



MMA LEADER

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

Volume 33, Issue 1

Dedicated to Our Cadets » The Leaders of Tomorrow

June/July 2019



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Campers learn discipline, focus.

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Summer Camp

High & Tight

At Marine Military Academy, all summer campers must get the perfect "wash-n-go" hairstyle: the induction cut! Campers are given the shortest possible clipper cut so they can develop a greater sense of confidence and unity. Below are some of the boys who rocked their new 'do!



James Rayford Bruning of Humble, Texas



Axel Andre Gutierrez of Houston



Kaden Tyler Murphy of Houston



Nicolas Pizarro Suarez of Mission, Texas

Summer Camp Registration

Nearly 400 boys from all corners of the globe checked in for Marine Military Academy Summer Camp June 29.

Traffic was high in the Cadet Activity Center as parents, siblings and other relatives dropped off the campers and wished them well. After saying goodbye to their families, the campers were guided by cadet instructors through in-processing before getting settled into their rooms.



The Gonzalez brothers ready for the adventure of a lifetime.



Summer campers and their families are all smiles as they arrive at Valley International Airport.



Summer campers listen to instructions during registration day.



A group of summer campers arrives at Valley International Airport after a long flight from China.

Summer Camp

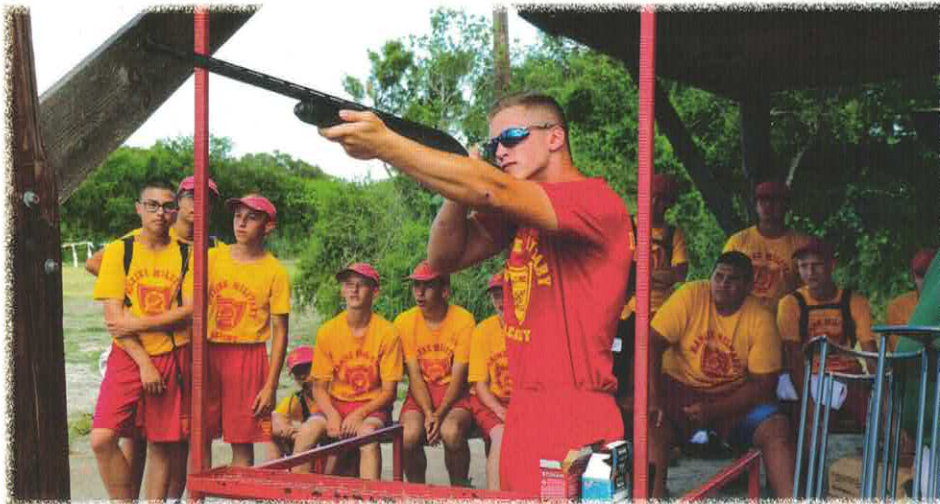
Fun at Camp Perry

All the Marine Military Academy companies took a field trip to Camp Perry in nearby Rio Hondo, Texas, the third week of the 2019 MMA Summer Camp.

All campers engage in archery, swimming, canoeing and skeet shooting. The trip gives campers the opportunity to spend an afternoon in the outdoors of South Texas.



Campers enjoy an afternoon of canoeing in the Arroyo Colorado.



Skeet shooting is becoming one of the favorite activities among campers at Camp Perry.



MMA summer campers enjoy a dip in the new Camp Perry swimming pool.

The platoons of each company competed against one another in the Drill Competition July 26. At this annual event, 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 Gary Bass, USMC (Ret).



MMA summer campers prepare to execute drill commands.



Platoon 401 is all smiles after winning the drill competition.

MMA LEADER

Summer Camp

Honor Man & Most Improved

Twenty-four campers were recognized for their distinguished achievement at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp. Given to a camper from each

platoon, the Honor Man award is presented to the young man who consistently exemplified the Marine Corps qualities and values. The Most

Improved award goes to the individual who showed the most physical and/or mental growth during the four weeks of camp.

Platoon 101 (Alpha)



Honor Man
Blessed O. Mukolo
Luanda, Angola



Most Improved
George R. Reich
Wildwood, Mo.

Platoon 201 (Alpha)



Honor Man
Joseph L.
Introna Jr.
Brielle, NJ



Most Improved
Ethan M. Small
Enid, Okla.

Platoon 301 Delta



Honor Man
Trevor W. Rubino
Northampton, Penn.



Most Improved
Joseph A.
Gladyszewski
McLean, Va.

Platoon 401 Delta



Honor Man
Kevin R. Mendez Jr.
Lighthouse Point,
Fla.



Most Improved
Nickalas D. Anglin
Glenwood, Ark.

Platoon 501 (Echo)



Honor Man
Brandon M.
Flowers
Oak Harbor, Wash.



Most Improved
Silas J. Smith
Guthrie, Okla.

Platoon 601 (Echo)



Honor Man
Nathan G. Hedger
Weatherford,
Texas



Most Improved
Steven F. Driscoll
Valdosta, Ga.

Platoon 701 (Echo)



Honor Man
Maher Zayed
Alborno
Edinburg, Texas



Most Improved
Zachary A.
Hashemian
Odessa, Fla.

Platoon 801 (Echo)



Honor Man
Sebastian J.
Vallejo
Clermont, Fla.



Most Improved
Matthew J. Maglio
Jupiter, Fla.

Platoon 901 (Charlie)



Honor Man
Tyler C. Frieze
Maricopa, Ariz.



Honor Man
Gabriel S. Prickett
Weatherford,
Texas

Platoon 1001 (Charlie)



Honor Man
Taye L. Hall Smith
Clovis, N.M.



Most Improved
Jad Adams
Houston

Platoon 1101 (Fox)



Honor Man
Magnus L. Velez
New York



Most Improved
Slater M. Payne
Katy, Texas

Platoon 1201 (Fox)



Honor Man
Emil A. Daniyar
Naples, Fla.



Most Improved
Nicolas R. Distefano
Montebello, Calif.

Summer Camp

ESL Summer Camp

The English as a Second Language campers learned inside and outside the classroom at Marine Military Academy.

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!

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.



ESL summer campers prepare to launch a model rocket.



A model rocket roars to life after MMA ESL summer campers push the ignition button from a distance.



Summer campers keep an eye on their model rocket as it takes to the sky.

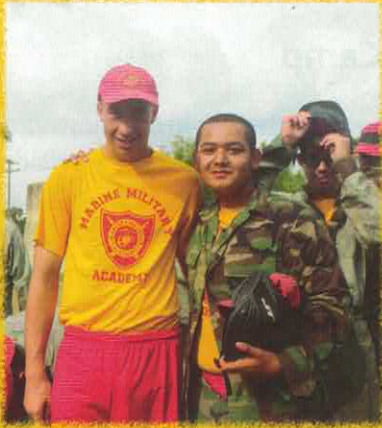


ESL summer campers display the model rockets they built during class.



Young men from all over the world attend MMA's ESL Summer Camp.

Cover Story



MMA campers develop strong friendships during their time at the academy.



Courage and determination on display.



Summer campers proudly march a day before the graduation ceremony.



Marine Military Academy Superintendent Col Christopher S. Dowling, USMC (Ret), salutes a young camper.

Transformation Complete

MMA Summer Campers learn value of determination

Hundreds of young men received their certificate of completion at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony July 27.

The ceremony was the culmination of a four-week military adventure that thought campers the importance of discipline and determination.

Expectations were high when parents dropped off their sons at MMA on June 29.

"I hope he learns leadership skills and what it takes to be a young man growing up in today's society," said Daniel Abraham, mother of summer camper Kobe Abraham of Dallas.

"My expectation for my camper is for him to build his confidence and know that anything he does will help him fulfill his future," said Carroll J. Lee, grandmother of summer camper Nathaniel A. Britt of San Antonio.

Cover Story**Transformation Complete**

MMA Summer Campers test their resolve and determination at the Back 40.

The next 27 days would help the campers transform into the focused young men their parents expect them to be.

MMA's structured environment helped the young men concentrate on the activities that helped them shape their bodies and develop their character. It was part of the transformation.

As stated on the MMA website, "Every camper is expected to adhere to and benefit from the Marine Corps values that govern MMA — courage, honor, commitment. While a great deal of summer camp is about fun, it is equally focused on discipline and leadership. Each camper learns the importance of teamwork and positive reinforcement, while gaining valuable leadership skills that will give them a competitive edge in their future."

"These young men averaged 11.3



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

miles a day ... running, hiking," Marine Military Academy Superintendent Col Christopher S. Dowling, USMC, (Ret), told the crowd before the Summer Camp Graduation Parade.

"You sent your sons here ... we showed them how to clean a room. They know how to make a bed," Col Dowling said as he spoke about the

many other things campers learned during their time at MMA.

Parents were excited to see the change in their sons.

Nelson Gonzalez, of San Antonio, is familiar with the positive impact MMA's Summer Camp can have on a teen. His son Nelson Jr. attended camp for the second time this year. It was also his son Fabricio's first year.

"They are encouraged to conquer their fears and accomplish things they don't even know the can," Gonzalez said.

Many parents choose to continue that transformation by enrolling their sons for the school year.

"What an amazing experience this has been," said Moji Solo Wilson.

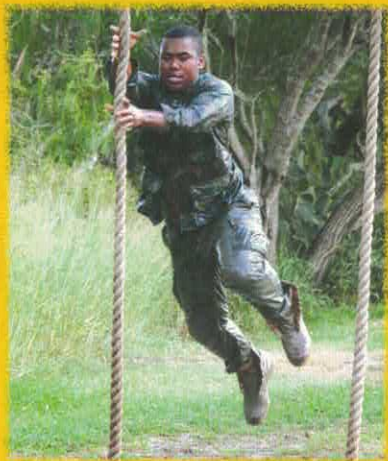
"I was afraid at the very beginning, but what an amazing job you did," she said. Her son, Percy was enrolled to return to MMA during the 2019-2020 academic year.

Summer Camp

Iron Man Competition



It's all about speed and agility as campers negotiate the Back 40 obstacle course.



A little mud before the end of the race.



The Iron Man Competition helps campers put into practice the teamwork they've learned at MMA.

On July 22, Platoon 101 finished the Marine Military Academy Iron Man with the top time of 44 minutes and 51 seconds.

Iron Man had three winning platoons, one for each division. Platoon 101 took first in the Oldest Boys division; Platoon 501 took first place in the Middle Boys division with a time of 49 minutes and 40 seconds; and Platoon 901 took first in the Youngest Boys division with a time of 56 minutes and 51 seconds.

This multi-event race requires 24 campers from each platoon to participate. The whole campus is utilized during Iron Man, and the race starts and ends at Bowman Stadium.

The platoon teams must complete 12 events in the following order: Initial Run, Low Crawl, Fireman's Carry, Rifle Range, Run to Obstacle Course, Obstacle Course, Confidence Course, Run to Paintball Course, Paintball, Mud Course, Swim and Final Run.

Listed are the finishing times for each platoon:

• 101	44:51	• 201	N/A
• 301	45:02	• 401	52:13
• 501	49:40	• 601	51:40
• 701	52:00	• 801	62:04
• 901	56:51	• 1001	54:02
• 1101	60:55	• 1201	62:00

Iron Man is always the third Sunday of summer camp.



Let the games begin! MMA summer campers kick off the Iron Man Competition with a sprint at Bowman Stadium.



Low crawl requires campers to carry a rubber rifle replica while they race to the finish line.

Summer Camp

Company Social a Big Hit

Hundreds of Marine Military Academy Summer Camp parents gathered along Battalion Street to see their sons march. The event marked the end of four weeks of physical training and character-development.

MMA's Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Gary Bass, USMC (Ret), welcomed parents as they anxiously waited to see their sons for the first time in four weeks.

Each company marched proudly amid thundering cheers.

MMA Superintendent Col Christopher S. Dowling, USMC (Ret), spoke about the transformation the young men experienced during the four weeks.

"These are not the same young men you gave us 28 days ago," he said.

Col Dowling reminded campers that they can do anything if they put their mind to it.

Parents and campers later gathered outside their company barracks where they enjoyed a meal.



Families ready to see their sons for the first time in four weeks.



The 2019 Summer Camp March On and Company Social.



Parents show pride for their sons during the 2019 Summer Camp March On and Company Social.



Campers and their families enjoy a meal during the Company Social.



MMA drill instructors shared stories with parents about the campers' experience.

Alumni Affairs



Coast Guard Promotion

William "Drew" Hasbrook, MMA Battalion Commander, Class of 2011, was recently promoted to Lieutenant in the U.S. Coast Guard.



Time to Celebrate

MMA Alumni gathered June 29 at the American Legion in Angleton, Texas, to celebrate the 94th birthday of former Academy SgtMaj William "Bill" Steigerwald.

Share your stories! Send photos and a description of your momentous occasion to rodriguez@mma-tx.org



Brotherhood Unites

Marine Military Academy graduates gathered recently in Houston and Dallas during a couple of informal reunions.

The events were organized by MMA's new Director of Alumni Affairs SgtMaj Ford Kinsley. More gatherings are planned for other cities.

The office of Alumni Affairs will contact graduates to notify them of reunions in a city near them.

Be on the lookout for the next gathering!



MMA Alumni Director SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret), (left) 2002 MMA graduate Matthew Marcus, MMA Director of Institutional Advancement LtCol Robert Grider, USMC (Ret), and MMA Superintendent Col Christopher Dowling, USMC (Ret).



Houston area MMA alumni gathered on June 11 at the 8th Wonder Brewery owned by 2002 MMA graduate Matthew Marcus.

In Memoriam

MMA Alumnus Leaves Indelible Mark

Dr. Paul K. Olson a pioneer in the medical field

Dr. Paul Kenneth Olson, geneticist, biochemist, immunologist and co-founder of multiple companies with an emphasis in life science, died Sept. 19, 2018. He was 51.

Dr. Olson graduated from Marine Military Academy in 1985. He was born in Saint Paul, Minn., on Jan. 22, 1967, to Kenneth Olson and the late LaDonna (Lewis) Olson. Graduate of University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, PhD, Molecular Genetics, and The University of Wisconsin-Madison, BS Bacteriology.

Dr. Olson was an integral part of NUCLEUS (Louisville, Ky.) and subsequently, CORTEX (St. Louis, Mo.) research and innovation communities, where he impacted the lives of so many scientists and entrepreneurs, in addition to the many other academic and professional colleagues at universities and research institutions around the world.

Service to others, through both selfless personal devotion to his friends, family and even total strangers, and passionate pursuit of advancement in research to help treat and cure human disease, was the rent he paid for his existence.

His entrepreneurial spirit was pivotal in the founding of multiple companies to promulgate the research and development of new discoveries to help mankind and improve human health. Together with his many friends



Dr. Paul K. Olson



and colleagues, Dr. Olson pioneered advancements in drug discovery, gene therapy, vaccine development and diagnostics, impacting a diverse number of medical fields and disease indications.

Potentia Pharmaceuticals, Apellis, Kypha, Common Place Holdings,

OpenCell Technologies, and Serion were among the companies he helped establish or lead.

Dr. Olson's many sacrifices and discoveries will not end in death, because of the continuation of fellow entrepreneurs and researchers such as Chad Stiening, Pascal Deschatelets, Cedric Francois, Zhouning Zhang, Elizabeth Schramm, Paul Olivo, Delphine El Mehdi, Steve Wagner, John Talley, and Ming Zhou Zhou, who continue on his and their paths of discovery.

Dr. Olson's work to cure devastating ocular diseases like age-related macular degeneration has now progressed to late-stage clinical testing as a promising treatment that could help hundreds of thousands of people in a few years.

He is survived by his Father: Kenneth Olson, of Iola; friends: Mitch, Dave, Chad, Pascal, Cedric, Whayne, Vernon, Steve, Charlie, and all other deep friends, limited in space to mention, and Humanity whose betterment, he dedicated his life to. He was preceded in death by his Mother: LaDonna (Lewis) Olson.

A formal appreciation and expression of gratitude to God for Dr. Olson was held Oct. 6, 2018, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Iola. The Reverend Mary Bope officiated.

Dr. Olson was laid to rest at Greenwood Cemetery in River Falls, Wis.

Obituary courtesy of Voie Funeral Home.

Important Dates

- **August 11:** Football Camp Check-in, by 3 p.m.
- **August 11:** Leadership Orientation, by 6 p.m.
- **August 17:** Check-in for First-Year Cadets, 8 a.m. to noon
- **August 18:** Check-in for Returning Cadets, by 6 p.m.
- **August 19-20:** Military Orientation for Plebes
- **August 21:** First Day of School
- **August 24:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **September 14:** MMA Parents' Organization Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- **September 14:** Introductory Training Graduation Parade, 10 a.m.
- **October 5:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **October 16-18:** 1st Quarter Exams
- **October 26:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **October 30:** PSAT, 8:45 a.m.
- **October 31:** Parent's Weekend

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!

Monument Update



The Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns were added this summer to the base of the Iwo Jima Monument at Marine Military Academy.

The Iwo Jima Monument was recently updated to reflect changes made to the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Va.

In 2017, crews with the National Parks Service added the engravings for the Afghanistan and Iraq campaigns to the base of the monument. The engravings

include only the years the campaigns began, 2001 and 2003, respectively. The U.S. Marine Corps History Division advised to leave the dates open-ended with room to engrave end dates in the future.

The Iwo Jima Monument at MMA also received a new coat of paint.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- Best Wishes to MMA – Class of 2019 Daniel Burke
- Col and Mrs. Robert G. Hill, USMC (Ret)

In Memory Of

- Matthew W. Freeman – MMA 2000
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN

- Senator John Sidney McCain, III
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Fern C. Ovenden
- Patrick Rodriguez
- John Haddock Stevenson, IV
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
- SSgt E. L. "Knobby" Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea