

MMA Leader



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

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

CELEBRATING 42 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

16 Pages

Vol. 21, No. 4

January/February 2008

“YOU CAN NEVER BE WRONG DOING WHAT IS RIGHT”

Although the temps outdoors were a bit on the brisk side, the warmth of an energized MMA Corps of Cadets filled the Colonel Phil Yeckel Auditorium bright and early Friday morning, January 18th. As the bright crimson seats filled, Military’s MSGT Mike Krauss’ vibrant voice reiterated, “*Take off your overcoats, fold them and STOW them under your seat!*” Stow away overcoats they did, some 330 strong, just moments before MMA President Brigadier Cheney stepped front and center, introducing the Leadership Forum Head Guest Speaker Brigadier General James B. Laster - Commanding General, Training and Education Command, U.S. Marine Corps.

Backs straightened and Cadets’ heads snapped to attention as Brigadier General Laster addressed the Corps, staff and

INQUIRING MINDS OVER MATTER...
Brigadier General Laster drives home an instrumental point during his Jan. 18th address to MMA Corps of Cadets.

View entire photographic coverage of Brigadier General Laster’s visit aboard MMA on MMA web site: www.mma-tx.org/whatsnew.htm



Continued on page 2



WHY DID MOM INSIST ON SENDING ME THE ‘GOOD’ SHAMPOO?
Justin Morris Smith of Houston, Texas gets a Texas-sized smile while checking out his brand new look, compliments of MMA Barber Joe Handy.

“High Five...It’s gonna’ be a GREAT 2008!”

Mid Term Registration “Newbies” full of vim, vigor, and enthusiasm

Team MMA Registration crew gathered in MMA’s Major General Douglas Peacher Hall bright and early Saturday morning, January 5th, signing up 55 or so midterm registrants. A few of the crew were left scratching their heads in complete amazement as in-processing went so quickly and smoothly, contributable in a large part to the infectious thread of new registrant cooperation, high energy, and outpouring of enthusiasm. Sure, there were a few teary-eyed parents, little sisters, grandparents, aunts and uncles...but after a few extra hugs and ‘See you in February’ farewells...followed by another round of hugs...Drill Instructors remained to answer parents’ questions and Cadet Instructors escorted the new students to be outfitted with what one student estimated to be 1/2 pound shy of one full ton of clothing, footwear, etc. All were, of course, treated to the ever-popular ‘buzz cut’ delivered by MMA’s own Joe Handy!

See related story - page 6. and continued photo coverage on page 9.

Continued from page 1

faculty. "I attribute much of my success to a sound beginning at the New Mexico Military Institute, much like you all are doing today. You are already in the top percentile of others your age, enrolled in a very prestigious school, and the traits you are learning here will serve you well...for the rest of your life."

Brigadier General Laster defined leaders as those who help others do what they don't want to do, affording them the opportunity to achieve their goals--doing what they truly want to do--noting three very important key elements:

"First, know your stuff. Be the best that you can be. Talk to your classmates, and when you leave MMA - stay in touch. You have many international students here at MMA...learn from them about their country and culture. This is so important in today's global economy."

"Secondly, be your own man...a man of character and integrity. That means doing the right thing for the right reason, even when you know that someone else is not watching. Be very careful to speak the truth, and let your word be your bond. There may come a time when you don't know whether something is right or wrong...that's okay. When this happens, ask yourself what someone you consider a mentor would do - may be a teacher, drill instructor, your mom or dad."

"Third, take care of your people. Leaders eat last. Leaders know their people and show genuine concern for them. Share adversity...in other words, get dirty with them. An example of this would be someone who owns a trucking firm - put on the overalls and do what they do...you will be a leader in their eyes. Don't ever put your own comfort and welfare ahead of your peoples'. Be honorable in character, and take care of the people around you."

In summary, Brigadier General Laster cited four things he lives by: "Trust your instincts; don't cause your own friction; focus down; and do what's right. **You can never be wrong by doing what's right.**"

Following a resonating round of applause, Cadet Battalion Commander Edgar Steeg presented Brigadier General Laster with a Texas-sized token of appreciation on behalf of MMA's Corps of Cadets. Leadership Forum broke into smaller leadership study groups led by *Mayor of Harlingen Chris Boswell; Harlingen City Commissioner and MMA Alum Bobby Farris; Friend of the Academy James Moriarty; MMA Alum Lieutenant James Wood, U.S. Navy; Friend of the Academy Robert Dunkin; MMA Board Trustee James Ezell; MMA Alum Harold Zurlo; former City Commissioner Eddy Medrano; MMA Support Services Director Colonel Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret); MMA Computer Services Director Major Harold Compton, USMC (Ret); and MMA Assistant Dean Al Sosa...* Leaders passing along learned leadership traits to our leaders of tomorrow. And, lead on they will, armed with HONOR, COURAGE and COMMITMENT...all in a day 'chock-full' of learning aboard Marine Military Academy...OORAH!



EVERYTHING'S BIGGER IN TEXAS! Cadet Battalion Commander Edgar Steeg presents Brigadier General Laster with a Texas-sized token of appreciation on behalf of the Academy's Corps of Cadets.

Brigadier General James B. Laster, U.S. Marine Corps Commanding General, Training Command

- Native of Dallas, Texas
- Graduate of New Mexico Military Institute and Southwest Texas State University
- Holds Master of Science degree - National Strategy from National War College
- Commissioned as Second Lieutenant in 1978 through the Platoon Leaders Class Program
- Reported to 3d Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment serving as Rifle Platoon Commander/Rifle Company Executive Officer
- January 1981 - Transferred to Marine Barracks, Washington, D.C. serving as Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, & White House Social Aide
- November 1983 - Assigned to 7th Marines serving 2 years as Rifle Company Commander; 1 year as Weapons Company Commander-3d Battalion, 7th Marines; Completed tour as Regimental Assistant Operations Officer
- December 1987 - Attended Army Airborne School & Advanced Infantry Officers Course-Fort Benning, Georgia earning 'Distinguished Graduate'
- Sept. 1989 - Transferred to 25th Marines assuming post of Inspector-Instructor for Company A, 1stBn, 25th Marines, serving as I-I Operations Officer-25th Marine Regiment
- May 1991 - Assigned Aide-de-Camp to Commandant of the Marine Corps, General C. E. Mundy, Jr.
- Attended Marine Corps Command & Staff College graduating with distinction
- June 1993 - Commanded Headquarters & Service Company, I MEF, and Headquarters & Service Company, 1st Surveillance, Reconnaissance, and Intelligence Group
- January 1995 - Assumed duties as Executive Officer, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, deploying to Arabian Gulf with 15th MEU (SOC), also serving as Commander, Maritime Special Purpose Force (MSPF), 15th MEU (SOC)
- August 1996 - Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel assuming duties as Operations Officer, 15th MEU (SOC), deploying again to Arabian Gulf/CENTCOM AOR
- November 1997 - Assigned as Deputy AC/S G-7 and Inspector, 1st Marine Division
- Jan.-March 1998 - Deployed to Africa as J-3, Joint Task Force Kenya in support of Operation Noble Response, Humanitarian Relief Operations-Kenya, East Africa
- May 1998 - Assumed command of 3d Battalion, 4th Marines, moving Battalion to Twentynine Palms, CA
- June 2000 - Relinquished command and transferred to National War College
- Promoted to Colonel upon completion of National War College, assigned to Joint Staff as Chief of War Plans, J-7
- Post 11 September 2001 - Assumed duties in Joint Staff J-3 as Assistant Chief, Future Operations Group
- 2003-2005 - Commanded The Basic School, assuming duties as Chief of Staff, Training and Education Command (TECOM)
- May 2006 - Took command of Training Command
- Personal awards include: *Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (Gold Star in Lieu of Third award), Navy Commendation Medal (2 Gold Stars in Lieu of Third award), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Leftwich Trophy in 1989 for Outstanding Leadership*

Provided and distributed by:



*A Stately Event
Coming To The Academy
April 4th !*



Dear Friends of the Academy,

We are honored this year to have a proud veteran, Texas A&M alumni, and true supporter of our Academy, Texas Governor Rick Perry, as our guest of honor and IWO JIMA Award recipient at the April 4th General H. M. Smith Foundation dinner held here aboard the Academy.



Texas' 47th Governor Rick Perry is the first Texas A&M graduate to occupy the Texas Governor's Mansion.

This gala event will have a Texas flair that promises to be one of the most spectacular events ever held at the school.

We invite all to honor the Governor and our school by attending. As we anticipate an early sellout, I recommend you reserve your table early.

Semper fidelis,

Steve Cheney
Brigadier General, USMC (Ret)
President, MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY

Get your seating reserved TODAY. Clip entire section, fold and forward in the envelope provided in this publication.

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
General H.M. Smith Foundation Dinner

HONORING
GENERAL H. M. SMITH FOUNDATION INDUCTEES
and

Guest of Honor and Iwo Jima Award Recipient
Texas Governor Rick Perry

Friday, 4 April 2008

RSVP Table Sponsors and Seating Preferences prior to 28 March 2008
956.421.9232 or flores@mma-tx.org

- I wish to be a Lone Star Sponsor. (\$25,000: prominent positioning at premium table of 10, seated with dignitary, and *)
- I wish to be a Platinum Sponsor. (\$10,000: premium table of 10 and *)
- I wish to be a Gold Sponsor. (\$5,000: prominent table of 10 and *)

* Cocktail Reception at President's Quarters 5:30-6:30 p.m.

- I wish to be a Bronze Sponsor. Please reserve _____ tickets at \$500 per person.
Name as you wish to be listed in the program: _____

- I am unable to attend, but enclosed is my contribution of \$ _____.
Name _____
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Please make checks payable to:

MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY
320 Iwo Jima Blvd. / Harlingen, TX 78550

To pay via credit card: Complete the information below.

Please charge my credit card:

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GUEST LIST

for Lone Star, Platinum, and Gold Sponsors.

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The Academy is a 501(c)(3) organization, and all but \$35 per person attending the dinner is tax deductible as a charitable contribution. For additional information call Ester Reyes at 956-421-9231.

Cadets of the Month for November '07

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 November 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 LORENZO BARROSO

Freshman - Mexico City, MEXICO

"Cadet Barroso is an exemplary cadet. He wears his uniform with an obvious pride that is indicative of his genuine concern for excellence in all that he does. Lorenzo can always be relied upon to accomplish whatever task/assignment he is given. He's honest, loyal, and trustworthy, and I expect to see Cadet Barroso assume stronger leadership roles as his time here at MMA continues."

- CWO3 Ed Harris



CHARLIE COMPANY CHRISTOPHER LANE

Senior - Gloucester, MA

"Cadet Lane has come a long way and continues to do a good job consistently. He not only demonstrates good skills, but also maintains good military conduct at all times. During CCQ Cadet Lane's academic subjects are conducted in an outstanding manner. He sets an example for all to follow."

- GySgt Antonio Aguilar



DELTA COMPANY SCOTT GRIFFIN

Sophomore - Ovilla, TX

"Cadet Griffin 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 work ethic he has earned this prestigious award as cadet of the month for the month of November."

- SgtMaj Larry Carson



ECHO COMPANY ADAM TAHIRKHELI

Junior - Spring Hill, TN

"Cadet Tahirkheli is an outstanding cadet who leads by example and takes pride in teaching his Company's cadets how to be good cadets. This cadet has held several billets in his second year at MMA - Squadleader, PltGuide, PltSgt, and now is the Company Gunny and doing a great job."

- GySgt Frank Martinez

FOX COMPANY JOSHUA ALLEN

Sophomore - Los Banos, CA

"As a second year cadet, Cadet Allen has made his presence known. His initiative and pride he displays in every working aspect of the company sets the example for all to follow. His can-do attitude and professionalism earned him this selected as Cadet of the Month. It is a pleasure to have him on our team, and we all look forward to working with him throughout this year and more to come."

- MSgt Robert Fracasso



GOLF COMPANY FLINT YERIAN

Junior - Ash Fork, AZ

"Cadet Yerian is a fine young man with a very bright future. He is the type of Cadet that takes action in the absence of orders. He is Golf Company's 1stSgt and leads from the front. This prestigious recognition is well deserved."

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson



BANDSMAN JAMES FLOWERS

Junior - Colleyville, TX

"Cadet James Flowers has served as MMA Band Drum Major and has consistently performed his duties with an uncommon brilliance and dedication. He performed his duties during parent's weekend with astounding attention to detail, but most importantly with an uncommon degree of brilliance and competence that provided the members of the young band with much needed confidence and motivation. He has continued the standard of excellence for his position that will be the benchmark for many years to come."

- CWO3 Ed Harris



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD TIMOTHY SAULINO

Freshman - Missouri City, TX

"As a 1st year cadet, Cadet Saulino has persevered. His ability to adapt, follow and lead is why he displays an impeccable technique. His determination to excel is the kind of team player we are proud to have within the Drill Team. His positive attitude and professionalism earned him this prestigious recognition."

- MSgt Robert Fracasso

Cadets of the Month for December '07

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 December 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

JONATHAN VALLADARES

Junior - Ledyard, CT

"Cadet Corporal Jonathan Valladares has developed into a strong leader among his peers. He has proven himself to a responsible and extremely reliable young man--quick to take the initiative and make things happen, doesn't need to be told what to do and when to do it. Jonathan is a strong team player. I look forward to Cadet Valladares assuming increased leadership roles as he progresses through his time here at MMA.." - CWO3 Ed Harris



CHARLIE COMPANY

MICHAEL MILLER

Sophomore - Arlington, TX

"Cadet Lance Corporal Miller has demonstrated great discipline with his high GPA, improving physical fitness, and military bearing since his arrival in Charlie Company just this summer. He sets a great example for other cadets to follow."

- GySgt Antonio Aguilar



DELTA COMPANY

JOHN ANDERSON III

Junior - Houston, TX

"Cadet Sergeant Anderson has demonstrated outstanding potential and has performed his duties in an excellent manner. As a result of his performance, can-do attitude and unselfish work ethic he earns this prestigious honor as Cadet of the Month."

- SgtMaj Larry Carson



ECHO COMPANY

ABDUR OLAJUWON

Senior - Sugar Land, TX

"Cadet Second Lieutenant Olajuwon has done an excellent job for Echo Company. He demonstrates great loyalty to all cadets in this company, and to his Drill Instructor. After being here for five years he has held several positions: Squad Leader, Cadet Instructor, and now is Echo Company Public Affairs Officer. I am very proud of this young man."

- GySgt Frank Martinez



FOX COMPANY

RANDALL CERRILLO

Freshman - Houston, TX

"As a first year cadet, Cadet PFC Cerrillo has been running full throttle from the time he reported. Assigned as Squad Leader -1st Platoon, his drive for mission accomplishment and setting the example for his squad, platoon and company is the leadership quality instilled within Fox Company."

His ability to adapt to a challenging environment with a "Can Do" attitude and professionalism earns him this honor." - MSgt Robert Fracasso



GOLF COMPANY

KAI CIANFLONE

Freshman - Indian Trail, NC

"Cadet PFC Cianflone is a fine young man with a very bright future. He takes action in the absence of orders. Cadet Cianflone works as an assistant with the laundry Non-Commissioned Officer and does an excellent job. He will most certainly be a future leader in Golf Company."

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson



BANDSMAN

JUSTIN FRANTZ

Junior - Houston, TX

"Cadet Corporal Justin Frantz has worked very diligently throughout this semester to improve his abilities. He has grown into a leader within the band, never hesitating to take charge and get things done through his own initiative. Justin is always on time, prepared, and eager to work. I can honestly say that he contributes something positive to the MMA Band every single day. I am proud of Justin's hard work, determination, and dedication." - CWO3 Ed Harris



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD

RICHARD MAJOR

Senior - Tulsa, OK

"As a second year cadet, Cadet Sergeant Major has been a vital asset to the Color Guard and it's arduous schedule. Assigned as Color Sergeant for "B" team, his ability to adapt to any situation and present a commending performance earns him this prestigious award. It is a pleasure to have him on our team, and we all look forward to working with him throughout this year."

- MSgt Robert Fracasso



MMA Cadet Promotions 2008

The following named CADETS have earned promotion to the Rank and Billet indicated below, as of 31 January 2008

CHARLIE

FINCH, JACOB W: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 GARRETT, SCOTT A: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 GONZALEZ, ANDREW S: Cadet Corporal / Squad Member
 HUGHES, ANDRES F: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 MCGRAW, MICHAEL K: Cadet Lance Corporal / Squad Member
 MILLER, MICHAEL R: Cadet Lance Corporal / Squad Member
 WHITEKER, JONATHAN T: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member

DELTA

BARBER, JOSIAH D: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 BARRY, SHANE C: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 CHRISTIE, RICHIE R: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 COMER, LANCE D: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 COX, ALEXANDER C: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 DOUGHERTY, CHRISTOPHER J: Cadet Staff Sergeant / Platoon Commander

DELTA - cont'd.

FASOLAK, STEWART C: Cadet Corporal / Company Education SNCO
 GRIFFIN, SCOTT P: Cadet Corporal / Platoon Guide
 ORTIZ ORNELAS, ALEJANDRO A: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 PINTO, RYAN N: Cadet Lance Corporal / Squad Member
 SAULINO, TIMOTHY R: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member

ECHO

AGORO, TEMITAYO A: Cadet Lance Corporal / Fire Team Leader
 ASH, MATTHEW: Cadet Private First Class / Squad Member
 ASPE CASSOLA, SEBASTIAN N: Cadet Lance Corporal / Squad Member
 FULLER, ZACHARY M: Cadet Sergeant / Platoon Guide
 GAAR, CHRISTIAN T: Cadet Corporal / Squad Leader
 GALLARDO, THOMAS D: Cadet Corporal / Company Laundry NCO
 GONZALEZ DE LEON, ANGEL: Cadet Sergeant / Platoon Guide
 HONAN, KEVIN A: Cadet Lance Corporal / Squad Leader
 SHELTON, JUSTIN H: Cadet Sergeant / Squad Leader

ECHO - cont'd.

VENEMA, ZACHARY L: Cadet Corporal / Fire Team Leader
 WELDER, PATRICK J: Cadet Sergeant / Platoon Sergeant

FOX

ALLEN, JOSHUA L: Cadet Corporal / Company Laundry NCO
 DACY, THIBAUT J: Cadet Second Lieutenant / Public Affairs Officer
 DRAKE, JEFFREY A: Cadet Sergeant / Platoon Sergeant
 FITE, SAMUEL L: Cadet Sergeant / Platoon Sergeant
 MOLINA CADENA, JORGE: Cadet Corporal / Squad Member
 WRIGHT, LANE W: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant / Company Gunnery Sergeant

Please join us in a hearty round of applause for these young men on accomplishing these auspicious milestones...OORAH!

2nd Quarter Company Awards

ALPHA Company
 • Military

CHARLIE Company
 • Academics
 • GOLD GUIDON

GOLF Company
 • Athletics

**“FOR MANY ARE CALLED,
 BUT FEW ARE CHOSEN”**

SOUND OFF!

IT'S ONWARD AND UPWARD FOR MID-TERM 'PLEBES'

MMA Corps of Cadets hosted a parade and recognition presentation on Saturday, 2 February 2008, beginning at 10 a.m. on the MMA Parade Grounds directly in front of the Iwo Jima Memorial in recognition of MMA's 55 new cadets, also referred to as 'plebes', as they graduated from four weeks of introductory training, taking their official status as members of MMA's Corps of Cadets. Following the posting of the colors and singing of the National Anthem, all plebes are recognized, take their official Oath of a Marine Military Academy Cadet:

“As a Cadet at the Marine Military Academy I will always be faithful – to my parents, to my God, to my Country and to the Academy. I will wear my uniform proudly, and in so doing, uphold the standards established by the United States Marine Corps. I will always behave honorably. I will not lie, cheat or steal. I will respect my fellow Cadet. I will not bear false witness against him. I will devote myself to the pursuit of knowledge. I will strive to conduct myself in such a manner as to reflect favorably upon the Academy. I will not use drugs, alcohol or steroids and will not tolerate their use by

other Cadets. I will be an achiever and a believer. I will do my best in every way, for I am a Cadet at the Marine Military Academy.”

The plebes then affix their insignia to their covers (hats) and pass in review for the first time as full-fledged Marine Military Academy Cadets, drawing a firm nod and salute from Reviewing Officer Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret), President of the Academy.

The purpose of the four weeks of introductory training is to train new cadets in a systematic and dynamic manner that ensures their understanding of subjects essential to their performance and success as cadets at MMA, and to instill in them an attitude that will result in unquestionable support for the high ideals and standards of the Academy.



SQUARED AWAY...
 Echo Company “plebes” line up for early morning Colors. Pictured on right: Nicholas Nolley, Andre Boyce, James Cardinal, Seth Ramirezand, and Gavin Patel. Lookin’ sharp!



Dr. John Butler

MMA Academic Dean / Business Office Director

I am often asked my view on what is the most important at Marine Military Academy - academics or military training. This is a question that does not have a simple answer as the Academic and Military Departments cannot be separated and their importance as individual departments cannot, and should not, be considered. The two are linked together in a co-dependant relationship designed to foster an environment where young men can realize their full potential as scholars, citizens, leaders, and patriots. The Academic Department's role in creating this environment where young men grow into disciplined, morally strong, college-ready young men who are prepared for responsible leadership forces faculty and staff to break from the modern paradigm of education where success is measured by a state mandated standardized test and average daily attendance. The Academic Department does not simply rely on chalkboards, student desks, and textbooks to succeed in our mission. We move beyond hallway banners proclaiming that "All students can succeed!". Faculty model and reinforce the Core Values which are so successfully introduced to the cadets by the military staff and challenge each cadet to extend their performance beyond the limits of normal students.

Academics at the Marine Military Academy are grounded in the core disciplines of English, Mathematics,

Just The FACTS...

Dear MMA Parent:

FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment will be conducting the financial need analysis for Marine Military Academy for the upcoming 2008-2009 school year. Families applying for scholarship assistance will need to complete an application and submit the necessary supporting documentation to FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment by 20 April 2008. Paper applications are available. Applicants can apply online at www.factstuitionaid.com. The following information is required in order for FACTS to process your application:

1. Signed and completed paper application or completed online application. Faxed or copied applications will not be accepted. Paper applications received without a signature will not be processed. Please do not submit multiple applications. FACTS will process one application per household—either a paper application or an online application.
2. Payment of the \$20 nonrefundable application fee.
3. Copies of your 2007 IRS Federal Form 1040, 1040A or 1040-EZ U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, including all supporting tax Schedules C or C-EZ, Schedule E, Schedule F, Depreciation Form 4562, S Corporation Form 1120S & K-1, Partnership Form 1065 & K-1, Estates and Trusts Form 1041 & K-1 and Form 8825. If applicant and co-applicant file separately, we require both tax returns for the same tax year. We do NOT accept State tax returns.
4. Copies of all 2007 W-2 Wage and Tax Statements for both you and your spouse.
5. Copies of all supporting documentation for household Social Security Income, Welfare, Child Support, Food Stamps, Workers' Compensation, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

Please allow 3 to 4 weeks for your paper application to be processed.

NOTE: Award decisions are not made by FACTS, but by the Marine Military Academy. Award decisions will be announced in June 2008.

If you have questions or concerns about the application process, you may speak with a FACTS Customer Care Representative at 1-866-315-9262.

Sincerely,

LTCOL Robert Grider, USMC (Ret)
Director - Institutional Development

Social Science, Science, and Foreign Language. All electives available to students outside of these disciplines are focused on skills necessary in today's work and academic environments. Marine Military Academy cadets are challenged by Advanced Placement courses, Dual Enrollment courses, and required additional study within the core to ensure that they have the knowledge necessary to be successful in any post secondary environment. Much more important than this knowledge, however, is their complete transformation into responsible learners, informed citizens, and practiced leaders.

As we are all aware, technology and discovery create new knowledge at a near exponential rate. What is found between the covers of a textbook today is likely incomplete or incorrect by the time it reached publication. Marine Military Academy cadets are prepared to deal with this phenomenon success-

fully because they have developed within themselves the ability to think...problem solve...and convert data into useful information. They do not rely on rote memorization and the recitation of facts to succeed. Marine Military Academy faculty understands that the material presented, the presentations made, and the assignments collected are merely tools for developing those qualities within our cadets required to negotiate a rapidly changing environment and lead those less fortunate in the process. The faculty stand at the front of the class, not as lecturers so often encountered within schools, but as examples of integrity, responsible citizens, and leaders. Cadets are not passive vessels in the classroom but an active and integral part of the educational process. Marine Military Academy cadets take responsibility for themselves and their classmates as they navigate their way to the college of their choice.

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS...24-7



Marine Military Academy Cadet Staff Sergeant Timothy Stitt, son of Peter and Melissa Stitt of Snohomish, Washington, received well-earned honors as the Harlingen Rotary Club's first recipient of "The INTERACT Student of the Month" by none other than visiting Texas Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst at a weekly Rotary luncheon held at the Harlingen Elks Club. The award will continue to recognize one outstanding student each month who serves the community and is an active participant in the Harlingen Rotary INTERACT. Award recipients receive a certificate of recognition as well as a twenty-five dollar gift certificate. Harlingen Rotary President and MMA Superintendent Colonel Glenn Hill, USMC (Ret) comments, "Cadet Stitt exemplifies all those traits desired in a MMA cadet and a Rotary INTERACT student. He lives Rotary's 'Service Above Self', both at the Academy and in his service to the community." MMA President Brigadier General Cheney, USMC (Ret) states, "I was delighted today to participate in the award ceremony where Cadet Timothy Stitt received the 'Outstanding INTERACT Student of the Month' for the combined City of Harlingen schools from the Harlingen Rotary. Timothy is a superb cadet exemplified by his tremendous record of community service, capped by his involvement with the Rotary Interact Club. It was a proud moment for me, the Marine Military Academy, and Cadet Stitt." Cadet Stitt is a junior and second year student at MMA.



BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS!!! MMA Battalion Staff greeted visiting Colonel Ferguson, USMC (Ret), TECOM (Training and Education Command - in conjunction with MMA's JROTC program) bright and early Tuesday morning, January 22nd...0600, conversing over a Texas-sized breakfast'. Following chow, Colonel Ferguson toured the Campus, observed Morning Colors and, at high Noon, took in "Pass In Review".

DOOR OF WONDER, DOOR SO BRIGHT...



CREATIVITY Plus+++! Take 12 boxes of graham crackers, a couple dozen or so candy canes, and the unlimited imagination of Mrs. Diolanda Dye's 6th period cadets and you'll arrive at the Blue Ribbon Christmas Door Decorating Champs' masterpiece (right)...closely trailed by College Placement Robin Farris' honorable mention (left) - reindeers fashioned from palm tree remains!



WAY TO REPRESENT!

Gloria Boling, MMA's Museum and Gift Shop Director, unveils "IWO JIMA" entry at Harlingen Arts and Heritage Museum Christmas Tree Festival - crafted from patriotic items you'll find for sale aboard MMA's Museum Gift Shop. Both the Museum and Gift Shop are open daily 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. Contact Gloria for unique gifting ideas: 1-800-365-6006; visitorcenter@MMA-TX.ORG.

SEMPER FI...



The Semper Fi Society of Brazos Valley -TX served up some fine fixin's during MMA President BGen Cheney's Dinner address on December 8, 2007. BGen Cheney stirred up some lively debate amongst the brethren, and you can bet it's more than likely there'll be a Round II in 2008! Pictured, L-R: Chuck Ehrlund; BGen (ret) Steve Cheney; and Don Williams.



ACADEMY AWARD WINNERS BRACKET

At the beginning of each academic semester, Marine Military Academy (MMA) recognizes cadets for outstanding academic performance demonstrated in the prior semester. Cadets earning a first semester GPA of 3.75 or above for Academic Year 2006-2007 receive honors and placement on the President's List. Cadets with a first semester GPA for Academic Year 2006-2007 between 3.50 and 3.74 receive honors and placement on the Dean's List. Cadets receiving a **Gold Wreath** are on the **President's List** for the first time with a GPA of 3.755 or above, and cadets receiving a **Silver Wreath** are on the **Dean's List** for the first time with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.74. Those receiving a **Gold Star** have been on the President's List for two consecutive semesters, and those receiving a **Blue Star** have been on either the President's or Dean's list for two consecutive semesters. Those earning recognition for their first semester's academic performance were honored on Friday, 1 February 2008, during MMA's 2:30 p.m. Academic Awards Ceremony held in the Academy's Phillip Yeckel Auditorium. Earning academic honors/commendation from MMA President Brigadier General Stephen A. Cheney, USMC (Ret) and Dean of Academics John D. Butler, Ed.D.:

ALPHA Company

Lorenzo Barroso: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Stephen Davis: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Ryan Fitch: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Jason Franks: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Richard Major: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Lionel Rodriguez: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**

CHARLIE Company

Andrew Alexander: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Emmanuel Castro: **President's List, Gold Wreath, Gold Star**
 Jacob Finch: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Christopher Gordon: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Christopher Hjort: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Alejandro Juarez-Salazar: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Michael McGraw: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Michael Miller: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Ricardo Rodriguez: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath, Blue Star**
 Taylor Smith: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Joseph Tapia Cervantes: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**

DELTA Company

Josiah Barber: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Scott Courtney: **President's List, Gold Wreath, Blue Star**
 Stewart Fasolak: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**

Dylan Joslin: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**

ECHO Company

Mario Cepeda: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Nicholas George: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 William Hasbrook: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Kevin Honan: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Austin Noel: **President's List, Gold Wreath; Gold Star**
 Dong Shin: **President's List, Gold Wreath**

FOX Company

Thibault Dacy: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Jeffrey Drake: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Travis Duncan: **President's List, Gold Wreath; Gold Star**
 Nicholas Gerhard: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath; Blue Star**
 Thomas Parrott: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Hanzi Wang: **President's List, Gold Wreath; Blue Star**

GOLF Company

Nicholas Christensen: **President's List, Gold Wreath; Gold Star**
 Kai Cianflone: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Nicholas Haag: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**
 Michael Karfunkle: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Nathaniel Keegan: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Andrew Ruffin: **President's List, Gold Wreath; Blue Star**
 William Tipton: **President's List, Gold Wreath**
 Kyle Wagener: **President's List, Gold Wreath, Gold Star**
 Oliver Wilson: **Dean's List, Silver Wreath**

Join us in a round of applause for these accomplishing young men for a mission well executed - OORAH! OORAH! OORAH!



"Throughout the past two years, I've observed your growth, excelling in every facet of your participation at the Academy...particularly in the area of academics. Those of you earning academic recognition today truly epitomize MMA's mission of 'developing disciplined, morally strong, college-ready young men.'"
 - MMA President BGen Steve Cheney, U.S. Marine Corps, (Ret)

"A good education consists of giving to the mind, the body and the spirit all of the beauty and perfection of which they are capable."

—Plato

SOUNDING OFF...



It is about time to hear from colleges if you applied early. I believe many seniors have already been accepted to their college of choice. You still have to keep your grades up; colleges tend to look at your senior year's grade too. If you haven't applied, hurry to do so. As I mentioned before, applying early gives you a lot of advantages over other applicants who don't. Mrs. Farris in MMA's College Room is always there to help you. Congratulations and cheers to all college-admitted seniors.

against Port Isabel High School, Hope Academy, and Valley View High School. They are really giving their heart to achieve victory. Determination will guide Leathernecks to the top. I believe it's going to be a very good year for the Basketball Team. Show your motivation, Leathernecks...we expect a lot more wins from you guys!

After these brief couple of months, the third quarter will be over already. We have already gone through so much stuff successfully; nearly all the hard times are done. All we have is one more quarter. This semester will fly by. Hang in there. One down, and there is one more to go. The race until Senior graduation isn't over yet, so keep your heads up!

Welcome back, cadets! I know that it is hard to admit how short of a break Christmas was. We are refreshed, recharged and ready to hit the last semester hard and wild. It is great to see the cadets with such lively spirits. We have two months until Spring Break; it is a long time, but at the same time, this semester is a busy semester.

Next up, we will have an important inspection. I believe this inspection is a good chance to show the Board and others how we have improved over the school year. As we do each year, the Corps of Cadets have the Alumni and General H.M Smith Parade coming up. I know that the cadets will give their best shot at each of these parades.

Even though schoolwork is important, standardized tests are also very crucial. If you are taking the SAT and ACT tests that are coming up, good luck on that. Keep your grades up, and keep your parents happy.

Basketball season started a few months ago. So far, the Leathernecks are doing GREAT...both JV and Varsity teams are on the winning streak! They won already three games

**This is Battalion PAO ...
SOUNDING OFF!**

Editor's Note:

Cadet Corporal Dong-Kwon Shin is a 3rd-year student at MMA, son of Mr. and Mrs. ChangSoon Shin of Chungcheongnam-do, KOREA.

Border Patrol Honors Cadet David Rodriguez "Head of the Class"



ALPHA COMPANY

**CADET SERGEANT MAJOR DAVID RODRIGUEZ
JUNIOR**

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jamie Rodriguez of Sylmar, CA

"As a third year cadet at Marine Military Academy I have earned the rank of Cadet Sergeant Major for the Corps of Cadets. I am working hard to earn the rank and responsibility of Cadet Battalion Commander in my senior year. During the three years I've attended the Academy I've studied hard, and I apply what I have learned to everything that happens during the day. In my spare time I box - this is also my third year on the Leatherneck Boxing Team where I'm proud to serve as Team Captain. I also enjoy participating in the Boy Scouts and KEY Club. When I graduate from here, I hope to attend the United States Naval Academy and upon graduation from there become a U.S. Marine Corps officer. With Marine Military Academy behind me, I know I can do whatever I set my mind to do."

- Cadet David Rodriguez



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.

CADET DAVID RODRIGUEZ

ON MY HONOR...



Nearly 1/4 of the Academy's Corps of Cadets participates in MMA'S TROOP 22, under the steady guidance of Scoutmaster Sergeant Major Jim Poe.

TROOP 22's Scout Court of Honor was 'called to order' right before the Holiday Break. This event - held before an audience of family, friends, chartered organization officials, troop leaders, and Scouting peers - is a prestigious formal ceremony recognizing individual Scouts who have earned rank advancement and other esteemed Scouting achievements. **These Troop 22 Scouts earned advancement:**

- Joshia Barber** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting and advancement to Tenderfoot Scout
- Adam Blaine** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Tyler Burns** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Joshua Camerena** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting and Scouting's Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding leadership
- Jacob Carter** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Nicholas Cate** - 2 Merit Badges; Communications and Shotgun Shooting
- Richie Christie** - Advancement to First Class Scout
- Kia Cianflone** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Nicholas Cockins** - 1 Merit Badge; Indian Lore
- Alexander Cox** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Patrick Davis** - Eagle Scout Gold Palm
- Travis Duncan** - Eagle Scout Gold Palm
- Anthony Filice** - 1 Merit Badge; Indian Lore
- Cody Fuller** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- David George** - 1 Merit Badge, Communications
- Nicholas Gerhard** - 2 merit badges; Shotgun Shooting, Archery
- Christopher Gordon** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- William Grimm** - 3 Merit Badges; Space Exploration, Shotgun Shooting, and Communications
- Nicholas Haag** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting and advancement to Tenderfoot Scout
- David Jerome** - 5 merit badges; Reading, Family Life, Citizenship in the World, Sports, Law, and Scholarship
- Jordan Levinson** - 3 Merit Badges; Indian Lore, Communications, and Shotgun Shooting
- James Lidji** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting
- Thomas Linton** - 2 Merit Badges; Athletics and Personal Fitness
- Joseph Tretter** - 11 merit badges; Orienteering, Lifesaving, Rowing, Pioneering, Nature, First Aid, Archery, Canoeing, Swimming, Shotgun Shooting, Environmental Science, and advancement to First Class Scout.
- Daniel Sinden** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting and advancement to Second Class Scout



- James Martinez** - Advancement to Tenderfoot and Second Class Scout
- Lionel Rodriguez** - 1 Merit Badge; Camping and Advancement to First Class Scout
- Guillermo Zorrilla** - 1 Merit Badge; Shotgun Shooting

A most enthusiastic Scoutmaster Jim Poe hastens to note, "In addition to the aforementioned honorees, a majority of Troop 22 Scouts earned certification in the safe use of cutting tools and fire-building skills."

Scoutmaster Poe pens:

"Greetings from Troop 22! Cadet Scouters Chris Gordon and Josh Barber participated in the Rio Grande Council Winter Camp during the Christmas break. These boys worked very diligently for long hours each day in earning over 10 merit badges between them. They also honed traditional Scout skills such as camping, outdoor survival, and leadership. Cadets' Barber and Gordon performed flawlessly while demonstrating a high level of Scout Spirit in all endeavors. Well done!

In other news three Troop 22 Life Scouts are on the verge of beginning their Eagle Scout Community Service Leadership Projects. Cadets Sam Fite, Adam Anthony, and Andrew Lugo-Mensch are projected to begin their projects in the upcoming weeks. The service project is a leadership test and one of the final hurdles in earning the title of Eagle Scout. The goal is for each of these Scouts to walk across the stage at Yeckel Auditorium in May in receipt of their Eagle Scout award.

Troop 22 continues working on the First Aid Merit Badge under the tutorship of MMA's Head Nurse Gwen Carson. She's doing a great job in teaching first aid to our Scouts.

A competitive camporee is scheduled to take place in February at Camp Perry here in the Rio Grande Valley. MMA Troop 22 Scouts will participate and hopefully win several awards while developing camping and outdoor skills."

Questions about Troop 22 and Scouting should be directed to SgtMajor Jim Poe, Troop 22 Scoutmaster, at 956-423-6006 Ext. 270; poe@mma-tx.org.



TOM MORTON
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH

"Taking Care Of Business"



**Check out March '08
issue for Baseball,
Golf, Soccer (will see
playoffs with 7-W;1-L)
and Tennis TEAM
coverage!!!**

LEATHERNECK WRESTLING

Head Coach Michael Serta • Assistant Coach Danny Rodriguez

MMA Leatherneck Varsity Wrestlers took on San Benito Thursday evening, November 29th at San Benito. Wrestlers Thomas Linton and Kyle Gannon dominated their matches with an excellent display of strength, endurance and ability. Gannon wrestled an exciting exhibition match as there was no one available in his weight class. Another notable match up: Nick Christensen, winning by injury forfeit when he and his opponent clashed – match was stopped when his opponent came up with a bloody nose. Garrett Paylor and David Rodriguez went all three periods, ultimately resulting in losses by points. Paylor's match went right down to the wire. This was Rodriguez' first match EVER after just ONE FULL DAY of intense team practice. Final team score: MMA 18-San Benito 54.

Outstanding performers:

- Thomas Linton – PINNED his opponent in Third Period**
- Kyle Gannon – PINNED his opponent in Second Period**

Back in mat action on Saturday, December 1st in PSJA North territory, wrestlers Garrett Paylor and Alex Leff were the only two MMA Leathernecks advancing after the first round. Paylor lost in the second round by decision after the referee made a (?) call giving Paylor's opponent mat advantage. Alex Leff made it all the way to the final round of the Tourney dropping a very close match to last year's District 31 5-A 180 pound District Champ and State Qualifier.

Outstanding performers:

- Garrett Paylor – "Tech-failed" his first opponent 20-2!**
- Alex Leff – DOMINATED the Tourney with just one loss in the Championships**

State Qualifiers Garrett Paylor (112 lbs.), Kyle Gannon (130 lbs.), Jacob Lemons (145 lbs.), Thomas Linton (160 lbs.), John Anderson III (171 lbs.) ,Chase Wagner (180 lbs.) and Ashton Walzer (215 lbs.) head to TAPPS Tourney Feb. 9th. All in all, the LEATHERNECK Wrestling warriors have stirred up a mat-full of action+++ , and display a lot of heart, soul and promise+++...OORAH!

LEATHERNECK SWIMMING AND DIVING TEAM

Head Coach Caleb Hood

**GONE TO
STATE COMPETITION
TO BRING HOME
THE GOLD!!!**

LEATHERNECK Swimming and Diving Team took a strong 3rd place in January 19th competition in San Antonio with 9 teams entering the heat.

All Leatherneck Swimming and Diving Team advance to the Texas State Meet held in San Antonio February 2nd and 3rd.

**Go
LEATHERNECKS!**



LEATHERNECK Swimming & Diving Team, L-R: Cadets Cox, Wesley; Licardo, Mauricio; Lam, Derrick; Reed, Ryan; Shelton, Justin; Blaine, Adam; MMA President BGen SteveCheney; Cadets Jerome, David; Smith, Brooks; Steeg, Eddie; Venema, Zachary; Coleman, Mitchell; Yang, Tianyi; and Head Coach Caleb Hood.

LEATHERNECK BASKETBALL

Head Coach Mo Molina
Asst. Coach Edgar Valero

Varsity Roster:

#10 Asa Adair
#15 Duran Hollis
#21 John Hilliard
#22 Chris Hjort
#23 Jonathan Valladares
#25 Malique Graham
#32 Peng Gao
#33 Robert Motheral
#40 Hanzi Wang

J.V. Roster

Andrew Hampton
Cody Hawkins
John Henne
Wei Huang
Tyler Maloon
Tranton Mlekush
Malcolm Owens
Trey Parks
Taylor Barlow
Seth Osmun

MMA "HOOPS IT UP" IN HOT-HOT-HOT COURT ACTION

MMA Leatherneck Varsity Basketball Team took on Brownsville Pace on December 4th at Brownsville Pace High School, much to the delight of a large crowd in attendance. Competing against a Class 5A school as the visiting team, the Leathernecks went into the game facing a BIG challenge. However, from the onset the Leathernecks set the pace, going into halftime with a 37-27 lead. After losing the lead late in the 4th quarter, a great defensive stance allowed the Leathernecks to hold on and pull off a HUGE upset. Final score: MMA 61 – Brownsville Pace 58.

Outstanding performances:

- Duran Hollis scored 28 points and 5 steals
- Malique Graham scored 14 point, 8 rebounds with 6 block shots



Just the weekend prior, the Team brought home a 3rd place trophy from the San Isidro Tournament—soundly thumping host San Isidro High School with final score MMA 88 - San Isidro 31!

MMA Leatherneck Varsity Basketball Express continued to roll, winning the CHAMPIONSHIP at the “Classic By The Bay” Tourney held December 6th-8th, defeating Port Isabel, Lyford, and LaFeria.

Outstanding performances:

- Malique Graham – Tournament Most Valuable Player
- Duran Hollis – All Tournament Team
- Jonathan Valladares – All Tournament Team

In exciting District Basketball competition January 22nd, the Leathernecks defeated visiting St. Augustine Knights with final score of 64-51. Duran Hollis led the way putting 31 points on the board! With this victory under their belt, the Leathernecks improve their record to an 11-3, 2-1 in District, currently leading the pack in FIRST Place, tied with St. Augustine in District Race heat.

Outstanding performance:

- Duran Hollis scored 31 points

In January 25th action the Leathernecks improved their season record to 12W-3L, soundly defeating St. Joseph Academy 53-33. Highlighted by a great defensive effort, the Leathernecks held their opponent to a low 33 points. Leathernecks were led by Duran Hollis (26 points), Malique Graham (13 points) and Jonathan Valladares (13 points).

With this win the Leathernecks inch closer and closer to post season playoffs!



NEXT UP...VISA Basketball Head Coach Chaplain Elliott reports this year's VISA Team is racking up the points on the scoreboard, readying themselves to step into the LEATHERNECK Basketball Team's GIGANTIC Nike's. In fact, rumor has it these young men have emerged victorious from two competitions with a 50-point lead!!!

Go LEATHERNECKS!



Fresh off the wire.....

'79

TJ Sullivan – fokkeruniversity@xtra.co.nz - flies/instructs for a New Zealand airline, and flies vintage planes in air shows and movies

'80

David Balshukat – Dbalshukat@aol.com - owns and operates an industrial construction business in northern Penn. Would like to reconnect with JR Hand.

'83

Bob Mills – bmills6@maine.rr.com - recently won the Biddeford, Maine City Council race with 79% of the vote

Rafael Palacios – servicepro@prodigy.net.mx - looking for Sean Hotung

'84

Kevin Bryan – kevin@digitalbase.com - owns two communications companies in Lubbock, TX. "We are the voice of Microsoft, AT&T, HSN, Sears, and many more." Four children, one grandchild

HELP WANTED: Looking for at least two volunteers from each MMA Graduating Class to assist in researching location and contacting fellow graduates. MMA will provide copy of Academy data. Please E-mail your contact data to: ATTN: Colonel Tom Hobbs, hobbs@mma-tx.org. *Semper Fidelis!*

'85

Mark Guerin – MGuerin@victaulic.com - living in Southlake, TX and working as a fire protection specialist for Victaulic Company of America, married, three children

'87

Karl Shlaudeman – huntsdo@msn.com - a commercial salmon-fishing captain in southwest Alaska

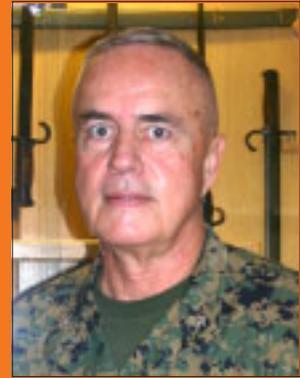
'88

Robert Timpko - orb@norbsoftware.com - a senior software engineer at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey supporting software used by our armed forces, also has his own gaming company, has published two games and is working on a third

'89

Manuel Guzman – consultoriactman@yahoo.com - new e-address

“FALL IN!”



Colonel Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret)
MMA Alumni Director
Ph: (956) 421-9232
E-Mail: hobbs@mma-tx.org

'89 (cont'd)

Michael Parker – MICHAELP@CalendaeClub.com - traffic manager for Calendar Club LLC in Austin, TX

Allen Williams – fulimx@yahoo.com - owns and manages a restaurant – Food Factory – in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico

'98

Larry Murphy - murphy@tierrastudios.com - a recording engineer for Tierra Studios in Houston, Tx., looking for Sven Jensen

'05

Yiming Wang – snowsox0110@gmail.com - a junior majoring in electrical and computer engineering at Rice University

ANSWER TO LAST MONTH'S 'THINKING CAPS ON': 1984!

HELP WANTED. The Academy's Wall of Honor located in Peacher Hall, Cadet Activities Center, recognizes those MMA graduates who went on to serve their country in a Branch of the Armed Services. The wall was dedicated to LtCol James A. Murphy, USAF (Ret.) by his sons and grandsons. A special thanks to Bill Murphy who had two sons graduate from the Academy, Joe '96 and now a Marine Helicopter Pilot and Ryan '98, and was the individual behind the scenes in making the Wall of Honor a most special addition to the Academy.

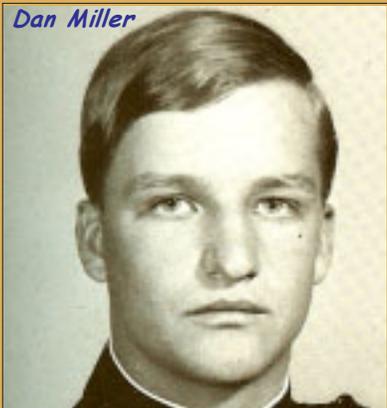
The wall needs updating for the years 2003-2007 and request alumni or parents please provide full names and Branch of Service, hobbs@mma-tx.org.

You've got mail!



Last week at work [for those that don't know, I work on base at Quantico, VA at TBS (The Basic School)] I had the pleasure of meeting a fine new 2ndLt who just happens to be a graduate of MMA, Class of '02; 2ndLt Andre Testman. Squared away young Marine Officer!! - Dan Miller, MMA '71

Dan Miller



Since leaving MMA in '91, I was awarded a Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship to attend New Mexico Military Institute and then matriculated to the Naval Academy as part of the class of '96. I did a tour with 3/5 as a Platoon Commander, Co XO, and CAAT Platoon Commander before going on Recruiting duty at RS Baltimore. After completing EWS I returned to the fleet as a Company Commander with 1/8. After 31 Months in Command I again became an XO, this time of the Bn. From there I returned to the Naval Academy to serve as the Head Coach of the Sprint Football Team, of which I was a member when I was a midshipman. It's great duty and the network for this team is also developing. Colonel Redmon (MMA '81) is not too far away and will be our guest speaker for our banquet.

VR, Jake Jenkins
jjenkins@usna.edu



ALOHA – Yes, it's **ALUMNI REUNION** time ... time again when we need to do more than think about Alumni Reunion 2008 and actually make plans to attend! Alumni: When you speak, we listen! Based on fellow Alumni recommendations attending last year's reunion, we are moving the entire Reunion to South Padre Island on Saturday for an entire action-packed day at the beach! Yes, you heard correctly – we're making the bold move for Saturday and hope you will do the same by making your reservations early. Your early-on commitment allows us to bring you and your fellow alums 'more bang for our limited buck!' Friday's events – the presentation of Alumni pins to seniors, tours, lunch with the cadets, Alumni parade and the President's reception at his quarters on Friday – will all take place as in previous years right here at the Academy. That's where the warm S. Padre breeze of change sets in! Saturday will find the Reunion quartered at S. Padre's La Copa Inn where you're sure to be impressed with their outstanding accommodations and down-home hospitality, aboard the sandy turf of the Island for as much beaching fun in the sun you can possibly squeeze into one day. Your course of the day is entirely at your command – you can start the day with fishing tournament competition... bring your own boat or choose a five-hour deep-sea fishing trip for those who may desire this bonding experience. Maybe you prefer to just relax at the hotel pool and hot tub or stretch out upon the sunny sands of the beach, jump aboard a shopping trip to Mexico, or tour the island. Saturday night dress is beach attire, kicking off with a 'Happy Hour', 1700-1830, in the La Copa Lounge with free beer and wine, yes...that's no typo – free, followed by dinner in the La Copa Banquet Room at 1900 – until???. Saturday promises to be a great day for creating some new war stories as well as reminiscing those timeless memorable war stories from years gone by. Let's make it happen – **FALL IN** – and enjoy your 2008 MMA Alumni weekend. *Semper Fidelis*, Tom Hobbs

FRIDAY - March 28th

0830
0830-1400
1200
1400-1500
1700
1830-2000

Morning Colors Formation
Registration-Cadet Activities Center, tour campus
Alumni review Corps of Cadets *Pass In Review* and lunch in the Mess Hall
Alumni present Alumni Lapel Pins to Seniors – CAC Theater
Corps of Cadets Parade honoring Alumni followed by Alumni Memorial Service.
President's Reception – Quarters 1

SATURDAY - March 29th

0700-1000
0700-1200

0800-1600
1700-1830
1900

Complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast (*La Copa Inn*)
Osprey Deep Sea Fishing (5 hrs.) for those interested; Cost is \$45.00 per person
Fishing Tournament for those who bring their own boat or other
Activities through La Copa Inn: Trip to Mexico, Sightseeing, etc.
La Copa Inn- Happy Hour (*including beer, wine, sodas, nachos, pretzels and popcorn*)
Dinner – 4th Floor Banquet Room La Copa Inn

SUNDAY - March 30th

0830-1100
0700-1000

Brunch in Mess Hall at Marine Military Academy (*for those interested*)
Complimentary Deluxe Continental Breakfast (*La Copa Inn*)

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Casual attire for weekend - Shirt w/collar & trousers for President's Reception. Meals at Mess Hall are at **no charge** for Alumni.
- *The Cost per Room at La Copa Inn Resort is \$96.30 per night - all taxes included. Call and reserve room by February 25, 2008 - Contact Lesa Labar at (956) 761-6000 ext. 450 or e-mail at tiffany@lacoparesort.com*
- **REGISTRATION:** Registration Form by email on form located on the MMA web page: mma-tx.org – check Alumni. If not registered, get on the Alumni Bulletin Board – good for some laughs and what is going on at MMA. You can also see the schedule of events for Reunion 2008 – just check "Alumni" then click on Reunion 2008 information. We need to see more Alumni on "The Board"!!!
- Any questions regarding the Reunion: Colonel Tom Hobbs at Ext. 363 or Connie Flores at Ext. 232 / E-mail: hobbs@mma-tx.org or flores@mma-tx.org

Hang out YOUR 'GONE FISHIN' sign and beat feet to what promises to be a most MEMORABLE MMA ALUM REUNION '08...OORAH!

Memorials: In Honor Of:

- Marvin L. Berry
- Maj James Thomas "Crack" Anderson, USMC (Ret)
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) - 9th Marines RVN
- Sgt R. J. "Pat" Howrigan, (USMC) - 4th Marine Division, WIA Saipan, KIA Iwo Jima
 - Mitzie James
 - B. Kahn
- Thomas B. Leonard - served in WWII
- LtCol Edward B. Lewis, USMC (Ret)
 - Myrtle Mason
- Major John G. Metas, USMC (Ret)
- Charles Ralph Modrell - Iwo survivor
 - Gabriel Rodriguez, Jr. - MMA '98
 - Juan Hector Salazar
 - Betty Smith Stevenson
- SSgt Alton W. Storrs, USMC (Ret)

- GySgt Antonio Aguilar, USMC (Ret) - MMA C-Co. DI
 - Lt James Braudt, USMC
 - Cpl Steven Braudt, USMCR
- Recruit Thomas Edward Braudt, USMC
- SgtMaj Larry J. Carson, USMC (Ret) - MMA D-Co. DI
- MSgt Robert Fracasso, USMC (Ret) - MMA F-Co. DI
- CWO3 Edward D. Harris, USMC (Ret) - MMA A-Co. DI
- GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret) - MMA E-Co. DI
 - David B. Moxley
 - John C. Moxley
 - Richard P. Moxley
- J. Rob Walker's Marine Service
- SgtMaj Albert S. Wilson, Jr., USMC (Ret) - MMA G-Co. DI
 - Barry Zale

Marine Military Academy stands ready to assist you with unique recognition opportunities designed to keep on giving. To make a donation in memory or honor of, contact Ester Reyes at (956) 421-9231 or e-mail: reyes@mma-tx.org.

Calendar of Events

February

19 IWO JIMA Parade (1600)

March

11-14 3rd Quarter Exams
 14 Begin Spring Break
 23 End Spring Break
 24 Begin 4th Quarter
 28-30 Alumni Reunion

April

4 General H.M. Smith Fdtn. Dinner
 5 General H.M. Smith Fdtn. Parade
 12 ACT
 18-20 MMAPO/Parents SPRING FLING

May

3 SAT
 16 Eagle Scout Ceremony, Academic and Spring Sports Awards Parade, Senior Graduation
 17

TAPS...



MMA Sensei Charles F. Robertson passed away on 5 December 2007 following a lengthy illness.

Charles grew up in Dallas and graduated from North Texas Teachers College. He served three years in the U.S. Air Force and remained in the Reserves for fifteen years.

Charles received his Masters from Texas A&M. He taught for many years, retiring from the Harlingen, Texas Independent School District. Upon retirement he taught Judo throughout the Valley, spending the last five years coaching MMA's LEATHERNECK Judo Team through many victorious competitions.

Marine Military Academy extends heartfelt condolences to the Robertson family.

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, The Marine Military Academy hereby notifies all concerned parties of the availability of an Asbestos Management Plan. The plan and a copy of inspections and assessments are available for review during office hours, Monday through Friday, in the Central Administrative Office. Should any interested parties desire to view the plan, contact: MMA Facilities Department. 956-423-6006 Ext 244 facilities@mma-tx.org

YOUR Opportunities to Support MARINE MILITARY ACADEMY



- Scholarship Programs**
- General Scholarship
 - Endowed Scholarship Fund



- Planned Giving**
- Charitable Gift Annuities
 - Establishment of Trusts
 - Bequests
 - Gift of Residence with Right to Use the Property



Naming Opportunities



Brick Pavers



Memorial Trees



Athletic Equipment



Tax-Deductible Cash Donation

Visit personally with staff to determine which opportunity best fits your lifestyle by calling (956) 421-9231 or simply send your e-mail request to development@mma-tx.org. Credit card and check donations can be made anytime by visiting <http://mma-tx.org/opportunities1.htm> for on-line TAX-DEDUCTIBLE gifts by credit card.

MMA LEADER

A monthly publication of
MMA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

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