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The MMA LEADER is a quarterly publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy. To receive a digital version via email, send your address to editor Kristin Luckey. Her email address is: Luckey@MMA-TX.org. or call: 956.421.9225.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Marine Military Academy Families and Friends,

In this issue of the Marine Military Academy (MMA) Leader I would like to highlight the success of our Summer Camp. Although not all Cadets

get to experience summer camp, it is a key factor in our recruiting effort as well as an opportunity to observe leadership in our Cadet Instructors – many of whom will become members of our Cadet Battalion Staff. I am pleased to share that over the past two years I have watched our summer camp blossom into an extraordinarily successful program filled with new and challenging schedules and events. This success is largely due to the leadership of our Commandant of Cadets, Sgt Maj Smythe, and his amazing team of drill instructors (DI's) and assistant drill instructors as well as our extraordinarily talented operations officer.

Of course, our recruiting staff must also be congratulated on achieving maximum capacity and bringing in superior quality campers that were excited to be here to learn leadership and to challenge themselves to achieve their goals. This year we hosted 405 summer campers from forty-one different states and eleven foreign countries.

The Military Department added new obstacles and classes that pushed the young men to be strong and confident. There is nothing like jumping off the top of a telephone pole and reaching out and touching a buoy or rappelling off a skid. These young men were challenged daily and learned

to take commands from their DI's, ADI's and Cadet Instructors. Each and every day I observed the campers, and I was so pleased to see that they were smiling and having a blast. I am proud of each of the young men who attended MMA Summer Camp this year. We greatly appreciate your recommendations and referrals to family and friends about the benefits of attending our summer camp.

Although I am extremely proud of our summer camp, I must also share that that our faculty was busy over the summer preparing for another momentous year filled with exemplary student academic achievements, sports, and activities. Our Corps of Cadets is looking great this year and we are off to a great start.

On behalf of my entire MMA team, I thank you for your continued support. Our alumni, families and friends are utterly amazing in all they do to make MMA what it is today. If you have any questions about how to become an MMA donor or to increase your giving, please contact my Director of Development, LtCol Grider at Grider@MMA-TX.org.

Respectfully,

Christopher S. Dowling Colonel, US Marine Corps (Ret) President, Marine Military Academy

245 COMBINED YEARS OF SERVICE AT MMA







On August 16th the Marine Military Academy recognized staff who have been at MMA for more than ten years with a total of 245 years of service between them. A special congratulations to Linda Flores for her 40 years of service at MMA. Barbara Miller and Bill Hinkle for their 30 years of service. Kathleen Charrey and GySgt Raul Garcia for their 25 years of service. Jodie Stryker and Adalia Lopez for their 20 years of service. Sgt John Elizondo, Hector Rodriguez and Gloria Boling for their 15 years of service and finally to SSgt Alejandro Diaz for his 10 years of service.

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION



On June 25th MMA welcomed more than 400 summer campers from across the country and the world for the 2022 camp. The campers checked in at King Gym and gave their families the last hugs they would share for a month. The campers met their Drill Instructors and were then escorted to their barracks by the Cadet Instructor for their company. After dropping off their personal belongings, the real fun

began as they headed toward the barbershop for the official MMA summer camp haircut, also known as a buzz. After the campers were all set to begin their camp journey, they called home for one last phone call. I am sure, as they hit the racks for the evening, there weren't many campers sleeping as they awaited the early beginning of a fun-filled and exciting adventure!



High & Tight

All new campers at Marine Military Academy receive a "high and tight" introductory buzz cut. After the first haircut, cadets can wear their hair closely cropped. Below are some transformation photos from Summer Camp registration.















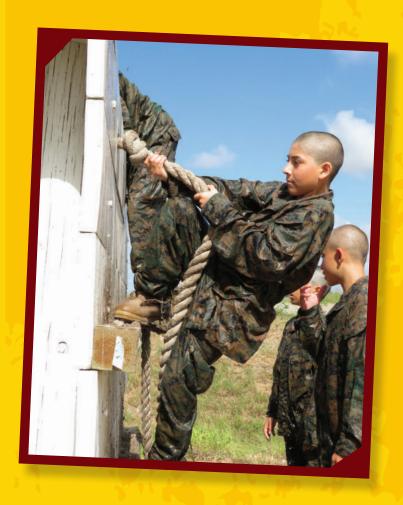


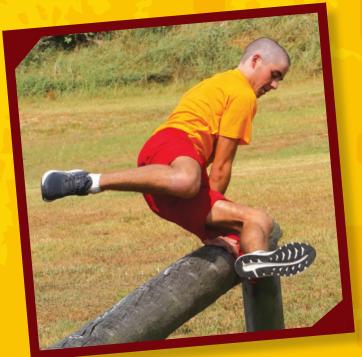
Over 400 young men participated in the MMA Summer Camp from all over the world. They learned about different cultures, while engaging in activities most other boys will never experience in their lifetime. The camaraderie, team spirit and accomplishment each camper experienced will build their pride and self-assurance. Rest assured they will have exciting stories to tell their friends and family. Every camper is expected to adhere to and benefit from the Marine Corps values that govern the Marine Military Academy - honor, courage and commitment. While a great deal of summer camp is about fun, it is equally focused on self-discipline and leadership. Each camper has learned the importance of teamwork and positive reinforcement, while gaining valuable leadership skills. Thank you to the families for entrusting us with your campers and ensuring that 2022 Summer Camp was a success!



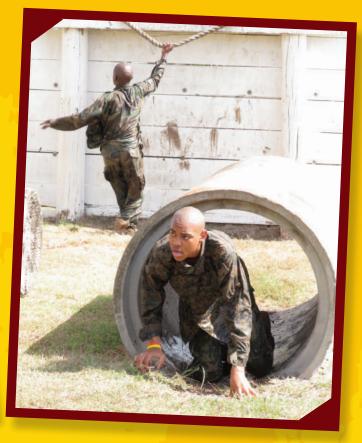










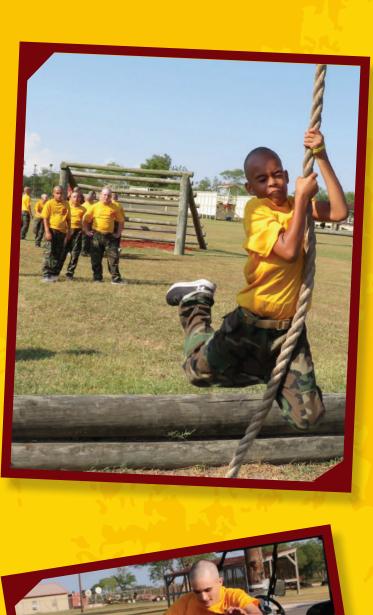


































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SUMMER CAMP AWARDS

All of the campers overcame substantial obstacles and pushed themselves further than they thought possible. A select few of them went above and beyond and were recognized for their achievements.

Honor Man and Most Improved Camper were just some of the awards given to the 2022 MMA Summer Campers for their distinguished achievements. The Honor Man award is given to a camper that best exemplifies the qualities and values upheld by the Marine Military Academy and the Most Improved Award is given to the camper who showed the most significant mental and physical growth.

MMA also had 45 cadets who volunteered over a month of their summer break to come back to the academy and impart their knowledge and experience to campers as cadet instructors/ One cadet from each company was awarded the Cadet Instructor of the Year Award.



Fastest Camper Award Alpha - Nitoriuluani Esan Charlie - Drake Dorsey Delta - Gavon Embree Echo - Joshua Gallien Fox - Dillon Greenidge Golf - Adam Mosley Strongest Camper Award Alpha - Justin Alade Charlie - Adrian Brenner Delta - Caleb Rowell Echo - Bryson Cook Fox - Gage Ponce Golf - Kevin Hoffman

The following campers were the champions of their division Lightweight fastest camper award is Joshua Gallien Middleweight fastest camper is Nitorioluwani Esan Heavyweight fastest camper is Dillon Greenidge Lightweight strongest camper is Adrian Brenner Middleweight strongest camper is Justin Alade Heavyweight strongest camper is Gadge Ponce

70 Campers participated in the Marine Military Academy Aerospace introductory course this summer. the following campers distinguished themselves above the others for their ability and willingness to learn, and their flying prowess. The following campers are the recipients of the Flying Ace award.

In the 10-12 category: John Daniel Anachondo Derek Chase Hladun

In the 13-15 category: Emmett Samuel Hunter Jett Mathis Barnett In the 16-18 category: Gerd Leonardo Medina Brandon Barreto



Adjusting to the pace, tempo, requirements, and rigors of the MMA summer camp is extremely difficult. Most worked diligently to become better than they were on day one. For some, the improvement and change were so great that they were recognized as the most improved camper in their platoon.

Alpha:

Platoon 601 most improved camper is: Evan Hol Comb Platoon 501 most improved camper is: Justin Moore Charlie:

Platoon 1201 most improved camper is: Tiger Wang Platoon 1101 most improved camper is: Dominick Bazaldua Delta:

Platoon 801 most improved camper is: Darren Sun Platoon 701 most improved camper is: Kim Yates Echo:

Platoon 1001 most improved camper is: Riley Mccormick Platoon 901 most improved camper is: Sebastian Saldivar

Platoon 201 most improved camper is: Mark Mallory Platoon 101 most improved camper is: Amir Rashdan Golf:

Platoon 401 most improved camper is: Stephen Crain Platoon 301 most improved camper is: Elvin Shi

In each platoon, some stood out as the hardest worker, the most motivated, and most dedicated camper. Those campers were honored as their platoon honorman.

Δlnha·

Platoon 601 honorman is: Rodrigo Zazueta Platoon 501 honorman is: Justin Alade

SUMMER CAMP AWARDS

Charlie:

Platoon 1201 honorman is: Mason Hamilton Platoon 1101 honorman is: Adrian Brenner

Delta:

Platoon 801 honorman is: Daniel Zhen

Platoon 701 honorman is: Sainjargal Uranbold

Echo:

Platoon 1001 honorman is: Truman Brooks Platoon 901 honorman is: Isaac Haentsch



Fox:

Platoon 201 honorman is: Marvin Peart Platoon 101 honorman is: Gage Ponce

Golf:

Platoon 401 honorman is: Hanbo Xu Platoon 301 honorman is: Michael Plaisanc

Every camper had the opportunity to go to our air rifle range, learn precision marksmanship from highly skilled and trained United States Marine Corps instructors, and then apply that knowledge to refine their skills. In each company, one camper distinguished himself as that company's high shooter.



Alpha - Hendrix Gochnour Charlie - Wyatt Sparks Delta - Jiagao Ma

Echo - Beau Blackbird

Fox - Ryan Steeves

Golf - Trenton Woodridge

As squads, the campers were given cardboard boxes and duct tape, and instructed to build a vessel that would not only float, but it needed to hold the weight of one camper and be rowed across the length of the pool. As if this wasn't enough, it had to be fast. The cardboard boat regata award is presented to the winning squad in each company. Each squad member received a certificate and the boat captain of that squad received a trophy.

Alpha - 1st squad plt 601



Charlie - 2nd squad plt 1201

Delta - 1st squad plt 701

Echo - 1st squad plt 901

Fox - 1st squad plt 101

Golf - 1st squad plt 401

Each company drill instructor has selected one camper that stood out above all others. These campers were recognized as their overall company honorman.

Alpha - Cyrus Hilding

Charlie - George Brannan

Delta - Landon Bogar

Echo - Jamie Tweedy

Fox - Gerd Medina

Golf - Adam Mosley

Though all cadet instructors worked very hard to make this summer camp a success, one cadet instructor from each company has earned the cadet instructor of the year award. Alpha - William Shardonofsky

Charlie - Jacob Hurley

Delta - Mehkhi Blue

Echo - Bryan Anderson

Fox - Magnus Velez

Golf - Cole Staples

SUMMER CAMP SOCIAL



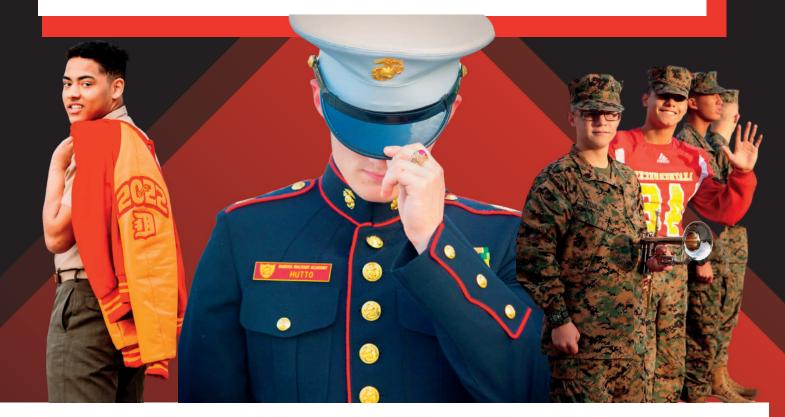
On July 23rd MMA held its official Summer Camp Social. This is the first time that the campers get to see and hug their families since drop-off day back in June and this also marks the end of the four weeks of physical training and character development. Hundreds of parents gathered along Battalion Street to watch their campers march in. As the companies marched in the parents cheered as they looked for their camper in formation. Col Dowling, MMA

President, gave a brief speech and spoke of the growth he has personally seen within this group of summer campers. He also mentioned that the campers definitely know how to make a bed now. After Col Dowling finished his words of encouragement, to the campers and their families he dismissed the campers. The families embraced their campers and met their new friends from all over the world that their camper had bonded with at camp.





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The week before the cadets return to MMA, we hold three unique camps that cadets must be invited to in order to attend.

The first is the Leadership Orientation Course, which is conducted at the Marine Military Academy for the following Academic Year. The selected cadets have worked hard to get this far, but this is just the beginning of a journey that will be exciting, challenging and rewarding. The skills that these cadets accrue and put into practice will be of significant benefit to him long after he has graduated from the Academy. Each cadet is expected to come to the Leadership Orientation Course physically and mentally prepared. We have a strenuous, progressive physical training program during the course that will also be used as a means to create the physical and mental pressure that is part of the overall leadership evaluation process. This same physical training program will continue during the academic year.

The second camp is Band Camp. Band Camp is a great opportunity for the MMA Band to get ahead of the year. This year we had 14 participants, some also participated in the Leadership and Football Camps concurrently. The cadets spent their time practicing with their daily warmups as well as marching techniques, methods & technical exercises, ceremonial and marching selections and pep songs. The week was also filled with Life Skills courses and an Anti-Bullying course. The cadets ended their camp with a promotion ceremony and a field trip to a local Jump Zone center.

Lastly, we have Football Camp. Many of the Leatherneck players attend a very intense week of training with the football staff at MMA. The cadets spend their time lifting weights, practicing plays and watching film of their upcoming opponents previous games. The staff does their best to lay out a plan for which positions each cadet will fill based on their talents. Again, many of the players are also involved in either the Leadership or Band Camp as well so they definitely stay busy the entire week. The MMA Leatherneck Football Camp is a wonderful way to get a jump start on the upcoming football season!











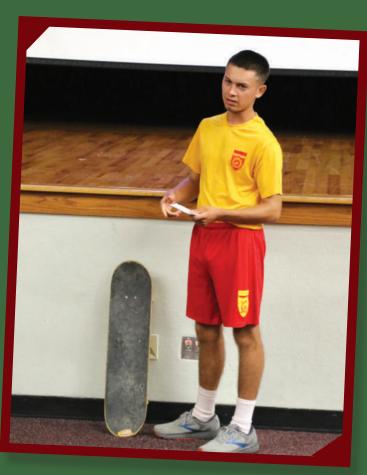


















COLLEGE PREPARATION

When does College preparation begin? Preparation begins when a cadet starts school. This is a highly individualized process, and I must make sure the cadets keep their options open until it comes time to narrow down their choice of schools.

What does the College office placement do? My goal as the College Counselor is to help cadets find the right college for them. I assist cadets search for college, check admission criteria/requirements, prepare them for interviews, read and edit their essays as well as review their entire application. I also assist in helping cadets register for any upcoming SAT/ACT exams and provide them with prep material for these college entrance exams. I provide any support possible to help assist in their future endeavors. That's what I'm here for, and I'm eager to help! I also help cadets with their research in college scholarships and financial aid. I arrange many college representative visits to our campus to speak to our cadets about their university or military branch.

What is currently happening in the College Room? I am assisting cadets with their registration for the upcoming SAT and ACT exam as well as guiding cadets during the college application process. Many of my seniors have created their account with Parchment, our electronic service system used to send official transcripts to colleges and are well underway on their apps.

An NRTOC scholarship workshop was held on Saturday, August the 20th, for those interested in applying for the NRTOC scholarship. I had 1st Lt. Shoenfeld here from the San Antonio recruiting station, to assist those in the process. (he will return later this fall to help assist) Many college representatives have reached out to me and are eager to set up an information session to speak to our cadets about their university.

PSAT/NMSQT test materials are being ordered, all cadets (except seniors) will be taking the PSAT on October 25th. They will be receiving prep material and a discussion from me about the importance of this "practice" SAT test, how it will benefit them and prepare them for the actual SAT.

An ASVAB test is in the works of being scheduled towards the end of this month or early October.

I will be attending many college updates to keep me informed on the latest developments and requirements for college admission.

As the AP coordinator, I am helping assist our AP teachers in getting their AP class signed up for the AP exam taking place in May. Some have brought their class down to the college room to help assist with joining the AP classroom through CollegeBoard. (AP contracts will be sent out to parents soon via email, keep an eye out for it).

At what age should a cadet apply to college? A cadet can begin applying for college as early as the summer of their senior year, depending on when the college application opens.

What do colleges look for on a college application? All colleges and universities evaluate the same criteria, such as GPA, class rank, SAT and/or ACT scores, leadership ability, extracurricular activities, college essay and community service hours.

Does the admission application for a service academy differ from that of a college? If so, how?

Yes. Applying to a United States service academy is different than a college:

The application is available the spring semester of their junior year instead of the summer/fall semester of their senior year.

A cadet is required to apply for a nomination from his congressman and/or senator as well as the vice president.

A cadet must pass a physical fitness test.

If accepted, the tuition for the cadet is covered by the US military. After graduation, a cadet is an officer in the military and must serve a determined length of time on active duty. The United States Coast Guard Academy does not require a nomination. Applying to any of the service academies is extremely competitive.



Jennifer Rodriguez jrodriguez@mma-tx.org



NEW BATTALION LEADERS 2022-23

New Cadet Leaders Named



This August 12th Marine Military Academy hosted a ceremony to honor the 2022-2023 Battalion Staff. These cadet leaders are chosen on their exemplary attitude and example and proven ability to take charge and follow through on their responsibilities. The Battalion Staff are as follows:

Battalion Commander: C/LtCol William Webb Battalion Executive Officer: C/Maj Cole Staples Battalion Adjutant: C/1stLt. Riley Porter Battalion SgtMaj: C/SgtMaj Patrick Omey Battalion Public Affairs Officer: C/1stLt Romeo Chukwuonye

Battalion Band Officer: C/GySgt Eric Eckstein















Alpha Company



Commander Liam Kelly



Officer Erik Brody



Company 1stSgt Wiliam Shardonofsky



Commander Tenzin Hurtado



Commander Archer Ferguson

Delta Company



Company Commander Gilberto Flores Gamboa



Company Executive Officer 1stSgt Mehkhi Evan Gunderson Blue



1st Platoon 2nd Platoon Commander Commander Jimmy Li Hunter Glass Stewart



1st Platoon Sergeant Alexis De La Guidaudiere



2nd Platoon Sergeant Kade Mora

Echo Company



Company Commander Bryan Anderson



Executive Officer William Liang



1st Platoon Commander Jacob Hurley



2nd Platoon Commander Aidan Hernandez



Company 1stSgt Benjamin Smith



Company GySgt Rafael Martinez

Fox Company



Company Commande Kenneth A .Jones



Executive Officer Minh Cong Anh Nguyen



Platoon Commander John Mills Shields



Platoon Company Commander 1stSgt Whisly Kee Magnus L. Zheng Velez



Company GySgt William Bozell



Platoon Sergeant Victor Hernandez



Platoon Sergeant Arvin Kee Zheng

Golf Company



Commande Samuel Dearing



Officer Zane Kester



Platoon **Emiliano**

Flores



Platoon Commander Commander Lucas Boyer



Company 1stSgt Hudson Greene



Gunnery Sergeant Murphy Spurgeon



OCTOBER 20-22

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Birthday Ball

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OCTOBER 20-22, 2022

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www.mma-tx.org/military-program/birthday-ball/

REGISTRATION FALL 2022

August 2022 Registration

On August 13th, the Marine Military Academy welcomed over 100 new students. It was a normal registration day with a couple tears and a lot of smiles as the parents dropped off the students at King Gym to meet



their Drill Instructors. Then parents went to the Cadet Activities Center where they were greeted by the MMA Cheerleaders and the MMAPO on their way to meet with their students' teachers, medical and the business office. The students were guided from King Gym straight to the barber shop for a close haircut and then to the tailor to collect their gear and finally they settled into their rooms.











High & Tight

All new students, or "plebes," at Marine Military Academy receive a "high and tight" introductory buzz cut. After the first haircut, cadets can wear their hair closely cropped. Below are some transformation photos from Fall-term registration.

















PHOTO ALBUM OF 1 ST WEEK OF CLASSES







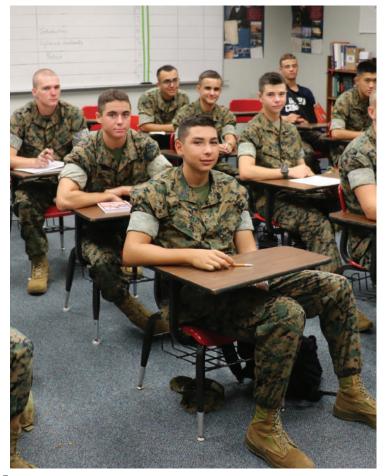












GUEST SPEAKER

FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

Navigating Life In The Digital Age



On August 16th MMA hosted guest speaker Ben Tracy again this year. Ben Tracy learned firsthand the potential trouble social media can be if it's not used wisely. We invited him back this year to share his experience, spread the word, and hopefully make conscious decisions to avoid this happening to others. We care about our students' using social media responsibly to prevent a possible nightmare in the future. For more information about speaker Ben Tracy please visit the Safe Social Network website and sign up for the newsletter at https://safesocialnetwork.com/about





IMPORTANT DATES





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Correction from Spring Leader 2022 April Cadet of the Month Jeremy Rowley of San Marcos, TX - Delta

Company Bandsman

Rank: Cadet Private First Class Grade: 7th, Activity: Band Education Goals: I would like to keep earning all A's for the rest of my time here

at MMA.

October		
1	SAT	0800
5-6	First Quarter Exams	
10	Fall Mid Point/Beast Competition	
20 - 22	Parents Weekend	
20	Bonfire	1845
21	Colors – COM/SOM/Golden Guidon	0815 - 0845
21 21	Parents Day – No classes (Meet and Greet @ CAC)	0845 - 0915 0915 - 1015
21	Parents Visit Classrooms	1300 - 1400
21	Tailgate	1500 - 1400
21	COC March On	1645
21	Homecoming/Senior Night/Football Game	1700
22	ACT	0800
22	Birthday Ball	1800
25	PSAT	0800
November		
5	SAT	
11	Veteran's Day Parade	0800
18	Begin Thanksgiving Break depart after	1200
27	End Thanksgiving Break return by	1800
28	All Classes Resume	
December		
3	SAT	0800
10	ACT	0800
12 - 15	First Semester Final Exams	
15	Begin Christmas Break depart after	1200
Januar	v	
7	Mid-Term Check-In for New Cadets (Plebes)	0800-1200
8	Mid-Term Check-In for Returning Cadets	By 1800
9-10	Military Orientation for Mid-Term Cadets (Plebes)	2, 1000
9-10	Teacher In-Service Days	
11	Begin Third Quarter Classes	
Februa		
3	Academic Awards Ceremony	1430
3	MMA Parents Organization Meeting @ Hilton Hotel	1930
4	Introductory Training Graduation (Plebes)	1000
11	ACT	0800
17	Iwo Jima Parade	1500
24	TECOM IG Inspection	1000
March		
3	Leadarahin Farum	0000 4000
8-9	Leadership Forum	0800-1300
10	Spring Breakdeparture after	1200
19	End Spring Break return by	1800
20	Begin Fourth Quarter	1000
29	HM Smith Dinner	1800
31	Alumni Reunion March 31 – April 1, 2	1000
31	Alumni Parade	1400
Α!		1 100
April	107	0000
1	ACT	. 0800
21-22	Spring Fling Family Weekend	
21	MMA Parents Organization Meeting Jr./Sr. Prom	1000
21 22	John & Jane Wayne Day/MMAPO Block Party	1900
27	Deadline for Financial Aid Application for 2023-2024	
28	Re-Enrollment Contracts 2022 – 23 Deadline	
20	Ne-Enrollment Contracts 2022 – 25 Deadline	
May		
6	SAT	.0800
12,15-17	Second Semester Exams	
18	Senior Dinner	. 1730
19	Eagle Scout Ceremony	
19	Academic/Sports/Military Awards	. 1330
20	Graduation Parade	
20	Graduation	. 1100
June		
19	Summer Camp Instructors Report By	1800
	2023 Summer Camp	
24	Summer Camp Registration	0800-1200
July		
-		
21	Family Social	
22	Summer Camp/Graduation	በባበበ



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