

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

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ELEVEN IWO JIMA SURVIVORS HONORED AT MMA CORPS OF CADETS PARADE



Scores of patriots began arriving aboard Marine Military Academy (MMA) as early as 9:30 a.m. in anticipation of the scheduled 4 p.m. February 19th Corps of Cadets Parade. Although temps were mild

and skies scattered, not even a drizzly mist could stay MMA Corps of Cadets from their appointed observance of the 63rd Anniversary of the taking of the small island known as Iwo Jima.

MMA's Museum and Visitor Center logged in a record of nearly 400 visitors in one day, showing the Iwo Jima Conflict video every 45 minutes through the day...right up to the very last showing at

[Continued on page 2](#)

Cadet Nathaniel Keegan Sails Through Rotary's 4-Way Test

MMA Corps of Cadets' Nathaniel Keegan competed against debaters from local area high schools in Harlingen Rotary's Four-Way Speech Contest on Friday, February 29th...and besides earning a \$300 scholarship, he emerged victorious. The contest requires students to prepare a speech using the Rotary's Four-Way-Test:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and better FRIENDSHIPS?

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

(Full speech on page 5)

Nathaniel competes in the Area contest next - and if he wins there, he continues on to District competition. Go forth and shine, Nathan!

WINNING SMILES ALL AROUND!
Pictured, L-R: Harlingen Rotary President (MMA Superintendent) Col. R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret); Cadet Nathaniel Keegan; and MMA English Teacher Diolanda Dye.



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5:15 p.m. which was jam-packed! Museum visitors were mesmerized at the many historic articles found between the walls of the compact museum, and Veteran volunteers on hand fielded a plethora of questions.

At 4 p.m. the line of parade-goers stretched from lawn chairs situated along the parade grounds' driveway entrance all the way to the far side of the bleacher seating...an array of patriotic red, white and blue attire and an amazing display of U.S. Marine Corps scarlet and gold. Commandant of Cadets Sergeant Major

Ford Kinsley, U.S. Marine Corps, (Ret) welcomed the large crowd, extending a special address to the Iwo Jima survivors seated in front of the Parade Grand Stand. The MMA Leatherneck Band delighted the audience with upbeat tunes including a stirring rendition of 'Minnie The Moocher'. Next up, MMA Silent Drill Team performed in precision exhibition...each movement executed perfectly and well-received by the appreciative crowd. The Corps of Cadets marched on, and all in the audience rose to standing position – hands over hearts and others in reverent salute as our

nation's National Anthem played. Iwo Jima veterans joined MMA Superintendent Colonel R.G. Hill, U.S. Marine Corps (Ret) in Parade Review as the Corps of Cadets marched by...drawing tears to many a patriots' eye. As the last Cadet left the Parade grounds, many members of the audience lingered, coming forward to shake the veterans' hands and say, "Thank you."

Marine Military Academy extends extreme gratitude to all those who paid the ultimate price during the taking of Iwo Jima, and all those past and present who defend our nation's freedoms.



TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON. MMA Superintendent Colonel R.G. Hill, USMC (Ret) thanks Iwo Jima survivor Bob Bloedorn following the February 19th parade.

Bob Bloedorn, one of the eleven Iwo Jima survivors depicted on this month's newsletter cover, is also an avid and energetic volunteer at MMA's Museum and Visitors Center. Besides lending a helping hand and historical voice to visitors of all ages, Bob's talents include that of a creative visionary.

This past month the Center unveiled Bob's latest contribution - a lighted, shingled, furnished tabletop sized remake of the famous TUN TAVERN, traditionally regarded as the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania site where the U.S. Marine Corps was founded. The original Tun Tavern, built in 1685, became the meetinghouse for the first meetings of the St. George's Society (forerunner of today's 'Sons of the Society of St. George'); St. John's No. 1 Lodge of the Grand Lodge of the Masonic Temple; St. Andrew's Society (a charitable group dedicated to assisting poor immigrants from Scotland); and the Pennsylvania Militia where Colonel Benjamin Franklin recruited a regiment of soldiers for the protection of American colonies. Later, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the Continental congress met in the Tun Tavern to strategize in preparation for independence from the British Crown. When Continental Congress commissioned Samuel Nicholas to raise two Battalions of Continental Marines, known today as the United States Marine Corps, Nicholas set up shop where? Tun Tavern, appointing the proprietor to the job of Chief Marine Recruiter, and recruits in turn flocked to the Tavern for the opportunity to serve in the new Corps of Marines.

Tun Tavern in Philadelphia no longer exists, its original location now covered by I-95.



The National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia displays a replica of Tun Tavern - and now, thanks to the foresight of one dedicated Iwo Jima survivor, Marine Military Academy's Museum and Visitor's Center displays Bob Bloedorn's rendition. Be sure to make a stop at the Center your next visit to southmost Texas...you're sure to be amazed at the historic treasures you'll discover..and we'll be sure to 'leave the light on'!

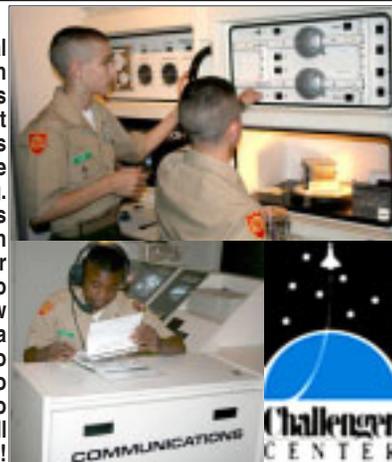
Contact Center Director Gloria Boling: (956) 423-6006 Ext. 676, 678; (800) 365-6006; or e-mail visitorcenter@mma-tx.org. Volunteer Luncheon '08 coverage in April issue of *The LEADER*.

Provided and distributed by:



HOUSTON, WE HAVE LIFT OFF!

Accompanied by MMA Counselor Joe Palamara and Social Directress Monica Bates, 32 cadets travelled to nearby San Benito's *Challenger Learning Center*, one of 50 such centers throughout the United States, Canada, and U.K. set up to not only preserve the memory of the 1986 Challenger astronauts who lost their lives 70 seconds into flight but also engage students in space discovery through problem-based learning. The students divided into two groups – 16 to head to Mars aboard the shuttle and the other 16 to run the communication center back on Earth. Everyone had an assigned task whether it be conducting experiments on isolated rock samples to determine mineral composition or checking vital signs of crew members, navigating amongst the constellations...to make a long story short, at the end of the hour the crew managed to land safely on Mars, launch a probe, collect data, and return to Earth...safely! Just in time to switch roles, and head back to Mars...and ultimately back to MMA in time for Second Mess. All just a day in the life of a Marine Military Academy Cadet...OORAH!



CORNER ON INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Nearby University of Texas Pan Am has an exchange program with French University—the Université de Bordeaux—and one of the students, Florian Moser, is currently taking classes in Edinburg, a Reservist in the French Armed Forces. He also went to a military school in France before joining the Reserves. France doesn't have a lot of military prep schools, so Florian is rather unusual. A networking 'holdup' between Marine Military Academy's (MMA) French Instructor Dr. Mary Ricciardi and Florian's PanAm teacher, Dr. Béhar, culminated in arranging for Florian to meet Dr. Ricciardi's French students and tour MMA's Campus.

Dr. Ricciardi elaborates, "Initially, my goal for Florian's visit was for him to be able to see a full range of activities, not just French classes. At least he should be able to see our training facilities, one of the barracks, etc. MMA Cadet Battalion Commander Edgar Steeg is French, and would make a perfect "tour guide" for this special guest. It appeared to me to be a perfect learning opportunity, not to be passed up. I asked Dr. Béhar if she could have him prepare a "vocabulaire" with military commands, uniforms, barracks terminology, etc., and talk to my students about military training in France. France went from having a one-year compulsory universal service law to an all-volunteer military about seven years ago, and I was curious to learn how that's working. Also want to know what a reservist does, when and where they have to report for duty, etc. I, too, would be learning a lot from this!

The picture below is of Florian Moser with Dr. Stella Béhar of UT Pan Am, MMA Cadet Battalion Commander Edgar Steeg and yours truly from MMA. Florian's note (top right) to Dr. Béhar reads: "Thank you for allowing me to spend a day at the MMA military school, it brought back some good memories. I'm attaching 2 photos to the message so that you can keep a souvenir of our trip to MMA. The welcome was friendly and the visit to the barracks and facilities was worth the effort. I gave my presentation to Mme Ricciardi who is very happy to be able to use it as a teaching tool. I'm really pleased by that and proud to have made my own small contribution to MMA."

Florian is a Corporal in the French Air Defense Reserves, and spent three years in a military prep school in France, located in the mountains near Grenoble. His school is about twice the size of MMA and enrolls students from age 12 to what corresponds to our postgraduate year: in other words, it's a middle school, high school and prep school all in one, and was created to educate the orphans of French airmen who had lost their lives in World War II. Currently a student at the Université de Bordeaux, Florian is spending a year at UT Pan Am on an exchange program organized by Dr. Béhar, and is working with the Army ROTC program at Pan Am. His visit to MMA has therefore given him a chance to experience a wider range of military training programs.

Every military organization has its own terminology for the equipment it uses and the work that it does. I asked Florian to teach us the names for the parts of the various uniforms our Cadets wear, and to demonstrate the basic military commands. My students can now identify their ranks, name tags, and all the various covers they wear in French—terms we wouldn't know except by learning them from someone who has worked with them all. He demonstrated the difference in the way the French salute, and we now know how to call the class to attention, call cadence, put the group at parade rest, etc., in French. We already had books with pictures of various French military aircraft and anti-aircraft weapons; Florian showed us the two missile launchers that he is trained to use and explained a little about his reserve training and the promotion system, which is different from and slower than ours.

Of course the cadets were very curious to know more about his school and were surprised to learn that even though it's a government-run military academy, the students do not wear military-style uniforms. They liked the idea of skiing and mountain-climbing as part of the school curriculum, but we won't lose any cadets to that competitor as they would have to be French citizens to enroll there. Florian in turn was impressed to find out that our cadets can learn to navigate, sail and get a pilot's license while at MMA. It was truly a day well-spent."

*As penned by MMA's French Instructor
Dr. Mary Ricciardi.*

bien à vous!

Merci de m'avoir permis de passer une journée à l'école militaire MMA. ça m'a rappelé de bons souvenirs. Aussi, je joins à ce message 2 photos pour que vous gardez un souvenir de notre venue à MMA. L'accueil était amical et la visite de la caserne valait le coup. J'ai laissé ma présentation à Mme Ricciardi qui est très heureuse de pouvoir l'utiliser en tant que support pédagogique. ça me fait donc très plaisir et je suis fier d'avoir apporté un peu de ma contribution à MMA.



bien à vous,

Florian



Left to Right: Dr. Mary Ricciardi, MMA Cadet Edgar Steeg, Florian Moser, Dr. Béhar.

Cadets of the Month for January '08

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 January 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 KYLE M. SCHENCK Junior - Pompton Lake, NJ

"Cadet Kyle Schenk is an outstanding cadet who has proven himself to be very trustworthy and reliable. His personal initiative, pride, and integrity, has put him in his peers' forefront. I very much look forward to watching Kyle take on increased levels of responsibility, developing into one of Alpha Company's strongest leaders. I'm very proud of Kyle's effort and growth as he becomes a great, mature young man with a bright future ahead of him. Young men such as Kyle validate our philosophy and mission here at MMA." - CWO3 Ed Harris



CHARLIE COMPANY EMMANUEL CASTRO Senior - Houston, TX

"Cadet Emmanuel Castro has been outstanding in all areas of conduct and academics. He is an example to his peers, to be looked towards as a fine example of outstanding performance."
- GySgt Antonio Aguilar



DELTA COMPANY SCOTT COURTNEY Junior - Mont Belvieu, TX

"Cadet Courtney has demonstrated outstanding leadership and has performed his duties as Platoon Commander in an excellent manner. As a result of his performance, can-do attitude and unselfish work ethic I am proud to nominate him for this prestigious nomination."

- SgtMaj Larry Carson



ECHO COMPANY JORGE LEDESMA Sophomore - Tampico, MEXICO

"Cadet Ledesma came to MMA to improve his English and was in Delta Company for ESL 2007. As a 1st year cadet, he has done a great job in Echo Company, holds a billet as Squad Leader, and is now a Cadet Instructor for Mid-Term Plebes. He's always willing to learn and to teach others in his platoon to do things right. Cadet Ledesma is an asset to my company, and I hope to see him for two more years."

-GySgt Frank Martinez



FOX COMPANY LANE WRIGHT Junior - Cypress, TX

"As a second year cadet, Cadet Wright has been a vital asset to the constant attention and needs of his fellow cadets. Assigned as a platoon Sergeant, his leadership by example and positive attitude continue to head his troops in the right direction. His 'can-do' attitude and exceptional performance is why he is selected for this prestigious nomination. It is a pleasure to have him on our team, and we all look forward to working with him throughout the year." - MSgt Robert Fracasso



GOLF COMPANY OLIVER WILSON Junior - Houston, TX

"Cadet Oliver Wilson is a fine young man with a very bright future. He is a Cadet that takes action in the absence of orders. He will most certainly be a future leader in Golf Company. This prestigious recognition is well deserved."

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson



BANDSMAN SCOTT GARRETT Freshman - Austin, TX

"Cadet Garrett has become an integral part of the MMA Band during his first semester here at MMA. Scott has never missed or been late for a rehearsal and always has positive input in section rehearsals. His contribution to the MMA Band has always been very positive. I look forward to Scott continuing to develop his role in the band and here at MMA. Scott, thank you for of your hard work and loyalty to the MMA Band. You have most certainly earned this recognition."

- CWO3 Ed Harris



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD RYAN FITCH

*Junior - La Mirade, CA
As a second year student, Cadet Fitch continues to lead the way representing the Academy and Marine Corps as the MMA Color Sergeant. Additionally, Cadet Fitch can be relied upon to participate as a Drill Team member. His 'can-do' attitude and exceptional performance is why he is 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 the year."*

- MSgt Robert Fracasso



MMA CADET WALKS THE TALK

(continued from page 1)

“What is honesty? Telling the truth? Doing the right thing? Be these so, what is the truth? How does one measure how right something is?”

Were we living in a world of absolute black and white, the truth would be simple to distinguish from the lie, being honest would be an easy task. However, we live in a world of grey where such absolute truth sometimes do not exist. In the words of O. Henry, ‘There is not well-defined boundary between honesty and dishonesty. The frontiers of one blend with the outside limits of the other, and he who attempts to tread this dangerous ground may be sometimes in one domain and sometimes in the other.’ In the real world, the lines between right and wrong can blur and ties of loyalty can cross the obligations of integrity.

Yet, you may be thinking, ‘Being honest is very easy. Maybe this is more of a personal confession...’ Still, think for a minute of the fact that we live amidst maxims such as ‘honesty is the best policy’ and ‘the easiest thing to say is the truth’, but this same society of ours has also given birth to such notions as ‘white lies’, small exaggerations, and ‘slight embellishments’. Would this not seem to be a little hypocritical?

With these contradictions in mind, there is an obvious problem with the exercise of honesty in society, and there must be some reason as to why. Perhaps the issue lies in the identity of truth. Most times in life, the truth is a thing quite subjective in

nature. For although there exists only one factual truth, its interpretation does not mean the same thing to everyone nor does it always remain the same in even one person’s mind. Even when the truth is clear, much like life, it is not fair to all concerned. With so much ambiguity as to the identity of the truth, a degree of faith in the truth is required for one to practice honesty; one must have faith that they know the truth and that their actions promote it. The difficulties surrounding honesty do not end here, though, for we must also think of the context in which one’s honesty is brought to test. When one makes the conscious decision between truth and lie, there is usually some gain to be had through dishonesty. Sometimes the avoidance of punishment, the protection of guilt, the flattery of indulgence, can all tempt one to create a lie. Other times, one may be asked to deceive purposefully and be placed under great pressure to do so. The fear of losing face or reputation in these situations causes the urge to compromise one’s integrity. In scenarios such as this, being honest can even appear to be a more damaging choice than deceiving.

Thus, we see that honesty is not always the most common or simple path to travel. Already a vague, confusing path to walk, it can even appear to be the greater of two evils. Only when one can summon up the courage to walk this line, this path of honesty, will they reap its rewards. For the exercise of honesty - the pursuit of truth, is always ben-

eficial to those concerned. However much an honest decision may hurt a relationship, at the end of the day it will strengthen the relationship all the more. Within my own experiences, I have watched people both walk and stray from this path. One instance involved a person very dear to me who was afflicted with a deadly illness. When told that all the glory of modern medicine could not cure her, she did not despair, but instead put her faith in God. She believed, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that she would survive this ordeal without medication, without treatment, without science. When I was told this, it was not spoken as some small hope; it was spoken as a fact, as the honest truth. Such huge faith left me stupefied. Were I in that situation, I doubt that I could have been so honest with myself about my faith and my condition.

I am not here to proclaim my perfection in the art of being honest. I admit to having lied, to having fallen from the path towards truth. I am merely here with the hope of describing the phenomena of honesty in our imperfect, unjust, and unforgiving world. In this world, being a follower of the truth is not a simple task. Placing full faith in the power of truth and allowing it to guide one’s actions is a challenge. As an individual in this world, I can only hope to do my utmost to find, secure and live the truth. Only through this can I dream of living a truly honest life. **And that, is the honest truth.”**

**--MMA Cadet Captain Nicholas Keegan,
GOLF Company**

MMA Cadet Promotions 2008

The following named CADETS have earned promotion to the Rank and Billet indicated below, as of 14 March 2008:

CHARLIE

ANDERSON, PETER J: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
FLORES GARCIA, MARCO T: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
HJORT, CHRISTOPHER M: Cadet Staff Sergeant/Platoon Sergeant
MILLER, MICHAEL R: Cadet Corporal/Squad Ldr
MUNGUIA ROSALES, VICENTE: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
SOOBY, DEREK W: Cadet First Lieutenant/Platoon Commander
STEEG, EDGAR E: Cadet Colonel/Battalion Commanding Officer
VAN DOESBURG, ERIC A: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr

DELTA

ANTHONY, ADAM S: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
ASHCRAFT, JACOB S: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
BERNAL RAZZO, SANTIAGO D: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
CAMARENA, JOSHUA K: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Ldr
CRAWFORD, BLAKE A: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Ldr
DEL ARCO CHAVEZ, PABLO A: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
FASOLAK, STEWART C: Cadet Sergeant/Company Education SNCO
HUANG, WEI: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
KEEFER, NOAH W: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr
MENDOZA, JUAN A: Cadet Private First Class/Fire Team Ldr
POWELL, ASA V: Cadet Private First Class/Squad Mbr

ECHO

ASH, MATTHEW: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
BOYCE, ANDRE T: Cadet Corporal/Squad Ldr
CEPEDA CARDENAS, MARIO H: Cadet Sergeant/Squad Mbr
COX, ALEXANDER C: Cadet Lance Corporal/Fire Team Ldr
FULLER, ZACHARY M: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
GALLARDO, THOMAS D: Cadet Lance Corporal/Company Laundry NCO
GEORGE, NICHOLAS D: Cadet First Lieutenant/CO Executive Officer
GONZALEZ DE LEON, ANGEL: Cadet Second Lieutenant/Platoon Commander
GALLARDO, THOMAS D: Cadet Corporal/Company Laundry NCO
VIRGILIO A: Cadet Sergeant/Squad Ldr
HOBBY, GEOFFREY A: Cadet Sergeant/Squad Ldr
LEDESMA-VILLARREAL, FERNANDO: Cadet First Sergeant/Company First Sergeant
LEDESMA VILLARREAL, JORGE A: Cadet Sergeant/Squad Ldr
LINTON, THOMAS N: Cadet Corporal/Fire Team Ldr
MCCUTCHIN, CLINTON R: Cadet Corporal/Squad Ldr
NOEL, AUSTIN L: Cadet Sergeant/CO Education SNCO
NOLLEY, NICHOLAS M: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Ldr
OLAJUWON, ABDUR R: Cadet First Lieutenant/Public Affairs Officer
OROZCO, MATTHEW: Cadet Sergeant/Squad Ldr
PERRY, CHARLES R: Cadet Staff Sergeant/Platoon Sergeant

ECHO - cont'd

PORTALES, FRANCISCO A: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
SAULINO, TIMOTHY R: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
TAHIRKHELI, ADAM A: Cadet Sergeant/Company Gunnery Sergeant
TOLBERT, NICHOLAS A: Cadet Lance Corporal/Fire Team Ldr
ULLRICH, PSALM A: Cadet Sergeant/Company Guidon Bearer
VIERS, PATRICK A: Cadet Sergeant/Platoon Commander

FOX

ALLEN, JOSHUA L: Cadet Corporal/Company Laundry NCO
DRAKE, JEFFREY A: Cadet Sergeant/Platoon Sergeant
FITE, SAMUEL L: Cadet Sergeant/Platoon Sergeant
DUNCAN, TRAVIS R: Cadet Lieutenant Colonel/Battalion Executive Officer
WRIGHT, LANE W: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant/Company Gunnery Sergeant

GOLF

COCKINS, NICHOLAS A: Cadet Lance Corporal/Squad Mbr
KARFUNKLE, MICHAEL D: Cadet Staff Sergeant/Company Education SNCO
LIANTONIO, JAMES D: Cadet Second Lieutenant/Public Affairs Officer
TELOR, DANIEL S: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant/Company Gunnery Sergeant
WILSON, OLIVER J: Cadet Corporal/Assistant Squad Ldr

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

Cadets of the Month for February '08

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 February 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

STEVEN K. DAVIS
Senior - Dallas, TX

"Cadet Davis has been extremely consistent throughout this entire school year. He is dedicated to obtaining a quality education and maintains very high personal standards in both his academic studies and in his pursuit of excellence on the MMA Boxing Team."

SgtMaj Robinson speaks highly of Steven's dedication to the Boxing Team. Steven's demeanor is all business, and he is highly respected in Alpha Company." - CWO3 Ed Harris



CHARLIE COMPANY

PETER J. ANDERSON

Sophomore - Eastsound, WA

"Cadet Anderson has done an outstanding job. He demonstrates outstanding leadership skills and maintains his military bearing at all times. During CCQ he assists other cadets in academic and military subjects. He sets a fine example for all to follow."

- GySgt Antonio Aguilar



DELTA COMPANY

JOSHUA K. CAMARENA

Freshman - Lake Arrowhead, CA

"Since Cadet Camarena's arrival in DELTA Company he has done an outstanding job. His performance has always been excellent. Because of the consistent motivation he provides to his platoon members, he is without a single question--a rising star in this Company!"

- SgtMaj Larry Carson



ECHO COMPANY

CHARLES R. PERRY

Senior - Darnestown, MD

"Cadet Perry learned to develop his leadership skills early on. He works very hard at whatever he sets as his goal and is respected by his peers. He earns this prestigious recognition because of his consistent leadership and performance."

- GySgt Frank Martinez



FOX COMPANY

PEYTON RUNYAN

Junior - Austin, TX

"As one of the newest members of Fox Company, Cadet Runyan has demonstrated the qualities of a model MMA Cadet. His appearance, military bearing and academic performance are for all to emulate. His 'can-do' attitude and exceptional performance earns him this prestigious selection. It is a pleasure to have him on our team, and we all look forward to working with him."

- MSgt Robert Fracasso



GOLF COMPANY

NORMAN H. GROSS

Freshman - Seattle, WA

"Cadet Gross is a fine young man with a very bright future. He is a Cadet that takes action in the absence of orders. He will be one of the future leaders in Golf Company. This prestigious recognition is well deserved."

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson



BANDSMAN

JACOB MCMICHAEL

Sophomore - Lumberton, TX

"Cadet McMichael joined the band this January as a beginner on the Clarinet. He has consistently been one of the first in/last out of the bandhall everyday. He works tirelessly and with great diligence to learn how to play the clarinet and as a result has made great strides of an extraordinary nature. His diligence and drive have set the example for even the more senior and advanced players to follow. He has been an inspiration to all of the members of the MMA Band." - CWO3 Ed Harris



DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD

NOAH KEEFER

Freshman - San Bernardino, CA

"As a member of the Drill Team Pvt Keefer has adapted, overcame and conquered the techniques utilized to become an exceptional performer for the MMA Drill Team. His 'Can Do' attitude is why he is 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."

- MSgt Robert Fracasso



COLLEGE PLACEMENT ROOM: Caution - High Activity Area!



Summer is fast approaching and what is your cadet planning to do this summer? Stay at home? Veg out at the beach house? Hang out at the mall? Watch reruns on TV? Sleep? If your cadet is not going to be busy here at MMA's summer camp or working at a job back home, take a look at the list below. These are just a few of the many summer programs available and designed to challenge his mind, stimulate his brain, encourage him to meet engaging people or be able to explore new and foreign lands. Colleges, universities, and scholarship programs are no longer interested in applicants who spend their summers "just hanging out". Every application your son fills out will have a section for summer activities and work experiences. These activities are often the tie-breaker when two applicants are similar in all other areas. I have more information on other college campus/study-abroad programs if none of these sound exciting.



University of Southern California is offering a "Spend your Summer at USC" program. It is a four-week residential program allowing students the chance to experience college life and earn three units of University elective credits. Students can choose from such courses as Film Study; Electric Guitar: Jazz, Rock & Beyond; Introduction to Video Game Design. For more information visit www.usc.edu/summer.

Georgetown University is offering ten exceptional programs for exceptional high school students who want to get ahead. Some of the programs offered are: International Relations; American Politics & Public Affairs; National Security and Counterintelligence. More information is

available at <http://summer.georgetwon.edu/hoyas>.

College Bound Program at University of Maryland College Park is offering a program of study skills workshops, visits to campus resources and two lecture classes and information about college life. For more information visit www.counseling.umd.edu/las.

Columbia Union is offering a summer session for current high school juniors and seniors to get three free college credits in less than three weeks. To learn more call 800-835-4212 or email at css@cuc.edu.

Delaware State University is offering an Intensive Summer Science Program (ISSP) a four-week residential program. For more information visit www.desu.edu.

Global Scholar is offering a two-week summer program at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia, for outstanding high school students. To learn more visit www.info@globalscholar.org.

Graham School at the University of Chicago offers a wide array to unique

programs for rising sophomore, juniors and seniors through its summer session programs for high school students. To learn more call 773-834-3792.

Hollins University is offering a summer programs for young women who are rising high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors to learn about college life at Hollins University. To learn more visit www.hollins.edu.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania is offering two weeks this summer for their Robert E. Cook Honors program. To learn more visit www.iup.edu/honors/refer.

Harvard Summer School – Secondary School Program www.ssp.harvard.edu

Vanderbilt Pre-College PAVE Program – a six-week summer course designed to strengthen the academic skills of students who are planning to enter a college engineering, premedical, science or technology program. www.vanderbilt.edu/pave

Stanford University- High School Summer College www.summer.stanford.edu

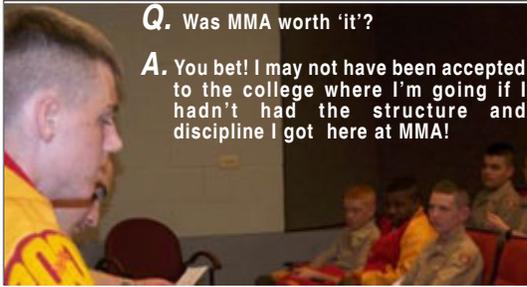
Oxbridge Academic Programs – La Academia de Espana, Barcelona, Spain; L'Academie De Paris, Paris; Oxford – The Oxford Tradition; Cambridge – The Cambridge Tradition. More information is available at www.oxbridgeprograms.com.

What will your Cadet put in HIS summer break?

- Robin Farris
MMA College Placement Counselor
(956) 423-6006 Ext. 305
farris@mma-tx.org

CAMPUS HAPPENINGS...24-7

WORD! Seniors hosted an open forum and movie/pizza party for 8th graders on Friday, March 7th, with a little assist from Faculty members Diolanda Dye and Pat Flores. "The quality questions AND answers were impressive," reports Ms. Dye, "Everyone involved got a lot out of this opportunity."



Q. Was MMA worth 'it'?

A. You bet! I may not have been accepted to the college where I'm going if I hadn't had the structure and discipline I got here at MMA!



STIRRING THINGS UP! MMA's Drill Team set the pace at JROTC Drill Team Competition held the 3rd weekend of February at the Birdville Arts & Athletics Complex in North Richland Hills, TX. Check out full results and photographic coverage on MMA's web site's "WHAT'S NEW". (www.mma-tx.org)



RECORDED MOMENT IN DAR HISTORY. Cadets Andrew Alexander (above Left; Charlie Co.) and Nicholas Haag (above right; Golf Co.) were awarded the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Good Citizenship Award at the annual Awards Ceremony held Saturday, February 16th in MMA's Peacher Hall. Each year, the Lieutenant Thomas Barlow Chapter of DAR presents the most accomplished 8th and 12th grade students in their region who exhibit superior performance in military, academic, and community endeavors. Congratulations to these young men on earning this prestigious recognition...OORAH!



Community Service A+++! MMA Cadets provided the Color Guard for Harlingen Proud's February 21st Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony, honoring the grand opening of the new Loaves and Fishes Facility, a full city block under one roof designed to help men, women, and children through life's roughest spots – getting them back on their feet spiritually, mentally, socially, and career-wise. Many of MMA's Cadets assist with the many programs offered by the facility, from serving dinners in the cafeteria to assisting with carpentry in support facilities, planting shrubbery, etc. Cadets touring the facility before the Arbor Day Ceremony took time out to pose for a quick snapshot (above) with MMA Superintendent Colonel Hill (far left) and MMA Board Trustee Velma Bowman (far right). Cadets are (left to right): N. Poon; R. Fitch; M. Miller; and R. Major.



Cadets Michael Karfunkle (Clarinet), Adam Anthony (Trumpet), Austin Noel (Flute), and Travis Duncan (Tuba) earned selection to participate in the Military Schools Band Association National Honor Band. Cadet Major Travis Duncan received Top Honors as he was picked as the number one Tubaist. Cadets Karfunkle and Noel both placed 3rd, and Cadet Anthony placed 8th out of 16. The three-day festival wrapped up in a grand finale concert at the Valley Forge Military Academy on Sunday, 24 February 2008, featuring members from many of the nation's military schools. These schools include the nation's military colleges including Virginia Military Institute, The Citadel, Coast Guard Academy, Norwich, among many others. The Band includes an average of 100 - 150 musicians from 10th - 12th grades, and college students. Traditionally, this concert is held at a different Military Academy every year, and Marine Military Academy has sent students in the past to participate in this prestigious musical event at The Citadel, Virginia Military Institute, and Culver Military Academy. Says MMA's Leatherneck Bandmaster CWO3 Edward Harris, USMC (Ret), "It is always a great honor to have our musicians selected for this honor, and this years attendees have worked very hard to earn a chair in this Band. I am very proud of them and wish them every success in the future. Congratulations, MMA Band members!"



MMA Board Trustee Dick Moore (right) presents Marine Military Academy Iwo Jima replica to Iwo Medal of Honor recipient Woody Williams (left) at January 2008 event in Chicago.



Veterans, Active Duty Military, and their families and friends attended a public forum in MMA's Yeckel Auditorium the evening of February 5th to discuss current veterans' health issues with Rep. Steve Buyer (R-IN), ranking member of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. The event was hosted by Congressmen Solomon Ortiz and Ruben Hinojosa. MMA Corps of Cadets provided the Color Guard, Cadet David Rodriguez led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and MMA's Cadet Chaplain Chris Elliott delivered the Benediction.



EACH PINT MEANS 3 LIVES SAVED!!! MMA National Honor Society and United Blood Services sponsored a Blood Drive February 12th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Cadet Activity Center with goal of 60 donors. Even though the final tally indicated 58 donors, the Drive was deemed a great success with 103 units of blood collected. Two thumbs up!! Faculty Advisor Diolanda Dye sends out special thanks on behalf of the Drive to all who donated or tried to donate. Pictured above: United Blood Services Technician Hector H. checks out Cadet Nathaniel Keegan's squeezing technique - designed to keep the giving "flowing" smoothly!



Charlie reigns as the "GIANTS" by winning the Third MMA Super Bowl Championship. Charlie's win precluded a repeat championship by any company as Golf and Fox were previous champions. Charlie definitely had the team effort together while winning 34-0. Will there be a repeat Super Bowl Champion next year? The 2009 Super Bowl Championship will be here before you know it — are you ready for some football!



JALAPENO 100 BLOWS IN BIG WIN FOR MMA! MMA's Cycling Leathernecks participated in the annual Harlingen Jalapeno 100 bicycle ride Feb. 16th. Riding for MMA: Cadets Joseph Tretter (finished 1st for Team & 4th overall), Michael Karfunkel, Derrick Lam, Adam Blaine (finished 2nd for Team), Coach Jay Jamarillo and Coach Earl Gander. Electing to ride in the 50-mile event provided not to be such an easy task

with winds gusting up to 50 mph, spurring our riders to speeds of 40 mph with winds at their backs! Easy riding soon came to an end as the route reached its northernmost point and began to loop back around in to a stern headwind...a very difficult 20 miles for the Team with speeds reduced at times to 10 mph by HULK-strength gusts!

SOUNDING OFF...

CAFÉ MMA



Happy March, cadets and readers! It is already the end of third quarter. Spring Break is right around the corner and seniors are ready to enjoy the last break period before their graduation in May 17th, 2008. It is always nice to have a little break before the last quarter. Although it is short, I believe summer break will make up for its briefness.

Unfortunately, the quarter exam is coming along in short two weeks. CADETS: It'll be better if you show up at your house with a presentable report card. Keep the parents happy, and keep yourself in check for your college years.



Can't forget to mention how great the Corps performed during the Iwo Jima Parade. The cadets looked outstanding! The parade deck was packed with people, and we were eager to give them a wonderful parade experience, and we did! Veterans of Iwo Jima Parade, during the Pass In Review, could not keep from tearing up. The biggest parade of the year became the best parade we have done so far. Great job, cadets! We only have two more to go. I know everyone in attendance at these events really appreciates what you do!

Recently, the MMA Cafeteria underwent an enormous change. It is now known as "Café MMA." A variety of new cuisines have been added to the old traditional schedule. Also added is the new fresh salad bar, complete with a Caesar salad option...very popular among the cadets, teachers, and guests! Most importantly, cadets will now enjoy a steak and shrimp dinner at least once each month! We've already had steak for dinner,

and the steak and baked potato combo were magnificent! These changes are great, right here in the Academy's Mess Hall. I wish the change would have happened earlier; but hey, at least it happened before Senior Graduation! I have deep respect for the entire Mess Hall crew and everybody who supported this great alteration, and so does the Corps of Cadets.

Time is ticking away quickly. The third quarter will be over shortly. Mess Hall's new cuisines are tasty, and we are shooting towards the Spring Break. Keep in mind, quarter exams will be tough. Preparation is dearly required; at the very least it certainly helps. As a part of the proud Senior Class of 08, I personally cannot wait until graduation, and I know all the other seniors feel the same way. Fourth quarter will be over in a blink of an eye!

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 Stewart Fasolak January 2008 "Head of the Class"



**DELTA COMPANY
CADET STEWART C. FASOLAK**

Sophomore

Son of Dr. and Mrs. Walter Fasolak

Delta Company Drill Instructor SgtMaj Larry Carson cites, "Cadet Fasolak has proven himself to be an outstanding cadet at the Academy. The leadership demonstrated by his own example is far greater than peers serving in like billets. I implicitly trust him to operate independently as Company Academic Non-Commissioned Officer for Delta Company which he performs with flair. He provides instinctive leadership within a very demanding role and can be relied upon to keep the best interests of fellow cadets close at hand."

Cadet Fasolak describes himself as disciplined, faithful, kind, pleasant, polite and optimistic. His extracurricular activities include Cross Country and Tennis, and he is active in assisting the community with Harlingen Chamber's Feast of Sharing and MMA's annual Orphanage Christmas Party.

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 STEWART C. FASOLAK

TROOP 22 SCOOP



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.



ON MY HONOR...



Troop 22 Scoutmaster Jim Poe reports MMA's medical staff member Nurse Gwen Carson recently completed teaching the (Eagle Scout required) First Aid Merit Badge criteria to the Scouts, devoting personal time for several weekly sessions. Says Scoutmaster Poe, "Gwen's presentation was totally professional. Her efforts are greatly appreciated!"



Troop 22 recently completed two campouts, one involving the annual Rio Grande Council Camporee and a separate Shotgun Shooting Merit Badge Campout. Scoutmaster Poe reports, "Our Scouts performed well at the Camporee, which is a competitive event between the various Troops in the Rio Grande Valley. Troop 22 took a first place ribbon for the Land Navigation event. Great job, Scouts!" Seven Scouts earned the Shotgun Shooting merit badge. Over 1,250 rounds were expended in practice and qualifying. The Scouts conducted themselves with safety in mind and total professionalism at all times on the range. A very impressive job, congratulations to all!



Life Scout Andrew Lugo-Mensch recently completed his Eagle Scout Community Service Leadership project. This is a huge step towards earning the coveted rank of Eagle Scout. He planned, assembled, and led an impressive team to completion of an entire refurbishment and landscaping of an outdoor prayer chapel at the Good Samaritan Society (elderly nursing care facility) in Harlingen. Scoutmaster Poe gets a great big smile of satisfaction when speaking of Andrew's accomplishment, "Andrew and his team performed first rate work on this entire project...thumbs-up for a job exceptionally well done!"



Life Scout Adam Anthony has been approved to begin work on his Eagle Scout Community Service Leadership project...just as soon as MMA Cadets return from Spring Break. He'll be restoring 13 outdoor benches normally in use around the Good Samaritan Society grounds outdoors. Presently, the benches are 'rickety' and unsafe due to missing fasteners and corrosion. In addition to the repairs, the benches must also be completely refinished. The work will be tedious and detailed, but Adam claims he's "more than up to the task" and is looking forward to getting the project underway. Stay tuned for updates!

Border Patrol Honors Cadet Juan P. Lopez February 2008 "Head of the Class"



CADET JUAN P. LOPEZ

CHARLIE COMPANY

CADET JUAN P. LOPEZ

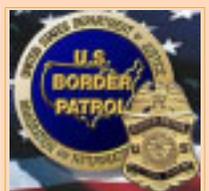
Junior

Son of Mr. Fernando Lopez Machinena and Mrs. Lourder Alvarez Blanco

Charlie Company Drill Instructor GySgt Antonio Aguilar cites, "Cadet Lopez has consistently proven himself to be a young man of character and integrity, a leader with exceptional talents, potential and is able to maintain a positive attitude."

Cadet Lopez describes himself as persistent, athletic, friendly, intelligent, funny, loyal, and hard-working. His extracurricular activities include Soccer (Team Captain), Swimming, Platoon Sergeant, and he is active in assisting the community with fundraisers to help the mentally-challenged. Cadet Lopez' long term goals include attending Rice University in pursuit of a degree in Techological Engineering, and further down the road hopes to start his own business.

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.





TOM MORTON
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH



"Taking Care Of Business"



Leatherneck Baseball Team, L-R, Front row: Cadets Andre Boyce, Asa Adair, Nicholas Nolley, and Taylor Smith; 2nd row: Cadets Logan Eisle, Jonathon Webster, Kevin Honan, Brandon Barker, and Blake Bozer; 3rd row: Andrew Hampton, Randy Graham, Hayden Gross, Stoley Clark, and Tannen Goodall; 4th row: Cadets Joran Levinson, Thomas Parrott, and Ryan Michalak; 5th row: Cadets Park Tipton, James Wick, and Angel Villarreal; 6th row: Ass't Coach Brett Esparza, Head Coach Albert Exparza. Not pictured: Cadets Duran Hollis, John Grey, and Ivan Shenck.

R-U Ready 4 Some Leatherneck Baseball?!?

Mar 25	St. Augustine @ Laredo	4:30pm
Mar 28	Evins Edinburg @MMA	4:00pm
Apr 1	St. Joseph's Academy @MMA	4:30pm
Apr 4	@ St. Augustine	4:30pm
Apr 7	@ Rio Hondo	5:00/7:00pm
Apr 11	St. Joseph's Academy @MMA	4:30pm
Apr 14	@ La Villa	6:00pm
Apr 15	St. Augustine @Laredo	4:30pm
Apr 18	@Point Isabel	5:00/7:00pm
Apr 22	@Zapata	7:30pm



Leatherneck Soccer Team took on St. Michael's February 1st, taking an early lead off goal by Molina at 10:00 of the 1st period. Cadets Bernal and Ledesma added goals at 17:00 and 22:00 for a halftime lead of 3 to zip. St. Michaels entered the second half with renewed determination and quickly scored, shut down by Cadet Garza with a goal just 3 minutes later, brining the score to 4-1, MMA's favor. St. Michael's converted a penalty shot to make it 4-2, but Garza notched his second goal four minutes later for a score of 5-2. Four minutes passed by and saw Molina put in his second goal of the game (6-2); St. Michael's pulled off a third and final goal at 23:00 pulling to 6-3, MMA's lead. Cadet Lopez plunged in the final goal for MMA bringing MMA's winning score to 7, St. Michael's 3. Back in action February 2nd against Central Catholic, Central scored twice in the first period off corner kicks to take a 2-0 halftime lead. MMA had several good attacks but failed to score. Central continued to control play throughout the 2nd period and added 3 goals for a 5-0 finish. MMA Leatherneck Soccer finishes the season as District Runner-up to Central Catholic's District Champ.

LEATHERNECK BOXING

IN THE RED CORNER...**Leatherneck Boxing** Coach SgtMaj F.A. Robertson entered four boxers in Golden Gloves action in Brownsville on February 22nd and 23rd: Cadet David Rodriguez, age 16, 150 lbs.; Cadet Jacob Carter, age 15, 149 lbs.; Cadet Zach Fuller, age 16, 142 lbs.; and Cadet Stephen Davis, age 17 at 154 lbs. Lasting all three rounds but losing to a close decision ere David, Jacob and Zach. Coach Robertson pulled Stephen's fight when eyeballing Stephen's opponent: 32 years old and claiming to have had only one other fight...that didn't pass Coach's smell test, not one bit!

Back in action in the Los Fresno's 'Boxing Show' on March 1st were Cadets Jacob Carter, Zach Fuller, David Rodriguez and Patrick Viers. Coach reports, "We entered the four cadet boxers – there were 17 fights in all and we have four of 'em. We started off with Jacob Carter versus Apollo Romo. Macob started fast, keeping the pressure on his opponent. Jacob never stepped back and threw punches all three rounds! Jacob got the decision. Next up was Zach Fuller versus Alberto Vasques. This was a spirited fight by both fighters. Zach got that decision. One of the officials told me Zach's opponent was penalized because of open-glove slapping which is not legal. David Rodriguez took on Javier Guertero – a tough ring (post fight). Both fighters were trying to lay the hurt on the other. After three hard rounds, David was awarded the decision...I believe David's physical condition made the difference. Our last fight of the evening was Patrick Viers versus Martin Melendez...it must be noted that Patrick had been sick all week and entered the ring down about five pounds. Patrick took on Martin last year and won a decision, so we let the fight go on. It was a good, fast fight, both fighters did extremely well...but we lost the decision. Here's the good news...right after Golden Gloves competition this Team went to work, and the results show!" Way to go, Leatherneck Boxers...you show a lot of guts, sweat, and HEART!

LEATHERNECK GOLF



Leatherneck Golf Team, L-R: Cadets Dexter VanNess, Todd Wilborn, Ismael Marrozuin, Christopher Lane, Head Coach Matt Yates, Cadets Charles Stephenson, Andrew Gonzalez, Guillermo Zorilla, and Alejandro Bazbaz.



GOLFING BY THE GULF
Leatherneck Golf Team members Cadets Stephenson, Lane, Zorilla, Gonzalez and Van Ness heated up the fairways aboard South Padre Island Golf Club's "Toast of the Coast" High School Tourney held Friday, March 7th. Each Leatherneck joined three other area high schoolers, each competing for lowest number of strokes...and a few low-flying birds mistaking catapulting golf balls for lunch! The tourney began with tee-off at 12:30 p.m. and wound up shortly before dusk. "Fore on, brave competitors...to the fairways!"

To left, Cadet Stephenson tees off, continuing on to a final low score of 92! (Drop by MMA web site's "What's New" for complete photographic coverage of this event.)

LEATHERNECK TENNIS



Leatherneck Tennis Team, 1st row, L-R: Cadets Clint McCutchin, Matthew Schaaf, Oliver Hensarling, James Sciano, William Gross and John Roy; 2nd row: Cadets Dmytro Chervonoshtan, Mario Cepedia, Sergio Valdez, Vinsente Munguia, Jacob Lemons, Lance Comer, Stewart Fasolak and Conor Hanrahan. Not pictured: Thien Ngo and Mike Miller.



Cadet McCutchin took top 1st Place Singles honors at San Benito Tourney February 22nd-23rd, trailed by Cadets Fasolak & Comer placing 3rd Place in Doubles competition. Pictured to left, L-R: Cadets Stewart Fasolak, Clint McCutchin, Lance Comer, and Head Coach William Hinkle.

LEATHERNECK TRACK



L-R, Front Row: Assistant Coach Edgar Martinez; Cadets Zachary Venema, Randall Cerrillo, Antonio Cerrillo, Jose Tapia Cervantes, Brent Middleton, Alexander Cox, Mauricio Licardo, Andrew Zulium, Tavar Goodall, John Anderson, David Jerome; and Head Coach Mike Morton. Back Row: Cadets Samuel Fite, Justin Shelton, Malcom Owens, Trenton Mlekush, Robert Motheral, John Hanne, Charles Perry, Justin Morris, Shane Barry, Moises Garcia Valdez, and Jacob Ashcraft.

Update: Jim Hudson Relays in La Feria February 7th results are in! Duran Hollis took 4th in 100 meter competition; Brett Middleton took 5th in the 100 meter and 200 meters; Randall Cerrillo took home a 4th place followed by Antonio Cerillo in 5th. Robert Motheral brought in a 5th place in the 300 hurdles; and MMA's Relay Team took home 4th place in the 4 X 100.

WRAP UP • WRAP UP

Leatherneck Basketball Head Coach Mo Molina reports the Team completed a very successful season, taken out of the championship play-offs at the hand of San Antonio Central Catholic with a final score of MMA 50-Central Catholic 62. Final record: 13 wins and 5 losses. Three cadets were selected for District 4-6A All District First Team: Duran Hollis, MVP; Malique Graham and Jonathan Valladares. Honorable Mention honors go to Cadet Asa Adair. Way to represent, Leathernecks, OORAH!

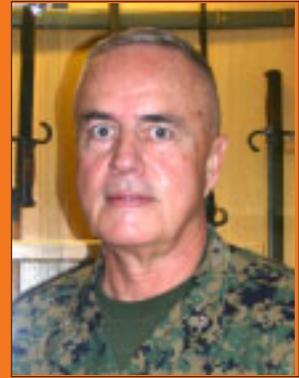
The Mighty Wrestling Leathernecks took seven to TAPPS State Tourney held in Dallas, TX February 9th: Cadets Garrett Paylor (112 lbs.), Kyle Gannon (130 lbs.), Jacob Lemons (145 lbs.), Thomas Linton (160 lbs.), John Anderson (171 lbs.), Chase Wagner (180 lbs.), and Ashton Walzer weighing in at 215 lbs. Although none stood at the top of the winner's bracket, Head Coach Paco Rodriguez says the team shows a lot of promise and has improved skill and mat technique. Watch out for this pack next year!



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!*



“FALL IN!”



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

Fresh off the wire.....

'71

Bill Wharton, pictured to left with daughter Angela. Bill's diagnosed with Acute Lymphonic Leukemia, fighting the good fight and doing well according to his family, who have established a web page to keep Bill in touch with all. **Read Bill's latest update now by using this link:**

www.caringbridge.org/visit/billwharton



Gone: March 28-31
Hang out your sign
and beat feet to
MMA Alumni Reunion '08!

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!

MMA,

Hope all is well with everyone down south. I wanted to send the attached picture of LtCol "Sneech" Hitchcock, '84 and myself taken at Multi National Force- West (MNF-W) HQ last week. We are in the process of turning over operations here in Al Anbar Province, and Sneech is the incoming G-3 (Operations) for the Aviation Combat Element. I am the outgoing Air Officer for MNF-W. Although we have known of each other for awhile, this was the first time we actually met in person- a long way from Harlingen! It was great to pass along stories from our days at MMA, and it was memorable to meet a fellow Cadet this many miles away and in a combat zone. I thought you might like the picture. I'm the good looking one on the right!



S/F, Dawg
(Colonel Tim Hernden, U.S. Marine Corps, MMA '79)

2008 MMA Spring Fling Family Weekend 18-20 April 2008

Dear MMA Family and Friends:

Marine Military Academy Parents Organization (MMAPO) hosts an annual fund raiser in the spring of every year to raise money for projects aimed at enhancing the lives of the MMA Cadets. Right now, the MMAPO is in the process of purchasing two new "liberty" vans (the vans which transport the cadets to special functions and into town on the weekends) for MMA - a 7 passenger van and a 15 passenger van - with the funds raised from the



Spring Fling Family Weekend '07

2007 Spring Fling Family Weekend. This year, we are going to repeat last year's fundraiser, which was a huge success. The 2008 MMA Spring Fling Family Weekend will be held on the MMA campus on Friday, April 18 and Saturday, April 19, 2008. The events are being held on the MMA campus in order to maximize the time parents will get to spend with their Cadet, and to

ensure that all Cadets, even those whose parents are unable to make it to Harlingen for the weekend, can participate.

MMAPO Spring Fling Family Weekend '08 Agenda

Friday, April 18, 2008

- 7:50-8:45am Teacher Conferences*
- 2:50-5:00pm Teacher Conferences*
- * By Appointment Only
- 3:00-5:00pm Pick up Pre-Registration Packets at King Gym
- 6:00-11:00pm Casino Royale – MMA Style!

Saturday, April 19, 2008

- 8:30am Safety Briefing-Rappelling Tower
- (must attend to participate in Academy Games)
- 9:00am-Noon Academy Games
- 9:00am-Noon Pick up of/payment for Silent Auction and Raffle items from Casino Royale (in King Gym)
- 11:30am-1:00pm 'Italian on Battalion' Street Lunch
- 1:00pm Cadets available for weekend leave

Sunday, April 20, 2008

- 6pm Return your cadet to his company

Teacher Conferences by appointment only: Teachers will be available from 7:50 to 8:45 am, and again after class from 2:50 to 5:00 pm.

Casino Royale - MMA Style! The main event on Friday the 18th is Casino Royale MMA Style, 6 to 11 pm, for parents, guests and Cadets. Gather at MMA's King Gym to try your luck at Texas Hold 'Em, Black Jack, Roulette Wheel, Wheel of Fortune and Craps. *No Cadet will be allowed to participate during Casino Royale without the specific permission of a parent or legal guardian.* Cost of admission: \$60 per adult; \$20 per Cadet and minor guest - includes Mexican buffet and \$20,000.00 worth of Casino chips...additional \$20,000.00 chips available at cost of \$20.00 each.

Casino Royale Silent Auction (geared towards adults) and Raffles: During Casino Royale event, a Silent Auction and Raffle drawings will also take place.

Casino Royale Live Auction (geared towards Cadets and minor guests): Following Casino Royale, lucky winners will have the opportunity to use their Casino chips (and those won by parents!) to buy exciting prizes during the Live Auction.

Academy Games: Beginning with a safety briefing at 8:30 am Saturday morning, everyone has the opportunity to participate in 'Academy Games'. Test your physical fitness (and courage!) on the Back Forty rappelling tower, climbing wall and zip line. Cost is merely forty bucks (\$40.00). Cadets get to 'show us how it's done'...for free!

Italian on Battalion' Street Lunch: Keep up your strength (and catch your breath)! Italian feast served on Battalion Street from 11:30am until 1:00pm. Cost: \$15.00 per person (including Cadets).

Teacher Appreciation: Consider sponsoring a teacher for the weekend events. Cost: \$10.00 each. Contact Chairparent Jayne Greenwood.

Donations and Volunteers: PARENTS: We need your help to make the weekend a success! To make donations for the Silent and Live Auctions and to volunteer your services, please contact the appropriate person listed below:

Elizabeth Tipton – Spring Fling Weekend Chairparent:

ehntipton@gmail.com

Alice-Oliver Parrott – Spring Fling Weekend Co-Chairparent:

oliverparrott@gmail.com

Jenny Fracasso – Gym Decorations Chair

mexnhick@aol.com

Gina Graham – Casino Royale Food Co-Chair

Deann1202@yahoo.com

Robert Arnholz II - Casino Royale Food Co-Chair

Bob.arnholz@clubmarketing.com

Virginia ("Ginny") Fite –Live Auction Chair

ginny.fite@gmail.com

Cyndi Hanserling Mino –Silent Auction Chair

cmينو@rowattlaw.com

Alison Ruffin – Casino Royale Dealers Chair

aruffin11@aol.com

Helen Gebert – Raffle Chair

Thcd_gebert@juno.com

Rene and George Reed – Academy Games & Lunch Co-Chairs

gsreed@comcast.net; reed@ccoonline.com

Ray and Jayne Greenwood – Teacher

Appreciation Chairs

greenwood@usa.com; jegreenwood@sax.rr.com

You've
got more
mail!

Adam Ryan Romero, MMA Class of 2001
sends greetings from IRAQ.



I was recently married to Victoria Allison Satinsky in November of 2007. I'm currently serving in Iraq at Al Asad Airbase with Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, I Marine Expeditionary Force. I'll be coming back stateside and hopefully will be able to swing by the campus sometime to see how things are going. I've run into quite a few classmates out here in Iraq and back at Miramar.

LCpl Romero, Adam R.
Fiscal Chief MWSG-37 (FWD)

Memorials: In Honor Of:

- Sean M. Dubose - MMA '02
 - Charlotte Eaton
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) - 9th Marines RVN
- Charles F. Ilg, Sr. - served in VMF (542) during 1952-1954
 - Nancy Ilg
- LtCol John Edward Poindexter, USMC (Ret)
- Gabriel Rodriguez, Jr. - MMA '98
 - Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC
 - Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA ROK 1951

- Jack H. Brouse - VMF 422
- SgtMaj Larry J. Carson, USMC (Ret) - MMA D-Co. DI
 - 1st Lt Thomas J. Duff, USMC
- MSgt Robert Fracasso, USMC (Ret) - MMA F-Co. DI
 - Earl Gander
- CWO3 Edward D. Harris, USMC (Ret) - MMA A-Co. DI
 - Capt Leo J. McDonald, CHC USN (Ret)
 - SgtMaj Albert S. Wilson, Jr., USMC (Ret) - MMA G-Co. DI

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

April

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

May

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

June

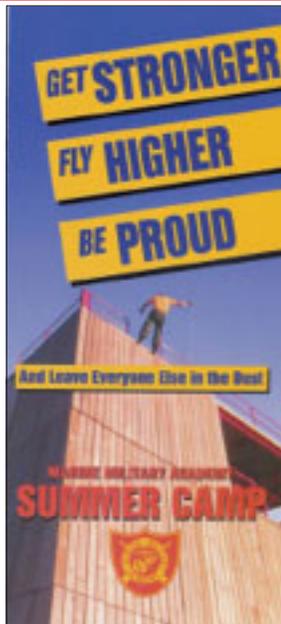
- 24 SC & ESL Instructors Report
- 28 SC & ESL Registration

July

- 26 SC & ESL Graduation

August

- 16 Fall Registration



What YOU do makes a difference... MMA's Summer Camp 2008

Each year, MMA Admissions Department receives many applications from young boys who want to experience the adventures of MMA Summer Camp. However, many of these individuals' families cannot afford to pay the full cost \$3,750 for attending the four week action-packed session, and they are turned away.

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 by gifting 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 is GREATLY needed... and appreciated!**

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