

SPRING 2023



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS

REVOLUTIONARY WAR 1775-1783 FRENCH NAVAL WAR
VIETNAM DOMINICAN REPUBLIC 1965* LIBANO



2023 GRADUATING SENIORS
MEET OUR GRADUATES

Parents and staff celebrate the graduation of 47 of cadets.

Volume 36, Issue 3

LEADER

SPRING 2023
VOLUME 36 ISSUE 3



ON THE COVER

Color guard presents colors at traditional graduation day parade.

ON THE BACK

Graduating seniors participate in the traditional hat toss during the graduation ceremonies.



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TEASERS FOR SUMMER 2023 ISSUE

- Summer Camp
- Sports & Leadership Report
- Fall Registration



PRESIDENT'S *Reflection*

What a great school year it has been for Marine Military Academy (MMA)! I am proud of our Corps of Cadets, amazing educators, and our staff. In this Leader, you can follow the many outstanding things that are occurring on campus and see what some of our alumni are doing and how they have made a lasting impact.

Our 2023 Senior graduating class is on its way to outstanding colleges, universities, and service academies. Our seniors have earned over six million dollars in scholarships. MMA's student athletes had an incredible year. We won state track this season, amazing tennis team won state in doubles and another team placed third, our baseball team won regionals and went to the Texas State Championship.

This spring one of our faculty members, Ms. Belinda Duran, was honored by the State of Texas as the Teacher of the Year. I am humbled to be working in a school full of so many dedicated educators, Drill Instructors, and staff members who are truly invested in our students' character development and learning.

Thank you for your support. Your sponsorship and donations are fueling these great results. To our dedicated alumni, please continue to share with us your stories and accomplishments. We look forward to seeing you at the next Alumni Weekend on South Padre Island.

Have a great summer and I look forward to seeing many of you on my travels and on campus.



Semper Fidelis,

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



ACADEMICS

Never stop learning...

FAMILY CREST PROJECTS

Mr. Garcia's social studies class studied family crests and coats of arms. After the study, the cadets worked on a project to create a family crest. The cadets below created a family crest for Ms. Perez, Ms. Woods and Ms. Hidalgo.



AMCSUS TEAM TAKES FIRST PLACE AT NATIONALS

Our AMCSUS cadets performed incredibly this year receiving several first-place honors! The cadets have worked extremely hard for recognition at the national level and it is well-deserved for their achievements!

Congratulations

**ASSOCIATION OF
MILITARY COLLEGES AND
SCHOOLS OF THE
UNITED STATES**



**STUART HARTLEY - 1ST PLACE WRITING AWARD
RAUL GARCIA - 1ST PLACE TEACHER WRITING AWARD
1ST PLACE DRILL
1ST PLACE ACADEMIC BOWL - HIGH SCHOOL
3RD PLACE ACADEMIC BOWL - MIDDLE SCHOOL**

MS. WELCH'S ENGLISH CLASS GETS IN ON HAMLET ACTION



Ms. Welch's English class read Hamlet in a dramatic fashion! The seniors read Act 5 Scene 2 of Hamlet in class and acted out the scene of the death of King Claudius and Queen Gertrude. Hamlet and Laertes engage in a swordfight. Laertes dies leaving Horatio as the last man standing. Great job, cadets!

MRS. GARCIA'S CLASS WORKS ON EXPONENTIAL FUNCTIONS PROJECT



Mrs. Garcia's Pre-Calculus Honors classes were assigned a project during Quarter 3. They had to research the number of Covid cases in a particular state or country. They also had to compare those cases against the flu. They then used the data to generate an exponential function and graph each function. They also gave a little background about their state or country.



ACADEMICS

MS. DURAN TAKES SOLE STATE HONOR FOR DIGITAL LEARNING

Ms. Belinda Duran, a math teacher, was recognized in the state of Texas for her digital learning in the classroom. Only one teacher in the state earns the John A. Baker Memorial Award for Excellence in K-12 Digital Learning. She was honored at the TxDLA 2023 Annual Conference in Galveston. We are extremely proud to offer the best teachers to our cadets! "There are so many amazing teachers on this campus that are very deserving of this acknowledgment, so it is a great honor to be selected from this group. I truly believe that our success comes from great leadership. Having a superintendent and dean with excellent leadership skills sets the expectations needed to create great teachers."

-Ms. Belinda Duran



SCIENCE HEADS TO EL SAUZ RANCH FOR FIELD LESSONS

Mrs. Vento and Dr. Garcia's science classes attended the East Ranch El Sauz Ranch Field Lessons. The interactive lessons and activities presented during these field lessons encourage students to connect with the natural world while learning about ranching, wildlife, and land stewardship and participate in outdoor learning experiences in a living classroom.



CYBERPATRIOT TEAM COMPETES AT NATIONALS IN MARYLAND



Our Cyberpatriot team competed in the National Finals Competition in Rockville, Maryland. Of the 1,509 military teams across the nation, MMA Cyberpatriots were one of 15 teams to make nationals. Of the 5,000 teams in all divisions, only 28 are invited to compete in nationals. MMA was one of two MCJROTC schools to participate.

Congratulations to Mr. Beckman, Team Captain Mako Smith, Joshua Brylowski, Derek Divinia, Dylan Divinia and Aleksei Stepanov for their hard work this year!

ENCRYPTION CYPHER CHALLENGE



Congratulations to Cadet Polonsky of Alpha Company for taking 1st place in the Encryption Cypher Challenge. Cadet Polonsky did a fine job of solving the various difficult encryptions, and with much focus and determination, was able to earn the win! Cadet Polonsky is pictured with his first place t-shirt swag. Great job, Cadet Polonsky!

ACADEMICS

Never stop learning...



THIRD QUARTER 3.0 LUNCH



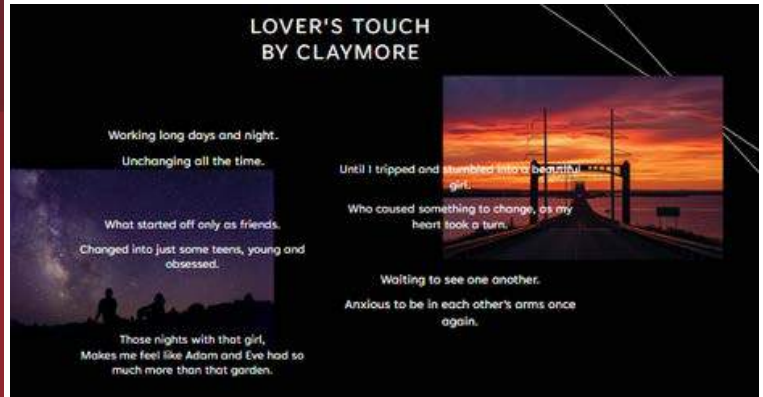
Cadets celebrated 3.0 Luncheon for the third quarter. Cadets earning a 3.0 GPA or higher earned a Subway sandwich for lunch. Cadets earning a 3.75 or higher also received \$10 cash! 89 cadets received a crispy \$10 bill! We are proud of all of these cadets and their hard work in the classroom!

BIOLOGY CLASS GETS DISSECTING



The Biology and Life Science class completed Animal System Chapters with a fetal pig dissection lab. Cadets examined the organization of the many body systems studied this semester in the context of a specimen. Cadets were introduced to the proper use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPP), proper handling and use of medical instruments, dissection of tissues, and teamwork.


MRS. MARTINEZ'S CLASS SUBMITS POETRY TO NATIONAL CONTEST



English I cadets in Mrs. Martinez's class created a poetry anthology which was to include five original poems. Each poem was to include at least two poetic devices and a visual that best represented the poem. Cadets entered their best poem in the America Library of Poetry National Student Poetry Contest. The cadets entered some amazing pieces into the contest!

NATIONAL ADVANCEMENT FOR OUR JROTC ACADEMIC TEAM





**Marine Corps JROTC
advances to
Academic Bowl
Championship
in Washington DC!**

Congratulations

| | | |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| Patrick Omev -Captain | Fox | 11th |
| Jon Cowart | Echo | 11th |
| Jinzhou Yang | Echo | 11th |
| Dominick Hiatt | Echo | 11th |

The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl is a nationally recognized competition created exclusively for JROTC students. After advancing through two intense phases of online competition, the Marine Military Academy's JROTC Academic Team composed of Jon Cowart, Dominick Hiatt, Patrick Omev, and Jinzhou Yang competed in the Championship event in Washington, DC. Outstanding performance by our cadets! Congratulations!



ACADEMIC & MILITARY Awards

Spring awards are always a memorable time to celebrate the many accomplishments of our cadets not only in the classroom but in their military duties and athletics, as well. This year was no different. Our cadets excelled to new heights and exceeded the high standard raising the bar once again.

Congratulations to all for their accomplishments!



Our 8th grade cadets received their certificate of promotion. We wish them the very best as they begin their high school journey!



Our yearbook cadet staff received a National Yearbook Program of Excellence award for their yearbook.



An array of awards were presented to our cadets from scholarships to prestigious recognitions! Congratulations!



MMA Plank Holder
5th Year Cadet
Cadet Ferguson



Valedictorian
Cadet Liang



Teacher of the Year
Mrs. Martinez



Drill Instructor
of the Year
SgtMaj Cece



Asst Drill Instructor
of the Year
SSgt Jimenez



Salutatorian
Cadet Jones

COLLEGE PREP CORNER *with Oscar Fonseca*

Summer is here...what's next for your cadet?

RIISING SENIORS *Class of 2024*

- Start drafting ideas for your college essays.
- Study for your last chance standardized test dates
- Finalize your college list.
- Do something to build your college resume.
- Schedule some college visits.
- Start thinking about your college major.
- Start looking at scholarships and financial aid.
- Get ahead on your extracurricular projects.
- Take a college prep course.

RIISING JUNIORS *Class of 2025*

- Continue to study for SAT and/or ACT exams.
- Take free online practice tests for SAT and ACT.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities and build your resume.
- Connect with people you would appreciate a letter of recommendation from this year.
- Explore universities and colleges based on the major you plan to study.

RIISING SOPHOMORES *Class of 2026*

- Read, read, and read some more.
- Take free online practice tests for SAT and ACT to familiarize with the style and type of questions.
- Join an SAT and ACT online forum to gather study resources and tips.
- Explore universities and colleges based on the major you plan to study.

INCOMING 7TH - 9TH GRADE

- Keep reading some great books!
- Find a group in your community to volunteer with and start building your community service for college.
- Start exploring future career interests and choices.
- Explore universities and colleges and learn about their offerings.

HAVE A GREAT



Oscar Fonseca
College Guidance
ofonseca@mma-tx.org



MMA WELCOMES NEW COLLEGE GUIDANCE COUNSELOR

We are pleased to announce and welcome our new College and Guidance Counselor, Oscar Fonseca!

Mr. Fonseca, a Rio Grande Valley native and Harlingen resident, joined the United States Army in 2001 and served 13 years, including two tours in Iraq. During his time in the Army, he also attended college and graduated with his Bachelor's in English from The University of Texas - Brownsville. He went on to teach English, AP English, and Literature at Harlingen High School and has been teaching for 11 years.

In addition to teaching, Mr. Fonseca has also assisted students with tutoring for state testing, SAT, ACT, college application essays and college scholarship essays.

Mr. Fonseca resides, with his wife and three children, in Harlingen. We look forward to the knowledge and energy he will bring to our cadets!

WEST POINT AND SCHREINER UNIVERSITY INFORMATIVE SESSIONS



Cadets were able to listen to informative college presentations given by West Point and Schreiner University representatives. Cadets are given the opportunity to meet after for private discussions.



Teaching is a work of heart.

TEACHER OF THE MONTH

MARCH *Ms. Belinda Duran*



What our cadets have to say...

"Mrs. Duran deserves to be recognized because she cares so much for her students and really helps them when they don't understand things she is a heartfelt, caring, wonderful person so that is why I think Mrs. Duran should be nominated." -Cadet Dominick Bazaldua

"She is one of the best teachers I've ever had. She is so understanding and helpful to cadets. She is by far the best math teacher I've ever had. Mrs. Duran always does everything she can to help or teach cadets and she really takes it to the next level with the effort she puts in." - Cadet Nicholas Anderson

"She stays after school more days than not to help me understand her class. Her energy every day is so awesome and the amount of time she takes to make sure I understand the work is heart-touching! I love her so much and am so blessed to have her in my life!"
- Cadet Judge Brown

APRIL *Mr. Larry Kruse*



What our cadets have to say...

"Coach Kruse is a very motivated and prepared teacher and if anyone deserves this award, I believe that it should be Coach Kruse." -Cadet Travis Ashley

"He is so awesome!!!" - Cadet Rongtao Zhang

"Best math teacher I have ever had!" - Cadet Franklin Polonsky

"He is an awesome teacher that teaches but is worried about you and can help you with other kinds of problems giving you good advice." - Cadet Fernando Del Angel

"He is a good teacher!" - Cadet Ignacio Martinez

Teachers are bestowed this honor by student vote. As part of this honor, the chosen teacher of the month will hang a beautiful wreath outside of their classroom door for the entire month they are honored. The honored teacher will also receive a certificate and a cash gift card as an award. This recognition is made possible through the generous donations given through MMAPO. Join MMAPO today to get involved and assist in this and other exciting opportunities at our school.



LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

SOCGER



Our Leathernecks continued picking up steam after the return from the holidays! With continued hard work and dedication, these boys pushed out some great wins over the IDEA schools and other academies. With their ticket punched to the semi-finals, the Leathernecks fell 4-2 to a tough IDEA Toros team in Edinburg. Kudos to these young men on an outstanding season!



Our VISA soccer boys are District Champions! They started the season with a "goal" and they worked hard to earn it! With some hard-earned victories, these boys punched their ticket to the semi-finals!

Day in and day out our cadets put in the work to show up on game days and pull away with victories!

No doubt our Leathernecks Soccer program is looking tough and promising! Congratulations on the amazing season!

VISA SOCCER

LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS



The golf team has enjoyed the great spring weather for being on the green! From the tees on the Tierra Santa course in Weslaco, where they picked up a first-place win, to the tough course at TCSAAL State Golf Championships at

Harvey Penick Golf Academy in Austin, these cadets have competed with some amazing golfers across the valley and the state. The team took 1st place with a combined team score of 361 with Tristan Stoops leading that earning 1st individually! Kudos to Coach Robledo and our cadets for their performance this season!

GOLF



POWERHOUSE TEAM LEADS TO STATE WIN IN DOUBLES

This powerhouse duo took their collaboration to the competition and gave double trouble all the way to state! Cadet Yang and Cadet Hurley earned their gold in doubles in the state match at Texas State University!



TENNIS

Our tennis team had a stunning season! In their state tournament appearance at Texas State University, Cadet Liang and Cadet Yu did amazing work in the singles competition! In doubles, Cadet Montes and Cadet Rashdan made it to the final four in the state tennis tournament! Cadet Hurley and Cadet Yang were doubles champions! Their teamwork pushed them to new heights against some great competition! Congratulations to all for a successful season!



LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

JIU JITSU

Our Jiu Jitsu team is hard at work practicing and preparing for their competitions. They competed in Edinburg at the RGV Spring Open earning 2 gold and 2 silver medals! Way to go Leathernecks!



The MMA cycling team participated in the 6th Annual Resaca City Bicycle Ride. Cadets Bohning, Brown and Donnan all participated. The cyclists rode the 45 mile route in just under three hours, marking personal bests for Brown and Donnan. Cadet Bohning completed several 50+ mile rides earlier this year.

CYCLING



Congratulations to Cadet Gunderson for winning by split decision the Elite Male Novice 147 Lb weight class division in the 87th Annual Golden Gloves Boxing matches!

BOXING



INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL



INTRAMURAL FOOTBALL

Intramural competitions are a fun way to earn bragging rights within companies. We love watching our cadets engage in friendly competitions encouraging their friends as they rival against each other. This year, our cadets engaged in football and basketball tournaments. A great way to feel the comradery!

LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

Springtime means baseball, and these Leathernecks were ready to take the field! With stunning wins and even a no hitter this season, our young group is digging deep roots into the program! After the regional championship win, these boys fought their way to state! Although they came up short of the win, there is no doubt they will make the trip back in 2024!



BASEBALL

BASEBALL TEAM MAKES IMPRESSION AT STATE FINALS

After some rainy games in the forecast and schedule, our baseball overcame adversity and pushed themselves with no excuses. Our boys fought hard and found themselves on the road to the state playoffs at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville Texas. Although they came up short, we are so proud of them!





LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS



Our track team gave some stunning competition this season! From setting a 4x400m personal best team record time at the Meet of Champs to taking two back to back first place meet wins at home, these cadets worked hard for their hardware this season!

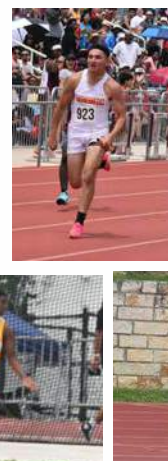
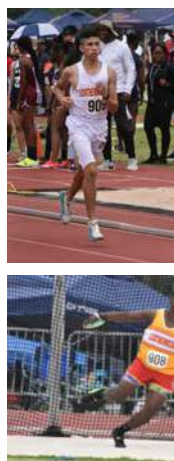
They headed to the State Championship Meet in San Marcos, where the cadets walked in with determination and ran out with the TCSAAL Track and Field State Championship!



TRACK



TRACK AND FIELD TEAM COME HOME TCSAAL *State Champions*



Amazing is an understatement. Only one team in TCSAAL Track and Field can call themselves "State Champions" and that title is home to our Leathernecks! In addition, Cadet Webb earned the top spot in discus third year in a row with a 158 foot throw! The Leathernecks 4x100 meter relay team of Alexis Duffy, Ben Smith, Jose Tijerina and Gilberto Flores Gamboa also ran away with gold medals claiming the number one spot!

NEED A CAR?

WE RENT VEHICLES!



Schedule your rental today!

Sedans

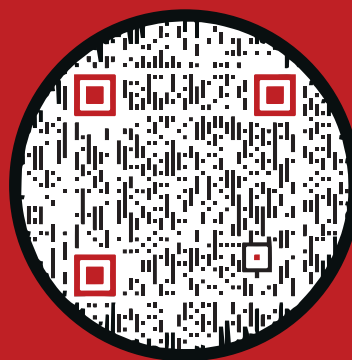
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Trucks



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Orale!

**charlie
clark
NISSAN**
Brownsville - Harlingen





MILITARY

2023 LEADERSHIP FORUM



What an inspiring Leadership Forum for our cadets! We welcomed Major General Charles Hudson early Friday morning as he opened with a presentation on servant leadership for cadets and staff speaking on how to empower others around you. The day continued with Gunnery Sergeant Patrick Sauer and his presentation. After lunch, the cadets headed to the Back 40 for some team-building and bonding activities. Building better young men every day!

FOX TAKES TECOM HONORS



Congratulations to Fox Company for earning the top spot at TECOM 2023! Through a tough day of inspections, knowledge and performance for all cadets, Fox Company rose to the top. Great job to all!





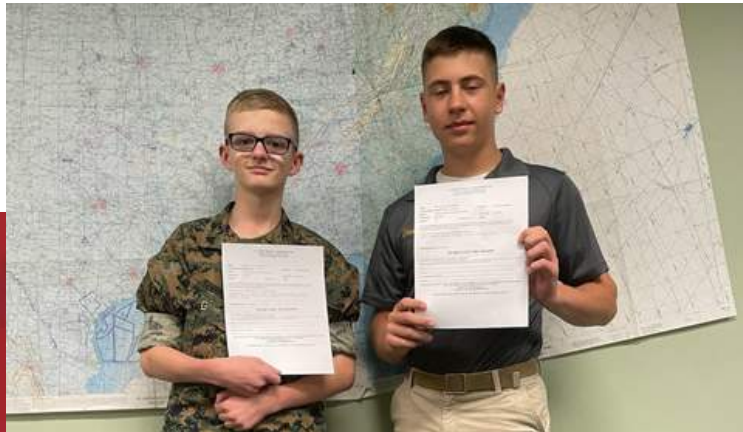
MILITARY

PLEBES PUSH THROUGH



Our new plebes get right to work getting through their orientation period. They wake up and work hard every day as they get better and stronger both physically and mentally. We are proud of their consistency and determination!

DRONE PILOT CERTIFIED



Congratulations to our newest certified drone pilots, Cadet Trevor Doggett and Cadet Christian Tebbs! Amazing work! Great job, gentlemen!

PREPARED FOR TAKE OFF



Congratulations to Cadet Ashby on his successful unassisted take-off and landing! This is a big accomplishment and we are proud of his hard work!

PLEBE GRADUATION PARADE

Congratulations to our plebes who endured their first weeks at MMA! Our plebes recited and took the oath in front of family and friends to become the newest cadets at Marine Military Academy! We are excited to have these young men complete this big step as we look forward to their coming success as they transition to cadets.



1ST ANNUAL JROTC INTERNAL SKILLS MEET



Cadets participated in an internal meet, that will focused on all aspects of the MCJROTC competition (Marksmanship, Close Order Drill, Physical Fitness, Raider Team Events). This will assessed logistical and operational readiness as we prepare to host an external JROTC Skills Meet next year!

ACTIVITIES



Service above self...

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Chaplain 1Lt Treviño provided Ash Wednesday services to both our staff and cadets for those wanting to participate. We appreciate Chaplain 1Lt Treviño for all he does for our MMA family.

COOKING CLASS



Cooking classes for cadets are given by the Mess Hall staff on weekends and boy do things get cooking! The cadets learn to cook a variety of meals including Quick Potted Spanish Chicken with Cilantro Couscous and Black Beans. Sounds delicious!

BOY SCOUTS ASSIST WITH 5K RUN



Our amazing Boy Scouts assisted with the Child Abuse Prevention Awareness 5K/10K Run in Harlingen. These cadets assisted multiple organizations with set up and take down of the event and even helped with runners and spectators. Great job, cadets!

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT COMPLETE



Cadet Omeý has completed his Eagle Scout project at Loaves and Fishes! We thank them for their partnership and congratulate Cadet Omeý on his work!

FIELDS OF PRAISE



What an amazing night of worship and fellowship at the annual Fields of Praise! Our Bible Club cadets were able to join teens from Harlingen and surrounding areas

to worship together and hear the word of God. We commend these young men for growing in their faith!

OCELOT CONSERVATION EVENT



Our Science Club participated in the Ocelot Conservation Fest held at Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville. Cadets volunteered at different children's stations that included face painting, ocelot jump, button design and bean bag throw. This event brings awareness to the ocelot and other endangered species in Texas.

CADETS LEARN PROPER ETIQUETTE



Cadets attended an etiquette training covering several points of etiquette including how to escort a lady, door entering and exiting, dining chair and table etiquette. The cadets also enjoyed a friendly game of Etiquette Jeopardy that helped them retain key points of what they learned.

CADETS EARN ALL STATE HONORS



American Legion Boys State is among the most respected and selective educational programs of government instruction for U.S. high school students. Congratulations to our cadets selected to participate and represent their state!

ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST CONTEST



Cadet OmeY participated in the Rotary International Four Way Test Speech Contest. He won first place for the Harlingen club, he was awarded a \$500 check. He earned second place in the city competition! Great job, Cadet OmeY!

EASTER SERVICE OFFERS BAPTISM



Our cadets and staff were able to enjoy a Good Friday service given by Chaplain Trevino. After the service, cadets who chose to be baptized were given the opportunity. It was a great way to celebrate the Easter holiday!

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



Bryan S. Anderson



Timothy A. Boothby



Lucas A. Boyer



Eric V. Brody



Romeo O.
Chukwuonye



Samuel Dearing



Carlos A.
Del Castillo Garcia



Archer J. Ferguson



Gilberto
Flores Gamboa



Emiliano Flores Ruiz



Evan J. Gunderson



Aidan M. Hernandez



William Liang
Valedictorian



Jacob T. Hurley



Liam T. Kelly



Zane D. Kester



Mawaba M. Mabuza



Rafael Martinez



Stephen J.
McIntosh



Gerd L. Medina



Minh C. Nguyen



Michael J. Nwizu



Byambajav
Nyamdavaa

*" Behind you, all your memories. Before you,
all your dreams. Around you, all who love you.
Within you, all you need."*

SENIOR CLASS OF 2023



Mitchell E. Olivo



Nicholas K. Olson



**Jesus O.
Padilla Pederzini**



Luis H. Perez



Riley M. Porter



Lorenzo A. Ramirez



Frankie L. Ratliff



Drake J. Robinette



Travis J. Rod



John Mills O. Shields



Mako Smith



**Jeffrey M.
Sprague Jr.**



Cole A. Staples



Aleksei M. Stepanov



Jimmy L. Stewart



Matthew R. Sutter



**Joseph A.
Tran Nguyen**



Kaden J. Wade



William W. Webb



Roger V. Willard



Kenneth Jones
Salutatorian



Whisly K. Zheng



Elias M. Kouri
Post Grad



**Osayogie O.
Oyemwense**
Post Grad

"Intelligence plus character...that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King Jr.



MARINE



Class of

MILITARY ACADEMY



2023

EVENTS

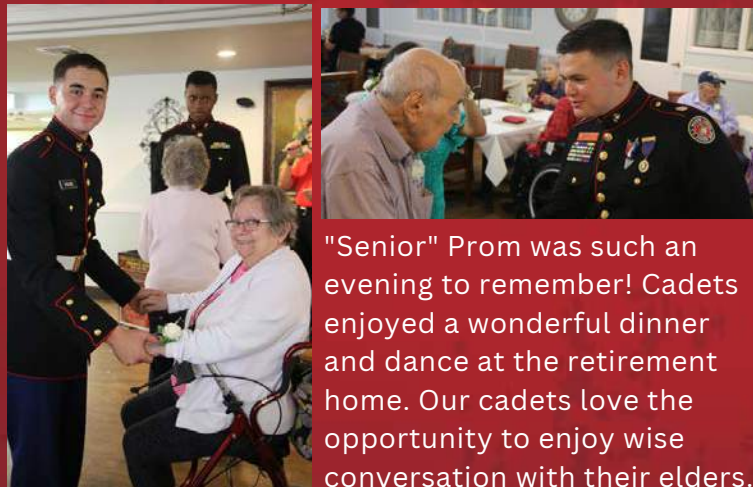
Make the days count.

GIRL SCOUTS DONATES COOKIES



The Girl Scouts of Harlingen came by to donate and treat our cadets to some yummy and legendary Girl Scout cookies. We appreciate the wonderful organizations that care for our cadets!

CADETS ENJOY "SENIOR" PROM



"Senior" Prom was such an evening to remember! Cadets enjoyed a wonderful dinner and dance at the retirement home. Our cadets love the opportunity to enjoy wise conversation with their elders.

CADETS SUPPORT LOCAL 5K RUN



50 cadets sponsored by Hilton Garden Inn and Harlingen Convention Center ran the Child Abuse Prevention Awareness 5K Run. Running in beautiful formation, our cadets were cheered on by the community as they supported this great cause. Cadet Ubaldo Flores came in 1st place overall for the 5K with a time of 17 minutes flat. Way to go, everyone!



MMAPO TREATS CADETS TO A FUN DAY



Our amazing MMAPO treated all of our cadets to a field trip to Urban Air in Harlingen. The cadets enjoyed their friends and social time playing and jumping around on trampolines, ziplining and wall climbing. They enjoyed a great dinner at Urban Air before returning back to campus. Thank you, MMAPO!



EVENTS

EARTH DAY AT LAGUNA ATASCOSA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE



MMA Science Club members joined other Rio Grande Valley community members at Laguna Atascosa National Wildlife Refuge to celebrate World Earth Day! What a meaningful way to celebrate Earth Day!

BOY SCOUTS COURT OF HONOR



Congratulations to our Boy Scouts who celebrated with their Court of Honor dinner. We are proud of these fine young men!



MMA'S GOT TALENT SHINES BRIGHT



What a variety display of talent we had at MMA's Got Talent Show! From instruments to singing, our cadets put on such an amazing show! Congratulations to the winners, although, the audience was the real winner enjoying these great performances!

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK



Teacher Appreciation Week went great at MMA! Our teachers enjoyed some delicious lunches and fun prizes all week long! A huge thanks to our MMAPO for all they do for our MMA family. Another big thanks to all of our community supporters!

H.M. Smith

A COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONY HONORING
GENERAL H.M. SMITH AND INDUCTION OF
GENERAL H.M. SMITH FELLOWS



*H.M. Smith Fellows
2023
Inductees*



Mrs. Robin Farris



Mr. Robert Farris

SSgt Carlos Centeno (Ret)



What an honor to host the General H.M. Smith Commemorative Ceremony! Cadet LtCol Webb welcomed our guests as we opened with the National Anthem and prayer before dinner. This year, our three new inductees as General H.M. Smith Fellows were SSgt Carlos Centeno (Ret), Bobby Farris and Robin Farris. Congratulations to these amazing inductees! Mr. Richard Moxley, Chairman of the MMA Board of Trustees, introduced our guest speaker, Christopher H. Boswell, who was also the recipient of the Iwo Jima Leadership Award.

Alumni

WEEKEND



Over 50 alumni gathered for this year's Alumni Weekend! Lunchtime brought together the alumni with current seniors as they enjoyed fellowship and the traditional Senior Pinning. In the afternoon, we gathered for the Alumni Parade in front of the monument where alumni watched and remembered their days here at the Academy. What an honor to have our alumni visit for the weekend!

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

Spring Fling



FAMILY WEEKEND

We welcomed the parents and families of our cadets to MMA with a beautiful traditional morning colors presentation as Students of the Month, Cadets of the Month and promotions were presented in front of proud family members. Parents were invited to talk with teachers, tour the campus and see what daily life is like for our cadets. We closed up with John and Jane Wayne Day - a fun for all family event day full of activities!



JUNIOR SENIOR PROM 2023



Junior Senior prom was a night to remember! In the "Roaring 1920's" theme setting, these cadets made some great memories to last a lifetime. From the dinner to the dancing, the cadets and their beautiful dates had a wonderful night of fellowship, friendship and laughs. Once the cadets and their dates hit the dancefloor, there was no turning back. A big thank you to the Prom committee and all the staff that helped make this a success.

Senior Dinner 2023



Traditional Senior Dinner night is a time to welcome the families of the seniors for the weekend of graduation celebrations. A wonderful time to gather one last time and celebrate the upcoming accomplishment.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



According to the Bible, from which we interpret life, we are born into a messy world that has the potential to limit the life God desires for us, but God in His grace sent Jesus into our mess to transform us into masterpieces.

What an amazingly loving and sovereign God we have! He turns our messy life into a masterpiece work of art as we let Him do the work in and around us (Adrian Pantomial).

Each new day we stand on a precipice, not of our own choosing. We will then either remain perched on its uncertain edge paralyzed by an onslaught of reminders of how miserably we have failed to that point, or we will hurl ourselves forward uttering a prayer like a battle cry that Almighty God will transform us into the young man we could never be apart from His work of forgiveness and restoration.

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold the new has come" - 2 Corinthians 5:17

Questions: What messes would you like God to turn into masterpieces? How might life look differently if you were to accept God's forgiveness?

CADET STEPANOV HEADING TO

Berklee College of Music is one of the top institutes of contemporary music and the performing arts. Berklee is dedicated to pushing the creative potential of the world's most inspired artists. Berklee's commitment to its students is proven when their students are later recognized in their art with notable awards. One of MMA's very own is headed there this fall.

Cadet Aleksei Stepanov grew up playing music since his days in elementary school. He is talented in multiple instruments including the alto saxophone, the bassoon and the drums. In 2019, at MMA, he picked up the baritone- a new instrument for him to learn.

"When Mr. DeSantis came in to MMA in 2022, he helped me

“I love music. When at home and at school I love to create new genres on my free time. I love music.”

with learning the baritone," says Stepanov. "He is a talented musician," says DeSantis, "it's great to see him headed to Berklee, one of the finest music schools, to build and use his talent!"

We wish Cadet Stepanov the very best at Berklee!

Berklee College of Music



A Time to

The 57th annual commencement exercises were held for 45 graduating seniors and 2 post-graduates on May 20, 2023. Led by President, Colonel Christopher S. Dowling USMC (Ret), family and friends joined the MMA staff to celebrate the grand occasion. David H. Square, 2004 MMA graduate and former Fox Company Plt Commander, gave the commencement address to the graduating class. Congratulations to all of the graduating cadets and their families!



Celebrate

2023 GRADUATION





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CADET OF THE MONTH

FEBRUARY



Byambajav Nyamdavaa
Alpha Company



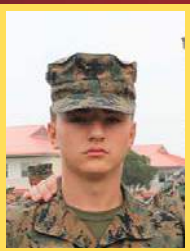
Mehkhi Blue
Delta Company



Hunter Doyle
Echo Company



Victor Hernandez
Fox Company



Anthony Sosnovskiy
Golf Company



John Slemko
Drill Team



Luis Perez
Rifle Team



Jonah Cox
Band Member

MARCH



Erik Brody
Alpha Company



Evan Gunderson
Delta Company



Cruz Suarez
Echo Company



Asa Hudson
Fox Company



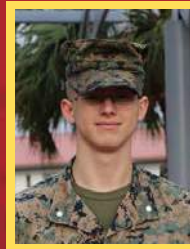
Ryan Lay
Golf Company



Nicholas Chestnut
Drill Team



Arvin Zheng
Rifle Team



Eric Eckstein
Band Member

APRIL



Franklin Polonsky
Alpha Company



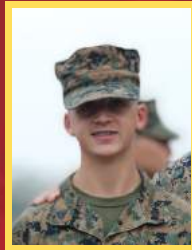
Hunter Glass
Delta Company



Marco Bonometti
Echo Company



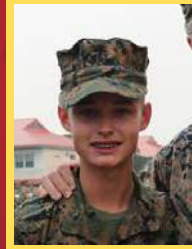
Amir Rashdan
Fox Company



Tony Shields
Golf Company



Hudson Greene
Drill Team



Jason Forrest
Band Member

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

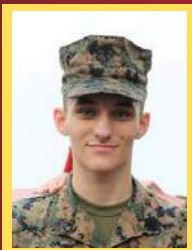
FEBRUARY



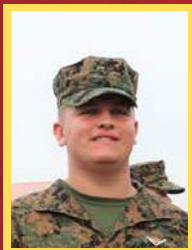
Kade Mora
Delta Company
English



Jeffrey Lin
Delta Company
Math



Cole Staples
Fox Company
Science



Kaden Jon Wade
Fox Company
Social Studies



Michael Satchell
Alpha Company
General Studies



Scott Ford
Fox Company
Foreign Language

MARCH



William Crawford
Golf Company
English



John Slemko
Alpha Company
Science



Mako Smith
Alpha Company
General Studies



William Liang
Echo Company
Math

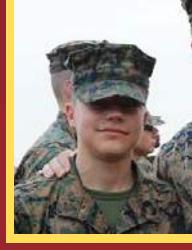


Gerd Medina
Fox Company
Social Studies

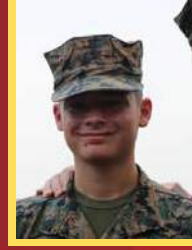


Jacob West
Fox Company
Foreign Language

APRIL



Artem Logvynenko
Alpha Company
English



Dominic Hiatt
Echo Company
Science



Michael Alvarez
Delta Company
General Studies



Hunter Doyle
Echo Company
Math



Igwe Chukwu
Echo Company
Social Studies



Derek Divinia
Alpha Company
Foreign Language

Congratulations

to all of our cadets who have earned the honor of Student of the Month and Cadet of the Month this school year! Your hard work, determination and dedication has earned you the recognition you deserve! We are proud of you!

ALPHA



FINAL STRETCH

If you were to ask cadets when the most challenging time period is in MMA, many cadets would be quick to tell you it's during the end of the year. With finals looming over the horizon and the oasis of graduation just behind the storm, cadets find it difficult to maintain focus on the mission of staying on top. When asked for his opinion on this situation, MaGSgt Rodriguez said: "Don't stop when you are tired. Stop when you are done."

The cadets will graduate on May 20th and depart on the same day by plane, car, or other means of transportation.

HARD WORKING, HARD-EARNED

Alpha Company recently distributed promotions to the seniors of Alpha-- including c/Lt. Smith, c/Cpt Brody, and c/Major Kelly.

These cadets have proven their worth through days of effort guiding the cadets down the right path in MMA; these ranks were no easy task to obtain. Congratulations, seniors!



COMING UP...

As the school year 2023-2024 approaches, Alpha staff has been faced with a dilemma: who will take their place as they move on?

"Discipline is key. I have clear expectations for my staff next year, which will be set at the beginning of summer camp; I look forward to seeing which Cadet Instructors rise to this occasion." -c/1stSgt Shardonofsky

Congratulations!

Wishing our Alpha Direwolves graduating seniors the very best on their future endeavours! We are so proud of the young men you have become!



DELTA

One thing Delta Company knows how to do is throw a good birthday party! During our traditional birthday celebrations, we praise the cadets, partake in motivating push-ups, sing "Happy Birthday" to all cadets individually, eat, dance and enjoy each other's company!



To wrap up the school year, Delta Company took a trip to Main Event to celebrate one last time with each other! Delta Company had fun bowling, in the arcade and celebrating.

We are so proud of you!



We are so proud of the Delta Dawgs graduating seniors! Congratulations and best wishes in your bright future!

Delta Company would like to welcome SSgt Hector Jimenez as the company drill instructor. We are looking to a great year ahead of us with your leadership and guidance!



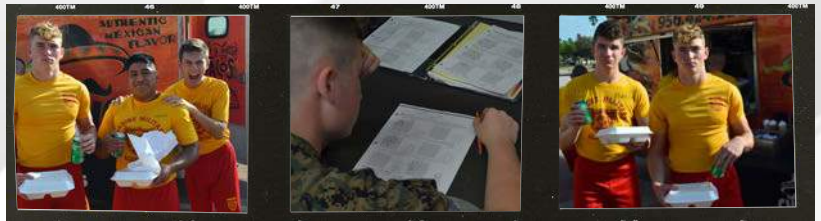
Welcome to Delta Co.

ECHO

"It is the best company to help push a person to improve academically, physically and mentally. We always push each other to give 110% and work for a brighter future"
- Platoon Sgt Montes



"Echo Company has been my second home for the past 3 years. Along the way I have learned things and have opportunities to achieve many goals and improve myself as a person." - Supply Sgt Ashley

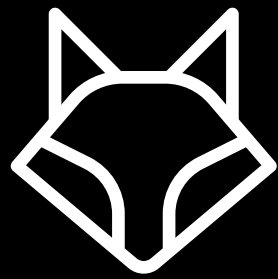


Echo Company is always a good time with great friends. We are always supporting one another in our daily activities and when it's time to celebrate accomplishments, we do that too!

Best Wishes!

Wishing the Mighty Echo graduating seniors all the best as they graduate and follow their dreams!
We are so proud of you!





FOX

Favorite Fox moments...



Cadet Velez E

"When I scored 38 points for my team during an away game!"



Cadet Rashdan

"When my tennis team won the state championship!"



Cadet Del Castillo

"The first time I saw my family during Parents Weekend in October."



Cadet Zheng A.

"Beating Jones, Eisner, Ngyuen and a few others in go karting during Spring Break."



Cadet Moore

"When Foxtrot won TECOM and the Golden-Guidon in the same day!"



Cadet Stevenson

"That I beat Ramirez and Bello in black jack 10 times in a row!"



Way to go!

Fox Company graduating seniors, we are so proud of the fine men you have become and we can't wait to see the amazing accomplishments that are to come!

GOLF



Golf Company made some great memories this last quarter of the year. We enjoy celebrating birthdays and bonding time with each other. From fishing at South Padre Island to watching movies, we always know how to work hard and have fun too!



We wish you the best!

We are so proud of our Golf Company graduating seniors for all their hard work and dedication this year. Best wishes wherever your future takes you!





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MMA ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ECHO ALUMNI, SABIN C. MOICEANU, GRADUATES FROM VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY ECHO COMPANY 2019 ALUMNUS, SABIN C. MOICEANU, GRADUATED IN 2023 AS A DISTINGUISHED NROTC CADET AND UNITED STATES NAVY LIEUTENANT FROM VIRGINIA MILITARY INSTITUTE. MOICEANU EARNED HIS BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ELECTRICAL AND COMPUTER ENGINEERING. HIS NEW MOS IS NAVY SURFACE WARFARE LPD USS NEW ORLEANS STATIONED OUT OF SASEBO, JAPAN. "THANK YOU FOR BELIEVING IN HIM AND BEING THERE FOR HIM WHEN IT MATTERED MOST," SAYS FATHER, STEFAN MOICEANU, "WITH RESPECT AND APPRECIATION!" CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ALUMNI! WE HOPE TO HEAR MANY MORE SUCCESS STORIES SUCH AS THESE!



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Memorials

2/1/23 – 5/23/23

1stSgt Bernard Francis Cullen, Jr., USMC (Ret) “Scotty”
 Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
 James Krodel
 Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
 William Massey
 MMA Deceased Cadets
 SSgt Richard J. Nadzam, USMC
 Joseph Christopher Perales
 Thomas G. Ringer – MMA '92
 Humberto Solorzano
 Sgt John Haddock Stevenson, IV, USMC
 SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN
 Mary Stillman Tichenor
 SSgt Edward L. Walsh “Knobby”,
 USMC – 7th Marines, Korea
 Marcus B. Zale

770

Col Christopher S. Dowling, USMC (Ret)
 Rosalio Urtado

LEADER

The Leader is a quarterly publication
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 (956) 423-6006

IMPORTANT DATES

JUNE

19 Summer Camp Instructors Report By.....1800

2023 Summer Camp

24 Summer Camp Registration.....0800-1200

JULY

2023 Summer Camp

21 Family Social.....1700

22 Summer Camp Graduation.....0900

AUGUST

6 Band Camp (Band Director approval) By 1800

6 Football Camp (Athletic Director approval..... By 1800

6 Leadership Orientation Check In(Invitation only)..... By 1800

12 Registration/Check in for First Year Cadets..... 0800-1200

13 Check in for Returning Cadets By 1800

14-15 Military Orientation for Plebes

14-15 Teacher In Service Days

16 Classes Begin

26 SAT 0800

SEPTEMBER

1 MMA Parents Organization Meeting @ Hilton Hotel.....1930

2-3 Plebe Crucible

9 Introductory Training Graduation Plebes 1000

15 NHS/NJHS Induction 0800

OCTOBER

7 SAT..... 0800

12-13 First Quarter Exams

16 Fall Mid Point / Beast Competition

19-21 Parents Weekend

19 Bonfire.....1845

20 Colors – COM/SOM/TOM/Streamers Presentation.....0815

20 Parents Day – No classes (Meet and Greet @ CAC)0845-0915

20 Parents Visit Classrooms0915-1015

20 Scheduled Parent/Teacher Conferences 1015 – 1145;
 1300-1600

20 Tailgate1500

20 COC March On TBD

20 Homecoming/Senior Night/Football Game TBD

21 Birthday Ball1800

25 PSAT (TBD)0800



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