



MMA LEADER

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

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Dedicated to Our Cadets » The Leaders of Tomorrow

Feb./March 2019



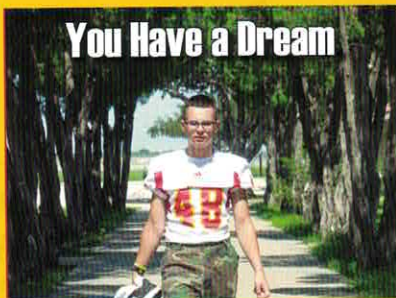
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Recent Events



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and Mrs. Jodi Hill during the H.M. Smith Fellows induction ceremony.



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill, MMA Board of Trustees Chairman Richard Moxley and USAA CEO Stuart Parker after the event.



MMA's Color Guard shined during the General H.M. Smith dinner.



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill presents the H.M. Smith Fellow blazer to MSgt Michael Krauss.

General H.M. Smith Dinner

Cadets encouraged to live by core values

This year's General H.M. Smith Dinner had excellent advice from a successful CEO and emotional moments courtesy of the Marine Military Academy's superintendent.

The affair was much like the ones before. The induction ceremony and an uplifting speech from one of the nation's top business men.

MMA Board of Trustees Chair Richard Moxley introduced the guest speaker and Iwo Jima Leadership Award recipient, Mr. Stuart Parker. He is the chief executive officer for USAA, one of America's leading financial services companies.

Parker told cadets to treasure their time at MMA.

"Savor the moment. Enjoy this time with your friends," he said.

His other advise was, "call mom!"

"Make sure you pick up the phone and

you tell her how much you are thinking about her. ... Also, text your dad," he said. "They relish those messages."

Parker also encouraged cadets to live by their core values.

"Honesty, integrity, loyalty and service. ... You will learn that, in life, your reputation will precede you, and it will follow you," he said.

During the H.M. Smith Fellows induction ceremony, MMA Director of Operations MSgt Michael Krauss was the first to accept the blue blazer. MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill then called on his wife to help him with the second induction.

As he read the inductee's biography, it became evident he was speaking of his wife, Jodi Hill. Audience members and Mrs. Hill herself couldn't hold back tears as a cadet walked up to the podium with the blue blazer.

Recent Events

Member of MMA classes 1969 to 2018 returned to Harlingen for the 2019 Alumni Reunion.

Brotherhood Unites

Alumni Return to MMA for Annual Reunion

Fifty nine Marine Military Academy graduates returned home to MMA for the 2019 Alumni Reunion.

Members of classes ranging from 1969 to 2018 gathered on campus for a weekend of fun.

The reunion kicked off April 5 with morning colors. Later that day, the band of brothers joined MMA Superintendent R. Glenn Hill and Chief of Staff Christopher Dowling as the current Corps of Cadets marched during the 2019 Alumni Reunion Parade.

The graduates got an opportunity to encourage the current senior class during the Pin Ceremony.

"I always wanted to fly," said Cameron McCormick, Class of 1994.

"Today I fly Airbuses for United Airlines," he said.

Cameron said the discipline he learned at MMA helped get to where he is today.

"You go from being a kid and become

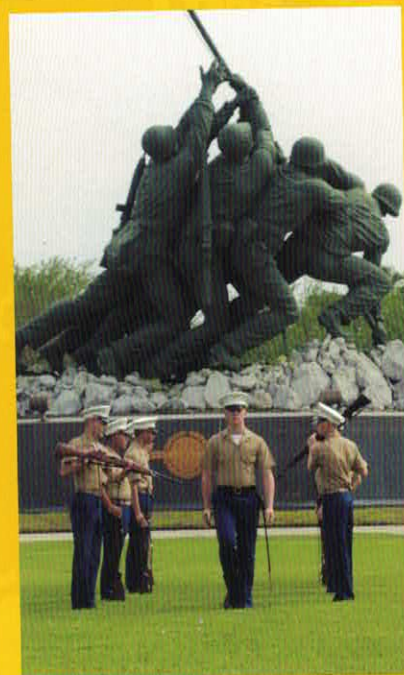
a man," he said. "You learn to take care of yourself."

Cameron reminded the soon-to-be graduates that they will be on their own once they leave MMA.

On Saturday, some of the alumni and their wives boarded the Hard Bottom Too for a morning of fishing. Another group headed to River Bend Golf Club where they showcased their prowess on the links.

That night, the former cadets and their families gathered in the Great White room at the Hilton Garden Inn South Padre Island for the 2019 Alumni Reunion Dinner.

During the event, MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill thanked the alumni for their support and continued commitment to the academy. He also announced his retirement and introduced current MMA Chief of Staff and future Superintendent Col Christopher Dowling and his wife Mrs. Karen Dowling.



MMA Drill Team members wooed the crowd with their performance during the 2019 Alumni Parade.



2019 Alumni Reunion events included a golf outing at River Bend Golf Club.



A sea robin, a puffer fish and plenty of laughs were the haul during the 2019 Alumni Reunion fishing trip.

Recent Events



Senior Joshua L. Curry leads the charge in the assembly of shelving units at a food pantry in San Antonio.

Cadet Helps Food Bank

Senior Joshua L. Curry spent part of his Spring Break helping out Christian Family Baptist Church's food pantry in San Antonio.

His pastor, the Rev. Rob Johnson, said Curry helped assemble 14 shelving units and helped distribute more than 11,000 pounds of food to more than 500 people in need.

Volunteer Luncheon

Marine Military Academy hosted its yearly luncheon for the men and women who serve selflessly at the MMA Museum and Visitor Center.

MMA Superintendent R. Glenn Hill welcomed the volunteers and expressed his undying gratitude for all the work they do to make the site one of the top tourist destinations in the Rio Grande Valley.

He also thanked the volunteers for being an inspiration for many of the young men who call MMA home.



Mess Night brings cadets and staff together for a night of fun and games.

Fun Times at Mess Night

It was a night of fun and games as cadets and staff celebrated the Marine Corps tradition of Mess Night.

The event happened March 1 at the Neuhaus Mess Hall.

The gathering is one of the most honored traditions by the Marine Corps. The event is full of pomp and circumstance, but entertainment is also part of the affair.

Those who "violated" the rules of the mess, or the standards of etiquette everyone must follow, were ordered to do something to entertain the rest. The result was a slew of shenanigans that made for a night of laughter.

The event is held once during the school year and gives cadets the opportunity to have fun while celebrating Marine Corps tradition.

Cadets, Staff Donate Life

The Marine Military Academy National Honor Society held its spring blood drive March 27. Thanks to the MMA cadets and employees who answered the call, United Blood Services of Harlingen collected 72 units of precious blood. The amount was enough to surpass the 120-unit goal for the year. The grand total was 131.

Though blood is always needed, there is a greater shortage this spring due to the winter flu outbreak that made many people too sick to donate. This time, 63 donors answered the call at MMA!

NHS holds a blood drive twice a year.



Cadets gladly took a hit to the vein to help save lives.

Athletics



MMA boxers bring home the trophies from the most recent Golden Gloves competition in Palmview.

MMA Boxers Shine at Golden Gloves Tournament

Marine Military Academy's Boxing Team participated in the 2019 Rio Grande Valley Golden Gloves Tournament Feb. 8-9 in Palmview.

Sophomore **Sabastien D. Foy** came out victorious after a three-round battle and brought home a first-place trophy.

Senior **Hunter Omo-Osagie** had two grueling battles with boxers from Laredo. He earned a second-place trophy.

Junior **William Jennings** came out guns blazing but was not able to take control of the bout. He earned a second-place trophy against a boxer from Palmview.

Junior **William Parrish** was outmatched but showed plenty of heart and grit in all three rounds. He earned a second-place trophy.

All boxers trained hard and gave a great effort in their first boxing match.



MMA Cycling Team members participated in the Jalapeño 100 race Feb. 23.

Jalapeño 100

MMA Cadets Hit the Road for Annual Race

The members of the Marine Military Academy cycling team participated in the Jalapeño 100 Feb. 23.

The Jalapeño 100 is a long-distance ride divided into segments of 12.5, 25, 50, 62 and 100 miles.

Each year the Academy provides a color guard for the opening ceremony. This year, the Fox Company Color Guard was nothing less than outstanding. Events officials praised the cadets for their stellar performance.

The team broke into three groups. One group participated in the 25-mile ride, one in the 50-mile ride and senior **Dogukan H. Petek** participated in the 100-mile portion.

Team 1 was made up of MSgt Michael Krauss, Chaplain Zachary Habersang, senior **Junyang Liu**, freshman **David J. Stilwell** and freshman **Justin R. Blakenship**. They

enjoyed the 25-mile ride, which they completed in one hour and 30 minutes at an average speed of 17.3 mph.

Team 2 was made up of Mr. Earl Gander, senior **Cameron J. Daniel** and junior **David G. Hunt**. They completed the 50-mile ride in 2 hours and 20 minutes with an average speed of 23 mph with a headwind of 13 mph.

Petek has more than 10 years of cycling experience. His plan was to finish the 100-mile race.

He joined the first group of riders and was maintaining an average speed of 29 mph for the first 25 miles.

Thirty miles into the ride he suffered an injury that forced him to abandon the ride.

His attempt at completing the 100 miles was nothing less than outstanding.

Leadership Defined

LtCol Allen West outlines strategies for success

Failure is almost likely if we fail to plan. That was the message LTC Allen West, U.S. Army (ret), had for cadets during his visit to Marine Military Academy April 3.

West spoke to the MMA Corps of Cadets about the importance of setting goals, coming up with a plan to achieve them and following through.

"In life, most people don't plan to fail, but fail to plan," he said.

He shared his 22 years of leadership experience in the U.S. Army and of his time as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

West outlined the five "C" of leadership: courage, competence, commitment, conviction and character.

"It's very easy to swim with the current. It's very easy to go along with the crowd. It's very easy to be whatever society tells you to be in order to be a cool kid," West said. "But as you go through life, you are going to have to find the courage to stand up, and stand alone."

He told cadets about the importance of being competent in whatever they do.

"That's why you are here. So you can focus on academics, so you can stand alone and have an incredible intellectual capability and compassion," he said.

West reminded cadets that good



Allen West, a former Army lieutenant colonel and member of the House of Representatives, visited Marine Military Academy to speak with cadets about leadership and the importance of living a clean life.

leaders are committed to their cause and have conviction.

He also spoke about the importance of developing a strong character.

"Character is doing what is right when no one is watching," he said.

He said leaders know when they do the right thing.

West made emphasis on living a clean life.

"(Your mind and body) are your most important weapon," he said.

"Keep you weapon clean," he said.

West told cadets staying away from distractions and the temptations of today's world helps young men become better leaders.

"Walk tall. Look at people eyeball to eyeball. That's the measure of a person," West said.

"If you are professional, if you have your weapon clean, if you have courage, confidence commitment, conviction and character, you can look anyone eye to eye," he said.

Cadet Life

It's All About the Future

Campaign encourages cadets to avoid giving in to peer pressure

The times .. they are a changin', and not always for the better.

The increasing pressure from society to normalize certain behaviors and even the use of some drugs creates a perception of safety among teens, according to the Caron Treatment Centers of Pennsylvania.

Teens now feel it is acceptable to engage in some behaviors that may have lifelong consequences.

The e-cigarette trend sweeping the nation is a prime example of that, according to experts.

The use of the devices has become so pervasive among teens that the U.S. surgeon general issued an advisory in December declaring e-cigarette use (vaping) among youth as an epidemic in the United States.

Researchers found out that there are up to "15 carcinogens in all types of vape juice, not matter the nicotine level. Carcinogens are proven to cause cancer. It can leave debris in the bottom of your lungs that doubles your chances of suffocating and pneumonia.

"The nicotine level in juuls is so high that it contains the equivalent of 20 cigarettes in one pod, no matter the flavor. Such high nicotine levels slow down the development of your frontal cortex which doesn't fully develop until you are 25.

This can affect the development of one's personality and can cause heavy mood swings.

"Nicotine is proven to be more addictive than heroin because of how easily accessible it is as well as how quickly is it received in opioid receptors in your brain.

"Peer pressure is the reason teens get addicted to vaping because many consider it to be cool."

In an effort to counter that trend, Marine Military Academy embarked on a campaign to encourage cadets to make wise choices.

The idea behind the "You Have a Dream" campaign is to create awareness among cadets about how far they have come in life and how much they risk to lose by making the wrong decisions.

The awareness campaign will



cover issues beyond vaping. The goal is to address every issue that may impact a cadet's ability to focus on his future goals.

The campaign's message will be disseminated through posters in all areas of the academy and constant verbal reinforcement by MMA's faculty and staff.

Student of the Month - February**Zeb Mayhew of Prairieville, La. - English**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 8, Activities: Soccer

Future education goals: Attend Louisiana State University.

Career goals: I would like to have a career in pathology, which would allow me to help find cures for some of the world's most deadly diseases.

**William T. Jennings of Winthrop, Wash. - Foreign Language**

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 11, Activities: Boxing

Future education goals: Graduate with an English major from Montana State University.

Career goals: Become an officer in the Marine Corps.

**Peiyuan Zhao of Beijing, China - General Studies**

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, Activities: Tennis

Future education goals: I plan to attend the University of Southern California and major in game design.

Career goals: I plan to create and establish a company that will design games that are different than what is on the market today.

**Charles W. Drapela of Boerne, Texas - Math**

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 9, Activities: Band & Soccer

Future education goals: To graduate from MMA and go to Texas A & M.

Career goals: Go to the Police Academy and become a police officer.

**Samuel S. Clement, Houston - Science**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8, Activities: Weight lifting

Future education goals: I strive for a 3.5 or above GPA at MMA, so that I may get into the college of my choice.

Career goals: I plan to own and operate my own company that sells oil rigs.

**Shi-Lun Yang of Kaoshung, Taiwan - Social Studies**

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant

Grade: 10, Activities: Basketball

Future education goals: I plan to attend the University of West Virginia. I would like to enlist in the Marines after I graduate from MMA.

Career goals: I really will enjoy serving in the Marine Corp. It will give me the confidence and discipline that I need in life.

Cadet of the Month - February**Daniel Dobson of Wylie, Texas. - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 10, Activities: Tennis
Education goals: Obtain a 3.7 GPA at MMA.
Career goals: Become a software engineer.

**Victor S. Breitenbach of Austin, Texas - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 10, Activities: Swimming
Education goals: I would like to attend UT-Austin and major in computer software engineering.
Career goals: I would like to work for Apple computer company.

**Maxwell Fortin of Boston, Mass. - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant
Grade: 11, Activities: Drill Team
Education goals: Major in political science.
Career goals: I plan to be commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and serve as a Judge Advocate General (JAG).

**Eric E Eckstein of Indianapolis, Ind. - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 7, Activities: Band
Education goals: I plan to attend The University of Indiana.
Career goals: My plan is to work in family business.

**Ethan Gordon of Houston, Texas - Golf Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 12, Activities: Band & Drill Team
Education goals: I plan to major in Computer Science at West Virginia University.
Career goals: Become video game design programmer.

**David Y. Chin of Spicewood, Texas - Leatherneck Band**

Company: Echo, Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 10. Activities: Band and Golf
Education goals: Finish high school and attend college.
Career goals: I plan to get into the medical field.

**Erick V. Reyes Mejia of Veracruz, Mexico - Silent Drill Team**

Company: Echo, Rank: Cadet First Sergeant
Grade: 11. Activity: Color Guard
Education goals: I plan to attend to a business school in Spain and major in economics.
Career goals: I would like to work as a forensic scientist.

Student of the Month - March**Hunter J. Omo-Osagie of Urbana, Ill. - English**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 12, Activities: Boxing

Future education goals: I plan to attend Texas Tech and major in finance specializing in risk management.

Career goals: I plan to work for a corporation as a CFO or open my own business.

**Cameron J. Daniel of Tomball, Texas - Foreign Language**

Rank: Cadet Captain

Grade: 12, Activities: Swimming/Cycling

Future education goals: I plan to get a degree in cyber security at the University of Texas-Dallas.

Career goals: I want to work in the private sector for a cyber security firm and work toward higher management.

**Gunnar A. Helms of Lake Dallas, Texas - General Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 11, Activities: Baseball

Future education goals: I want to attend the University of Colorado-Boulder to study drama/theater production.

Career goals: I want to be a lighting designer for the entertainment industry.

**David G. Hunt of Dallas - Science**

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 11, Activities: Cycling

Future education goals: I plan to receive a degree in computer science.

Career goals: I plan to become a computer and information systems manager.

**James T. Neuhoﬀ of Dallas - Math**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 10, Activities: Weight Training

Future education goals: I plan to go to Texas A&M University and major in business specializing in residential real-estate.

Career goals: I intend to be a real-estate agent in Texas.

**Logan T. Marianno of College Station, Texas - Social Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 10, Activities: Drill team

Future education goals: I would like to attend the United States Military Academy and major in defense and strategic studies.

Career goals: I would like to make a career as an officer in the United States Army.

Cadet of the Month - March**David G. Hunt of Dallas - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 11, Activities: Cycling

Future education goals: I plan to receive a four-year degree in computer science.

Career goals: I plan to become a computer and information systems manager.

**Thomas Upright of Frisco, Texas - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 9, Activities: Track and Field/Aerospace

Education goals: I would like to achieve at least a 3.0 or above next quarter, to show my mom and dad at home what I have achieved.

Career goals: I will apply for the Air Force Academy then become commissioned as an Air Force officer.

**James T. Neuhoft of Dallas - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 10, Activities: Weight Training

Future education goals: I plan to go to Texas A&M University and major in business specializing in residential real estate.

Career goals: I intend to be a real estate agent in Texas.

**David Vazquez Zendejas of Atizpan de Zaragoza, Mexico - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8, Activities: Drill Team

Education goals: Graduate from MMA and attend a university.

Career goals: I plan to work in my family's business.

**Amechi J. Obigwe of Vernon, Texas - Leatherneck Band**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11, Activities: Band

Education goals: Attend University of Texas-Austin or Texas Christian University.

Career goals: I would like to become a psychiatrist and hopefully have my own private practice.

**Logan Marianno of College Station, Texas - Silent Drill Team**

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 10, Activities: Drill Team

Future education goals: I would like to attend the United States Military Academy and major in defense and strategic studies.

Career goals: I would like to make a career as an officer in the United States Army.



Important Dates

- **April 25-28:** Spring Fling family weekend.
- **May 4:** SAT
- **May 6:** Deadline for Financial Aid Application for 2019-20
- **May 13-15:** Second Semester Exams
- **May 17:** Eagle Scout Ceremony
Academic Awards/Spring Sports Awards
- **May 18:** Graduation Parade, Awards, Graduation
- **June 1:** Re-Enrollment Contracts 2019-20 Deadline
- **June 29 - July 27:** Summer Camp
- **August 11:** Band Camp, Football Camp, Leadership Orientation check-in.
- **August 17:** Registration and check-in for first-year cadets.
- **August 18:** Check-in for returning cadets.
- **August 19-20:** Orientation for plebes.

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!

Improved WiFi Connectivity for Barracks



MMA Tech Services Director Bill Hinkle, along with Earl Gander and Rey Ordonez, shows some of the new WiFi equipment destined for the barracks.

Out with the old and in with the new! Marine Military Academy is in the process of upgrading WiFi access in all the barracks.

The new technology will allow cadets to have better access to the Internet during their study time and the limited time they are allowed to use their phones or other devices.

The improvements are made possible by the generous donations of all our benefactors.

MMA relies on those donations to keep our facilities operating in optimum condition.

We are eternally grateful for everyone who continues to help MMA forging tomorrow's leaders.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- 1stSgt Felix Hernandez, USMC (Ret) – MMA G-Co. DI
- Col Robert G. Hill, USMC (Ret)
- SgtMaj Delvin R. Smythe, USMC (Ret) – MMA E-Co. DI

In Memory Of

- Jose L. Basaldua
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- Capt James H. Garbrick, USMC (Ret)
- Dorothy L. Hamilton

- Gayle Carter Hamilton
- Donna Jean Harris
- Mary Ellen Kimball
- John Klein
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- LtCol Stephen Percy, USMCR (Ret)
- Andrew Taylor Simmons
- John Haddock Stevenson, IV
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
- SSgt E. L. "Knobby" Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea