



MMA LEADER

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

Volume 32, Issue 3

Dedicated to Our Cadets » The Leaders of Tomorrow

Oct./Nov. 2018



CADETS DONATE LIFE

National Honor Society holds blood drive. »»»»» Page 3



SCOUTS IN ACTION

Troop 22 in full force at Camp Perry »»»»» Page 4



FOCUS ON PREVENTION

MMA staff learns about depression »»»»» Page 5



Carmen Garcia/Marine Military Academy

HONORED TRADITION

Marine Military Academy Celebrates Birthday, Marine Corps Anniversary »»»»» Page 6

Parents' Weekend

Parents from all over the world traveled to Marine Military Academy to join their sons during Parents' Weekend Nov. 2-3.

Parents attended morning colors Friday before visiting their sons' teachers during the open house. That afternoon, they headed to the parade grounds for the 53rd Anniversary Parade.

Saturday, cadets and their parents enjoyed an evening of dining and dancing during the 53rd Birthday Ball. The event also marked the 243rd anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.

Public Notice

Asbestos Plan

IN ACCORDANCE with 40 CFR Part 763 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Section 736.93 pertaining to the Asbestos-in-School Identification and Notification Rule, Marine Military Academy hereby notifies all concerned parties of the availability of an Asbestos Management Plan. The plan and copy of inspections and assessments are available for review during office hours, Monday through Friday, in the Central Administrative Office. Should any interested parties desire to view the plan, contact the MMA Facilities Department at (956) 423-6006, ext. 244, or facilities@MMA-TX.org.

Recent Events

Anniversary Parade Honors Tradition



Cadets prepare to march during the 53rd Anniversary Parade Nov. 2.



MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and class of 1999 graduate John W. B. Klein during the pass in review.

Marine Military Academy celebrated its 53rd birthday with a parade Nov. 2. The event also marked the 243rd anniversary of the U.S. Marine Corps.

MMA families and members of the community packed the bleachers as cadets marched.

John W. B. Klein, Class of 1999, was the guest reviewing officer for the parade and the guest of honor at the ball. Mr. Klein is vice-president and general manager of Trans-Global Solutions Inc. Cedar Port Partners LP.

University Acceptances

- **John Boerschig** – Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi
- **Pierre Bonnimond** – Texas A&M, Tarelton University
- **Oluwalomose Debo-Ogunjimi** – University of Texas-Dallas, University of Texas-San Antonio
- **Cameron J. Daniel** – University of Houston, University of Texas-Dallas
- **Alejandro Fonseca** – Miami Dade College
- **Diego Garcia Hernandez** – UDEM - Universidad de Monterrey
- **Spencer M. Gobert** – Blinn College, Lamar University
- **Nicholas J. Hartmann** – Blinn College
- **Brendan C. Jozwiak** – Blinn College, Texas State University
- **Anh N. Le** – Texas State University, Sam Houston State University
- **Xiang Li** – University of Nevada-Las Vegas
- **Dogukan H. Petek** – University of Northwestern Ohio
- **Benjamin S. Reading** – Texas State University, Texas A&M University, University of Houston
- **Trevor P. Roberts** – The Citadel
- **Alejandro Sanchez** – Universidad Pan Americana
- **Bryan C. Streiff** – University of Mary Hardin Baylor, University of Oregon

Recent Events

MMA Cadets, Staff Participate in Blood Drive

We've all heard the line countless times – "One blood donation can save up to three lives."

Many of us ignore the phrase, but for Marine Military Academy cadets it's a call to action.

"We are doing something good for the community," said first-time blood donor senior Pierre Bonnimond of Paris, France.

The blood drive happened Oct. 24 at the Cadet Activity Center. A second event is planned for March of 2019. Last academic year, MMA cadets and staff donated 103 units of blood. The goal is to surpass that number this year, said MMA Mathematics Chairperson and National Honor Society Sponsor Rosalinda Garcia.

"One of the main things is to save lives," Garcia said. MMA's NHS sponsors the event each semester.

Cameron Cox, donor recruitment representative for United Blood Services, spoke about the importance of having cadets donate blood. He said the donations instill empathy and



Senior Ruben Arellano Jr. of Chatsworth, Calif., is all smiles as he prepares to give blood.

selflessness in the young men.

"The fact that they can come in and help a complete stranger ... that's amazing. It's a beautiful thing," Cox said.

Senior John Paul Boerschig II of Washington, Texas, knows how important his donation is and the impact it has on others.

"When you get that text that says, 'you saved a person's life,' it's amazing. Last year, I got one. ... Someone had been in a car accident, and my blood was used to save that person's life," Boerschig said.



MMA Food Services Director Carlos Centeno (foreground) and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill donate blood.

MMA Athletics

Marine Military Academy athletes have been very active during the first semester of the 2018-19 school year.

The mighty Leathernecks football team ended the season with a nail-biter of a game against Los Fresnos.

The Leathernecks basketball team has been racking up wins in a very contested category.



The Leathernecks Basketball Team continues its strong season.



Football season ended with an exciting game against Los Fresnos.



Leatherneck soccer players celebrate a win.

Flag Retirement

Near-freezing temperatures didn't keep members of Marine Military Academy's Boy Scout Troop 22 from holding the flag retirement ceremony Nov. 13.

The ceremony was scheduled for Nov. 10, but the inclement weather that gripped the region forced rescheduling of the event.

Members of the Texas Tropical Trail Tour were at the Iwo Jima Monument and Memorial Museum and helped the cadets retire dozens of U.S. flags.



Senior Pierre Bonnimond (left), sophomore Julian H. McGinley and senior Bryan Streiff.



A member of the Texas Tropical Trail tour tosses a flag strip into the fire at the retirement pit.

Recent Events



Eighth-grader David Alejandro Vazquez del Mercado Zendejas of Atizapan de Zaragoza, Mexico, belts out a song with the mariachi during the Camp Perry dining hall dedication ceremony.

MMA's Troop 22 Shines at Camp Perry Dedication

Members of Marine Military Academy's Boy Scout Troop 22 were out in full force during the dedication of the new dining hall at Camp Perry.

The cadets played a vital role in the preparation and serving of the feast.

The dedication of the new dinning hall was part of the Rio Grande Valley Council Boy Scouts of America "Adelante with Camp Perry" initiative. The project seeks to revitalize one of the oldest BSA ranches in Texas.

MMA cadets and summer campers are regulars at the camp, where they participate in a vast array of activities.



Freshman Corbyn O. Fallin of Houston hard at work during the dedication ceremony at Camp Perry.

Trunks o' Treats Yield Fun on Halloween Night

Ghoulish creatures took over MMA's campus Oct. 31 for the annual Trunk or Treat Halloween celebration.

Cadets and staff donned their best customs as they enjoyed an evening of fun and sharing.

All the companies also had their own Halloween celebrations. Cadets had a great time dressing up and enjoying the treats they received.



MMA cadets enjoyed an evening of fun during the Trunk or Treat event Oct. 31.

Cadet Growth

Focus on Prevention

MMA faculty, staff learn about suicide epidemic

Suicide has become one of the leading causes of death among teens in America, yet it's a topic that few dare to speak about, according to mental health experts.

Marine Military Academy faculty and staff became better familiarized with the epidemic during a workshop Oct. 29. Alberto Vasquez, business development specialist for Palms Behavioral Health, spoke about the countless challenges teens face in today's world. He also offered tips on how to look for warning signs – indicators that a teen may be falling into depression.

"It's very important to be aware of what is going on," Vasquez said.

He said social media has changed the way teens interact. The platforms also have become weapons for bullies.

"Bullying is not what it used to be," he said. "(In the past) there was no social media."

Vasquez said some teens now are victims of relentless bullying through those platforms.

"There was a case of a young boy recently who was harassed everyday through social media, until he took his father's gun and took his life," Vasquez said.

He said parents don't need to be



MMA Chief of Staff Col Christopher Dowling speaks about the importance of identifying the warning signs of suicide among young people.



Alberto Vasquez, with Palms Behavioral Health, offered advice on how to help teens cope with

experts in mental health to know that something is wrong with their sons.

"It's all about being aware," he said.

Vasquez said it's crucial to look for the following warning signs:

- »» Talking about suicide.
- »» Making statements about

feeling hopeless, helpless or worthless

- »» A deepening depression.
- »» Preoccupation with death.
- »» Taking unnecessary risks or exhibiting self-destructive behavior.
- »» Out-of-character behavior.
- »» A loss of interest in things one cares about.
- »» Making arrangements or settling affairs.
- »» Giving prized possessions away.

"We must increase awareness," Vasquez said.

The workshop was part of the proactive approach MMA takes to ensure cadets have a wholesome and safe environment in which they can thrive academically and personally.

It's part of the regular training staff undergoes during the academic year.

*Carmen Garcia/Marine Military Academy*

Cadets have fun during the 53rd MMA Birthday Ball. The formal military event happened Nov. 3 at King Gym.

A TIME TO CELEBRATE

MMA Birthday Ball Honors Tradition, Values

Parents from around the world traveled to Harlingen to help their sons celebrate Marine Military Academy's 53rd birthday and the U.S. Marine Corps 243rd anniversary.

The event is known as parents' weekend. It marks the first time MMA cadets see their parents since the beginning of the school year. The celebration included a parade Friday and a formal ball Saturday.

"This ball is exactly like the ball that is being held all over the world by United

States Marines," said MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill. "We honor the Marines that have gone before us ... the sacrifices that they have made."

Hill spoke about the importance of instilling the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment in every cadet at MMA.

The keynote speaker for the ball was John W. B. Klein, vice president and general manager of Trans-Global Solutions Inc. Cedar Port Partners L.P. in Baytown, Texas. Klein oversees the daily operations at the



Senior Santiago Martinez Alfaro of Mexico City, Mexico, shares a dance with his mother during the 53rd MMA Birthday Ball Nov. 3.

Cover Story



Carmen Garcia/Marine Military Academy

MMA Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill cuts the birthday cake during the ball Nov. 3.

largest intermodal logistics facility in the country. Klein, a 1999 graduate of MMA, was asked to join the academy's board of advisors in 2012.

Klein spoke about the importance of a good education and building strong bonds with fellow classmates. The message resonated with the cadets.

"It's a motivation to me and to the cadets," said MMA senior and cadet Battalion Commander LtCol Trevor Roberts, of Fairbanks, Alaska.

"We are celebrating the tradition of the school ... the values. It's something we believe in," Roberts said.

The event gives cadets the

chance to share with their families their experiences at the college-preparatory boarding school.

"It engages the families. They come in and see the growth, the discipline and the spirit that these young men have" said MMA Business Director Dr. John Butler.

"It allows us to become a closer family ... a closer-knit school and community. That is something we are very proud of," Butler said.

"We hope that as with our guest speaker ... the successes he has had ... that in some 30 years there will be a seventh-grader that was standing here and he will come back to inspire a new generation of MMA cadets," Butler said.



MMA's Color Guard enters King Gym during the 53rd Birthday Ball.



MMA cadets and their parents enjoyed delicious food before heading to King Gym for the 53rd Birthday Ball.



MMA cadets and their parents enjoyed a night of dancing after the ceremonial cutting of the cake during the 53rd Birthday Ball.

Student of the Month - October**Brayden T. Morris of Grapevine, Texas - English**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 9, Activities: Soccer

Future education goals: I plan to attend a technical school for construction.

Career goals: My goal is to join my family in the construction business.

**Zachary C. Benge of Houston - Foreign Language**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 9, Activities: Football.

Future education goals: I plan to graduate from MMA and apply to the Naval Academy in Annapolis.

Career goals: I plan to join the U.S. Marine Corps and become an officer.

**Trevor P. Roberts of Fairbanks, Alaska - General Studies**

Rank: Cadet Lieutenant Colonel

Grade: 12, Activities: Weightlifting & Rifle Team

Future education goals: I plan to attend the Naval Academy or Rice University.

Career goals: My goal is to be commissioned into the Marine Corps and serve in the infantry.

**Diego Hernandez Heredia of Monterrey, Mexico - Math**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, Activities: Drill team & Weightlifting

Future education goals: After graduating from MMA, I would like to attend a good college.

Career goals: I enjoy working with computers, so I would like to become a computer engineer.

**Luke H. Martin of Fort Worth, Texas - Science**

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 11, Activities: Jiu Jitsu

Education goals: I plan to attend college and later pursue a career with the Marine Corps.

Career goals: Join the U.S. Marine Corps and apply for the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

**Abdoulaye Diallo of Montreal, Canada - Social Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 12, Activities: Football & Soccer

Future education goals: I plan to attend the University of Houston.

Career goals: My plan is to become a real estate broker.

Cadet of the Month - October



Thornton H. Christine of Villanova, Penn. - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: Post Graduate Student, Activities: Golf

Education goals: Attend High Point University in Greensboro, N.C.

Career goals: I would like to obtain my EMT license.



Junyang Liu of Beijing, China - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant

Grade: 12, Activities: Basketball and cycling

Education goals: I plan to earn a degree in international trade.

Career goals: I would like to own a shoe store.



Archer Ferguson of Fort Davis, Texas - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 8, Activities: Soccer

Education goals: Graduate from MMA and attend college.

Career goals: I plan to work in cyber security.



Anh N. Le of Hanoi, Vietnam - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Captain

Grade: 12, Activities: Football

Education goals: I plan to earn a degree in criminal justice.

Career goals: I plan to join the U.S. Marine Corps and someday become an officer.



Huajun Tang of Rancho Cucamonga, Calif. - Leatherneck Band

Company: Alpha, Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 9

Education goals: Graduate from MMA and attend a prestigious university.

Career goals: I plan to pursue a career in visual arts and one day work for Riot Games.

Student of the Month - November**Spencer L. Kohlmyer of Kingston, Wash. - English**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11, Activities: Swimming

Education goals: I would like to attend the Naval Academy and study aerospace engineering.

Career goals: I would like to fly for the U.S. Navy and later for Delta Airlines.

**Ranson B. Benfield of Seabrook, Texas - Foreign Language**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8, Activities: Swimming.

