



MMA LEADER

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

Volume 28, Issue 4

Dedicated to Our Cadets – Leaders of Tomorrow

Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015

Recent Events

Mid-Term Registration

Despite the unusually heavy rains, strong winds and low temperatures for South Texas that weekend, boys from across the nation and around the globe received a warm welcome during mid-term registration Jan. 10-11. MMA kicked off the second semester Jan. 14, with a diverse student population representing 23 states and 15 countries.

Cadets must arrive at MMA at least a few days before classes begin in order to collect their uniform items, visit the tailor and barber, meet with the academic counselor or registrar and complete any other necessary tasks before the start of school.

New students or “plebes” must also use these days to grasp the new daily routine, learn how to make their beds and clean their rooms, find their classrooms and way around the MMA campus, and start absorbing the Marine Corps drill, terminology and customs. Plebes must also spend their first four weekends on the MMA campus engaging in numerous outdoor challenges, such as ziplining, rappelling and physical training.

Most of the plebes saw their families again Feb. 7 at the Introductory Training Parade & Graduation. All of the cadets will see their families again during Spring Break (March 16-20).



Freshman Diego Aldape De La Vega of Queretaro, Mexico, stands with his brother Rodolfo (right), Class of 2014, and his proud sister and parents.



Director of Admissions LtCol Robert Grider greets freshman Stanley Wang of Diamond Bar, Calif.



Junior Obaseyifunmi Kuforiji of Lagos, Nigeria, checks in at the registration table.



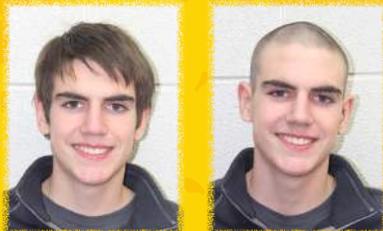
Sophomore Connor Somerholter of Austin, Texas, takes his headshaving in stride.

Headshaving

All new students or “plebes” receive a headshaving soon after they check in. The headshaving is a rite of passage, symbolizing a new beginning. Below are some of the plebes who were photographed in the barber’s chair Jan. 10. They went from good looking to handsome!



Ethan Mendoza of Prairieville, La.



Tyler Ledbetter of Fort Worth, Texas



Yihang Liu of Tianjin, China



Alexander Jarvinen of Lafayette, Ind.

Recent Events

Habitat for Humanity

The MMA Rotary Interact club assisted the Harlingen Rotary Club with a Habitat for Humanity housing project Jan. 17. The nine cadets helped with the construction of a family home located on Washington Street in Harlingen.

Some of the cadets were on the roof installing flashing around the house while others were on the ground installing exterior insulation and taping drywall. They all worked on the landscaping of the front yard and helped clean and secure the property.



Nine members of MMA Rotary Interact volunteered Jan. 17 to help build a house for a local family.

Introductory Training

The mid-term students or “plebes” immediately began their four-week Introductory Training Jan. 10. In just four weeks, they had to learn cadet drill and regulations, proper uniform and grooming, customs and courtesies, USMC history and much more.

The plebes spent their weekends outdoors participating in numerous activities and challenges, such as ziplining, rappelling and high ropes. They completed their training and become official cadets Feb. 7. Visit Flickr.com/Photos/MMAHarlingen to see the plebe training photos.



Freshman Stanley Wang of Diamond Bar, Calif., confidently rappels down the tower.

Recent Events

Pow Wow Weekend

Fifteen Boy Scouts from MMA Troop 22 attended the 17th Annual Pow Wow Dec. 5-7 at Camp Perry.



The MMA cadets were among hundreds of other Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts to attend this popular event. The boys were immersed in Native American culture and participated in numerous arts and activities, such as archery, flintknapping, rope making, native pit cooking, shelter construction, trap making, and animal skinning and hiding. The boys also learned about Native American history, language, dancing, drumming, singing and storytelling.

The highlight of the weekend was the Pow Wow ceremony the evening of Dec. 6. Not only did the boys engage in a Native American ritual, they experienced the true unity of a tribe.

Sophomore Jacob Peyton of Katy, Texas, holds a preserved deer skull and antlers during a taxidermy activity.

Naval Air Station

Twenty-six cadet leaders toured the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, Dec. 4. Each year, Commandant of

Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley takes cadets to this station to see the aircraft and learn about the flight operations.



