that might be informative? First and most importantly, Thank You. If you're a cadet in the audience, thank your parents tonight! After you thank them, thank your drill instructor. Thank your teachers, thank your coaches and thank the staff members. Thank your parents! These are your mentors; listen to them. I consider myself lucky that I've had a few exceptional mentors, including my parents, my drill instructors, my coaches and the people with whom I've chosen to work with professionally. They've taught me invaluable lessons. You've all been given an incredible opportunity to attend MMA. I ask... What will you do with this opportunity? The only limits that can be placed on what you can achieve are self-imposed. You can achieve, you can be whatever you choose. Do not limit yourself. Follow your heart and your desire, and do not let others tell you you can't. Prove them wrong...it's fun! When you decide whatever it is, be the best. Life is not a rehearsal. When you get up every day, whatever it is that you will do that day, be the best at it. It counts...Don't short-change yourself. Don't take short-cuts. You will play like you practice. Practice hard every day and sharpen your skills and you will succeed in your endeavors. Never give up; don't settle. When you're down, pick yourself up. When your teammate is down, pick them up. It's easy to quit, it's power to move forward understanding your limitations. One letter grade could mean the difference between sitting in the stands and being a spectator or suiting up and playing--being a contributor.

To the parents... thank you! Thank you for the sacrifice in allowing your children to continue their growth at MMA. Stay the course and understand that nothing worthwhile in life comes easy; there is a price for everything. That means separation and letting go; giving your boys wings so they can experience life and grow--it is for the best. What this institution offers is not available anywhere else in the world--not in public schools, not in parochial schools and not in other private schools. The values that are being instilled in these young men are lifelong and will remain forever. Remember too, nothing is perfect; but progress, not



perfection, measures growth. Stand back and be a spectator, a critique--or get in the game and produce results...Cadets of MMA, you truly are the leaders of tomorrow."

Kolongowski ended with a poem that has proven inspirational throughout his life:

"The Man in the Glass"

*When you get what you want in your struggle for self
And the world makes you king for a day,
Just go to a mirror and look at yourself,
And see what that man has to say.*

*For it isn't your father or mother or wife,
Whose judgment upon you must pass;
The fellow whose verdict counts most in your life
Is the one staring back from the glass.*

*He's the fellow to please, never mind all the rest;
For he's with you clear to the end.
And you've passed the most dangerous, difficult test
If the man in the glass is your friend.*

*You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years
And get pats on the back as you pass.
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears
If you've cheated the man in the glass.*

As the cart containing the traditional Birthday Ball cake was brought forward, MMA's youngest cadet, Cadet Ashton Walzer of Golf Company, was summoned forward to "taste-test". Col Hill drew his sword and deftly sliced through the creamy frosting, down through the white cake...the first piece to Guest of Honor Kolongowski and, secondly, to young Cadet Walzer. Sampling the sweet confection, Walzer announced, "This cake is fit for human consumption." As the ceremony ended, the lights dimmed. Gold and red balloons cascaded from the ceiling, signalling the beginning of the traditional "Mother-Son Dance," the first dance of the evening.

That magical evening of Saturday, 5 November 2005, was truly a night for all to remember. **Happy 40th Birthday, MMA!**

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VETERANS' DAY SALUTE



On 11 November 2005, MMA Corps of Cadets, faculty and staff joined city, county, state and national representatives to pay honor and tribute to all veterans. The City of Harlingen's "Salute To Veterans" was held in MMA's Yeckel Auditorium beginning at 11 a.m., featuring performances by the MMA Band directed by MMA's CWO3 Ed Harris and accompanied by Soloist Luka Jentsch; MCPO Bob Cole, U.S. Navy (Ret); 1st Sgt Jean Jentsch, U.S. Women in the Air Force Band (Ret); Magic Valley Chorus of Sweet Adelines. Also appearing was Master of Ceremonies Patches, KTEX Radio; The Honorable Rick Rodriguez, Mayor-City of Harlingen; Col R.G Hill, USMC (Ret), MMA President; Col H. William (Bill) Card, USMC (Ret); Christopher Scheffman, Valley Regional Representative for Texas Governor Rick Perry; Debbie Zuniga, President-Coastal Bend Chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of America; Michelle Leftwich, Interim Assistant for City of Harlingen City Manager; SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret), MMA Commandant; MMA Color Guard; and Mandy Key, Salute to Veterans Committee Chairperson.

At 4:00 p.m., the community was invited to a special presentation on MMA Parade Grounds by MMA and the United States Postal Service in conjunction with the unveiling of four (4) new 'Distinguished Marines' stamps. Designed by Phil Jordan of Falls Church, Virginia, the stamps commemorate four legendary Marines who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th century: GySgt John Basilone, SgtMaj Daniel J. Daly, General John A. Lejeune and LtGen Lewis B. Puller. The issuance honors a tradition of excellence in military service that began with the establishment of the first two battalions of Marines by Continental Congress in 1775. (If you would like to order the first issuance of these stamps, see adjacent column on this page.) Presenting the stamps was Harlingen Postmaster Jeff Jenkins, followed by remarks by Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, 15th Congressional District; State Representative Juan Manuel Escobar; and The Honorable Rick Rodriguez, Mayor of Harlingen.

Following the stamp unveiling was the traditional MMA's Corps of Cadets Veterans' Day Parade. All veterans present were asked to step forward and take the pass in review. The line of veterans--some young and others elderly--stretched across the entire expanse of bleachers, fingers gathered tightly together in firm salutes as MMA Corps of Cadets passed by...an invigorating yet humbling display of patriotism.



VETERANS' DAY EVENTS AT MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY BROUGHT OUT THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE IN ALL...REGARDLESS OF BRANCH OF SERVICE, STATE OF ORIGIN, OR AGE.

HOW TO ORDER DISTINGUISHED MARINES STAMPS AND FIRST ISSUANCE: PHILATELIC PRODUCTS

Following are philatelic products available for these stamps:

- First-Day Cover (Set of 4 with Washington, DC cancellation) \$3.00 (Item 458963)
- First-Day Cover (Set of 4 with Oceanside, CA cancellation) \$3.00 (Item 458969)
- Cancellation Keepsake (Cover/Pane) \$10.40, (Item 458993).

Current U.S. stamps, as well as a free comprehensive catalog, are available by toll-free phone order at 1-800-STAMP-24. A wide selection of stamps, other philatelic items, and licensed products are available at the Postal Store at www.usps.com/shop, or by visiting a local Post Office.

THE FIRST-DAY-OF-ISSUE POSTMARK

Postal customers have 30 days to obtain the first-day-of-issue postmark by mail. They should affix the stamps to envelopes of their choice, address the envelopes (to themselves or others), and place them in a larger envelope addressed to:

DISTINGUISHED MARINES STAMPS
POSTMASTER
900 BRENTWOOD RD NE
WASHINGTON DC 20066-9998

DISTINGUISHED MARINES STAMPS CAMP PENDELTON CANCELLATION
MPO

1895 AVENIDA DEL ORO
OCEANSIDE CA 92056-9998

After applying the first-day-of-issue postmark, the Postal Service will return the envelopes through the mail. There is no charge for the postmark. All orders must be postmarked by Dec. 9, 2005. For complete details visit website: http://shop.usps.com/cgi-bin/vsbv/postal_store_non_ssl/browse_content/indexStampIssues.jsp or visit your local post office.



Lewis B. Puller



Daniel J. Daly



John Basilone



John A. Lejeune 3

Cadets of the Month for October

Each month a cadet is selected from each company, from the band and from the drill team, to be recognized for their outstanding attitude, conduct and performance. Below are the selections for October with a comment from their Drill Instructor or activity coordinator.

“Those selected are to be commended for their outstanding performance.” - SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret) Commandant

ALPHA COMPANY FRANK A. VIANELLO

Junior - Miami, FL

“Cadet Corporal Vianello is a strong, respected leader. His improvement this year has been nothing short of inspirational. He takes fellow cadets aside providing meaningful counsel and guidance, with a genuine concern, entirely of his own accord. As Education NCO he’s never been prompted to do his duties...A clear standout.” - CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)



CHARLIE COMPANY ROBERT Z. HOYLE

Freshman - Dallas, TX

“Cadet PFC Hoyle consistently performs his duties in an exemplary and highly proficient manner. He’s responsible, dependable, tenacious and very enthusiastic. His exemplary performance, devotion to academics and leadership excellence has been nothing less than superb.” - CWO Jesus Hernandez, USMC (Ret)



DELTA COMPANY BRIAN ALEXANDER CHAPMAN

Junior - Davie, FL

“In the short time Cadet PVT Chapman has been with Delta Company he has demonstrated outstanding potential. It is because of his performance that he is Cadet of the Month for Delta Company.” - SgtMaj Larry Carson, USMC (Ret)



ECHO COMPANY JOSEPH RICHARD VELLA

Senior- Petersburg, MD

“Cadet PFC Vella is a great example for all cadets in Echo. Having only been here since July 2005, he has taken the challenge to be leader of this company--went from squad leader to platoon commander in 4 short months. Vella is an excellent leader who sets the example and uses common sense.” - GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret)

FOX COMPANY DYLAN BOLDT

Sophomore - Seabrook, TX

“Cadet Boldt is a first year cadet who has demonstrated and displayed an excellent attitude. He has been selected as 3rd Squad Leader for 2nd Platoon because of his can-do attitude and initiative. With more time and experience, he will prove to be an asset to the Company and MMA.” - GySgt Ernesto Montemayor, USMC (Ret)



GOLF COMPANY KYLE GANNON

Sophomore- Denton, TX

“Cadet Gannon is the company guide-on bearer and is a true asset to the Company. He can be counted on to get the job done and see that it is done correctly. Gannon is one of the upcoming leaders in Golf Company.” - SgtMaj Albert Wilson, USMC (Ret)



BANDSMAN JAMES D. FLOWERS

Freshman - Colleyville, TX

“Cadet Flowers has done a superb job in Band. He’s a very hard worker, very reliable, and a very talented musician. He contributes greatly to the Band’s success through effort, attitude, and enthusiasm. Already earning the respect of his peers, I am certain he will be one of my future leaders.” - CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD

ZACHARY A. QUADLAND
Junior - Bedford Hills, NY

“Cadet Quadland is a first year cadet. He has demonstrated and displayed an excellent can-do attitude and initiative. That was key to his selection as Color Guard Team Leader. With additional time and experience Quadland will excel.” - GySgt Ernesto Montemayor, USMC (Ret)

Cadet Corner

CADET TIAN ZHANG
BATTALION PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Senior - Cupertino, CA



MMA's National Honor Society joined over 1,200 community volunteers as they rolled up their sleeves and "dug in" planting 14,000 native seedlings on 42 acres of Lower Rio Grand Valley National Wildlife Refuge during Rio Reforestation XIV held the weekend of 15-16 October 2005.



MMA's National Honor Society sponsored a blood drive for American Red Cross on October 12th in MMA's CAC. All participants were treated to t-shirts, juice and goodies. Last year NHS received a \$500 scholarship from Red Cross for their efforts, and they hope to win another this year. The second NHS-sponsored blood drive will be held in Spring with United Blood Services. Shown giving blood is Cadet Geoffrey Howard, Golf Company.

"Two important community service organizations, National Honor Society (NHS) and Key Club, are doing a lot of great things this year. NHS sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive that was very successful. Over 70 MMA students and faculty members donated 58 pints of blood that day. Key Club has been doing some community service as well. On the Project Rio Reforestation, we had 12 cadets go and act as group leaders for the planting of trees. Through a long, hard day of work, the MMA cadets showed why they wear the Marine Corps eagle, globe, and anchor--through their leadership and motivation.

This trend of community service is one that you can expect to carry on as the year continues."

PARENTS: TAKE NOTE!

Scholarship Assistance
For
Academic Year 2006-7

The Marine Military Academy awards financial assistance to returning cadets on an annual basis. The number of applications and amount of financial assistance requested each year is far greater than the scholarship fund. Thus, the cadet must compete for scholarships based on his performance and the family's ability to pay.

The largest single factor considered in the cadet's performance is his GPA, which must be at least 2.5 for the spring semester and at least a 3.0 cumulative MMA GPA. Other factors such as conduct, military leadership and participation in extracurricular activities are also considered.

To request an application contact:
Institutional Advancement
Department (Attention Scholarship
Committee)

Marine Military Academy

320 Iwo Jima Blvd.
Harlingen, TX 78550

If you have any questions, you may call Ester B. Reyes at (956) 423-6006 ext. 231 or e-mail at reyes@mma-tx.org. An application will be forwarded immediately and must be completed/returned no later than **12 May 2006**. Recipients of financial assistance will be notified by **30 June 2006**.

As part of the application process **you must provide a copy of your 2005 federal income tax return (including copies of W-2 forms) or your application will not be considered**. Your cadet must be re-enrolled for the Academic Year 2006-2007 before the Scholarship Committee meets in May 2006.

Applications received after **12 May 2006** will not be considered.



Harlingen Border Patrol "Head of the Class" Honors



CADET ROBERT A. LONG, JR. (center) is awarded "Head of the Class" honors at the Harlingen Border Patrol Awards Ceremony held 17 October 2005 at Lyford High School.

CHARLIE COMPANY
ROBERT A. LONG, JR.

Senior - Dickinson, TX

October 2005 Harlingen Border
Patrol's "Head of Class" Candidate

"Cadet Long is a consistent, responsible, and dependable performer. He exhibits leadership skills and has demonstrated the ability to self-start and succeed."

-CWO Jesus Hernandez, USMC (Ret)

Harlingen Border Patrol's "Head of the Class" is a community awareness program honoring local student participants who promote abstinence from using illegal drugs. Every month, students from across the Rio Grande Valley who exhibit outstanding leadership and participation in the program are selected and recognized by Harlingen Border Patrol at awards ceremonies and/or banquets.

A MONUMENTAL WEEKEND IN MMA HISTORY

MMA Celebrates 40 years of Excellence

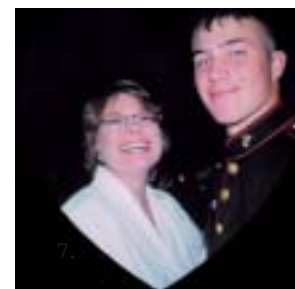
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Photographs

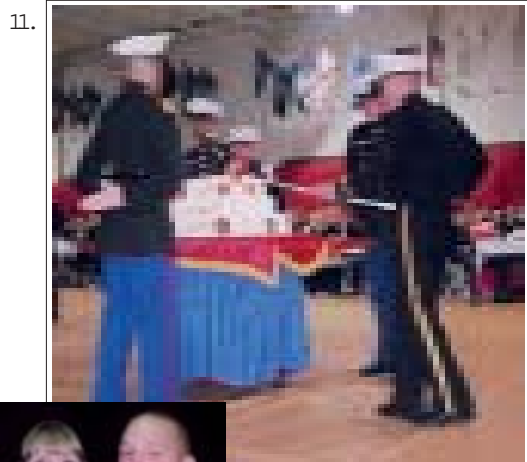
1. Birthday Ball Guest Tom Kolongowski and MMA's Col R. G Hill USMC (Ret) observe Pass In Review
2. Officers and Gentlemen alike!
3. MMA Corps of Cadets march onto the Parade Grounds.
4. Parents & cadets visit with teachers tracking cadet progress.
5. Cadet Nikki Hill and Mom during Mother/Son Dance
6. Parents and Friends Paying Tribute during Anthem
7. Cadet Motherall and Mom during Mother/Son Dance
8. MMA Board Trustees Alice East and Evelyn East.
9. MMA Band led by Band Major Cadet Duncan.
10. Cadet Bowen and Mom during Mother/Son Dance
11. Col. Hill wields his sword and deftly slices Birthday cake.
12. Cadet Hardee and Mom during Mother/Son Dance
13. Marching In Cadence authors Corrinne (*left*) & Ed (*middle*) Swaney autograph book copies as MMA's Carmen Guarjardo (*right*) greets guests.
14. Halftime antics by MMA's Leatherneck mascot.



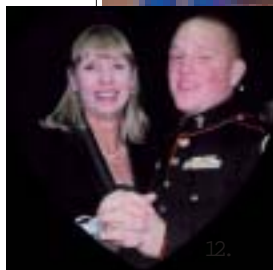
VETERANS' DAY SALUTE



Speaker lineup for MMA/City of Harlingen's "Salute To Veterans"



MMA Band plays traditional service anthems during "Salute To Veterans" as veterans are recognized



Distinguished Marines Stamp Unveiling during MMA's Veterans' Day Parade. Harlingen Postmaster Jeff Jenkins (left); TX State Representative Juan Escobar (middle); Cadet Keegan (right).



MMA veterans were treated to a patriotic yard sign created and manufactured by Air Force Veteran and retired Superintendent of Schools Rubio Rodriguez. Rodriguez, owner of R&R Screen Printing, honors veterans across the Rio Grande Valley, citing the San Benito Kiwanis Club for spurring on his lifelong dedication to saving the children of the world.



Photograph courtesy of Cadet Zachary Shannon





FALL LEATHERNECK SPORTS



LEATHERNECK FOOTBALL WRAPS UP SEASON

The MMA Leathernecks finished up their 2005-2006 season at home with a win against University of Tamaulipas 49-6.



GRID IRON ACTION CAPTURED BY STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER CADET WANG OF GARY HOWARD'S PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS.

LEATHERNECK CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country Team took on La Feria High in Oct. 1st action. In a race with 87 runners, Cadet Powell finished 1st with 17:47 on the clock; Cadet David Miller 2nd with 18:25; and Cadet Broden took 3rd also at 18:25. Cadets Trout, Aspe, Kempin Curry, Bruce, Carpenter and Underwood also competed, bringing home team honors in 2nd with a score of 72--missing first place by just 11 points.

Competing in Rio Hondo Invitation on Oct. 8th, Cadet Powell finished 2nd with 17:38; Cadet Broden 3rd at 18:38; and Cadet Solis at 14th with 19:19. Also competing were cadets Aspe, Cyphers, Solis, Curry, Saldivar, Kempin and Underwood to spur the Leathernecks to

second place with a score of 75 overall.

The Leathernecks advanced on to participate in Harlingen High School's Invitational on Oct. 15th. Cadet Broden competed in 5A action finishing 11th with 17:35. Cadets Broden, Miller, Solis, Cyphers, Solis and Curry took on 3A competition with Broden finishing 12th at 19:04. Overall, the team finished in 4th place. Coach Bill Hinkle commented, "Finishing 4th is low for us this year. We were missing several key athletes to other events so performance was adversely affected."

Competing in the TAPPS State Cross Country Meet held at Baylor University in Waco, Texas on Oct. 22nd: Cadets Broden, Curry, Powell, Cyphers, Kempin, Aspe, Trout and Bruce.

MMA's first finisher, placing 36 out of 84, was Cadet Brandon Broden with a time of 18:42, followed by Cadet Richard Powell (19:40); Cadet Kyle Trout (21:06); Cadet Juan Aspe (21:22); Cadet Jacob Curry (22:49); Cadet Colton Kempin (23:04); and Cadet Max Cyphers (23:48).

Coach Bill Hinkle notes, "It was an all grass course with several hills, adjacent to the Lake Waco Dam. The first place time at the meet was 16:55, and the 12th was 18:05. Although we participated in a race division where placement and team score is more competitive than where we normally race, the finishing times for our runners were below both my expectations and their seasonal averages."

LEATHERNECK "RED TIDE" SWIM TEAM

The Swim Team dove into competition in the Oct. 8th Weslaco Mini Invitational, Oct. 14-15 Weslaco Invitational, Oct. 21-22 RGVSCA Invitational, Oct. 27th Dual held at Porter High, Nov. 4-5 RGVSCA Invitational, and Nov. 11-12 BISD Fall Festival Invitational in preparation for the TAPPS State Meet held in February 2006. This Team truly churns up the waters, whether in practice or competition, and their grueling, strenuous workouts of 1-2 hour sessions--stretching, exercises, drills and swimming yardages of 4,000-5,000 yards--are truly paying off BIG dividends!

In Weslaco Invitational action, Leathernecks placed 7th in the Mens 4X50 Medley Relay at 2:05.96. In Butterfly duals, Cadet Ewton placed a 29.94 drop on the clock with Cadet Genoff in the Back at 39.40; Cadet Steeg in Breast Stroke Competition at 29.25; and Cadet Caldwell in the Free Stroke placing 27.37. Cadet Genoff carried on to place 1st in the Men's 50 yard Freestyle with 24.23 on the clock. Cadet Nikki Hill placed 8th in Mens 1 meter Diving racking up 100.30 points. In the Men's 4 X 100 Freestyle

Relay, Cadets Ewton (1.02.34), Caldwell (1.01.40), Steeg (1.07.6) and Genoff (53.88!!!) placed 6th in the heat. The Swimming Leathernecks are gearing up for Dec. 2-3 Christmas Classics; Dec. 9-10 Pre-Regional Showcase; Jan. 13-14 McAllen New Year's Classic Invitational; then check out their exciting season wrap-up at TAPPS Regional and State Meet competition in February 2006!



BACK ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Cadets Albion Ewton, Edgar Steeg, Fernando Ledesma, Kyle Wagener, Kyle Gannon, Jonah Miichel, Nathaniel Keegan, Timothy Russell Jr., Tyrel Genoff and Cirtos Bearden V. FRONT ROW: Cadet Nikki Hill.

Not pictured: Head Coach Caleb Hood.

LEATHERNECK WRESTLING OPENS SEASON

The MMA Wrestling Leathernecks came out strong at the Nov. 12th 4-Way held in San Benito, dominating the mats in exciting wrestling action.

Are
y'all
ready
for
this?



WRESTLING SCHEDULE

- NOVEMBER
29 Dual at MMA - 5 p.m.
- DECEMBER
6 Dual at PSJA - 7 p.m.
10 San Benito Tourney - 9 a.m.
- JANUARY
19 Dual at Nikki Rowe - 7:30 p.m.
26 Dual at San Benito - 7 p.m.
- FEBRUARY
11 TAPPS State Tourney - TBA
17 Prep State Tourney - TBA
- Ron Lang, Head Coach*

LEATHERNECK SOCCER

The MMA Leatherneck Soccer Team takes to the greens with over 30 cadets. There's no doubt this will prove to be a very exciting year in MMA Soccer history!

SOCCER SCHEDULE

- DECEMBER
1-3 At St. Anthony (2 games)
- JANUARY
10 Central Catholic @ MMA-4 p.m.
21 At St. Michaels - 10 a.m.
27 At Holy Cross - 4:30 p.m.
28 At Holy Cross - 10 a.m.
- FEBRUARY
4 Bi-District Playoffs - TBD
11 Regional Playoffs - TBD
17-18 At Waco - State Tournament
*Major Harold Compton, USMC (Ret)
Head Coach*



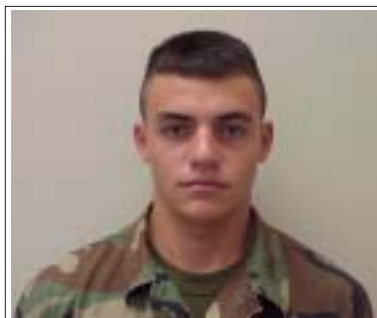
LEATHERNECK SOCCER TEAM - LEFT TO RIGHT: (BACK) Head Coach Major Harold Compton, USMC(Ret), Cadets Cuevas, Flores, Meek, Elizondo, Fuentanilla, Gutierrez, Underwood, Cooper, Marinez, and Sanchez. (MIDDLE) Cadets Hiller, Orneck, Aspe, Molina, Garcia, Cepeda, Broyles, Curry, and Garcia-Prieto. (FRONT) Cadets Torres, Spingola, Ray, Gomez, Barrera, Saldivar, Ledesma, Gallardo, Khalil, Alderman, Perkins, Ferrara.

LEATHERNECK SOCCER CAPTAINS ARE: Cadets Jacob Curry, Juan Saldivar, Federico Flores, Victor Ferrara, Armando Sanchez and Stephen Cooper. **GO LEATHERNECKS!**

LEATHERNECK BOXING

Head Coach: SgtMaj Robertson (USMC) Ret.

SgtMaj Robertson took two members of the MMA Leatherneck Boxing Team to their first competition of the year on October 22nd in Rio Grande City. Cadet Jimmy Enos won his bout by a unanimous decision. Coach Robertson felt that Cadet Nickolas Casarrubias was "robbed" of his fight by a decision. Watch for exciting updates from this year's LEATHERNECK BOXERS!



**"IN IT TO WIN IT."
A FACE TO EXPECT
BIG THINGS FROM
THIS BOXING
SEASON:
CADET NICKOLAS
A. CASARRUBIAS OF
GOLF COMPANY**

VISA VOLLEYBALL WRAP-UP

The VISA Volleyball Team wrapped up their annual season with a tournament comprised of a total of 22 teams—twelve participating in the upper division and ten in the lower. Calvary Christian took first place honors by sweeping both divisions. Of the twelve teams in the upper division, MMA cadets finished the tournament in 4th place with a 2-2 record. **'Ooh-rah' goes out to VISA Volleyball on a job well done!**



VOLLEYBALL TEAM, LEFT TO RIGHT: (BACK) Coach Elliott, Assistant Coach De Santis of Delta, and Coach Soto. (MIDDLE) Cadets Allen-Barker; Davidson, Ducote, and Rodriguez. (FRONT) Cadets Martinez, Smith, Walzer, Filice, and Swor.

Where are they now?

*** ALUMNI: Be sure to E-Mail your updates to pickens@mma-tx.org for inclusion in the Leader! ***

MMA Alumni Reunion 7-9 April 2006

Need to find out what's going on with a fellow alum? Get on board MMA's on-line "Alumni Bulletin Board". Fill out the Alumni Information Request form located on-line:
<http://www.mma-tx.org/alumni.htm>
or call Connie Flores at (956) 423-6006 Ext. 232.
Get on Board:
ALL ALUMNI, ALL THE TIME!



MMA Alumni Nathan Davis, Jack Waterson, Paul Ashley, Kwan Lee. Class of '92 - Davis and Ashley; and '93 - Waterson and Lee. Photograph taken Labor Day in California.

'90
Andrew Martinez—via Classmates.com
— Owns several businesses in Las Vegas;
Married nine years and has three boys;
Has brother in ninth grade at MMA
(Cadet Andres Martinez, Delta Co.).

'91
Capt. Terry Brannan USA —
terry.brannan@us.army.mil —
Operations Officer (S3 OIC), 90th
Personnel Services Battalion.

'92
Nathan Davis — nfdavis@bellsouth.net
- Keeps in touch with old friends like
Jack Waterson, Paul Ashley, and Kwan
Lee.

'96
Zephaniah Chalmers —
zchalmers@deltastar.com - Father of
twins (boy and girl) born in June.

'01
Carlos Dostal — dostalcr@gmail.com -
Will be graduating in December from the
University of Texas at Austin with a BS
in Aerospace Engineering. Thanks to
everyone at MMA for helping Carlos
meet his goals!

Adam Romero —
copecwby20@hotmail.com - Studying
Farsi at the Defense Language Institute--
Foreign Language Center, in Monterey,
California. Upon completion of studies
will be a cryptologic linguist in the
Marine Corps.

'03
Bryan Zurlo — captzurlo@hotmail.com -
Won two events and finished second in
another capturing the overall title in
Men's Category C for Midwestern State
University at the Baylor University
Cycling Races in October.

'05
Jarod Faulk — m092052@usna.edu - In
plebe year at Naval Academy

Stephen Kang — KangS@cotf.navy.mil -
Currently assigned to the Commander's
Operational Test and Evaluation Force in
Norfolk, VA doing security and
maintenance for the Navy; wants to go
Corps after meeting Navy commitment.

.....
● **LATE "BREAKING" NEWS:**
● **MSgt. John McLaughlin, long-time**
● **Charlie Company DI, is recovering**
● **from a broken hip. You can write**
● **him at: 12609 Dessau Road, Austin,**
● **TX 78754 or give him a call at**
● **(512) 252-9001.**
.....



Present active duty Lt. Cols. Pat Redmon and Mike Stahlman taken in 1981 when they shared Battalion Commander duties - one each semester. Courtesy of George Murray '83.

Cadets In Action



Photograph courtesy of Gail Brandt

“SO THAT’S HOW YOU SET UP THE COMIC SECTION?” VALLEY MORNING STAR HOSTS TOUR OF GAIL BRANDT’S STUDENT CADETS. *Left to Right:* Cadets Rodriguez, Han, Tesar, Li, Williams and Collins; VMS Opinion Editor Randy Davidson on far right.



Photograph courtesy of Scoutmaster Sgt/Maj Jim Poe

MMA’S BOY SCOUT TROOP 22 ON CAMPOUT AT CAMP PERRY OCTOBER 22-23. Scouts learned camping and cooking skills, including the proper use of knives, axes and first aid (the latter is not the result of the former!) and a variety of items to help Scouts earn advancement in rank.



Photograph courtesy of Mrs. Hill

ANNUAL PUMPKIN PATCH OUTING. Col Hill and MMA Cadets turned out to assist with 1st United Methodist Church’s Mothers’ Morning Out making this annual event yet another huge success!



Photograph courtesy of Col Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret)

MMA COLOR GUARD WITH MMA’S COL R.G. HILL AT HARLINGEN AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE’S 2005 ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS BANQUET held at Casa de Amistad on November 1st. LOOKING GOOD!!!

Stumped on what to give that special person this holiday season? *Get in Step On MMA’s Battalion Quadrangle!*



Now you can have their name permanently etched on the MMA campus. For years to come they will enjoy showing friends and family the most important brick paver on the Battalion Quadrangle! Honor a Cadet, express appreciation for a Drill Instructor, a teacher or friend, or memorialize a loved one by purchasing a battalion brick paver—an attractive brick paver that will be placed on walkways along the most important street on campus.



Order online at: <http://www.mma-tx.org/pavers.htm> or call Ester Reyes at (956) 423-6006 Ext. 231.

Choose from the following:

THE \$100 INDIVIDUAL BRICK PAVER:
6" x 12" Brick paver. Fourteen characters per line. Two lines maximum.

THE \$250 DELUXE BRICK PAVER:
6" x 12" Brick paver with distinctive border. Fourteen characters per line. Three lines maximum

THE \$500 BRICK PAVER: 12" X 12" Brick paver with Iwo Jima logo. Seventeen characters per line. Four lines maximum.

THE \$1000 DELUXE BRICK PAVER:
12" x 12" Brick paver with distinctive border and MMA logo. Seventeen characters per line. Five lines maximum.

They’ll be a part of Marine Military Academy history—Forever!

Calendar of Events

November

18 Begin Thanksgiving Break
27 End Thanksgiving Break

December

3 SAT
10 ACT
13-16 First Semester Final Exams
16 Begin Christmas Break
(Schedule flight departure after 1200)

January

7 Mid-Term Registration
8 Mid-Term Check-In Returning Cadets
8-10 Military Orientation for Plebes
9-10 Teacher In-Service Days
11 Begin Third Quarter Classes

February

3 Academic Awards Ceremony
4 MMA Parents Org. Meeting
Introductory Training Graduation
24 H.M. Smith Foundation Dinner
25 Iwo Jima Parade/H.M. Smith Parade

Memorials

- John H. Austin
- Doris Catterlin
- Adam W. Hall - MMA '98
- Col States Rights Jones, USMC (Ret)
- Col John G. Metz, USMC (Ret)
- Pfc Mike Murphy -
1st Marine Division- KIA, Iraq
- Juan M. Paredes
- John H. Stevenson - Crewman Aboard
WWII Destroyer DD-221, USS Simpson
- Pfc Brian B. Thornton, USMC,
KIA ROK 1951
- Gen Louis H. Wilson, USMC (Ret)

In Honor Of

- J. Rob Walker's Marine Service
- 2nd Lt Thomas J. Duff, USMC

Wishing you and yours a blessed Holiday Season...



Col Robert G. Hill, USMC (Ret)
Acting President, MMA

The Holidays are a time for family and friends. It is also a time for reflection on the many blessings that have been granted to us. The Marine Military Academy has truly been blessed.

This is also a time of giving. Your support to the Academy and the opportunity you provide to the Corps of Cadets is a gift that will continue to pay dividends for decades to come as these young men assume positions of leadership within our communities.

From the Marine Military Faculty and Staff, we wish you all a safe and enjoyable Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing you in 2006!

Marine Military Academy
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Harlingen, Texas 78550
(956) 423-6006

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