Future education goals: After graduating from MMA, I plan to attend aviation school.

Career goals: I plan to become a pilot and serve in the U.S. Marine Corps.

**Pelayo M. Martinez of Puebla, Mexico - General Studies**

Rank: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant

Grade: 11, Activities: Color Guard & Drill Team.

Future education goals: I plan to get a bachelor's and later master's degree in optomechanical engineering.

Career goals: I intend to be part of one of the largest optomechanical companies in the world.

**Brendan Jozwiak of Cypress, Texas - Math**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 12, Activities: Tennis

Future education goals: I plan to attend Texas A&M University in College Station and major in petroleum engineering.

Career goals: I plan to start my career with a large oil company and become management.

**Robert C. Drake of Las Vegas, Nev. - Science**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11, Activities: Basketball

Education goals: I want to attend University of Nevada-Reno and study business and law.

Career goals: I would like to be a lawyer for a few years before becoming a judge.

**Joseph M. De Leo of Mission, Texas - Social Studies**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11, Activities: Rifle Team & Tennis

Future education goals: I plan to attend John Hopkins University and major in pre-med.

Career goals: I plan to become a neurosurgeon.



Cadet of the Month - November**Hudson O. Suarez of Grapevine, Texas - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, Activities: Football & Band

Education goals: Achieve a 3.5 GPA and graduate from college.

Career goals: I would like to pursue a career in music.

**Luke H. Martin of Fort Worth, Texas - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 11, Activities: Jiu Jitsu

Education goals: I plan to attend college and later pursue a career with the Marine Corps.

Career goals: Join the U.S. Marine Corps and apply for the Enlisted Commissioning Program.

**Diego A. Hernandez Heredia of Monterrey, Mexico - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, Activities: Drill Team & Swimming

Education goals: I would like to pursue a degree in computer science.

Career goals: I would like to become a computer engineer.

**William J. Cassin of Uvalde, Texas - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 7, Activities: Soccer

Education goals: Graduate from MMA and attend college.

Career goals: I plan to work in construction or maintenance.

**John Paul Boerschig II of Washington, Texas - Golf Company**

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant

Grade: 12, Activities: Football.

Education goals: I plan to attend Texas A&M.

Career goals: My plan is to one day work for an oil company in Texas.

**Noah A. Bouillion of Erath, La. - Leatherneck Band**

Company: Golf, Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant

Grade: 11

Education goals: Major in biology or chemistry at the U.S. Naval Academy.

Career goals: My goal is to become a pilot with the U.S. Marine Corps and be accepted into the astronaut selection program.

**Cameron Tankersley of Houston - Silent Drill Team**

Company: Golf, Rank: Cadet Private

Grade: 11

Education goals: I plan to graduate from MMA and attend college.

Career goals: I would like to become a pharmacist.

Important Dates

- 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
 - **Jan. 9:** Begin Third Quarter Classes
 - **Feb. 1:** Academic Awards Ceremony
 - **Feb. 2:** MMA Parents Organization Meeting
 - **Feb. 2:** Introductory Training Graduation (Plebes)
 - **Feb. 9:** ACT
 - **Feb. 19:** Iwo Jima Parade
 - **March 5-8:** Third Quarter Exams
 - **March 8:** Begin Spring Break - flight departure after 12 p.m.
 - **March 17:** End Spring Break - return 6 p.m.
 - **March 18:** Begin Fourth Quarter
 - **April 4:** HM Smith Dinner
 - **April 5:** Alumni Parade
 - **April 5-7:** Alumni Reunion
 - **April 25-28:** Spring Fling family 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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Alumni Affairs

Alumni Honor Plaque: Honoring Those Who Served



This year Marine Military Academy National Honor Society unveiled the new Alumni Honor Plaque.

The plaque, located in Peacher Hall, honors MMA alumni who have served their country.

If you are an alumnus who served

in the military, send your name, rank, branch and class year, along with a \$30 check, to MMA Alumni Honor Plaque-Headquarters, 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. Harlingen, TX, 78550.

If you have any questions, contact Rosalinda Garcia at garcia@MMA-TX.org.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- Conner D. Perley USN – MMA '13

In Memory Of

- Maj John H. Austin, USMC (Ret)
- Wesley Blake Folsom "Skipper"
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- John Bruce Hollingsworth
- John M. Holt, II
- LtCol Louis R. Lepore, USMCR (Ret)
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- LTC Henry Charles Norcom, USA (Ret)

- J. B. Oakes, Jr.
- Sofia Palacios
- Harriet Agnesa Rood
- Richard Spann – VMF 422
- John Haddock Stevenson, IV
- Frederick Strowbridge "Fred"
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
- David Tucker
- SSgt E. L. "Knobby" Walsh, USMC – 7th Marines, Korea
- Roy E. Winter, Jr.