MMA's cadet leaders gather in front of a Blue Angel fighter jet.

Christmas Party

MMA held its annual Children's Christmas Party Dec. 12. MMA hosts the event each year to give presents to Harlingen-area children who are eligible for the Toys for Tots program. This year, nearly 100 children attended and received a Christmas gift.

The children and parents who attended were first treated to a full dinner courtesy of the Mess Hall. After dinner, each child was called up to the Christmas tree to receive his or her present from Santa Claus and his entourage of friends and helpers.



(Top) Santa Claus gives a gift to the granddaughter of Virginia Cruz, an MMA employee. (Bottom) Santa Claus shows Senior Alfonso Garcia Garza of Monterrey, Mexico, his appreciation.

Special Scholarship Candidate

Senior **Jacob Roopchand** of Houston was named a Special Scholarship Candidate by the National Merit Scholarship Program in December. Roopchand is now eligible to compete for college scholarships offered by corporations or business organizations, particularly the BP Foundation.

The National Merit® Scholarship Program is an academic competition for student recognition and scholarships. High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®).

Roopchand plans to attend Stanford University and study medicine. He plans to become an anesthesiologist and work in the Houston area.



Senior Jacob Roopchand of Houston

Recognition

CyberPatriot

MMA CyberPatriot Team I will go to the CyberPatriot VII National Championship taking place March 11-15 in National Harbor, Md. The cadets of Team I are: freshmen **Giancarlo** and **Giovanni Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico; freshman **Maxime Dowla** of Castro Valley, Calif.; and junior **George Zenner** of Houston.

At the national competition, Team 1 will battle against 13 other schools in the All-Service Division. Team 1

advanced to the finals for placing second in the Marine Corps JROTC category in the All-Service Division Regional Rounds held Jan. 17.

Team 2 placed seventh in the Regional Rounds, a strong finish for a team with no veteran players. The cadets of Team 2 are: junior **Ryan Barnard** of Cypress, Texas; freshman **Bert Davies** of Palo Alto, Calif.; junior **Patrick Gallagher** of Las Vegas; and sophomore **West Lataille** of DeLand, Fla.



(Left to right) Freshmen Giancarlo Betti Hernández of Huixquilucan, Mexico; junior George Zenner of Houston; freshman Maxime Dowla of Castro Valley, Calif.; and freshmen Giovanni Betti Hernández of Huixquilucan, Mexico

Battalion Competition

Alpha Company won the 2nd Quarter Battalion Competition Jan. 16. The company carries the Golden Guidon until the next battalion competition. This is the second straight victory for Alpha Company this school year.

Fox Company, Golf Company and Alpha Company received the Academic, Athletic and Military streamers, respectively.



Dean of Academics Dr. John Butler ties the Athletic streamer to the Golf Company flag.

Recognition

Court of Honor

Troop 22 conducted its Court of Honor ceremony Dec. 9 to recognize individual Boy Scouts for their first-semester achievements. Below are the cadets who earned the following awards:

- Sophomore **Erick Ayala** of Houston: Shotgun Shooting
- Freshman **Giancarlo Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico: 1st Class Scout
- Junior **Jacob Bredenkamp** of Bonaire, Ga.: Personal Fitness & Senior Patrol Leader
- Sophomore **John Costley** of Bentonville, Ariz.: Scout Rank
- Junior **Mark Cruz** of Houston: Shotgun Shooting & Citizenship in the Nation
- Freshman **Bert Davies** of Palo Alto, Calif.: Shotgun Shooting
- Sophomore **Carlos De León** of Rancho Viejo, Texas: Shotgun Shooting
- Sophomore **Dennis Delgado** of Fords, N.J.: 2nd Class Rank
- Freshman **Maxime Dowla** of Castro Valley, Calif.: Shotgun Shooting & Scout Rank
- Freshman **Caldon Horton** of Lipan, Texas: Scout Rank
- Freshman **West Lataille** of Leland, Fla.: Environmental Science, Emergency Preparation & Personal Fitness
- Freshman **Davion Luce** of San Antonio: Scout Rank
- Eighth-grader **Joseph Marcelli** of Brentwood, Calif.: Shotgun Shooting & Scout Rank
- Junior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas: Genealogy, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Wilderness Survival, Kayaking,

Lifesaving, First Aid, 2nd Class Rank, 1st Class Rank & Star Scout Rank

- Freshman **Caleb Parker** of Boerne, Texas: Shotgun Shooting, Tenderfoot Rank & 2nd Class Rank
- Freshman **Maxim Pepper** of Austin, Texas: 1st Class Rank & Cooking
- Junior **Kristopher Richey** of League, Texas: Scout Rank
- Freshman **Austin Riley** of Tucson, Ariz.: Shotgun Shooting
- Sophomore **Phillip Seaman** of San Jose, Calif.: Shotgun Shooting
- Junior **Charles Sanchez** of Miramar, Fla.: Scout Rank
- Senior **Jack Thant** of Fremont, Calif.: 2nd Class Rank
- Eighth-grader **Christian Yu** of Parlin, N.J.: Scout Rank
- Junior **Robert Walter III** of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas: Veterinary Medicine, Canoeing, Lifesaving & Pioneering
- Freshman **Matthew Wisely** of Kerrville, Texas: Fingerprinting, Shotgun Shooting, Cooking, Citizenship in the Nation, Oceanography & 1st Class Rank



Eighth-grader Joseph Marcelli of Brentwood, Calif., holds up his badges.

Coming Up

General H.M. Smith Dinner

The annual General H.M. Smith Dinner takes place Friday, April 10 at 6 p.m. in the Florence E. King Athletic Center. At this event, MMA will present the Iwo Jima Leadership award to a true American leader. Seats are \$250 and sponsorships begin at \$1,000. Call 956-421-9230 or email grider@MMA-TX.org for seats or sponsorships.

Alumni Reunion

The 2015 Alumni Reunion kicks off Friday, April 17. Alumni are encouraged to arrive at MMA the morning of April 17 but especially by 4 p.m. for the parade. On April 18, alumni will gather again at the South Padre Island Hilton Garden Inn with a cocktail hour starting at 6 p.m.

For more information on events or hotel reservations, or to confirm attendance, call 956-421-9232 or email flores@MMA-TX.org.

Spring Fling

Spring Fling Family Weekend takes place April 24-25. The MMA Parents Organization will post the weekend events at MMAPO.com in March and also email the information to parents.

Cadet of the Month - December



Michael Menn of Moscow - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 12, Activities: Cycling & soccer
Future education goals: Attend Virginia Military Institute and major in advanced math
Career goals: Become a Russian SPETSNAZ Commander

Fernando Vázquez Arreola of Monterrey, Mexico - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 10, Activities: Drill Team & Rifle Team
Future education goals: Attend Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León and study medicine
Career goals: Become a medical doctor

Erick Ayala of Houston - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Sergeant
Grade: 10, Activity: Weightlifting
Future education goals: Attend the University of Texas at Austin
Career goals: Run a successful commercial business

Patrick Gallagher of Las Vegas - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 10, Activity: Jiu Jitsu
Future education goals: Attend Texas A&M University
Career goals: Become a Marine Corps officer

Jacob Roopchand of Houston - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 12, Activities: YPFT & Weightlifting
Future education goals: Attend Stanford University and study medicine
Career goals: Become an anesthesiologist and work in Houston-area hospitals

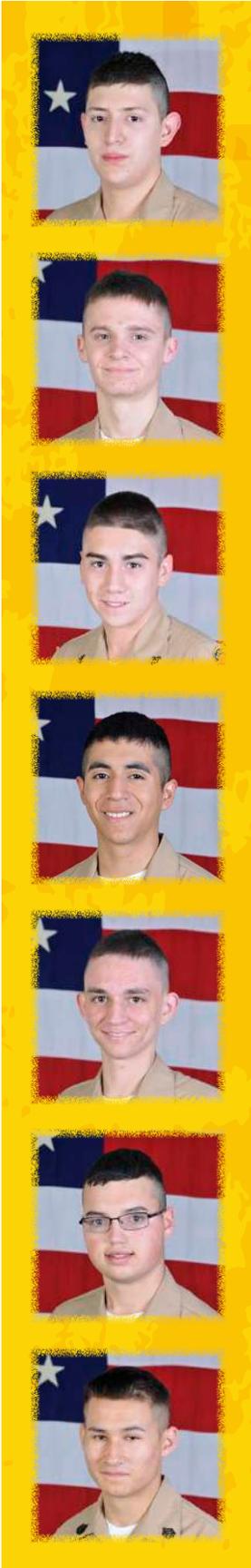
Brice Kolle of Sugar Land, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Alpha, Rank: Cadet Corporal
Grade: 9
Future education goals: Attend Texas A&M University and major in animal science
Career goals: Become a veterinarian

Cameron Montgomery of Key Largo, Fla. - Silent Drill Team

Company: Echo, Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 9
Future education goals: Attend the United States Naval Academy
Career goals: Become a Navy officer

Cadet of the Month - January



Miguel Zapata Domínguez of Monterrey, Mexico - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 10, Activities: Weightlifting & Flight Training
Future education goals: Attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology, study engineering
Career goals: Become an engineer and then establish a successful business

Jameson Rooney of Houston - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 10, Activity: Baseball
Future education goals: Attend college and study computer programming
Career goals: Become a video game designer

Alejandro Rosas Cantu of Laredo, Texas - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal
Grade: 11, Activities: Weightlifting & Tennis
Future education goals: Attend the University of Oxford and study medicine
Career goals: Become a surgeon

Jan Paredes Mogica of Tlalnepantla de Baz, Mexico - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 12, Activity: Weightlifting
Future education goals: Attend a university in Mexico and study medicine
Career goals: Become a plastic surgeon

Zane Crouch of Katy, Texas - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 12, Activities: Weightlifting & Tennis
Future education goals: Attend Texas A&M University and earn an MBA, earn a law degree
Career goals: Join a reputable firm and practice business law

Christopher Ballance of Houston - Leatherneck Band

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Private
Grade: 11
Future education goals: Attend the University of North Texas and major in music education
Career goals: Become a music teacher

James Harvey of Austin, Texas - Silent Drill Team

Company: Echo, Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant
Grade: 11
Future education goals: Attend Southern Methodist University and major in engineering
Career goals: Become an engineer

Important Dates

- **March 10-13:** Quarter 3 Exams
- **March 13:** Start of Spring Break (flight departure after noon)
- **March 22:** End of Spring Break, return by 6 p.m.
- **March 23:** Start of Quarter 4
- **April 10:** General H.M. Smith Dinner, 6 p.m.
- **April 17:** Alumni Parade, 4 p.m.
- **April 18:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **April 24-25:** Spring Fling
- **April 24:** Jr.-Sr. Ring Ceremony, noon
- **May 2:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **May 4:** FAFSA Deadline
- **May 18-20:** Final Exams
- **May 22:** Eagle Scout Ceremony, 10 a.m.
- **May 22:** Awards Assembly, 1:30 p.m.
- **May 23:** Graduation Parade, 9 a.m.
- **May 23:** Graduation Ceremony, 11 a.m.
- **June 1:** Re-enrollment Contracts Due

The MMA LEADER is a bi-monthly publication for patrons of Marine Military Academy. To receive a digital version via email, send your address to the editor.

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Alumni Affairs

Photo Cutline Challenge

The first alumnus who can identify the six cadets in the photo below will receive an MMA golf shirt. Here is a hint: The photo was taken within the last 15 years. Email the names of the cadets to atkinson@MMA-TX.org.



Institutional Advancement

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- Brent J. Beverly
- SgtMaj Larry J. Carson, USMC (Ret)
- C-1/7-1st Mar. Div – Korea – 1950-53
- Ben Zale

In Memory Of

- LtCol James B. Armstrong, USMCR (Ret)
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Tom Morton
- H. Don Brandt
- Col Robert F. Rick, USMC (Ret)
- A. Earline Folsom
- Col Alfred W. Ruete, Jr., USMC (Ret)
- Matthew W. Freeman – MMA 2000
- Tyler R. Secrest – MMA '07
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC
- James H. Garbrick, USMC (Ret)
- Col David W. Silvey, USMC (Ret)
- Steven R. Godfrey – MMA '08
- SSgt Dennis Studenny – 5th Marines RVN
- Gregory Alan Grider "Greg"
- Robert G. Swinnea (Bob)
- Adam W. Hall, MMA '98, USAF 1999-2003
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA, ROK 1951
- Chris Heard – MMA '99
- Alvaro Turner Trevino
- Max Henry
- Col Victor E. Woodard, ORD, USA (Ret)
- Howard "Lee" Lombard – MMA '76
- Louis Zamperini – Olympic Track Runner
- Capt Leo J. McDonald, CHC USN (Ret)