



LEADER

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
FORGING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



LEADER

IN THIS ISSUE

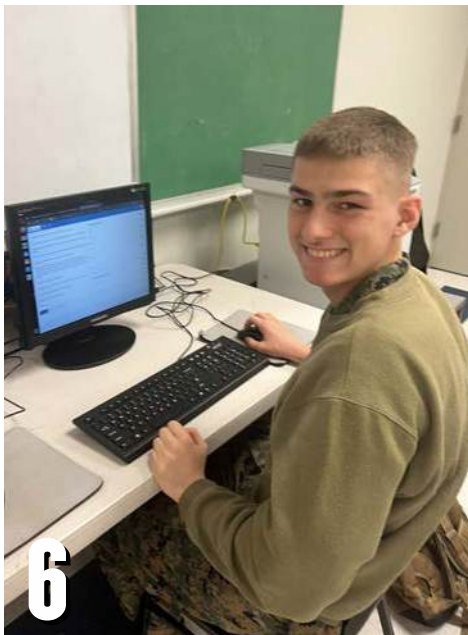


FEATURED

English Team Pushes Learning Limits.....	6
Chemistry Sparks Curiosity.....	7
Lara Logan Gives Remarks at H.M. Smith Dinner.....	18
Graduation Day Arrives for Class of 2026.....	22-23

ALSO INSIDE

Letter from the President.....	3
College Corner.....	4
Special Feature: Senior Class of 2026.....	24-25
Alumni Spotlight.....	26



6

English Team Pushes Learning Limits



7

Chemistry Sparks Curiosity



18

Lara Logan Gives Remarks at H.M. Smith Dinner

ON THE COVER

Company commanders march in the annual Alumni Parade.

ON THE BACK COVER

The graduates applaud guest speaker, Andrew Winney, after his address.



22

Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremony

PRESIDENT'S *Reflection*



Dear MMA Families and Friends,

What an incredible year it's been! As we close out 2026, I'm filled with gratitude for the hard work, spirit, and dedication that make Marine Military Academy such a special place.

This year was full of proud moments. Our athletes had a fantastic season, highlighted by the Varsity Football team winning the Texas State Conference Championship, along with strong

showings in tennis, golf, track, and baseball, including the baseball team reaching the state final four and finishing second.

Academically, our cadets continued to shine — with impressive PSAT scores, national competition wins, and growing opportunities in dual enrollment and AP courses. Many of our young men also earned spots in selective internships, service academy summer programs, Texas Boys State, and the Harvard Medical School Pre-College program. We're proud to keep expanding support for their future goals.

A special thank-you to the Marine Military Academy Parent Organization (MMAPO) for everything you do. The recent upgrades to the Cadet Activity Center and your support for our students and faculty have made a real difference on our campus and in the quality of life for all. Also, we are deeply grateful to those who gave generous financial gifts to the school this year — your support remains incredibly important to our mission.

Thank you all for your continued dedication. Have a restful summer, and I'm excited for another great year ahead.

Go Leathernecks!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C. S. Dowling". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

COLLEGE CORNER

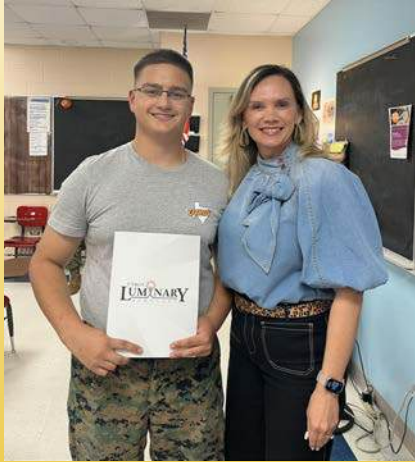
WITH
**MRS.
RODRIGUEZ**



Mrs. Carmina Rodriguez
956-421-9216
crodriguez@mma-tx.org



CADET SLEMKO, SENIOR, EARNS LUMINARY SCHOLARSHIP AT UTRGV



Cadet John Slemko has earned the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Luminary Scholarship valued at up to \$137,000!

UTRGV stopped by to personally congratulate and award Cadet Slemko, and his MMA brothers were overjoyed! Almost in tears, Cadet Slemko read his award and celebrated his hard work payoff. This scholarship pays for his undergraduate program, room, board, and a postgraduate program if desired. Congratulations to the newest Vaquero!

FUTURE AGGIES ENJOY WELCOME RECEPTION; CADETS EARN ADDITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Texas A&M Higher Education Center in McAllen hosted an event for the class of 2030 Aggies! Our MMA cadets attending Texas A&M this fall enjoyed an evening filled with food, music, and raffle prizes. They heard from a former Aggie who shared what being an Aggie is all about! Cadet Boutwell and Cadet Cerezo were also recipients of the Sul Ross scholarship!



CAREER FAIR SUCCESS...CADETS GET HANDS ON WITH PROFESSIONS



This year, Mrs. Rodriguez planned and executed a successful career fair for all cadets to enjoy and learn. Our amazing MMA parents shared their knowledge about the various professions they hold. Cadets were able to ask questions, learn hands on and spark curiosity for new interests. Career fairs help cadets make decisions that better guide their college selections and paths. Job well done!

LEADERS IN THE MAKING

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY AND NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY CADETS ARE LEADING THE WAY

The National Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society are leading by example here at MMA. From excelling academically to their dedication to extracurricular activities, these cadets know exactly how to navigate tough schedules and prioritize their responsibilities. They are pillars in our community and well-respected. Sponsors Mrs. Martin, Ms. Garcia and Ms. Duran guide the cadets and help them be leaders by example. We are proud of our young men for all they do!



VIETNAM TRAVELING WALL MAKES STOP AT MMA



Our cadets had the opportunity to view the Vietnam Traveling Wall as it made a stop at King Gym at MMA. The Vietnam Traveling Wall lists 58,000+ names. The Global War on Terror (GWOT) Wall honors the fallen from Iraq/Afghanistan, 9/11 victims, first responders, and civilians. Cost of Freedom Tribute honors veterans from WWI, WWII, Korea, Desert Storm, Somalia, and more. A wonderful learning opportunity!

CHINESE CLASS GETS TASTY

Our Chinese language teacher, Ms. Wang, took a fun turn on the learning path and taught the cadets about a popular favorite food, baozi- which is a steamed stuffed bun. The boys enjoyed their tasty treat and learned more about popular cultural foods!



ENGLISH TEAM PUSHING LIMITS

CADETS BREAKING BARRIERS WITH ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HIGH EXPECTATIONS

Our English department is composed of veteran educators, each bringing more than 20 years of teaching experience, with core teachers (Mrs. Janie Martinez, Ms. Delilah Welch, and Mrs. Rachel Martin) holding master's degrees and College Board training in AP strategies. In addition, Mrs. Toscano, who teaches speech, composition, and photojournalism, brings exceptional real-world experience to the classroom with her degree in communications. Before becoming a teacher, she worked in Silicon Valley as a news producer and writer, giving cadets valuable insight into professional communication and media. Our teaching philosophy embraces a healthy balance of technology use, emphasizing reading (including novel studies) and writing on paper, which research shows supports stronger learning outcomes.

Next school year, we will introduce the First Strokes Handwriting Program for middle school cadets, a multi-sensory curriculum designed by an occupational therapist. The program teaches letters based on their initial strokes (circles, short lines, or tall lines) rather than alphabet order, building a strong foundation for handwriting. Cadets will engage in interactive activities that reinforce the connection between motor skills and letter recognition, making handwriting easier to sequence, remember, and master.

OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

TEXAS CHARTER SCHOOL ACADEMIC & ATHLETIC LEAGUE (TCSAAL) – Regional and State Spelling Bees

Our middle school cadets meet weekly with English department teachers to prepare for spelling bee competitions. This year, five cadets advanced to the state level. Cadet Ejenavi was crowned Regional Spelling Bee Champion, and Cadet Tyler placed 3rd in the state competition!

DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION (DAR) – Essay Contest Cadet James Nguyen won the middle school division of the DAR essay contest. He collaborated with English department teachers after school to refine his essay through all stages of the writing process.

ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED STATES (AMCSUS).

Our middle school team earned second place in the AMCSUS Academic Bowl competition, which features SAT-level math and reading questions. Math and English teachers supported cadets during lunch sessions in preparation.

In the AMCSUS essay competition, Cadet Colson White placed first in the middle school division, and Cadet Yoel Lee placed second in the high school division. Cadets participated in lunch writing workshops with English teachers, where they drafted, revised, and edited their essays before submitting the top entries for the contest.

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR PEACE, SECURITY, AND PROSPERITY (IFPSP)

Under the direction of the MMA English department, we proudly recognize four outstanding cadets for their achievements in the IFPSP contest, a global event engaging students in issues of peace, security, and ethical decision-making.

This year's theme, "Learning from the Past, Navigating the Present, and Building Resilient and Ethical Futures in the Age of Artificial Intelligence," challenged cadets to reflect on history, analyze today's digital world, and propose ethical solutions for the future.

Cadet Nicolas Anderson and Cadet Alexander Rosemeier earned 3rd Place in the Essay Division, while Cadet Jonah Cox and Cadet Jack Jenkins earned 2nd Place in the Video Division. Their accomplishments demonstrate excellence in scholarship, leadership, and critical thinking.

Interestingly, a few students admitted they'd rather solve 100 problems than do a lab—can't say we blame them!

We're proud of every cadet who finishes this course, but what we're looking forward to most is hearing them realize they've become better learners this year. That realization is just as important as any grade.

Finally, we want to give a special shout-out to the AP Chemistry students. Their consistent effort and strong performance this year have been impressive. They're on track to earn up to 8 college credits, and we couldn't be prouder of their resilience and determination.



Our English and math department teachers with a few of our AMCSUS team cadets. They prepare all school year for their competitions.

CHEMISTRY CLASS SPARKS CURIOSITY WITH HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTS

All year long, we have actively investigated and applied chemistry concepts such as modern atomic theory, energy, chemical quantities, and reactions in aqueous solutions. Problem-solving and critical thinking skills are improving steadily, and I find myself reflecting on how much growth has taken place. Learning is messy, uncomfortable sometimes, and unfamiliar. Chemistry lessons build stamina, tolerance, and confidence. I am proud of the work my students have put in to improve. Learning how to learn is what drives the course of each student's success. Cross-curricular instruction is a key factor in success for every chemistry student. This is the reason I rely heavily on the math department to develop chemistry students' math skills. Prior science instructors and the English department develop stronger thinkers who can interpret, evaluate sources, and draw evidence-based conclusions.

It takes a team to develop better learners with qualities that will serve them beyond the classroom, and for that reason, I am grateful for our team at MMA.

Using inquiry-based, lab-rich instruction has proven to assist students in building conceptual and procedural skills. Assessing across multiple dimensions has supported diverse learning styles. Learning outcomes begin with intentional planning and immediate feedback. Cadets were asked about their favorite labs. The most popular lab was the thermite smashing lab, where cadets demonstrated an oxidation-reduction reaction in which aluminum reacts with iron oxide to produce molten iron. Elephant toothpaste is always fun to watch, especially when seeing the students' reactions. An unexpected favorite was predicting a precipitate lab. Cadets mixed over 15 solutions and predicted the products by applying the rules of solubility. This lab was designed to be a challenge, but it quickly became a favorite because of the brilliant and unexpected colors that were observed.

Some favored the Penny lab where cadets created their own alloy (brass) from a mixture of zinc and copper-based pennies. Pennies turned bright and shiny gold after heating. The exciting colors observed during the flame test created curiosity and depth in our lesson about modern atomic theory. AP students enjoyed engineering a voltaic and electrolytic cell to power a small engine, showing both skill and creativity. Interestingly, there are a few students who would rather solve 100 problems instead of completing a lab—not bad!

I am excited for each cadet to complete the course successfully, but I mostly look forward to hearing the acknowledgment that becoming a better learner was a goal checked off this school year. This reflection is, in many ways, just as important as academic success.

I would like to highlight the AP chemistry students for their consistent and excellent performance. Each cadet is preparing to acquire 8 college credits, which reflects hard work and commitment. I am proud of the level of resilience and determination I have witnessed.



Submitted by: Mrs. Mona Cervantes

FEBRUARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Franciso Villalobos
English



Kaden Kidd
Foreign Language



Jonathan Jacob Nitzan
General Studies



Levi Kurewosky
Math



Jose Andres Angulo
Science



Jonathan Yhip
Social Studies

MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Nguyen Bui Nguyen
English



Sky Bayless
Foreign Language



Colton Clark
General Studies



Levi Kurewosky
Math



Hayden Wise
Science



Nicholas Anderson
Social Studies

APRIL STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



Steven Villarreal
English



Austyn Ashby
Foreign Language



Issey Nishikawa
General Studies



Aiden Gent
Math



Cole Griffin
Science



Alexandre Rosero
Social Studies



FEBRUARY CADETS OF THE MONTH



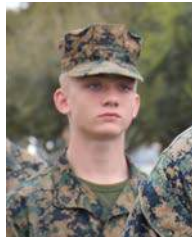
Jose Angulo
Delta Company



Colin Nguyen
Echo Company



Yoel Lee
Fox Company



Colten Martin
Golf Company



Jacob Montez
MCJROTC-Raiders



Noah Trevino
Band

MARCH CADETS OF THE MONTH



Nicholas Anderson
Delta Company



Elias Gonzalez
Echo Company



Jack Bohlke
Fox Company



Rylen Borgioli
Golf Company



Jonah Cox
MCJROTC



Colin McClure
Band

APRIL CADETS OF THE MONTH



Parker Ford
Delta Company



Brandon Smith
Echo Company



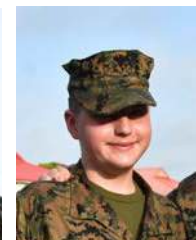
Sky Bayless
Fox Company



Levi Kurewosky
Golf Company



Aiden Gent
MCJROTC- RIFLE



Kyson Baer
Band



CADETS OF THE MONTH

WELCOMING MIDTERM

PLEBES

This January, we welcomed a new class of mid-term plebes and their families to the Academy. Upon arrival, these plebes are marking the start of an exciting new chapter. From setting up their new rooms, to fresh haircuts these plebes are well on their way to starting an incredible new journey. Faculty, staff and drill instructors assisted families through registration, class scheduling, and campus preparations to ensure a smooth start for these young men. Returning cadets arrived on campus ready to embrace the newest plebes and help them understand and learn the tradition of leadership, discipline, and academic excellence. After a month long introductory period of leadership classes and military activities, these young men graduate before their family, friends and the Corps of Cadets. Year after year, every January, we welcome incredible young men. This year was no different.





MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

5 Leader - Summer/Fall 2025

LEATHERNECKS WIN TCAL STATE FOOTBALL TITLE

FOOTBALL TEAM HAS RECORD SEASON, COMES HOME WITH THE STATE TROPHY



The Leathernecks capped off a remarkable season by winning the 2025 TCAL Football State Championship! Under the direction of Coach Israel Gracia and his team, they delivered a dominant performance, defeating Texas Legacy Football Academy 44-12 to secure the state crown and bring home the championship trophy to Harlingen!

BASKETBALL SHOWS GROWTH, MAKES PLAYOFF RUN

This season, the basketball program showcased determination, teamwork, and growth as the teams competed with intensity and pride throughout the season. Demonstrating resilience on the court, the JV team earned respect for its disciplined style of play and strong work ethic. The varsity team played tough all season and earned themselves a shot at the game but and the return to the playoffs. Their season came to an end after an exhilarating tough loss to STISD Science Academy. With the varsity returners and the upcoming JV players, there is no doubt the Leathernecks will return to the post season next year!



11 Leader - Spring 2026



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

MIDDLE SCHOOL GRINDS TO GROW ON AND OFF THE COURT

Lead by Coach Sosa, the middle school Leathernecks were busy grinding and growing getting better and stronger! After successful basketball and soccer seasons, these young men look forward to making their marks in junior varsity next year!



SOCCER RISES TO THE CHALLENGE

With a tough schedule and some very tough soccer teams to be faced, the Leathernecks always rose to the challenge! They grew individually as players and dominated the field as a team! Looking forward to the talent on the field next season!



LEATHERNECKS BOXING LEAVES IMPRESSION AT GOLDEN GLOVES



At the Golden Gloves Tournament, MMA cadets performed exceptionally well! Cadet Gonzalez came home the Heavy Weight Champion!! Cadet Cortez, 112 pound class, won silver! Cadet Pushnia, 142 pound class, earned bronze! An impressive showing for our boxers!

GOLF TEAM IMPRESSES AT THE STATE LEVEL



After multiple first place finishes through the season, the golf team showed true Leathernecks talent at the state tournament and brought home a third place trophy! What a season!



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

LEATHERNECKS ATHLETICS

TENNIS CAPTURES SOME HARDWARE AT STATE, MAKES BIG NAME FOR MMA

Extremely proud of our tennis team competing in the state tournament in Seguin, Texas! They brought home state champions in doubles and a 4th place finish in singles! Teamwork at its finest!



TRACK TEAM TAKES REGIONAL CHAMPIONS TITLE, SENDS MULTIPLE TO STATE

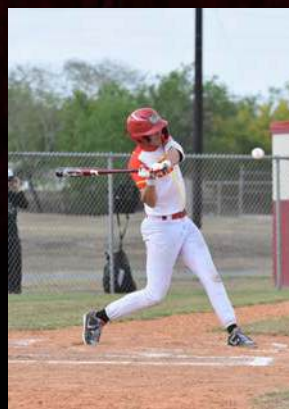


Regional Champions wasn't enough for this team, they had to make a statement at state! The track and field athletes had a superb showing at the state meet at Texas State University! Brandon Smith earned state champion in the 100m run! In addition, a 3rd place finish in the 4x100m relay and 4th in the 200m run!



BASEBALL ENJOYS HISTORIC SEASON, TAKES TCSAAL STATE RUNNER UP

In an incredible season, the baseball team remained undefeated through the district season capturing the Division 2 District Champions title! Making regionals look easy, the team punched their ticket to the state tournament defeating Great Hearts Irving for a chance at the title. Although they fell short to Legacy, the Leathernecks proved they deserved to be in the final show of the season! Way to go, Leathernecks!



THE HEART OF CADET LIFE

At Marine Military Academy, clubs provide cadets with opportunities to explore their interests, build leadership skills, and strengthen teamwork beyond the classroom. From academic and service organizations to cultural, athletic, and hobby-based groups, cadets are encouraged to participate in activities that promote character, discipline, and personal growth. These clubs create a strong sense of camaraderie while helping students develop confidence, responsibility, and lifelong friendships.



The DECA team, lead by sponsor, Giselle Rodriguez, had a fantastic year sending several cadets to the state competition!



The Science Club, lead by sponsor, Tanya Vento, plans the most unique outdoor adventures for cadets to learn outside the classroom.



Our Animal Care Club, lead by Mrs. Cynthia Garcia-Caceres, truly captured the hearts of many as she and the cadets dedicated time to the local animal shelter. Cadets, fed, cleaned and walked the cats and dogs in the shelter.



This year's spelling team, sponsored by Mrs. Martin, showed true MMA spirit as Cadet Gerard Ejenavi took 1st place in the TCSAAL Regional Spelling Bee and secured a state spot! Cadet Ty Tyler finished 3rd place in the State Spelling Bee and competed through the 15th round! Wow!

MILITARY DEPARTMENT STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP



The military department is always working hard to develop our young men into strong leaders. After the school bell rings, they are helping shape the future. From routines to study time, physical development, and even outside community events, our cadets are working hard to juggle the responsibilities of not only being a student but also a cadet. Pressure gets tough, but our young men have grown every time. The multiple opportunities found in Raiders, Color Guard, Drill Team and many more is what helps build our young men outside the classroom. What an excellent job this department is executing!



CADET LIFE in ACTION

Social events at the Academy play an important role in developing camaraderie, leadership, and school spirit among cadets. Throughout the year, cadets participate in a variety of activities, including dances, company celebrations, and special campus events. These gatherings provide opportunities for cadets to build friendships, strengthen teamwork skills, and create lasting memories outside the classroom and military training environment. By balancing discipline with social engagement, Marine Military Academy helps cadets grow into well-rounded young leaders.



PARENTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE ***MMAPO'S IMPACT ON CAMPUS LIFE***



The MMA Parents Organization (MMAPO) plays a vital role in enhancing the cadet experience by supporting programs, events, and initiatives that contribute to student success. Through fundraising efforts, volunteer service, and parent engagement, MMAPO helps strengthen the connection between families and the Academy. Its contributions provide valuable resources for cadet activities, such as the recreational room for weekends and supporting various groups and clubs. The positive impact of MMAPO is felt throughout campus, helping create an environment where cadets can thrive both academically and personally. It doesn't stop there. The amazing parent organization also supports staff and recognizes the great work our different departments do to make the every day life at MMA run smoothly. MMAPO is and will continue to be a vital part of the MMA family!



ANNUAL H.M. SMITH EVENT WELCOMES AWARD WINNING JOURNALIST *Lara Logan*



The annual General H.M. Smith Dinner brought together cadets, alumni, supporters, and distinguished guests for an evening celebrating leadership, service, and patriotism.

This year's dinner featured award-winning investigative journalist Lara Logan as guest speaker. Known internationally for her frontline reporting and fearless journalism, Logan shared insights on leadership, resilience, and the importance of integrity in today's world. Her remarks resonated with cadets and attendees alike, reinforcing the Academy's mission of developing disciplined, morally strong young leaders.

The evening also honored new H.M. Smith Fellows, Oscar Cuellar and John Elizondo, and recognized supporters whose dedication continues to strengthen the Academy's educational programs and scholarship opportunities. The event reflected the enduring traditions and spirit that have defined Marine Military Academy for generations.



Spring Fling

FAMILY WEEKEND



Spring Fling is always a great time for families to visit, for cadets to unwind and enjoy some family time together mingling with MMA staff. The MMA Parents Organization did a wonderful job planning some great activities for all to enjoy. Teachers and drill instructors ready to meet with parents and make an encouraging push to the end of the year.

This year, the college and career counselor, Mrs. Rodriguez, planned a phenomenal career fair utilizing the amazing parents we have within our own MMA family. We have such a variety of professionals, and who better for our cadets to learn about the wide range of professions than from the parents who care about their futures!

A very productive, yet fun, Spring Fling Weekend!



What a fun day of activities MMAPO planned for our cadets! From carnival games to lunch with families and even a human slot machine, these cadets enjoyed their Spring Fling Family Weekend!



ALUMNI *Reunion* 2026



Tradition, camaraderie, and shared memories came together as alumni from across the country returned to Marine Military Academy for a memorable Alumni Reunion celebration. The special gathering welcomed former cadets representing multiple graduating classes, each reconnecting with the institution that helped shape their lives and leadership journeys.

The reunion weekend provided alumni the opportunity to revisit the campus, reconnect with classmates, mentor the senior class, and enjoy a traditional parade.

The alumni then move on to South Padre Island, where they enjoy the opportunity to connect their families, engage in local fun and relaxation, and cap the weekend off with dinner along side Academy staff.

We look forward to seeing more alumni engage in the Academy, not only during the reunion weekend, but throughout the school year!



CELEBRATING A SEASON OF SUCCESS

The spirit of achievement and leadership was on full display as Marine Military Academy proudly hosted its annual Spring Awards Ceremony, honoring cadets for their dedication, academic excellence, military leadership, athletic accomplishments, and personal growth throughout the school year. It is a time to recognize the outstanding efforts of young men who continue to exemplify the Academy's core values of discipline, honor, courage, and commitment. The event celebrated not only individual achievement but also the collective strength and brotherhood that define life at the Academy. Families and guests applauded proudly as award recipients crossed the stage, each representing the hard work and discipline cultivated through the Academy's structured environment and tradition of excellence. As the Spring Awards Ceremony concluded, cadets were reminded that success is built through consistency, accountability, and service to others. The evening served as both a celebration of accomplishments and an inspiration for future goals as the Corps of Cadets continues to uphold the proud legacy of Marine Military Academy. With another successful year nearing completion, the Academy looks forward to continuing its tradition of preparing young men for success in college, leadership, and life.



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY GRADUATION 2026

“ANCHORED IN TRADITION, READY FOR THE FUTURE”

On a proud and memorable day filled with tradition, discipline, and celebration, the graduating cadets of Marine Military Academy marked the end of one chapter and the beginning of another. Families, faculty, fellow cadets, and community members gathered to honor the achievements of the Class of 2026 as they crossed the stage in a ceremony defined by excellence and perseverance.

For years, these young men committed themselves to a lifestyle built on leadership, responsibility, and academic achievement. Through early mornings, demanding schedules, inspections, athletics, and classroom success, the graduating class developed the values that define the Academy: honor, courage, and commitment.

The graduation ceremony reflected both the proud military traditions of the Academy and celebrated the personal growth of each cadet. As the cadets sat with their uniforms sharply pressed, medals gleaming, and families looking on, the emotions ran high as cadets stood side by side one final time before beginning new journeys in their next chapters.



Incredible addresses from salutatorian, Lawson Mairie, valedictorian, Kevin Chen, alumni and guest speaker, Andrew Winney and board chairman, Carlton Marcyan captivated guests in attendance for this year's graduation.



Faculty members praised the class not only for academic accomplishments but also for the character they demonstrated throughout their time at the Academy. Many graduates earned distinctions in leadership, athletics, community service, and citizenship, leaving behind a legacy for future cadets to follow. Parents and families watched with pride as the cadets received diplomas that symbolized years of sacrifice and determination. For many students, Marine Military Academy became more than a school — it became a second home and a place where lifelong friendships and leadership skills were forged. As the ceremony concluded and caps were tossed into the air, the Class of 2026 stepped confidently into the future. Though their paths may lead them in different directions, they leave united by the lessons, traditions, and brotherhood built within the Academy walls. The graduates now carry forward the Academy's mission: to lead with integrity, serve with purpose, and face the future with confidence.



MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



Valedictorian

**Cadet LtCol
Kevin Chen**

United States Naval Academy



**Rocco Lawrence
Aliotto**
The Citadel



**Sotirios Randolph
Amitsis**
Virginia Tech



**Michael Alexander
Arellano**
United States Marine Corps



**Liam Daniel
Ashby**
Texas A&M University



**Daniel Christian
Bazaldua**
University of Texas Dallas



**Luis Enrique
Biasi**
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Forrest Griffin
Boutwell**
Texas A&M University



**Hunter Matthew
Burkholder**
Austin Community College



**Justin Matthew
Cadena**
Texas A&M University



**Daniel Matias
Castro Romero**
Texas A&M Prairie View



**Gavriel Gus
Cerezo**
Texas A&M University



**Trevor Dee
Christiansen**
University of North Dakota



**Colton Lucas
Clark**
Texas Tech University



Egor Dvoryaninov
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Mario-Mason
Ngum Elung**
University of Texas Dallas



**Luke Robert
Estell**
The Citadel



**Baldomero
Fuentes Gomez**
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Aiden Quint
Gent**
*University of Colorado
Colorado Springs*



**Dilraj Singh
Gill**
The Citadel



**Cooper Elias
Hill**
Texas State University

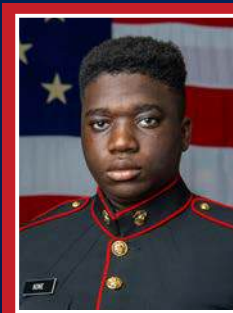
SENIOR CLASS OF 2026



**Carson David
Howard**
*University of Houston
Downtown*



**Silas Frederick
Hurtado**
University of Arizona



**Dossongui Tinnon
Amogue Landry Kone**
Temple University



**Benjamin Paul
Koyama**
United States Air Force



Salutatorian
**Cadet Colonel
Lawson Mairie**
United States Naval Academy



**Trenton Jonathan
Lloyd**
The Citadel



**Artem
Serhiyovych
Logvynenko**
Norwich University



Jacob Montez
*United States
Air Force Academy
Prep School*



Issey Nishikawa
University of Houston



**Jonathan Jacob
Nitzan**
*University of Texas
San Antonio*



**Grady Michael
O'Rourke**
Virginia Military Institute



**Dax Jackson
Paltridge**
The Citadel



**Michael Curtis
Parrott**
Texas A&M Corpus Christi



Yurii Pushnia
State of New York Maritime



**John Fred
Slemko**
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Charlie Jax
Tidwell**
United States Navy



**Noah Alexander
Trevino**
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Dash Lloyd
Varner**
Texas A&M Corpus Christi



**Emilio
Vega-Rosas**
*University of Texas
Rio Grande Valley*



**Francisco
Villalobos Bernal**
Virginia Tech



**Yannick Karris
Koch**
Beacon College



ALUMNI *Spotlight*

Alumni will always have a special place in the heart of MMA. We love to hear stories from our former cadets and especially love it when our alumni make the time to meet and mentor our current cadets. The camaraderie is one of a kind, and we love to share the stories.



Ben Smith (2024), Isaac Sharp (2025) and Patrick Omev (2024) attend the annual Army Navy college football game. Although on different sides of the field, these young men made sure to catch up and enjoy the game together.



Over the winter holiday break, Battalion Commander, Lawson Mairie and MMA Band Drum Major, Jonah Cox, met for dinner with Patrick Omev, class of 2024, who is currently at the U.S. Naval Academy. The young men were able to chat and gain perspective as they plan their own futures.



Alumni of class of 1995, Jorge Ramirez, recently completed and graduated from the Judge Advocate General's Officer Basic Course. Our alumni still doing amazing things!



Isaac Sharp and Phillip Rogers attended a USMA track meet where they ran into their old MMA brother, Scott Ford! Great to see these young men doing well and still connecting!

Giving Donations

October 22, 2025 - May 28, 2026

Memorials

Lloyd Alaback

Neil Winston Bagley

Maj James J. Bott, USMC (Ret)

Gabriel Paul Darnall - MMA '15

Col Elkin S. Dew, USMC (Ret) "Tex" - VMF 422

Evelyn East

Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN

SSgt Tyrel L. Genoff, USMC - MMA '07

Steve Gerber

Chris Heard - MMA '99

John P. Heiner, II "Jack"

Col Donald Higginbotham, USMCR (Ret)

LtGen William M. Keys, USMC (Ret)

Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)

SgtMaj David A. Miller, USMCR (Ret)

Paul Kenneth Olson, Ph.D. – MMA '85

Thomas G. Ringer - MMA '92

SgtMaj Frederick A. Robertson, USMC (Ret)

Richard Spann - VMF 422

Sgt John Haddock Stevenson, IV, USMC

SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines, RVN

MSgt Lawrence Tichenor, USMC (Ret) "Larry"

David Tucker

SSgt Edward L. Walsh "Knobby", USMC – 7th Marines, Korea

Steven Doyle Wieland "Steve"

Col Jerry C. Wulf, USMC (Ret)

In Honor of

1stSgt Sergio D. Barrios, USMC

Ruthie Ewers

SgtMaj David Howell, USMC (Ret)

LEADER

The Leader is a bi-annual publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy.



MAGAZINE STAFF

Julie Fonseca

Director of Marketing, Publicity and Social Media

To receive a digital version via email,
send your email address to the publication editor,
Julie Fonseca, fonseca@MMA-TX.org or call (956) 421-9222.
Marine Military Academy 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 423-6006

IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST 2026

8	DRILL INSTRUCTORS RETURN	
13	CI'S RETURN	BY 1200
9-14	LEADERSHIP CAMP (INVITATION ONLY)	BY 1800
9-14	FOOTBALL CAMP (ATHLETIC DIRECTOR APPROVAL)	BY 1800
9-14	BAND CAMP (BAND DIRECTOR APPROVAL)	AFTER 1400
15	REGISTRATION / CHECK IN FOR FIRST YEAR CADETS	0800-1200
16	CHECK IN FOR RETURNING CADETS	BY 1800
17-18	MILITARY ORIENTATION FOR PLEBES	
17-18	TEACHER IN SERVICE DAYS	
19	FALL SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN	

SEPTEMBER 2026

2	SERVICE ACADEMY CANDIDATE FITNESS ASSESSMENT	
11	NJHS / NHS INDUCTIONS	1400
12	FALL PLEBE GRADUATION	0830
19	ACT EXAM	0800
19	SATURDAY TUTORIALS	1300-1500

OCTOBER 2026

3	SAT EXAM	0800
3	SATURDAY TUTORIALS	1300-1500
7	SERVICE ACADEMY CANDIDATE FITNESS ASSESSMENT	
14-16	1ST QUARTER EXAMS	
17	ACT EXAM	0800
21	PSAT 10 TH & 11 TH GRADE	
22-25	PARENTS WEEKEND	
22	BONFIRE	1845
23	COLORS/PRESENTATIONS	
23	PARENTS' ACADEMIC DAY/TEACHER CONFERENCES	
23	COLLEGE FAIR	
23	MARINE BIRTHDAY CAKE PRESENTATION	
23	TAILGATE	1600
23	HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME/SENIOR PRESENTATION	1800
23	LIBERTY BEGINS	AFTER 1930
25	CADETS RETURN FROM LIBERTY	BY 1200
29	TRUNK OR TREAT	1800

NOVEMBER 2026

7	SAT EXAM	0800
7	SATURDAY TUTORIALS	1300-1500
11	VETERANS DAY PARADE	1600
12-15	FALL SKILLS CAMP	
20	THANKSGIVING BREAK BEGINS - TRAVEL DAY	ALL DAY
29	CADETS RETURN FROM THANKSGIVING BREAK	RETURN BY 1200
30	CLASSES RESUME	

DECEMBER 2026

5	SAT EXAM	0800
5	SATURDAY TUTORIALS	1300-1500
11	SERVICE ACADEMY CANDIDATE FITNESS ASSESSMENT	
15-17	1ST SEMESTER EXAMS	
18	CHRISTMAS BREAK BEGINS - TRAVEL DAY	ALL DAY

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 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.



Marine Military Academy
320 Iwo Jima Blvd.
Harlingen, TX 78550
(956) 423-6006

www.MMA-TX.org
Facebook.com/MarineMilitaryAcademy
Flickr.com/MMAHarlingen
YouTube.com/user/MMAHarlingen