EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED

Cadets inducted into National Honor and National Junior Honor societies.

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Recent Events

Registration Day

Nearly 100 new students checked in for Marine Military Academy’s fall semester Aug. 11.

Registration day is always busy for both new and returning students. All students must register for classes and activities, visit the barber and tailor, collect their gear, settle into their rooms and complete any other necessary tasks before the start of school.

In addition, “plebes,” or new students who did not attend MMA Summer Camp, immediately begin their intense, four-week introductory training upon check-in. In just a short time, plebes must grasp the new daily routine and learn Marine Corps drill, terminology and protocol.

High & Tight

“High and tight” haircuts are the norm at Marine Military Academy. New students, though, must lose all their locks before they can sport the fashionable military look. The boys’ reaction after their hair is gone is priceless! Here are some before-and-after photos.

Eighth-grader Ranson Bryce Benfield
of Seabrook, Texas

Eighth-grader Santiago Eduardo Navarro Gutierrez of Pachuca, Mexico.

Junior Adam Robert Myers
of Southlake, Texas

Junior Robert Charles Drake Jr.
of Las Vegas, Nev.

The Vazquez del Mercado brothers from Mexico ready for the new school year.

Senior Santiago Martinez Alfaro of Mexico City and plebe Huajun Tang of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif.

MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill welcomes 11th-grader Michael C. Hillard and his family.
Recognition

New Cadet Leaders Named

Ten cadets became the official leaders of the Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets for the 2018-19 school year at the promotion ceremony Aug. 10. The cadets were promoted by Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

Senior Trevor Roberts of Fairbanks, Alaska, accepted the highest billet of battalion commander. Tyler J. Broussard of League City, Texas, was promoted to battalion executive officer. Seniors Oluwalomose Debo-Ogunjimi of Richmond, Texas; Hiolong Hong of Shanghai, China; and Diego Garcia-Hernandez of Monterrey, Mexico, were promoted to staff officers.

Five seniors also accepted the prestigious billet of company commander. The captains are: Santiago Martinez Alfaro of Mexico City for Alpha Company; Benjamin Sterling Reading of Katy, Texas, for Delta Company; Jack Edward Kostelnik of Comfort, Texas, for Echo Company; Alan Said Maccise of Mexico City for Fox Company; and Anh Nam Le of Katy, Texas, for Golf Company.

Cadet leaders are chosen based on their exemplary attitude and example, and proven ability to take charge and follow through on their responsibilities.

Graduation Parade & Ceremony

They marched onto the parade ground as “plebes” and became cadets. More than 50 young men officially joined the Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets at the Introductory Training Graduation Parade Sept. 8.

At the parade, the plebes took the MMA Cadet Oath and then joined the MMA battalion as cadets. They marched alongside their company “brothers” in the parade pass in review.

Following the parade, the new cadets assembled in front of their barracks for an informal recognition ceremony.

New cadet leaders display their ranks and swords after the promotion ceremony.
Effort Rewarded

Marine Military Academy returning cadets with a GPA of 3.0 or higher during the last quarter of the 2017-18 academic year were treated to a Subway sandwich for lunch Sept 17.

After the luncheon, the young men enjoyed an afternoon of liberty. MMA hosts this event after every academic quarter. Cadets in all grades are eligible.

Senior Oluwalomose Debo-ógunjimi of Richmond, Texas, enjoying a snack!

Sophomore Ryan Frank of Gilroy, Calif., thinks his lunch is tops!

Recent Events

Cadets Recognized for Community Service

Eleven cadets from Marine Military Academy were recognized during the regularly scheduled Harlingen city commission meeting Sept. 19. The recognition is a result of their volunteer work at the city’s recycling center in late August.

Under the direction of SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, the cadets spent one day at the recycling center and managed to produce one and a half bales of shredded paper, one bale of shrink plastic wrap, and one bale of plastic number one water bottles. They also sorted through 42, 96-gallon recycling containers weighing about 100 pounds each. All together that’s about 2.1 tons of recyclable materials.

And as if that wasn’t enough, they also swept and cleaned the entire recycling center. Cadet Maxwell Fortin and SgtMaj Kinsley attended the city commission meeting and accepted the printed recognitions.

Way to go MMA cadets. The City of Harlingen salutes you!

Leo Club Members Return to Recycling Center

Marine Military Academy Leo Club Members returned to the Harlingen Recycling Center Sept. 29 after their plan to clean the local cemetery was thwarted by the rain.

MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and Assistant Boy Scout Master for Troop 22 Steve Gerber stopped by and helped the cadets. The City of Harlingen recently recognized the students for their work at the center.

Sophomore Adrian Blanco Valencia of Katy, Texas, (left) and Junior Odin Perriaux of Franchville, France
Marksmanship mastery requires dedication and a lot of concentration, and members of the Marine Military Academy Rifle Team know it.

Patience and the ability to concentrate, however, are not common traits in today’s world, according to a study by the University of Rochester Medical Center.

The authors determined that sensorial overload brought about by today’s ever-expanding technological offerings and other distractions cause stress. That results in the inability to concentrate on specific tasks for long periods of time, especially for young people.

MMA’s structured environment eliminates most of those distractions allowing cadets to focus on their studies. That, coupled with activities that help develop focus and other cognitive skills, gives cadets the added advantage to excel academically and professionally.

“Being part of the marksmanship training has helped me develop more discipline. I am able to stay in the same position for a long time. It also helped me focus,” said Cadet Pierre Bonnimond, of Paris, France.

The team meets at the MMA indoor rifle range where they hone their shooting skills with air rifles under the tutelage of 1st Sgt Felix Hernandez and GySgt Juan Rodriguez Chavez.

The sport also helps cadets develop strong bonds with their teammates.

“It’s about listening and learning,” said Hiolong Hong, of Shanghai, China. “The focus will help me when writing my college essay.”

Rifle Team Captain and MMA Battalion Commander Trevor Roberts of Fairbanks, Alaska, said cadets must learn to clear their minds to achieve the level of concentration needed to excel in competitions.

“You can’t be thinking of other things, like what homework you will get tomorrow,” Roberts said.

“It’s a real struggle to change yourself, to clear your mind and stay focused. I use a breathing technique that calms me down and helps me stay focused,” he said.

Roberts said the concentration techniques learned in the rifle team will help him excel in life.

“Most people have jobs that create a lot of stress. We can use the techniques learned here to calm us down,” Roberts said.

The cadets said the calm and methodical approach to the sport is something they will incorporate in other aspects of their lives.
Academic Excellence

Cadets inducted into National Honor and National Junior Honor societies

Academic growth is fundamental for the development of a young man, but a recent study by the Pew Research Center shows that fewer American teens are striving to excel when it comes to school.

The study states that data compiled by the U.S. Department of Education revealed that in 2015 only 25 percent of 12th-graders were proficient in math and just 22 percent in science.

Experts blame growing class sizes, distractions and lack of interest, among many other things, for that low performance. Those factors, however, are not an issue for students in a structured environment – like military school.

The recent National Honor and National Junior Honor societies induction at Marine Military Academy is proof that cadets are striving for academic excellence.

“You are men who not only are scholastically successful, but you give of yourself to others … you are leaders,” MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill said during his address to the cadets at the beginning of the ceremony Sept. 28 at Yeckel Hall.

“The characteristics that got you to where you are right now will carry you throughout your life,” he said.

The seven newly installed officers welcomed 19 new members into NHS and NJHS.

“The privilege of being in NHS is not only a great accomplishment for oneself, but is recognized in higher learning institutions,” said MMA Math Teacher and NHS Advisor Rosalinda Garcia.

“Each member needs to exhibit excellence in academics and leadership, honorable and admirable character and demonstrate a commitment to service,” Garcia said.

That focus, and determination, will help cadets prepare for the future and become role models to younger generations.

“People will look to you as an example of how they should conduct themselves,” Hill said.
Meet MMA

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Student of the Month - September

Joseph Maximus De Leo of Mission, Texas - English
Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 11, Activities: Cross-country
Future education goals: My first-choice university is UT-Austin to study medicine.
Career goals: My career goals are to first graduate in the top 10 percent of my class and become a neurosurgeon. Later, I want to invest my money in real estate.

Max Fortin of Austin, Texas - Foreign Language
Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant
Grade: 11, Activities: Weightlifting & drill team.
Future education goals: I plan to graduate high school with honors and attend the Citadel. I plan to major in Political Science and Military History.
Career goals: I hope to become a career officer in the United States Air Force as an Air Battle Manager.

Jiaming Xu of Beijing, China - General Studies
Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 10, Activities: Basketball
Future education goals: Attend either the University of Texas, Austin or UC Berkley.
Career goals: I want to major in Computer Science.

Simeon Oladeji Olawale-Apanpa of Houston - Math
Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 11, Activities: Swimming & aerospace
Future education goals: I aspire to get an SAT score above a 1450 and do well in my calculus AP and U.S. history AP exam.
Career goals: For my career, I always wanted to pursue a job in animation to let my imagination roam freely. I would love to attend MIT, a prestigious school to pursue my dreams.

Phuc Le of Saigon, Viet Nam - Science
Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 8, Activities: Soccer
Future education goals: To get good grades at MMA and get into a good college.
Career goals: To become a medical doctor.

Victor Immanuel Olawale Apanpa of Houston - Social Studies
Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 12, Activities: Swimming
Future education goals: I plan to pursue a degree in computer science at Harvard University. I plan to later attain an MBA
Career goals: My ultimate goal would be to create my own successful business in the technology industry.
Cadet of the Month - September

**Gunnar Helms of Phoenix, Ariz. - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Private  
Grade: 11, Activities: Swimming & drill team  
Education goals: Graduate with a distinguished diploma and attend a great college.  
Career goals: I would like to own a business.

**Alejandro Fonseca of Mexico City - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant  
Grade: 12, Activities: Football  
Education goals: Attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University and pursue a degree in air traffic management.  
Career goals: I would eventually like to work as an air traffic manager at a major airport.

**Daixing Kuang of Ching Sha Hunan, China - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Sergeant  
Grade: 11, Activities: Cross-country  
Education goals: Attend UT-Austin or Texas A&M to study computer science.  
Career goals: I would like to become a computer engineer.

**Alan Said Maccise of Mexico City - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Captain  
Grade: 12, Activities: Aerospace  
Education goals: I plan to attend the University of Pennsylvania.  
Career goals: I plan to work in accounting and finance.

**Noah A. Bouillion of Erath, La. - Golf Company**

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant  
Grade: 11, Activities: Band & football.  
Education goals: I plan to attend the U.S Naval Academy and major in English or History  
Career goals: I plan to become a commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Cole S. McKim of Spicewood, Texas - Leatherneck Band**

Company: Golf, Rank: Cadet Private  
Grade: 12  
Education goals: Graduate from MMA and attend a prestigious university.  
Career goals: Work in the business world.

**Pelayo Martinez Rodriguez of Puebla, Mexico - Silent Drill Team**

Company: Golf, Rank: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant  
Grade: 11  
Education goals: I plan to attend George Washington University.  
Career goals: I would like to work as a forensic scientist.
**Important Dates**

- **Oct. 24:** PSAT, 8:45 a.m.
- **Oct. 27:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **Nov. 1-4:** Parent’s Weekend
- **Nov. 2:** Birthday Parade, 4 p.m.
- **Nov. 3:** Birthday Reception and Ball, 5:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 10:** Veteran’s Day Parade; followed by Flag Retirement Ceremony, 10 a.m.
- **Nov. 16:** Begin Thanksgiving Break
- **Nov. 25:** End Thanksgiving Break
- **Dec. 1:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **Dec. 8:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **Dec. 11-14:** First Semester Final Exams
- **Dec. 14:** Begin Christmas Break
- **Jan. 5:** Mid-Term Check-In for New Cadets (Plebes), 8 a.m.
- **Jan. 6:** Mid-Term Check-In for Returning Cadets
- **Jan. 7-8:** Military Orientation for Mid-Term Cadets (Plebes)
- **Jan. 7-8:** Teacher In-Service Days

**In Memoriam**

**Former MMA librarian enters eternal rest**

Former Marine Military Academy Librarian Harriet Agnesa Rood passed away Sept. 27 in Wilmington, N.C. She was 81.

She was born to the late Kai and Mary deVermond on Jan. 9, 1937, in Chicago, Ill. Mrs Rood was the devoted wife to retired USMC SgtMaj John C. Rood and together they raised four sons and a daughter.

Mrs. Rood received a bachelor’s and master’s degree in librarian science from East Carolina University. She brought those skills to MMA in 1984 and helped mold young men into leaders until 1994.

Her sons USMC LtCol John A Rood and USAF LtCol Rob R. Rood graduated from MMA in 1976 and 1979, respectively. Two of her grandsons also attended the academy.

Mrs. Rood was a member of the Azalea Dog Training Club in Hampstead, N.C. She and her 7-year-old Sheltie, Cameron, competed at the master level in the American Kennel Club Agility Trials.

She is survived by her loving husband John C. Rood Jr.; her sons John A. Rood, Dennis K. Rood and his wife Lorri, David C. Rood, and Rob R. Rood and his wife Lydia; her daughter, Mary C. Rood; her 18 grandchildren; and her 6 great grandchildren.

**Recent Donations**

**In Honor Of**

- ADM James McRaven, USN (Ret)
- Best Wishes to Class of 2018 and 2019

**In Memory Of**

- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- SSgt E. L. “Knobby” Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea
- Ferriel C. Hamby “Kent”
- The Honorable John McCain
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN