



MMA LEADER

»»»»»»»»»» MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY develops disciplined, morally strong, college-ready, young men who are prepared for responsible leadership. »»»»»»»»»»»»

Volume 32, Issue 1

Dedicated to Our Cadets » The Leaders of Tomorrow

June/July 2018



Cover photo by: Carmen Garcia/MMA Staff

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Summer Camp

Parade Draws Near-Record Crowd

Hundreds of Marine Military Academy Summer Camp parents joined Rio Grande Valley residents to witness the culmination of four weeks of physical training and character-development.

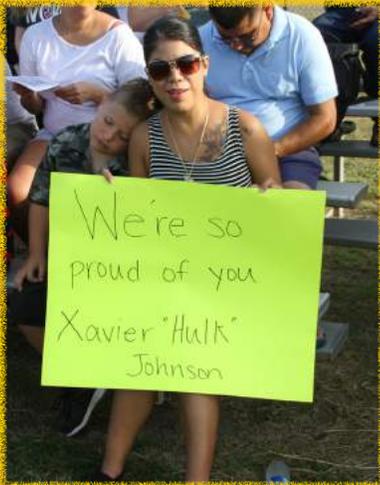
The huge crowd watched as 371 young men marched during MMA's Summer Camp Graduation parade July 28 .

The ceremony took a lighthearted twist when MMA Superintendent Col

R. Glenn Hill explained to parents that their sons now were well versed in the use of brooms, mops and other household cleaning utensils.

The young men from 20 countries exuded confidence as their family members applauded during the pass in review.

After the parade Summer Campers and their parents made their way to the barracks for the graduation ceremony.



Parents show pride for their sons during the 2018 Summer Camp Graduation Parade.



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill addresses parents during the graduation ceremony.



Many Summer Campers (in red hats) will return to MMA as full-fledged Cadets for Academic Year 2018-19.



The 2018 Summer Camp Graduation Parade drew a near-record crowd.



All Companies at attention during the 2018 Summer Camp Graduation Parade.

Summer Camp

Graduation Day - Mission Accomplished!



Summer Campers celebrate their achievements and new friendships after the graduation ceremony.

Cheers erupted as parents watched their sons receive their diplomas during the 2018 Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony.

The ceremony followed the morning parade and was held in front of the company barracks. The drill instructors congratulated and graduated all the young men before their family members and friends. They also recognized the campers who earned the Honor Man award, the Most Improved award and the Commandant's Achievement award.

When it was all over, the boys indulged their family members with hugs and photos. They also made sure to exchange phone numbers and social media accounts with their summer camp "brothers" before heading home.

This year, MMA's campers originated from 20 countries and 33 states.



MMA Chief of Staff Col Christopher Dowling oversees the graduation ceremony.



MMA Summer Campers wait for the graduation ceremony to begin.

Cadet Instructors

The cadet instructors of Marine Military Academy play a vital role in the success of summer camp. They assist the drill instructors and act as instructors and mentors to the campers.



Cadet Instructors Santiago Martinez Alfaro (left) and Pelayo Martinez Rodriguez during their training previous to summer camp.



Cadet Instructor Dylan DeViney of Houston at work during Field Meet.



A Cadet Instructor leads his platoon during competition.

Summer Camp

Field Meet Full of Fun

Relatives and other guests packed the stands of Bowman Stadium to cheer on the campers at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Field Meet July 27.

At the field meet, all the platoons competed in three events: Tug of War, Paul Revere and Dizzy Izzy. When the events were over, the families reunited

with their sons and spent a couple of evening hours with them on the MMA campus.

The games allow the campers to test their new strength and endurance, and practice their teamwork and sportsmanship. At times, the games also provide the families with a little comic relief!



Members of Charlie Company determined to win the Paul Revere challenge.



Eugenio Flores of Tamaulipas, Mexico, tries to maintain his balance during Dizzy Izzy.



Juan Jose Betancourt of Quito, Ecuador, with his family after the event.



Strategy and brawn were key elements during the Tug of War competition.



Parents cheer on their sons during the 2018 Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Field Day.

Summer Camp

ESL Campers Ready for Takeoff

Campers in Marine Military Academy's ESL program pulled double duty as they participated in the same activities as members of other companies all while taking on a full day of classroom instruction.

ESL Summer Camp incorporates a great deal of applied learning. The campers do more than writing and memorization. They engage in science-based projects that require them to follow English-only instructions ... and then they test their projects outside.

After class, ESL campers engage in the same physical activities as the other summer campers. In fact, the events and sports greatly help the boys practice and reinforce their language skills, particularly during the team challenges.

Young men in the program hail from Mexico, China, Colombia and the United States.



Charlie Company Summer Campers put their rockets to the test.



Iker Salas Valdez, of Veracruz, Mexico, tastes his batch of ice cream.



Samuel Bauer de Jesus of Nuevo Leon, Mexico, prepares to hit the zip line.



Santisteban Bonoso of Coahuila, Mexico, and Ai Kunlong of Hunan Province, China, with their finished rocket.



Charlie Company Summer Campers prepare to rappel during the last week of camp.

Cover Story

At a Glance

What did you learn at MMA Summer Camp?

“Self-discipline ... to push myself to the limit and the importance of respecting authorities.”

Jesus Mendiola Garza - Golf Co. Monterrey, Mexico.

“I learned about leadership, bonding with others and not to be scared.”

Christian Paddock - Fox Co. Granbury, Texas.

“I learned to be more confident in my physical abilities and in myself. I also learned about discipline and to respect authority.”

Sebastian Lindsey - Alpha Co. Houston, Texas.

“I learned discipline, self-confidence and patience.”

Mahir Aslanov - Golf Co. Baku, Azerbaijan

“I learned discipline ... to never give up, even if what one is doing is challenging.”

Cyrus Rai - Fox Co. Solon, Ohio.



Marine Military Academy Summer Campers march during the 2018 Summer Camp Graduation Parade.

The Power of Determination

MMA Summer Campers conquer obstacles to become strong, focused young men

It was a typical morning in Deep South Texas as temperatures began creeping toward the 100-degree mark. For most, June 30 was just another day, but not for the nearly 400 young men who gathered at Marine Military Academy.

That day was the start of MMA’s 2018 Summer Camp. Boys from 33 states and 20 countries were about to embark in

the adventure of a lifetime. Ahead, 28 days of physical training and character development. It would be a time to topple barriers and conquer fears, but also a time to have fun and develop lifelong friendships. Determination would be key to achieve those goals.

MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and Director of Development and Admissions LtCol Robert Grider >>>>

Cover Story

The Power of Determination



MMA Summer Campers test their resolve and determination during the Combat Fitness Test.

»»»» welcomed the boys and their parents. They listened to the young men before they began their process of becoming MMA Summer Campers.

The next days were a test to the young men's determination. Up before the break of dawn, they would be challenged to dig deep into themselves for the motivation and drive to conquer the challenges they were about to face.

"It's more than just physical ... mentally, being away from your parents ... but also the fact that you have to wake up at a certain time, you have to march as a group. It's not so much about you ... it's about the group. If someone messes up the whole company suffers," said Summer Camper Conor Foster, 17, of Dallas.



MMA Summer Campers developed courage during their days at the academy.

Campers said they learned the importance of becoming leaders.

"It's not just about what you want or how you feel. You have to take everybody into account ... how they feel, what they want. You have to be able to take that and make your decision to make everybody excel,"

said Summer Camper Kaden Ward, 17, of Fort Worth, Texas.'

Many of the campers discovered strengths they didn't realize they possessed.

"I wound up doing stuff I didn't expect to do, like being a platoon guide. Now that I'm one I am surprised ... I'm happy," said Summer Camper Tyler Long, 17, of Granbury, Texas.

Long said the summer camp helped him get rid of bad habits.

"I would not make my bed ... I hate to say it, but sometimes I would not even brush my teeth. I would not eat at my house, but here I have to eat or something bad will happen," Long said.

The Golf Company camper said it was those consequences that helped him realize it was time to make a change.

"This is going to help me a lot in life. I will be able to say, 'I have done this ... this is part of my qualifications,'" Long said.

Determination and focus helped the young men understand the principles behind MMA's Summer Camp.

"If you use all the principles that you learned at this camp in life it will make you a better person ... more responsible, more disciplined. It will help you in work or anything that you can be going through because you will know what to do," said Summer Camper Gardner Allen of Oldsmar, Fla.

Drill Competition

The platoons of each company competed against one another in the Drill Competition July 27. The platoons are evaluated on their marching skills and ability to perform a routine as a unit.

The campers of the winning platoons receive a special pin to wear on their graduation uniforms. All campers participate in this march-off and are reviewed by Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret).



Platoon 701 prepares to execute drill commands.



Platoon 801 in command during the Marine Military Academy Drill Competition.

Summer Camp

Fun at Camp Perry

Marine Military Academy Summer Campers took a field trip to Camp Perry in nearby Rio Hondo during the third week of July.

Campers honed their archery and skeet-shooting skills and also got to navigate the waters of the Arroyo Colorado.

The trip gives campers the opportunity to participate in activities away from the MMA Campus.



This year summer campers participated in skeet-shooting during their trip to Camp Perry.



Golf Company Summer Campers prepare to navigate the waters of the Arroyo Colorado at Camp Perry.

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Golf Company Summer Campers prepare to navigate the waters of the Arroyo Colorado at Camp Perry.

True Meaning of Friendship

Bonds that Stand the Test of Time

The advent of social media ushered in a new era of interpersonal communication, but also changed the nature of friendships, according to a study by the Pew Research Center.

The data baffled experts who questioned why social media wasn't making teens more social.

The study discovered that 57 percent of teens 13 to 17 now meet new friends online. However, only 25 percent spend time with friends in person daily.

The study suggests that friendships have fragmented and become part of an intricate equation in which personal interaction plays an ever-diminishing role.

The question now is, how do we establish lasting friendships?

"It was a selfless act that started the bond of a lifetime," Logan Moore said during his keynote address to the Marine Military Academy graduating class of 2018.

The speech the 1997 MMA graduate delivered was about the stranger who became his brother.

"(It was) my freshman year, my second year here," Moore said. "It was one of those weeks ... it had been really tough. It seemed like the drill instructor had zeroed in on me for four or five days."

Moore was taking out the trash at night when he heard his drill instructor disciplining another cadet.

"I could hear him hollering all the way to the trash can. I was glad



Orlando "Chacho" Padilla, Class of 1988 (left), and Daniel Salgado, Class of 1989, share a moment at the 2018 MMA Alumni Reunion.

it wasn't me. I walked back to the barracks ... there was the young man the drill instructor was (having do) physical training, and boy, he was really running this guy through the ringer," he said.

Moore remembers going back to his room to lay down in his bed. What happened next changed his life forever.

"It was my roommate that he was (disciplining)," he said.

He remembers the drill instructor placed an apple on the desk before telling his roommate to never take food out of the mess hall again without paying.

"My roommate didn't take that apple out of the mess hall, I did," Moore said.

Moore asked his roommate a question that would change his perception about the true meaning of friendship.

"I asked him, 'why didn't you just

tell him that I took the apple?' He looked across the room and said, 'I just figured you had been through enough the last five or six days,' he said.

Moore's story is typical of the experiences most cadets live at MMA. It is a testament of the brotherhood they create and nurture for the rest of their lives. The alumni reunion is proof of that. MMA graduates return to Harlingen every year to spend time with their brothers.

"You get here when you are 14 and find out that you are on your own. That's when you learn to rely on your roommate ... that's when you develop courage," Daniel Salgado, a 1989 graduate, said during the 2018 Alumni Reunion.

In a time when social interactions are reduced to emoji winks and Facebook pokes, MMA instills in young men the importance of developing strong bonds with their peers as they become the leaders of tomorrow.

Education

Why Marine Military Academy is the Best Choice

Marine Military Academy has been forging the leaders of tomorrow for more than half a century.

MMA is a college-preparatory boarding school for young men in grades 7-12 with an optional post-graduate year. Since 1965, MMA is the only private school in the world based on the traditions and values of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Our purpose is to inspire positive academic, physical and moral growth in every cadet. To achieve this, we provide a disciplined, distraction-free setting that allows cadets to focus on their educational and personal development. Throughout this journey, cadets learn to take ownership of their lives and develop the tools they need to succeed not only in college, but in life.

The benefits of sending your son to a boarding school can be summarized in the following categories:

Self-reliance: Boarding-school students quickly learn how to perform many domestic chores and complete school assignments by themselves. They become experts at managing their time, money and resources. These students mature quickly and tend to be very independent and successful in college and life.

Fewer Distractions: Boarding school students can focus better on their studies because television, video games, phones and other distractors are limited. These young scholars usually perform better academically because they live in an environment that is conducive to learning.

Cultural Diversity: Boarding school

students live and attend classes with people from a variety of cultures; therefore, they learn to appreciate and respect the differences in one another and live amicably. Some may even learn the basics of another language as a result of the friendships they form.

Character Development: Boarding school students are known to graduate with exceptional character and demeanor. They reside in a community where traits such as honesty, respect and hard work are valued and emphasized. These pupils have a moral advantage.

Alternative Activities: Boarding school students are often exposed to a wider range of activities to broaden their learning. They may participate in common sports and activities, such as football and band, or less conventional ones.

Fluency in Another Language: Students whose first language is not English often become fluent in English in two semesters through language immersion. Those who stay in boarding school for at least three years typically become bilingual, meaning they can read, write and speak two languages.

Bilingual students possess a valuable skill that gives them a significant advantage in the domestic and international workforce. Studies show that they score higher on standardized tests and demonstrate greater problem-solving skills.

At MMA success is measured by the life goals our cadets set out to achieve, the passion and pride they pour into their work and the leadership and commitment they exude in their professional and personal lives.

Living History

Iwo Jima Survivor Visits MMA

"There it is." Those were the words Raul P. Hinojosa said when Marine Military Academy Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill presented him with a MMA Challenge Coin.

Hinojosa visited MMA on June 25. The San Benito native shared with Hill his experiences in the battle theaters where he served while in the Marine Corps.

Hinojosa settled in Guam and lived there for many decades before returning to the Rio Grande Valley.

The former combatant toured the museum before stepping outside and saluting the Iwo Jima Monument.



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill welcomed Iwo Jima survivor Raul P. Hinojosa to Marine Military Academy.

Important Dates

- **Sept. 8:** MMA Parents Organization Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- **Sept. 8:** Introductory Training Graduation (Plebes), 10 a.m.
- **Oct. 6:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **Oct. 10-12:** First Quarter Exams.
- **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.

The MMA LEADER is a bi-monthly publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy. To receive a digital version via email, send your address to the editor.

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Extra! Extra!

Investing in Our Future

The time between the end of the Academic Year and the start of Summer Camp is a busy one for the Facilities Department at Marine Military Academy.

Facilities Director SgtMaj David Miller and his staff go into overdrive to ensure that everything is in tip-top

shape before the next group of Cadets or Summer Campers arrive.

This time it was fresh coats of paint in the barracks, new walkways and countless other projects. All of this work would not be possible without help of people like you. Your contributions are an investment in our future. Thank you!



Construction crews pour concrete for a new walkway.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor

- Richard Calles, Jr.
MMA-Class of 2018

In Memory

- Nicanor H. De Leon
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- SgtMaj Robert Scovern Gallagher, USMC (Ret) "Bobby"
- Mary Helen Dorchester Harris
- Col Russell McChesney Harwood, USMC (Ret)
- Maj Orrin W. Johnson, USMCR (Ret)

- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Austin P. Roberts
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
- The 5 killed in 'targeted attack' at Capital Gazette newspaper in Annapolis
- Emma Thomson
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC – KIA, ROK 1951
- Doyle Jackson Todd, Jr. "Jake"
- Jennifer Lynn Topp
- SSgt E. L. "Knobby" Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea