

MMA Leader

Current information for our Special Friends. Dedicated to our Cadets—Leaders of tomorrow.



CELEBRATING 40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

16 Pages

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April 2006

“Heads Up!” A FIRST TIME ‘TRADITION’ IS BORN AT MMA

The Marine Military Academy (MMA) hosted the annual **Alumni Reunion and Parent’s Leatherneck Golf Tournament** as a conjoined event for the first time in MMA’s 40-year history. Many Cadet Parents, Alumni, families and friends were on hand to observe Morning Colors Formation on Friday, April 7th, 8:30 a.m. or ‘oh-eight-thirty’ as they say in the military.

In keeping with MMA Tradition, **MMA Alumni addressed the Corps of Cadets** at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 7th, sharing insight and words of wisdom relative to how MMA impacted the success of their future endeavors. A ‘select few’ alums remained to meet with Cadet Seniors following the

(continued on Pages 2, 8-9)



MMA ALUMNI, CADET PARENTS AND FAMILIES, STAFF AND FACULTY JOIN TOGETHER IN PATRIOTIC SALUTE DURING THE TRADITIONAL CORPS OF CADETS ALUMNI PARADE HELD FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH, AT MMA’S IWO JIMA MONUMENT PARADE GROUNDS.

MMA SAN FRANCISCO FUNDRAISER NAMES *THE HONORABLE GEORGE SHULTZ* AS IWO JIMA AWARD RECIPIENT



Photograph courtesy of Richard Doyle.

“THUMBS UP” FOR MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY! Cadets PFC James Liquori, GySgt Christoffer Latos, Lance Corporal David Rodriguez, and Corporal James Rodriguez join The Honorable George P. Shultz for a HISTORICAL photographic moment in MMA history.

The Marines’ Memorial Club portrayed a most fitting backdrop for MMA’s **Fifth Annual Bay Area Benefit Dinner** in support of Marine Military Academy fundraising goals on the evening of Wednesday, April 12th. As approximately 200 guests entered the Dinner, they passed by a sign most appropriately stating, *“Marines’ Memorial Club: Celebrating 60 Years of paying tribute to those who have gone before; and a service to those who carry on.”* Amidst a golden glow cast through a far window as the sun set over the Golden Gate Bridge, a memorable evening began with a warm welcome from co-host **Jay Mancini**, MMA Board Advisor and former Marine, followed by the Invocation by **Dr. William Peters**, *Angel Fire Ministries of Los Angeles*. Co-host **Michael P. Bradley**, MMA Trustee and father of 2001 MMA graduate, introduced head table guests followed by remarks by **Colonel Robert G. Hill**, USMC (Ret), MMA Superintendent. After an elegant dinner of grilled petite filet and petite grilled salmon filet, Mancini introduced **General William L. Nyland**, USMC (Ret), former Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, who in turn requested **The Honorable George P. Shultz**, former Secretary of State, to step forward and accept the **MMA Iwo Jima Award**. The Award, presented annually, recognizes those

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1

initial presentation, briefing Seniors regarding what comes next after graduation. Alumni presented Seniors with not only words of the wise but also MMA Alumni lapel pins.

Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets Parade honoring all alumni got off in perfect stride at 4 p.m. Friday, April 7th, in front of the Iwo Jima Monument. Cadets pulled off yet another stellar performance regardless of relentless heat, humidity, scant winds and plenty of RGV sunshine!

Preceding the Parade, MMA Alumni hosted a **Memorial Dedication** in MMA's Memorial Garden. The Ceremony, sponsored by MMA Alumnus Dr. Frank Colunga, MMA Class of 1975, honored two fallen Marines, both killed in action January 13, 2005 from injuries received as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq: LCpl Juan Rodriguez Velasco of El Cenizo, Texas; and LCpl Matthew W. Holloway of Rockport, Texas. Both Marines were assigned to Marine Forces Reserves 1st Battalion, 23rd Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Corpus Christi, Texas, serving alongside several MMA alumni and staff: *Will Creamer, MMA Cadet from 1985-1988; Brook Foreman, MMA Class of 1999; Kurt Fulkerson, MMA Class of 1999; Rick Gonzalez, MMA Class of 1985; David Harris, MMA Class of 1998; Stace Hayward, MMA Class of 1983; David Miller, MMA Facilities Director; Miguel Morales, MMA Staff Duty Officer; Mario Moreno, MMA Staff Duty Officer; Rick Rodriguez, MMA Class of 1985; David Smith, MMA Class of 1988; Todd Wayne, MMA Class of 1998.* The Memorial Garden, an ongoing fundraising effort sponsored by MMA, houses live oak trees - each accompanied by an engraved plaque

memorializing or honoring a friend or loved one in lasting tribute. The marker at the far end of the Garden's sidewalk is the final resting place of Harlon Block, one of the Marines of the flag raising symbolized by the Iwo Jima Monument. Following introductions by MMA's Col Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret); and remarks by Dr. Frank Colunga; MMA's Chaplain Chris Elliott officiated, delivering a Dedication address which touched many, *"If you stop and think about it, can anything be more ironic than the lives of our nation's military? They love America so much that they spend many years in foreign lands far from the safety and security of their own shores. They revere freedom so much that they willingly sacrifice their own so that others can be free. They defend our right to live as individuals, yet they yield their individuality in that righteous endeavor. Perhaps, and most ironic of all is that they value life so much that they bravely ready themselves to sacrifice their own life in the service of their country and fellow Marines. Lance Corporal Juan Rodriguez-Velasco and Lance Corporal Matthew Holloway honored us as Americans by the manner in which they lived and sacrificed their lives. The heartbreaking reality of their death gives heroic testimony to their own sacrifice in the service of their country. We recognize them for doing their duty with honor for their country. We recognize them for their steadfast commitment and their ultimate sacrifice. Their sacrifice has stirred our heart. Through their loss and the pain that followed, our eyes have been opened to a profound truth - the future of America is not free. We are learning again that this great country is built on heroism and noble sacrifice. It is built on the backs of men like Juan Rodriguez-Velasco and Matthew Holloway, who answered a call that took them beyond duty, who gave far more than what was expected and required, and who gave it all with little thought to reward or recognition. Today we honor them for the way they honored us. We dedicate these two trees in their honor and for their eternal memory. As we see these trees reach toward the heavens may we remember their legacy, the bedrock of character and excellence these men leave behind. As these trees grow deep into the earth may we remember that their legacy is rooted in their Corps values of honor, courage, and commitment."*

Marine Military Academy Parents Organization held a dinner and auction at Valley Race Park on Friday, April 7th from 7 p.m.-midnight. The well-attended event was enjoyed by all--so much so that midnight rolled around way too quickly!

Cadets, cadet Parents, alumni, families and friends alike teed off at the **Leatherneck Golf Tournament** starting at 1 p.m. sharp on Saturday, April 8th at Harlingen's Treasure Hills Country Club. "Heads up!" sounded more than once during the hard-fought battle for first place. **Marine Military Academy Parents Organization** hosted a 19th Hole Reception at Treasure Hills Country Club directly following the Tournament. Band-aids were applied to all bruised egos amidst much-welcomed ice-cold refreshments, tasty treats and tall tales from the tundra and turf.

For those MMA alumni, parents and families that didn't compete in the Golf Tourney, quite a few stepped up to test mental and physical skills on MMA's "Back 40" on Saturday, April 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.--**Rappelling Tower, Obstacle and COPE courses, Rifle Range, and games of wit and strength.** This event, an alumni favorite, guaranteed exciting entertainment for all--both participating and spectating. A static display on land adjacent to MMA's Back 40 housed the "tools" of two MMA Alumni/USMC pilots' trade: a CH-53 helicopter and a C-130 military transport. The impressive display caught the eye of many passers-by.

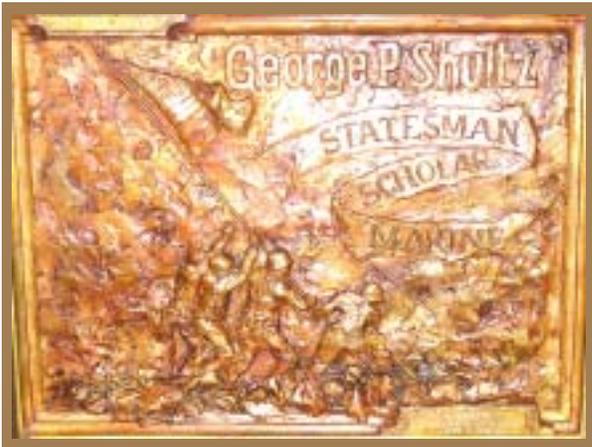
The annual **MMA Alumni Dinner** at Valley Race Park on Saturday, April 8th got underway at 6:00 p.m. The dinner featured a "Celebrity Roast 'N' Toast" of Harlingen local resident and longstanding MMA legend SgtMaj William Steigerwald, USMC (Ret).

The weekend wrapped up with several alumni enjoying gourmet breakfast with cadets in MMA's Mess Hall. There were plenty of smiles, hugs and **"See you all next year"** all around as another great time of fellowship drew to a close.

See associated pictures on pages 8-9.

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IWO JIMA AWARD as presented to former Secretary of State George Pratt Shultz. The bronze sculpture is the creation of Sculptor Don Rich, former Marine.

D. Aronson; Michael Bradley, *Murphy, Pearson, Bradley & Feeney*; William A. Gary, *Yavapai Builders*; Emmett W. MacCorkle, *Emmett W. MacCorkle Insurance*; Jay Mancini, *Mancini-Mills, Inc.*; Tony McIntyre, *The McIntyre Group*; John E. McNellis, *McNellis Partners*; John P. Roediger; Bruce Smith; J. Peter Baumgartner; John H. Bickel; Richard Burrese; Paul N. Cesari; Jonathan Cosby; Francis Cushing, Jr.; Paul L. Davies, Jr.; Nicholas A. Feakins, *Feakins & Feakins*; James A. Felchlin; Sherry Geyer; Richard Grand; Arden R. Grover; Vernon Harp; Walter Haas; Jack P. Heiner; Col and Mrs. Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret); Roger Honour; David Hundley; Robert E. Hunter, Jr.; Gregory K. Johnson; Rupert Johnson; Thomas D. Jones; Hallie Latos; George Lippi; Arthur Louie; Lynn Lowder; Ian Mackinlay; Terrence Mayo; Charles McBride; Ana M. Mendez; Louis Meunier; James Monfredini; John Miottel; Joseph M. Murphy; George O'Brien; James O'Donnell; Richard C. Otter; Joe Perrelli; Bill R. Poland; Joe Pollard; Jack C. Provine; Donald F. Reid; Jack Ripsteen; Dan Roberts; The Honorable A. James Robertson; Roderick J. Roche; Jaime Rodriguez; Joseph Rogers; MajGen Wayne Rollings, USMC (Ret); Grant Barney Schley, *Trans Pacific National Bank*; Charles Seaman; Bruce Smith; H. William Smith, III; Norman A. Spencer; Robert M. Stafford; John L. Sullivan; John C. Thomas; Herbert B. Tully; James E. Ward, *Sausal Corporation*; Franklin H. Watson; Nancy L. Wineman; and Charles Wiser, *Wise/Sweeney LLC*. Presenting colors for the Dinner were MMA Cadets PFC James Liquori, GySgt Christoffer Latos, Lance Corporal David Rodriguez, and Corporal James Rodriguez. The evening of 12 April 2006 marked a most enchanting and memorable Marine Military Academy evening in San Francisco, California.

individuals in the corporate/public life that have made a significant contribution to the Marine Corps, one whose ideals and life's accomplishments support the principles and values of the Marine Corps so ably passed along to the young men who are the Corps of Cadets at MMA. Following the presentation of the Iwo Jima Award to Mr. Shultz, General Nyland delivered a stirring address regarding the war in Iraq.

Dinner Sponsors include: **Bechtel Group, Inc.**; S.D. Bechtel Jr. Foundation; Riley P. Bechtel; William K. Bowman; Richard Guggenlime, *R.D. and Mary A. Hume Endowment*; Col Robert Hanke, USMCR (Ret); Dave O'Reilly, *Chevron Corporation*; Edgar

GEORGE PRATT SHULTZ - AT A GLANCE

- **Held 4 federal cabinet posts**
- **Taught** at 3 of this country's greatest universities
- **Served as Senior Staff Economist** on President's Council of Economic Advisors during the Eisenhower administration
- **Appointed** by President Nixon as **Secretary of Labor**
- **Named Secretary of the Treasury** and served as **Chairman of the Council on Economic Policy**; Negotiated a series of trade protocols with the Soviet Union; Represented the United States at the Tokyo meeting on the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade
- **Named** President and Director of the Bechtel Group, Inc.
- **Held two key positions in the Reagan Admin.:** **Chairman of the President's Economic Policy Advisory Board** (1981-82) and **Secretary of State** (1982-89). During tenure as Secretary of State, played a key role in implementing foreign policy that led to the successful conclusion of the Cold War and the development of strong relationships between the United States and Asia-Pacific region countries including China, Japan, and ASEAN countries.
- **Rejoined** Bechtel Group as Director and Senior Counselor
- **Awards include:** *Medal of Freedom, Seoul Peace Prize (1992); West Point Sylvanus Thayer Award (1992); Eisenhower Medal for Leadership and Service (2001); Reagan Distinguished American Award (2002); The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training's Ralph Bunche Award for Diplomatic Excellence (2002); Elliot Richardson Prize for Excellence and Integrity in Public Service; James H. Doolittle Award; and John Witherspoon Medal for Distinguished Statesmanship.*
- **Publications** authored include: *Turmoil and Triumph: My Years as Secretary of State (1993), Economic Policy Beyond the Headlines (1977), Workers and Wages in the Urban Labor Market (1970), Guidelines, Informal Controls, and the Marketplace (1966), Strategies for the Displaced Worker: Confronting Economic Change (1966), and Management Organization.*

General William L. "Spider" Nyland - At A Glance

- **Commissioned** a 2nd Lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps
- **Attained** M.S. degree from University of S. CA
- **Formal military education** includes Basic School, Naval Aviation Flight Training, Amphibious Warfare, Navy Fighter Weapons School, College of Naval Command & Staff - Naval War College, Air War College
- **Ordered** to Vietnam, flew 122 combat missions
- **Commanded** VMFA-232, the Marine Corp's oldest and most decorated fighter squadron
- **Served** as section chief for Central Command section, European Command/Central Command Branch, Joint Operations Division, Directorate of Operations (J-3) Joint Staff, Washington, D.C.
- **Assumed command** of Marine Aviation Training Support Group, Pensacola and Assistant Wing Commander
- **Promoted** to Brigadier General and assigned as Assistant Wing Commander 2nd MAW
- **Served** on Joint Staff as Deputy Director for Force Structure and Resources
- **Advanced** to Major General in 1997, then to General in 2002, assuming duties as Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps
- **Retired** from active duty 1 November 2005
- **Personal decorations include:** *Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit; Defense Meritorious Service Medal; Meritorious Service Medal; Air Medal with eight Strike/Flight awards, and the Joint Service Commendation Medal*



Photograph courtesy of Col Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret)

IWO JIMA AWARD SCULPTOR DON RICH, former United States Marine, explains the art of bronze sculpting to MMA IWO JIMA AWARD recipient former Secretary of State George Pratt Shultz.



Cadets of the Month for March

Each month a cadet is selected from each company, from the band and from the drill team, to be recognized for their outstanding attitude, conduct and performance. Below are the selections for March with a comment from their Drill Instructor or activity coordinator.

“Those selected are to be commended for their outstanding performance.” - SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret) Commandant

ALPHA COMPANY TAYLOR STEPP

Post Graduate - Mesquite, TX

“Cadet Sgt Stepp is currently 1st Platoon Sergeant. He has aggressively stepped up to the leadership plate and continues to positively impact his platoon members. As PG, I expect more mature thought processes and a higher degree of personal responsibility from him, and he continues to prove I can and should expect more from him!”

- CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)



CHARLIE COMPANY RICARDO RODRIGUEZ

Freshman - McAllen, TX

“Cadet Lance Corporal Rodriguez consistently performs his duties in an exemplary and highly proficient manner. He demonstrates responsibility, dependability, tenaciousness, is very enthusiastic and is a model student. His devotion to academics and everyday performance has been nothing less than superb!”

- CWO Jesus Hernandez, USMC (Ret)



DELTA COMPANY DEVIN W. CAVACO

Freshman - Spring, TX

“Cadet Cavaco has demonstrated excellent potential and has performed his duties as a cadet in an excellent manner. As a result of his performance, can-do attitude and unselfish work ethic, Cadet Cavaco has earned this nomination.”

- SgtMaj Larry Carson, USMC (Ret)



ECHO COMPANY COLTON KEMPIN

Sophomore - Decatur, TX

“Cadet LCPL Kempin is a first year cadet who has proven he is a good leader and understands how important it is to set a great example to his peers and cadets who rank below him. He is in outstanding physical condition and has great military appearance. The billets he's held are squad leader, moving up to platoon guide for 2nd Platoon.”

- GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret)



FOX COMPANY

Haotian Zhang

Junior - Shenyang, CHINA

“Cadet Zhang is a 1st-year cadet who demonstrates and displays excellent attitude. His performance and conduct has earned him the respect of his peers and adults on campus. He constantly strives to better himself and assists others in achieving the same. Cadet Zhang has earned promotion and is an asset to both Fox Co. and MMA.”

- GySgt Ernesto Montemayor, USMC (Ret)



GOLF COMPANY

BRANDON ALLEN-BARKER

Freshman - Chino, CA

“Cadet Allen-Barker is a fine young man with a very bright future. He can be counted on to get the job done regardless of the task. Cadet Allen-Barker is the type of cadet that personifies future leadership goals at Marine Military Academy.”

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson, USMC (Ret)



BANDSMAN

MARSHALL HEARN

Freshman - Houston, TX

“Cadet Hearn has done an outstanding job in Band during this, his 1st semester at MMA. He's a very positive contributor and has established himself as a musician of noticeable merit. He's always on time, loyal, and dedicated to the MMA Band. I am very glad to have him as a member of our band, and I look forward to his continued growth as a musician and leader.”

- CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD

JAMES TAYLOR

Junior - Duluth, GA

“Cadet Taylor is a returning cadet who has demonstrated and displayed an excellent can-do attitude. His ability and performance has earned the respect of his peers and adults. Involved in achieving 1st place in Color Guard during the Birdville, Drill Meet held in Hurst, TX, he is also 2nd in command Regulation and Exhibition Team. A true asset!”

- GySgt Ernesto Montemayor, USMC (Ret)

Companies of the (3rd) Quarter

Each quarter all companies are evaluated and awarded points for their entire company's performance in Academics, Athletics, Military and the Gold Guidon (combination of all three categories). The company (or companies) scoring the highest amount of points in each area earn coveted recognition for their combined outstanding attitude, conduct and performance.

Join us in grand "OOH-RAH!" to these companies, the winners for 3rd quarter 2006:

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FOX Company



CHARLIE Company

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ECHO COMPANY CADETS: AKIN, WILLIAM C; ALEXANDER, ANDREW E; ALIDINA, AADIL; AUSTIN, KYLE; BARRERA, JOSE P; BLAKEY III, RICHARD C; BOYD, CHRISTOPHER; BRASCH, HENRY; BROWN, DAVIS C; BURFORD III, JOHN; CABRERO, MANUEL; CALLAWAY, TREVOR L; CARMICHAEL, HUNTER A; CASTRO, EMMANUEL; CICH, JASON; COX, LYNDSY; DAI, TIAN W; DOWDELL, JAMES S; EWTON, ALBION R; FEDORENKO, GLEB; FILICE, ANTHONY D; GALLARDO, THOMAS D; GODFREY, STEVEN R; GOMEZ, LUIS E; GONZALEZ, ANDREW; GRAPPIN DEL RIO, RICARDO; GURNEY JR, CHARLES F; GUTIERREZ-GARCIA, IVAN A; HANAFAN, MAXIMILLIAN; HERNANDEZ, FABIAN; HEUMANN, RYAN A; HIRNING, KYLE; HOYLE, ROBERT Z; JEANMINETTE, JOSHUA J; KAZAKEVITCH, ROMAN M; LANDIN, TATE R; LONG JR, ROBERTA; MARCYAN, COLT T; MARTINEZ, JAMES B.; MENDOZA, ALEXANDER J; NEKUYI, DAVID S; PATRIQUIN, THOMAS; RAY, TYLER W; REMEDIOS, BARRETT L; RHINEHART JR, RICHARD W; RODRIGUEZ, RICARDO; RUWALDT, CHRISTOPHER A; SANCHEZ-GONZALEZ, ARMANDO; SHORT, CHARLES P; SMITH II, AARON J; STEEG, EDGAR E; STILLION, BRIAN E; SWAN II, THOMAS A; TREVINO, EMILIANO E; WALKER, GRANT F; WANG, YU; AND WOOD, KYLE J.

MMA Salutes MMA Museum and Visitors Center Volunteers



Pictured L-R, Front: Virginia Waters, Caroline Macmanus (Volunteer wife), Shirley Brandt (Volunteer wife), Amy Van Deest, Jan Hartman, Mary Smithey, Bernie Williams, Virginia Hill, Addie McGee. Back: Vyetta Losey (Volunteer wife), Dorothy DeLong (Volunteer wife), Earl DeLong, Hilda King (Volunteer wife), Tom King, Jerry Macmanus, Don Brandt, Monte Catterlin, Don Van Deest, Dick Steeno, Louise Steeno (Volunteer wife), Ruth Waltrip (Volunteer wife), John Waltrip, John Hartman, Ron Losey, Harry Reynolds, John Carter (Volunteer friend), B.J. Hendricks, Elizabeth Hendricks, Roger Davis, Lenore Davis, Sandy Reiningger and Bob Newton.

The Museum and Visitor Center Volunteers were honored in style at the 19th Anniversary Volunteer Luncheon on Thursday, March 30th, in MMA's Neuhaus Dining Facility - President's Mess. Immediately following the Luncheon was the 5th Annual Museum Volunteers Garden Walkway Dedication on the front lawn of MMA's Museum and Visitor Center.

At 12 o'clock noon, MMA Museum and Visitor Center Director Sandy Reiningger and Assistant Monte Catterlin welcomed the group of volunteers, followed by the Invocation by MMA's Chaplain Leo McDonald and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Earl DeLong, Iwo Jima survivor. Following a lunch catered by MMA's dining staff, MMA Acting President Colonel R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret.) addressed the volunteers, commending them on their outstanding volunteerism and contributions towards the success of MMA. Following Colonel Hill's address, Center Assistant Monte Catterlin presented each volunteer with a certificate of appreciation: **Wayne Ballard; Bob Bloedorn, Iwo Jima survivor; Lynn Bloedorn; Catherine Bowie; Don Brandt; Chrissie Bucklin; Roger Davis; Earl DeLong, Iwo Jima survivor; Barbara Fisher; Heidi Harris; Elizabeth Hendricks; Jodie Hill; Virginia Hill; Jan Hartman; John Hartman; Jane Hobbs; Sara Hodge; Mary Hosea; Jane Jackson; Joe Kight, Iwo Jima survivor; Tom King; Robert Komnick; Katy Lauer; Ron Losey; Betty Mackenzie; Caroline Macmanus; Gerald Macmanus; Shirley McDonald; Addie McGee; Jim McMahan; Linn Nelson, Iwo Jima survivor; Bob Newton; Katy Patterson; Harry Reynolds; Mary Smithey; Dick Steeno; Jerry Stepanek; Ed Swaney, Iwo Jima survivor; Amy Van Deest; Don Van Deest; Virginia Waters; Virginia Schulte; Bernie Williams; John Waltrip; and Gil Wells.** Receiving "Volunteer of the Year" was Roger Davis, recognized for his exemplary assistance and outstanding contributions to the successful daily operation

of the Center. Following presentation of awards, a group picture was taken and the group adjourned to the Center lawn for the 5th Annual Museum Volunteers Garden Walkway Dedication.

The Walkway Dedication is an annual event recognizing volunteers who have impacted the success of the Center and have passed on, with the exception of Peggy Myers who moved to California. These volunteers are immortalized by permanent engraved bricks which line the Center's Walkway. Recognized on Thursday, March 30th, was **Rosemary McKenna**. Others recognized on the Walkway are: **Earline Albaugh, Le Mar Albaugh, Ken Aller, John Baikie, Cora P. Bailey, J.C. "Charlie" Baker, Eddie Beno, Col. "Bo" Bohner, Charlottte Fowler, Dorothy Hansen, Joan Jondahl, Calvin "Gus" Lawson, Ken Leka, Meredith Leka, George McDonald, Jack Müller, Peggy Myers, J. Gordon Nix, Ellie O'Meara, Dollie Robbins, Grover Sapp, Bill Sherman, John Spratt, Sylvia Steeno, and Mae C. Vickers.**



CENTER ASS'T. DIRECTOR MONTE CATTERLIN PRESENTS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ROGER DAVIS WITH AWARD.

The Marine Military Academy Museum & Visitor Center, located alongside the Iwo Jima Monument, has become yet another MMA

success story. Since opening in 1987, the Center's Gift Shop has contributed over \$700,000 to MMA. Under the directorship of Mrs. Sandra Reiningger and Assistant Monte Catterlin, the Center is currently supported by 47 volunteers who maintain the Center and Iwo Jima Gift Shop. Says Center Director Sandra Reiningger, "Our volunteers do everything in the Center from the time they unlock the door to closing time. They greet the public, answer questions about the Iwo Jima conflict and what the Monument signifies; they receive and display new merchandise--price and mark it; they hammer and nail when necessary; plant flowers around the Center; whatever needs doing, they do it... and they do it very well!" The Center is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM and Sunday 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Center is host to MMA's Iwo Jima Monument, the original full-sized creation of the renowned artist and sculptor, Dr. Felix de Weldon. The Monument which resides in Harlingen was used for the casting of the monument erected at Arlington Cemetery outside Washington, D.C. After completion of the monument this sculpture was placed in storage until the early 1980's when its creator donated it to MMA. Donations were collected to fund the transport and reassemble of the monument on MMA soil. On 16 April 1982, the Monument was officially dedicated. The Center displays photographs documenting this event as well as a signed photograph on which the sculptor officially donated this "original" monument to MMA. The Visitors Center Museum houses many souvenirs, photographs and memorabilia of the famous World War II battle and hosts thousands of visitors each year. Veterans are encouraged to visit the Center and sign the numerous logbooks in the Center's Hall of Fame. **OOH-RAH! to our Museum & Visitor Center Volunteers. Thank YOU!**

3rd Time's A Charm! 3rd Annual Gunny Ski Memorial Ride Recap

"Word from Route 77" Authored by Jim Mischel, Class of '80



"WE MADE IT!" THE CREW, Pictured L-R, Back Row: Kuni Beasley, MMA Class of 1972; SSgt Jose Jaramillo, MMA Golf Co. Ass't DI; Jim Mischel, MMA Class of 1980; Earl Gander, MMA Computer Services; Cadet Chris Boyd, Charlie Co.; Frank Colunga, MMA Class of 1975; Craig Matteson, MMA Class of 1979. Front Row: Michelle Beasley, wife of Kuni Beasley; and daughter Rebekah; Christopher Andrew Rosales and Mark Anthony Rosales, grandsons of Gunny Ski and Isabel Wisnoski; and Debra Mischel, wife of Jim Mischel.

Monday, April 03, 2006

Ride Preparation

Frank and Craig showed up this morning, and our support crew arrived this afternoon. After a big pasta dinner at Olive Garden with fellow alumnus Fred Gladle and his wife, we headed back to the house to load the van and get everything set up. It's 9:00 pm now. We'll get up at 4:30 and try to be on the road before 5:30. Our support crew consists of Debra, Kuni Beasley (MMA 1972), Kuni's wife Michelle, and her daughter Rebekah. Michelle is responsible for getting the magnetic sign graphics. The van is courtesy of Gateway School and Dr. Beasley. The first day is 135 miles to Kenedy.

Tuesday, April 04, 2006

Ride Update, Day 1

We made it to Kenedy at about 7:30 p.m., after almost 14 hours on the road. Frank had a couple of bad spills and injured his knee, and all three of us were tired after bucking a nasty headwind for almost 80 miles. Tomorrow's forecast is for SSE winds at 20 to 30 MPH over the whole route. Thursday we're looking at SSE winds from 20 to 35 MPH, getting worse as the day progresses. We might have to re-think our plans.

Wednesday, April 05, 2006

Ride Update, Day 2

Frank didn't roll out with us this morning because his knee was in very bad shape. Craig and I took off from the hotel in Kenedy at just a little after 6:00. The first 30 miles of the ride is through rolling hills that are a little steeper than yesterday's hills. The wind was so strong that we had to pedal on the downhill stretches, too. It didn't take us long to decide that, if we finished the ride today, we would have no energy for tomorrow. So we called it a day at 40 miles.

I have mixed feelings about doing only 40 of the 105 miles, but mostly I feel good that I had the brains to make that decision. Had we finished the ride today (sustained winds this afternoon were over 30 MPH, with gusts above 35 MPH), we would have been drained, and tomorrow's ride would have been completely miserable. As it is, we're expecting 25 to 35 MPH winds, and we're planning on doing only the first quarter and the last quarter of the ride. We won't be doing the 45 miles across the King Ranch.

Thursday, April 06, 2006

Ride Update, Day 3

Earl Gander and SSgt Jaramillo, both on the staff of MMA, joined us in Kingsville this morning for the ride. Frank had recovered, so the five of us rolled out and headed south. We got lucky for the first couple of hours, with winds under 15 MPH. We knew that the wind would be getting worse because Earl and J. had just come up from the Valley.

We completed the 27 miles to the rest area south of Sarita in a little under 2 hours. We took a break, loaded the bikes and riders into the trucks, and drove to Raymondville where cadet Chris Boyd joined us. We left Raymondville at 10:30, straight into a 25+ MPH wind. This was brutal. It took us about three and a half hours total time (maybe 2.5 hours riding) to complete the 25 miles from Raymondville to MMA. It was the hardest bit of flatland bicycling I've ever done.

Two of Gunny Ski's grandkids met us at the gate on their bikes for the last half mile, and a large crowd of cadets, staff, and local media were at the school to greet us. We're all in and safe, and ready to start the Alumni Weekend festivities.

Three cheers to the riders, support crew, and all who donated to this ongoing effort--including MMA's youngest donors Christopher and Mark Rosales.
OOH-RAH!!! OOH-RAH!!! OOH-RAH!!!

MMA FAMILY TRADITION... 'SEMPER FI' ALL THE WAY!



"SON, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. 1ST, I'M GONNA HOOK THAT LITTLE PIECE OF ROPE TO MY SHORTS, STEP OFF THIS 30-FOOT TOWER, AND CATAPULT DOWN A LINE YOU REFER TO AS 'ZIP'?" MMA cadet parents, cadets, alumni alike gather atop MMA's climbing tower in anticipation of 'zipping' down the line. That first step is a doozy, and flail, back pedal...whatever method you choose-- there's no turning back after that!



FRANK COLUNGA, MMA CLASS OF 1975, RECAPS HIS FIRST-TIME EXPERIENCE WITH GY SKI MEMORIAL BIKE RIDE, "First of all, Texas has hills... they all go up (no downhill ever) and from what I could gather, ascend continuously to 'Mount Mexican Border' near our destination-elevation 50,000 feet, cause I NEVER cruised downhill once over the entire ride..... Ever. The pain started with some hill called 'Robert E. Lee' in Austin, which runs for about 3/4 of a mile at a 9% grade. This was after I warmed up my knees by falling 5 times in Austin city traffic 'cause I hadn't learned to pull my feet out of the clips on my pedals (don't ask). To get an idea of what 9% grade on a hill means, go to the outside of your house and attach a rope to the roof, step back about 9 feet and that's the path the 'hill of pain' looked like to me as I pedaled 90 beats per minute, in the smallest gear and traveled only 4 miles an hour...After the first night I called Julie and gave her the cheerful update, 'This is the single worst decision of my entire life and I will never ride a bike again. Is our health insurance paid up?' Followed by the second day update, 'I think the swelling in my knee is going down and I'm going to try to ride tomorrow. Did you know that Tylenol, Motrin, tuna fish and pickles make a great sandwich?' Then finally on the evening of the last day when icepacks, Motrin, beer, and hot showers allowed a collective amnesia to develop, 'That was kinda cool, I think I'll try it again next year.'"



MMA SUPERINTENDENT COL R.G. HILL, USMC (RET) DISCUSSES THE FINER POINTS OF MILITARY TRANSPORT WITH COLONEL(SELECT) TIM HERNDON, MMA CLASS OF '79.



"NO KIDDING, THAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ME JUST ONE YEAR AFTER MMA!" MMA ALUM ILLUSTRATES A POINT DURING THE TRADITIONAL 'SENIOR TALK'.



BROTHERS BY CHOICE. MMA ALUMNI JOIN PARADE REVIEWING OFFICER COL TOM HOBBS, USMC (RET) AS MMA CORPS OF CADETS MARCHED BY IN THEIR HONOR.



PERHAPS NOT ENTIRELY BY CHOICE! A DARING CADET MOM TESTS HER METTLE ON MMA'S OBSTACLE COURSE, PROMPTED ALONG BY HER HUSBAND, SON AND MMA'S SSGT CALEB HOOD. MOM FINISHED THE COURSE IN FINE FORM, DRAWING AN APPRECIATIVE ROUND OF APPLAUSE FROM BYSTANDERS!



MMA Alumni attending Reunion 2006: *Allfred, Jon-'80; Beasley, Kuni-'72; Bishop, Hal-'81; Broden, Bryan-'80; Brownell, Thomas-'84; Carlson, Aaron-'95; Clements, Gordon-'82; Clements, Jim-'80; Cobb, Richard-'77; Colunga, Frank-'75; Crum, Chris-'82; Ellis, Archer-'81; Fanning, Bill-'79; Fischer, Robert-'03; Friedmann, Gilbert-'84; Garza, Luis-'74; Garza, Oscar-'73; Given, Jacob-'96; Gladle, Fred-'77; Gonzalez, Carlos G-'77; Gregory, Marc-'76; Griffith, James (Jim)-'70; Guajardo, Virgilo-'80; Hammad, Ramsey-'88; Herndon, Tim-'79; Hinojosa, Alex-'87; Hitchcock, Dave-'84; Hood, Caleb-'93; Johnson, C.J.-'82; Lins, William A. -'70; Matacotta, Ernest -'78; Matteson, Craig-'79; McKiski, John B.-'76; Mischel, Jim-'80; Morton, Kenny-'72; Moxley, Richard-'86; Murray, George B.-'83; Noguess, Levi-'81; Oliva, Tuan-'82; Patton, James-'84; Petry, Joe-'76; Rodriguez, Rick-'85; Rood, John-'76; Schmitt, Bruce-'75; Shepard, David E.-'77; Shields, Robert-'02; Steigerwald, Steve-'73; Steigerwald, William D.-'72; Trimmer, Benjamin-'90; Uribe, Paul-'79; Villarreal, Luis-'02; Watkins, Matthew-'89; Watson, William-'81; Williams, Anthony-'81; Zieleck, Ken-'84; Zurlo, Harold J.-'69.*



AUSSIE COWBOY!
Rob Fischer, MMA Class of '03, takes a stroll FACE-FIRST down MMA's 30-foot Rapelling Tower in true MMA Corps of Cadets fashion, making the whole operation look way too easy!!!
LOOK OUT BELOW ... INCOMING!



One Little Rose

*I would rather have one little rose
From the garden of a friend
Than to have the choicest flowers
When my stay on earth must end.
I would rather have one pleasant
word
In kindness said to me,
Than all the flattery when my heart
is still
And life has ceased to be.
I would rather have a loving smile
From friends I know are true,
Than tears shed 'round my casket
When this world I've bid adieu.
So- bring me all your flowers today
Whether pink, or white, or red;
I'd rather have one blossom now
Than a truck load when I'm dead.
The Alumni and friends did, on
that occasion, bring me a
truckload of flowers- a display
of love and affection- not when*

I'm dead, but while I can still feel their warm affection and enjoy their smile. I was deeply touched. It will always be amongst my fondest memories. -- SgtMaj William Steigerwald (pictured with wife Mary at Alumni Reunion Dinner '06 on Saturday, April 8th.)



A MINUTE OF REFLECTIVE SILENCE IS OBSERVED DURING THE APRIL 7TH MEMORIAL DEDICATION HONORING TWO FALLEN MARINES WHO SERVED ALONGSIDE SEVERAL MMA ALUMS IN IRAQ. THE DEDICATION WAS SPONSORED BY DR. FRANK COLUNGA, MMA CLASS OF '75.



WOMEN FLY, TOO! Tish Fanning's shirt speaks for itself. Sporting a 'hands-on' kind of spirit, Tish is currently pursuing a pilot's license. Pictured in the cockpit of Military Transport C130, flown in for the Reunion compliments of LtCol Ken Zieleck, MMA Class of '84, are (L-R) Ana Smith, Tish Fanning, and Gilbert Friedmann, MMA Class of '84, checking out the flips, switches, gauges, absolute altimeters and 'whirligigs'.



AN EXTREMELY SPRY MSGT JOHN MCLAUGHLIN, LONGTIME MMA CHARLIE DI, CHALLENGES COLONEL TIM HERNDON, MMA CLASS OF '79, AND A C53 HELICOPTER TO A 'FOOT' RACE. ANY GUESSES WHO CROSSED THE FINISH LINE FIRST???

Alumni News

Where are they now?



WELL, ON THE MORNING AFTER ALUMNI REUNION '06...IN A C-53 ABOUT 500 FEET ABOVE MMA'S BATTALLION STREET!

'68

Randy Brown – rbrown@nrpgroup.com - now living in San Antonio

'74

Thomas Earwood – earwood382@comcast.net - in Army Reserves and completing residency in psychiatry

'76

Robert Eddleman- eddlleman@bresnan.net - an attorney running for Carbon County Attorney in Montana

'95

Travis Flowers – tef1975@yahoo.com - living in Hawaii and working as a civilian UXO tech clearing bombing/ firing ranges

'05

Stephen Kang USN – navycrucible@yahoo.com - deploying 15 April to Afghanistan for a year with the Army as a member of a reconstruction team

Antonio Romero – jra87@msn.com - working with father in import/export, married, one daughter

ALUMNI: Be sure to E-Mail your updates to pickens@mma-tx.org for inclusion in the Leader!

Need to find out what's going on with a fellow alum? Get on board MMA's on-line "Alumni Bulletin Board". Fill out the Alumni Information Request form located on-line: <http://www.mma-tx.org/alumni.htm> or call Connie Flores at (956) 423-6006 Ext. 232.

Get on Board:

ALL ALUMNI, ALL THE TIME!

'Twas a GREAT Classic!

Matters of the Quill...

As penned by MMA Parents Organization



The 8th Annual Leatherneck Classic was a great success. Our goal was to raise \$40,000; and we accomplished \$30,000! The funds from this year's event are earmarked to purchase new mattresses for every bunk in all the barracks. MMA Parents Organization (MMAPO) chose to dedicate this year's fund towards new mattresses as a benefit for all cadets.

The Leatherneck Classic fund-raising consisted of many aspects: a raffle, silent and live auction, as well as a golf tournament. There were other avenues to contribute via sponsorship, contributions, etc. I thank everyone that helped by donating auction items, sending in various donations, volunteering and attending the event. MMAPO decided to conduct the Leatherneck Classic in Harlingen this year so we could combine a fund-raising event along with spending time with our cadets at the academy.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended and volunteered--especially the committee team leaders:

- Catering-Marsene Boldt and Carrie Draher
- Auction-Leigh DeSantis
- Golf Tournament-LtCol Robert Grider, USMC (Ret)
- Teacher Appreciation-Dr. Jean Nacol
- Harlingen Area Coordination-Rhonda Bowen

Thanks, also, to Dana Hanchey for all her diligent efforts collecting auction items. The hands-on support during the weekend from Leigh and Kent DeSantis,



BRING ME YOUR TIRED, YOUR WEARY...TO THE 19TH HOLE RECEPTION! L-R: MMA Parent Carrie Draher; MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret); and MMA Parent Christy Peebles ready MMA Leatherneck Classic 'Home Plate' for returning golfers.

as well as Steven and Carrie Draher, were key to the Classic's success. The pizza party contest for the company that sold the most raffle tickets was won by Charlie Company. Great job, Charlie Company!

We appreciate all the support selling raffle tickets. A total of 1,000 raffle tickets were sold this year.

The raffle for the trip to San Francisco and Lake Tahoe was won by Curt and Debbie Cich. We hope the Cich family enjoys their trip...maybe they'll send us pictures?

The weather was beautiful, and everyone who participated in the first-ever Academy Games had a blast!! The Golf Tournament came off without a hitch, and parents really enjoyed spending the time in Harlingen with their sons.

If you missed out this year, mark your calendars for next year...This event you won't want to miss twice!!

Christy Peebles, MMAPO



SLIGHTLY-BENT KNEES, CHECK WIND DIRECTION, A WELL-DEFINED SWING...



FOLLOWED BY JUST THE RIGHT TOUCH. KERPLUNK...RIGHT IN THE HOLE!!!

MMA COLOR GUARD BRINGS HOME THE GOLD IN 37TH ANNUAL BIRDVILLE INVITATIONAL COMPETITION

Competing against 20 of the 46 Texas high schools entered into the 37th Annual Birdville Invitational Drill Team and Color Guard Competition held on 18 February in Halton City, Texas, **MMA Color Guard emerged victorious--bringing home the GOLD.** With a team total of 324 total points, 32 points came from an 8th place finish in the Inspection Phase, and 292 points earned a 1st place finish in the Performance Phase--securing MMA in the top bracket as 1st Place Color Guard Team. In individual competition, Cadet Corporal Liam Dawson-Thomas of Delta Co. racked up 146 points as Commander, earning well-deserved 1st Place honors.

Competing in their second drill team competition of the year against 20 other schools, MMA Drill Team earned 164 points (11th



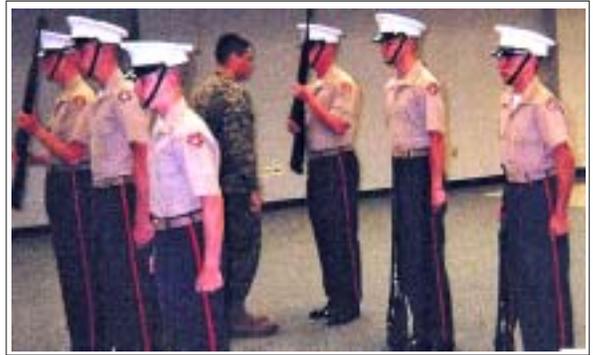
Color Guard Drill Instructor GySgt Ernesto Montemayor (shown above in red MMA jacket with back to camera) gives some VILMP (Very Important Last-Minute Pointers) to members of MMA's Color Guard and Drill Team to aid them in securing competitive scoring during upcoming inspections. *Pictured L-R:* Cadet Private Phillip Spingola, Delta Co.; Cadet Private Harrison Rodenbeck, Fox Co.; Cadet Sergeant James Caldwell, Delta Co.; Cadet Corporal Liam Dawson-Thomas, Delta Co.; Cadet Private John Pursley III, Fox Co.; Cadet Private Arturo Cerna, Alpha Co.; Cadet Private James Taylor, Delta Co.; Cadet Private First Class Daniel Khalil, Delta Co.; Cadet Private First Class Levi Draher, Alpha Co.; Cadet Sergeant Richard Powell, Delta Co.

place) in the Inspection Phase; 299 points (6th place) in the Regulation Phase; and 277 points (12th place) in the Exhibition Phase for a Team total of 740 points--placing within the Top 10 high schools. Team Commander Cadet Sergeant Richard Powell of Delta Company competed in the Commander competition earning 104 points--placing 12th overall.

At the beginning of each academic year and at midterm, each MMA cadet is tasked with choosing an after-school extracurricular activity. **The Drill Team and Color Guard** offers a daily challenge to cadets who demonstrate a reasonable amount of manual dexterity, balance and concentration. A maximum of 20 members are accepted onto the Drill Team. The Color Guard is a four-man unit. Practices are held on Campus every weekday during the afternoon activity period. On 17 August 2005, fifteen MMA cadets met the challenge, stepping forward to train,

perform and compete on MMA's Drill Team and Color Guard under the tenacious command of Fox Company's Drill Instructor GySgt Ernesto Montemayor: **Cadet Lance Corporal William Akin**, Charlie Co.; **Cadet Sergeant James Caldwell**, Delta Co.; **Cadet Private Arturo Cerna**, Alpha Co.; **Cadet Lance Corporal John Clanton**, Fox Co.; **Cadet Private Lyndsey Cox**, Charlie Co.; **Cadet Corporal Liam Dawson-Thomas**, Delta Co.; **Cadet Private First Class Levi Draher**, Alpha Co.; **Cadet Private First Class Daniel Khalil**, Delta Co.; **Cadet Lance Corporal James Nelson**, Fox Co.; **Cadet Sergeant Richard Powell**, Delta Co.; **Cadet Private John Pursley III**, Fox Co.; **Cadet Lance Corporal Zachary Quadland**, Delta Co.; **Cadet Private Harrison**

Rodenbeck, Fox Co.; **Cadet Private Phillip Spingola**, Delta Co.; and **Cadet Private James Taylor**, Delta Co. As members of the Drill Team, these cadets perform complex maneuvers of close order drill and exhibition drill with 10-pound M-14 rifles--SILENTLY, without the aid of sounded commands. The Color Guard displays the National and Academy colors. Both units perform at all Cadet parades. Additionally, the Color Guard appears at a wide va-



Birdville Invitational Meet judges evaluate MMA Drill Team in approximately 10-minute phases each of Inspection, Regulation, and Exhibition. "When they're (the judges) right there in your face, those ten minutes seem like hours," comments an MMA Drill Team member as he mock-wipes beads of sweat from his brow, all-the-while sporting a wry grin. What are the judges looking for? Shined shoes, proper shaves and haircuts, uniform cleanliness, precision of movement, motivation, discipline, unity, and poise among a plethora of established protocol ... no worries, these traits are routine in the everyday life of a Marine Military Academy Cadet!

riety of civic events throughout the school year such as patriotic observances throughout the Rio Grande Valley area, congressional conferences held at area universities--even national beauty pageants! Both units also compete in three to six military skills meets like the 37th Annual Birdville Invitation throughout the academic year, wrapping up with a State Military Skills Meet held each spring in Austin. Preparations and 'fine-tune' adjustments are underway for MMA Drill Team and Color Guard to make their presence known at the State Meet - *stay tuned for further information as soon as the date has been determined.*

Nearly bursting his buttons with pride, GySgt Ernesto Montemayor reflects on MMA's Drill Team and Color Guard performances at the Birdville Tournament, "*Being this was their second drill meet, these cadets did a good job. As a team, we still have a lot of work ahead of us, but in due time these cadets will be untouchable! Keep in mind they are competing with high schools that have been doing this for years...our cadets are fresh and off to a good start. MMA, let's give them all the support they need in order to be successful!*" No problem--**MMA sends a grand 'OOH-RAH' shout out to both the MMA Drill Team and Color Guard on a competition very well executed.**

KEEP ON KEEPING ON!!!

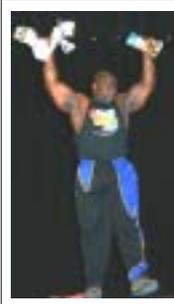


MOTHER EARTH SMILES UPON ALL WHO RECYCLE!!! MMA Key Club cadet volunteers spent Saturday, March 4th, assisting with the City of Harlingen's Recycling Center Clean-Up Day efforts. Show L-R are: Cadet Bryant Roark, Fox Co.; Cadet Travis Duncan, Fox Co.; and Cadet Roland DeMarco, Delta Company.



TAKE 2 FLUFFY WOMEN (far L and far R) + ONE RETIRED MARINE (MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC Ret) + AN AMUSED MRS. HILL + Feb. 11th, SATURDAY AFTERNOON, AND WHAT DO YOU GET? At MMA, you get an afternoon of music, comedy and magic--all for a great cause! Col Tom Hobbs and Leadership Class - City of Harlingen brought "2 Fluffy Women & Peter the Adequate" to MMA in a 'fun-draising' effort to create a special Teen Room for teenaged patients at local Harlingen Baptist Medical Center. The 2005 Las Vegas Trophy Winner "Most Entertaining" performance and silent auction followed the posting of colors by MMA Color Guard.

AS PROMISED - French Competition Results! Twelve MMA cadets competed in RGV French Competition on Sat., March 25th at Weslaco East High School, returning with one 1st place (Culture) and two 2nd-place trophies (Pétanque and Cuisine.) Concours Culturel competitors: Cadets McLaird, Delta; Davis, Alpha; Harrison, Delta; and Sumner, Alpha-tied for first place and Cadet Sumner correctly answered 2 oral questions for the WIN. Cadet Victor Ferrara Adame led MMA's powerful Pétanque Team advancing to final round before being defeated by Edinburg High, bringing back a 2nd place trophy. MMA fielded two teams for French and Francophone Cuisine - both teams contributed to both projects. MMA's Acadien Festival, a Cajun dinner idea and creation of Cadet Martin, Fox Co., ably assisted by Cadet Davis, took 2nd. Cadets Adrian and Eduardo Solis-Zapain, Alpha Co., supervised the preparation of 4th place Diner Lyonnais. The pie was created by Cadets Lionel and David Rodriguez, Golf Co. Both Cuisine entries received the same numerical score as 1st and 2nd place entries and final rankings were judges' borderline decisions. Assisting in the kitchen were nearly all cadets enrolled in French. Dr. Ricciardi memorably recalls seeing the following cadets: Ivan Gutierrez, Charlie; Colton Kempin, Mario Cepeda and Martin Garcia, Echo; Jorge Molina, Fox; Juan Saldivar and PhilLip Mendoza, Alpha. A special note of thanks goes out to Dr. Ricciardi who judged 2 oral events, Ms. Charrey- main chaperone and driver for the group; MMA's Mess Hall staff, and Mrs. Carson of Delta Company. A true esprit de corps effort!



"C'MON, PUT YOUR BACK INTO IT...RIP THAT PHONE BOOK IN HALF!" prompts Ron Waterman (in blue and black jacket on far right), former collegiate wrestler, holder of Mr. Colorado bodybuilding title in 1993 and 1994, school teacher and now **TEAM IMPACT** member and minister. **TEAM IMPACT** performed feats of strength at MMA's Yeckel Auditorium before the Corps of Cadets late Friday afternoon, March 3rd. The feats of strength included bending a 5/8 inch steel bar with teeth in the shape of a fish, blowing up a hot water bottle by mouth until it blew apart, exploding full, unopened soft drink cans with bare hands, and yes, much to Alpha Company's Cadet David Sutton's surprise (cadet picture to far right), ripping a 2-inch Cameron County expired phone book in half with little effort! Amidst appreciative whistles and applause from the Cadets, **TEAM IMPACT** members challenged the audience to make good choices and decisions, to live a life of purity, and stay away from alcohol and drugs. **TEAM IMPACT** was brought to MMA by MMA's own Chaplain Chris Elliott. You've got our attention, Chaplain!



Pictured L-R: Cadet 1st Lt Tian Zhang; Faculty Member Carla Haynes; LtCol Oliver North, USMC (Ret); Cadet 1st Lt Erik Westman; and Cadet 1st Lt Steven Wittekiend.

"HEY MOM, LOOK WHO I LUNCHEd WITH!" MMA Corps of Cadets received a surprise lunch guest on Friday, March 3rd: **Colonel Oliver North**. LtCol North observed MMA Corps of Cadets Pass In Review, then dined on Chef Carlos' finest Mexican cuisine - ENCHILADAS AND ALL THE FIXINS - in MMA's President's Mess accompanied by Battalion Staff Cadets LtCol David A. Miller, SSgt Stephen Cooper, 1st Lt Jason Hiller, SgtMaj Sapan Patel; 1st Lt Steven Wittekiend, 1st Lt Erik Westman, and 1st Lt Tian Zhang; Col R.G. Hill USMC (Ret); Academy Dean John Butler, Ed.D; Commandant SgtMaj Ford Kinsley; Col Tom Hobbs; Faculty Member Carla Haynes; among others. LtCol Oliver North visited the Rio Grande Valley area to speak on the topic of personal responsibility at a dinner presentation benefiting the Rio Grande Valley Partnership Foundation which administers Citizens Against Lawsuit Abuse. LtCol North is a combat decorated Marine, a #1 bestselling author, the founder of a small business, an inventor with 3 U.S. patents, a syndicated columnist, and the host of "War Stories" on the Fox News Channel.

GRANBURY HIGH SCHOOL MCJROTC UTILIZES MMA'S USMC-STYLED O' COURSE AND FACILITIES for MILITARY ORIENTATION March 25-27th. Granbury gave MMA a 'thumbs-up' on providing facilities comparable to that of U.S. Marine Corps. We **totally** agree!!!



Photograph courtesy of Cadet Latos-Gary Howard's Photography Class.



ECHO COMPANY ROCKS THE HOUSE IN MARCH MADNESS 2006 INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION. In an exciting overtime game Echo Company defeated Fox to win the first annual MMA March Madness Intramural Basketball Championship. Congratulations to Gy Martinez and his team on their superb accomplishment. Also, a 'well done' nod goes out to all the cadets who participated in this heated competition. **NBA...move over and make way for MMA!!!** Pictured L-R: Cadets Dong Kwon Shin; Colton Kempin; Joseph Vella; Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret); Cadets Brian Smith; Cortlen Robinson and Jonathan Yates. Not pictured: Cadets Gary Jones and Issac Miller.



MR. RIGHT GUIDE... "If you want something done and done right from start to finish, give it to MGySgt Krauss!" quips Frances Castro, MMA Business Office. "And, you can rest assured it will be done by the book," adds MMA Executive Assistant Carmen Guajardo. Just ask anyone aboard MMA Campus and most likely they'll agree! If you're needing to locate a cadet during Activities, have a question about the proper military terminology when referring to running the flag to the top of the mast, wondering how far 'ashore' parents may accompany their son on authorized 'liberty', locate guests of honor during campus parades, coordinate last-minute changes in ANYTHING involving MMA's Military Department, you're off to an assured successful conclusion by taking it directly to the MAN - MGySgt Michael Krauss! Now in his 13th year at MMA, MGySgt Krauss began his career at MMA as Bravo Company Drill Instructor in 1993, moving to full-time Military Office in 1996 and finally to MMA Operations Chief in 2002. **A HEARTY OOH-RAH goes out to MGySgt Krauss!**



Photograph courtesy of Cadet Williams, Gary Howard's Photography Class

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY'S RELAY FOR LIFE: 337 laps completed - \$4,400 raised by MMA. **Cadet David "Deuce" Williams, Fox Company Senior, raised \$1,002 of the total \$4,400.** The cadets had a great time participating not only in the event but also by setting up tents for other participants and providing manpower for the entire Relay committee. Relay Participants: Cadets Hiller, Alpha; Russell, Fox, Yates, Echo; Gannon, Golf; Han, Golf; Dai, Charlie; Gallardo, Charlie; Alexander, Charlie; Winakur, Echo; Williams, Fox; Steeg, Charlie; Gurley, Alpha; Yerian, Golf; Hill, Golf; Lewis, Golf; Keegan, Golf; Cooper, Alpha and Miller, Golf.



WELL DONE INDEED! MMA's Troop 22 Court of Honor was held on Tuesday, February 21, at the Marine Military Academy. Over 180 merit badges were awarded, and 10 Scouts earned rank advancement. **Congratulations to each and every one of these Scouting-Cadets on a job very well-done!** The Court of Honor for Scouts is an impressive formal ceremony recognizing individual Scouts for rank advancement and other

Scouting achievements. This event is held with an audience of family, friends, chartered organization officials, troop leaders, and Scouting peers. Troop 22's Coming Attractions: May 9th - Court of Honor/Awards Dinner and May 20th - Eagle Award Ceremony. Stay tuned - Troop 22 steps lively! Pictured L-R: Cadet James B. Nelson; Cadet Zach Bowen; Troop 22 Scoutmaster Jim Poe (explaining the whole 'grip and grin' thing); with MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret) looking on.



BLING BLING!!! MMA DRILL TEAM AND COLOR GUARD REPRESENTS AND BRINGS HOME PLENTY OF SHINY GOLD! **See related story on page 11.** Pictured L-R: Cadets Daniel Khalil, Liam Dawson-Thomas, Zachary Quadland, and James Taylor of Delta; Cadet Jeremy Powell, Fox; MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret); Cadets James Caldwell, Delta; Harrison Rodenbeck, Fox; Arturo Cerna, Alpha; Lyndsey Cox, Charlie; and James Nelson, Fox.



LEATHERNECK SPORTS



TOM MORTON
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

"Taking Care Of Business"



Baseball • Basketball • Boxing • Cross Country • Football • Golf • Judo • P.F.T.

Soccer • Swimming • Tennis • Track and Field • Volleyball • Wrestling • P.F.T.

Baseball • Basketball • Boxing • Cross Country • Football • Golf • Judo • Physical Fitness Training • Soccer • Swimming • Tennis • Track & Field • Volleyball • Wrestling

MMA SPORTS BANQUET '06 RESULTS IN MAY ISSUE OF LEADER - Sure to be a collectible!

LEATHERNECK BASKETBALL '06



TEARING UP THE COURT IN HOT BASKETBALL ACTION! L-R: Head Coach Cardenas, Cadets James Liantonio, Issac Miller, Dong Shin, Gerad Stratton, Jeffery Aldredge, Bastian Wolff, Malique Graham, Thomas Herman, Peter Valka, Frank Vianello, Billy Hardee, Assistant Coach Garza.

JUDO STATE HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION

The MMA Judo Team made a strong showing at the February 25th State High School Championships held at Texas A & M, coming in Fourth in Team points. Individual placements were: Cadet **William McLaird IV**, Delta Co. - 1st; Cadet **Jason Franks**, Alpha Co. - 2nd; Cadet **Ameuri Latham**, Delta Co. - 2nd; and Cadet **Karl Rohloff**, Echo Co. - 4th. MMA sends out a hearty 'OOH-RAH!!!' to the Judo Team on a fine season and sweet finish.

Head Coach Charles Robertson

LEATHERNECK SWIMMING AND DIVING

Leatherneck Swim and Dive Team did well at the State Finals Meet. I am very proud of the boys and cannot wait for the next season to begin so we can do it all over again! In Diving, **Nikki Hill** came in 1st place, and **Preston Meyer** came in a very close 2nd. These two boys are a great asset to the team. They just started this year and have been very dedicated to improving--and it has paid off for the both of them. **Tyrel Genoff** came in 3rd in 100 freestyle and 4th in the 50 freestyle. Our two relay teams (**James Caldwell, Ryan Ewton, Eddie Steeg and Tyrel Genoff**) placed 5th in the 200 medley relay and 6th in the 200 freestyle relay.



I may be wrong, but I think this is the first team to medal in the state finals in a swimming event since my senior year team medaled in 1993! MMA made a very strong showing at the Finals. Many officials and coaches from other teams were very impressed with the talent on our team. With these boys returning next year, we should really clean up in any meet that we go to! Thank you to all the parents that showed up from as far away as California and Wyoming. Parental support means ALOT to the team. The material support proved by parents this year has been incredible - matching towels, duffel bags for gear, and camping chairs so team members do not have to be crowded on benches. Parents have been at every meet and ready to assist. I am very grateful. *A good SOLID year for MMA Swimming. I'm looking forward to next season."*

--Head Coach SSgt Caleb Hood

LEATHERNECK TRACK

Head Coach Mike Morton • Assistant Coach Ron Lang



ON TO STATE COMPETITION!
Pictured L-R: Cadet Brandon Broden; MMA Superintendent R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret); and Cadet Tate Landin. *Not pictured: Cadets Brad Pair, Jeff Aldredge and Robert Long.* **WORD TO STATE COMPETITORS: BRING ON THE HEAT ... LEATHERNECK TRACK STANDS READY, SERVING UP A HEAPING SIDE ORDER OF MMA-STYLE GRIT!**

Leatherneck Track Team competed in six meets this season: Raymondville, Edcouch-Elsa, Lyford, Rio Hondo, Meet of Champions Relays, and TAPPS 6-A District Meet. Despite the fact that, with the exception of Cadet **Robert Long**, all our track athletes are underclassmen, the Leatherneck Track Team proved quite competitive. Arriving at our 6-A TAPPS District Meet on April 7th in Brownsville, our goal was to rack up Personal Records (P.R.'s) from our athletes. Much to our surprise, not only did we achieve P.R.'s in all events, but also qualified FIVE men for the State Meet to be held May 5th and 6th in Waco, Texas: **Cadet Brandon Broden**, sophomore - 3200, 10:22.47; and **Cadets Brad Pair**, junior; **Tate Landin**, junior; **Jeff Aldredge**, sophomore; and **Robert Long**, senior - 1600 Relay, 3:38.61. **GO BIG RED...we'll see YOU at the finish line!**



LEATHERNECK TENNIS

Head Coach Frank Martinez, Jr.

Cadet Taylor Simmons is pictured to the left receiving a firm hand shake from MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret.) after placing 3rd in District competition.

LEATHERNECK BASEBALL IN ACTION!

Head Coach Albert Esparza



Action Photos courtesy of Cadet Lajos of Gary Howards Photography Class

Front row, L-R: Cadets Luis Gomez, Houser, Charles Morrison III, Brandon Broden, Trevor Callaway, Nicholas Rhodes, Jarred Combs, Kellen



Stuhmiller, Cameron Nordbak, Richard Powell. Back row, L-R: Coach Esparza, Cadets David Alderman, Erik Westman, Robert Bracken, Louis Bibby, Kasey Harrell, Tyler Chew, Tate Landin, Brandon Bellanger, David Sutton, Benjamin Lease, Thomas McDonough, and Tyler Klein. Season at-a-glance: 5-W, 8-L.

LEATHERNECK GOLF



Pictured L-R: Golf Head Coach Amos Salas, Cadet Sebastian Garcia-Prieto Ojeda, and MMA Superintendent Col R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret)

Leatherneck Golf continued to capture success at Harlingen South Tourney held on Feb. 24th and 25th. Leading the way for the Leathernecks was **Max Cyphers** winning **second place individual honors**. Overall, Leathernecks placed **2nd** behind a strong Harlingen South team. Members include Cadets **Tommy Swan**, **Ryan Heumann**, **Lucas Borough**, and **Craig DeSantis**.

On March 23rd, the Leathernecks finished off regular season action before District competition with a **1st place finish** at the La Feria Invitational. Leading the way for the Leathernecks were Cadets **Sebastian Garcia-Prieto** and **Lucas Borough**. With rainy and cold conditions in play, the Tourney was forced into a nine hole tournament. **Sebastian captured 1st place honors** with a 39 on the par 36 course. **Lucas took home 3rd place honors** after tying three other golfers for 2nd place. Other team members contributing to the victory were **Cadets Tommy Swan**, **Ryan Heumann**, and **Max Cyphers**.

Results of TAPPS District Tourney held in El Paso, Texas on April 3rd: **Congratulations** go out to the MMA Golf Team for an outstanding season. Check this out - MMA placed **1st** in three tournaments as well as **2nd place and 3rd place finish at the District Tournament**. MMA's second team placed **3rd** as well at the Progreso Tourney. Leading the way for the Leathernecks was Cadet **Sebastian Garcia-Prieto** who at District captured **2nd place individual honors** with a 74 to earn a trip to the TAPPS State Golf Championships, held on April 24-25 in Katy, Texas at Meadowbrook Farms Golf Course. Other members who contributed to the season were Cadets (Senior) Max Cyphers, (Senior) Tommy Swan, (Senior) Ryan Heumann, (Sophomore) Lucas Borough, (Sophomore) Harris Bernard, (Junior) Craig DeSantis, and (Junior) Zach Conaway.

"I sincerely thank all the parents for having the opportunity to have worked with your sons. I wish them the best in their future and hope to see them continue to play a life long sport."
Thank You, Head Coach Amos Salas

Calendar of Events

April

- 8 ACT
- 7-9 Parent's Organization/Alumni Wknd
- 7 Alumni Parade
- 21 Sports Banquet
- 22 Ring Ceremony and Dance

NOTE: May 20th - All Cadets Schedule Departure after 1300.

Longtime MMA employee and friend of the Academy FERN OVENDEN is convalescing following a severe bout with her health. "Get Well Quick" wishes can be sent to her at: 9830 Westminster Glen Avenue Austin, TX 78730 fovenden@aol.com

May

- 6 SAT
- 13, 15-17 Second Semester Exams
- 18 Graduation Rehearsal
- 19 Eagle Scout Ceremony Academic Awards & 8th Grade Grad. Senior Banquet
- 20 Graduation, Parade, Awards

June

- 1-30 Summer Break

July

- 2-29 Summer and ESL Camps

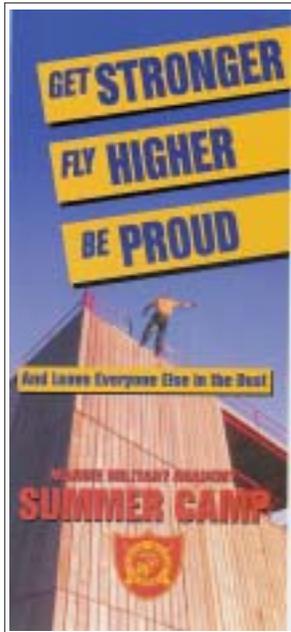
Memorials

Melda Demetropoulos
 Peggy Haggas
 Guadalupe O. Robles
 CPL M.J. Rogers, USMC 1961-1965
 Lincoln B. Shea
 LtCol Claude Mitchell Terhune, USAF (Ret)
 Pfc Brian Thornton, USMC - KIA ROK 1951

In Honor Of:

E. Ross Kyger, IV - *Bravo*
 Company Commander
 China Marines
 Capt Leo J. McDonald, CHC USN (Ret)
 Tony McIntyre

To make a donation to MMA in memory or honor of, contact Ester Reyes at (956) 421-9231 or e-mail: reyes@mma-tx.org.



What YOU do makes a difference... MMA's Summer Camp 2006

Each year, MMA Admissions Department receives numerous applications from young boys who want to experience the adventures of MMA Summer Camp. However, a number of these individuals' families cannot afford to pay the full cost (\$3,750) for attending the four week action-packed session.

In many instances, MMA's Summer Camp will provide the **one opportunity** that makes a **positive impact upon a young boy's life**. Consider being a part of this worthwhile investment. If you would like to make a **tax-deductible contribution** to this endeavor, please send your check TODAY to MMA's Admissions Department and annotate: *For Summer Camp Fund*. **Your financial assistance will be greatly appreciated.**



Web Site: <http://www.mma-tx.org>
 Email Address: admissions@mma-tx.org

"Head of the Class" Honors



CADET KYLE GANNON is Harlingen Border Patrol's "Head of the Class" April 2006 award recipient.



GOLF COMPANY KYLE GANNON



Sophomore - Denton, Texas
 Son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Joseph Gannon

"I have had Cadet Gannon for three years, and so it is understood the cadet spends approximately 8 1/2 months of the year with me. Cadet Gannon is, without a doubt, one of the finest and most constant cadets I have had the pleasure of having in my company. I can count on him to accomplish any task assigned. He is a cadet that will take action in the absence of orders. He has been a summer camp instructor for me and handled the youngest summer campers with a level of maturity that is normally above someone of his age. It is both an honor and privilege to recommend him for this nomination."

--SgtMaj Albert Wilson, USMC (Ret)

Harlingen Border Patrol's "Head of the Class" is a community awareness program honoring local student participants who promote abstinence from using illegal drugs. Every month, students from across the Rio Grande Valley who exhibit outstanding leadership and participation in the program are selected and recognized by Harlingen Border Patrol at awards ceremonies and/or banquets.

MMA LEADER

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 OFFICE**

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