

# MMA Leader



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

20 Pages

Vol. 18, No. 7

April 2005

## 40th Reunion Celebration Welcomes Alumni Back To Alma Mater

Photograph dedicated in memory of fallen Marines of the 1/23rd.



April 15-17, 2005 marked another landmark attendance by MMA Alumni, spouses and families at the 40th Annual Alumni Reunion celebration. Former cadets 62-strong from across the United States and abroad returned to the Academy to visit former teachers, staff members and tour the campus.

The beginning of the fun filled weekend began with a round of applause when former cadets Craig Matteson - class of '79, Jim Mischel - class of '80, Jim's wife Debra, along with current Cadets Christoffer Latos of Echo Company and Rodrigo Franco Medina of Delta Company; and Computer Services' Earl Gander pedaled their bicycles through the Chosin Few gates of the Academy,

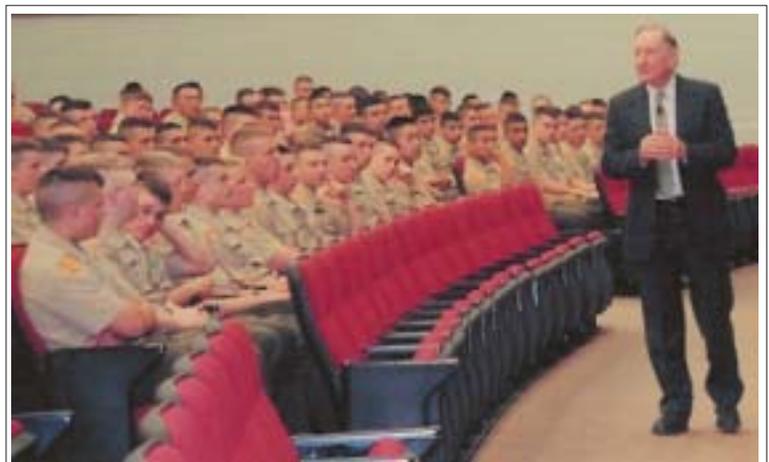
1ST BATTALION, 23RD MARINES, 4TH MARINE DIVISION. Pictured: Will Creamer, Brook Foreman, Kurt Fulkerson, Rick Gonzalez, David Harris, Stace Hayward, Miguel Morales, Mario Moreno, Rick Rodriguez, David Smith, Todd Wayne--all with MMA affiliations, many who attended MMA's 40th Reunion. Photo taken 13 March 2005 -Al Asad Marine Air Base, Al Anbar Province, IRAQ.

Continued on page 4

## Distinguished Guest Speaker Addresses Cadets, Faculty and Staff

"Listen up and learn from this man," advised Major General Rollings as he introduced Guest Speaker Clayton W. Williams, Jr. to the auditorium packed with cadets, staff and faculty. And listen attentively they did as the distinguished oil and gas businessman energetically told about his humble beginnings as a share cropper on his own cotton farm in 8th grade, drilling his first successful oil well in 1959, and his successful career as an oilman, farmer, rancher, high-tech executive, financier and award-winning educator.

In 1987, when Mr. Williams sold the assets of Clajon, a company he founded, the company was publicly recognized as one of the largest privately-owned gas pipeline companies in Texas. In 1993, Mr. Williams took his oil and



DISTINGUISHED GUEST SPEAKER CLAYTON W. WILLIAMS, JR. addresses MMA Corps of Cadets, faculty and staff during an assembly in Yeckel Memorial Auditorium on 30 March 2005.

Continued on page 2

## Continued from page 1

gas company, Clayton Williams Energy, public on the NASDAQ stock exchanged where it is trading today. Mr. Williams has drilled approximately 1,000 wells, drilled more than 300 horizontal wells, participated in the drilling of an additional 2,400 wells and founded 26 companies within Texas state lines throughout the span of his 45-year career.

Mr. Williams' lifetime of bringing the good life to Texas and Texans was recognized in April 1997 with the Lifetime Achievement Energy Award. In recognition of distinguished leadership within his profession services rendered in the advancement of the Free Enterprise System within the state of Texas, he was awarded the Champion of Free Enterprise Award in July 1985. Other awards you will find on Mr. Williams' mantel include Texas A & M's 1981 Distinguished Alumni Award, the American Academy of Achievement's 1984 Golden Plate Award, the 1990 Jaycee Senatorial Award, and the Eagle Scout Award among others. Mr. Williams received honors as inductee into the All-American Wildcatters.

Mr. Williams graduated from Fort Stockton High School in 1950, then went on to Texas A & M University to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Animal Husbandry. He was inducted in the Army in 1954 serving as engineer supply specialist and earned the Good Conduct medal. He was released to Reserves in 1956 and received an Honorable Discharge in 1962.

Throughout the 1980's and 1990's Mr. Williams co-taught an entrepreneurial class at Texas A & M. During that time he committed \$2.5 million to underwrite the Association of Former Students Center which currently bears his name.

Of all his many admirable accomplishments, Mr. Williams is most proud of his family: Modesta, his wife of 39 years, their five children and--as of the day before he arrived at MMA-- six grandchildren.

Mr. Williams attributes his father, a World War I veteran as being the most influential role model in his life, closely followed by a senior halfback he met while a student at Texas A & M and an oilman by the name of Mr. Parker.

"Scouting is a wonderful foundation upon which to build your life," Mr. Williams, an accomplished Eagle Scout, related to the audience. "When I was your age I needed the



**BATTALION COMMANDER Cadet LtCol Andrew J. Winney and Battalion SgtMaj Cadet David Miller present guest speaker Clayton Williams with a gift of appreciation.**

foundation you cadets are building upon today. Football, scouting, everything you do now prepares you for your life ahead. You face alot more pitfalls and temptations today than I did when I was in your shoes. Always, always remember--you make your own choices. You determine where you are going, whether you will lead or follow. Lead a good solid life, expect set backs, be a leader."

Mr. Williams credits his views on leadership to a visual lesson taught to him by Professor Jones of Texas A & M during Mr. Williams' sophomore year. "Professor Jones laid a string on my desk and directed me to push the string to the other side of the desk. I told him I couldn't do it. Then, he told me to go around to the other side of the desk and pull it, which I did very easily. That's leadership--it's easier to pull than push."



Perched on the edge of their seats, cadets hammered question after question at Mr. Williams. Meeting them eye-to-eye, he responded enthusiastically. "The most fun I've had? Well, I had alot of fun making money, fishing and punching cattle. Holding my grandbaby--that's always fun. One of the biggest thrills I've experienced is being charged by a leopard while travelling across the desert. He charged, and I hardly had time to take aim. Fired a round off and stopped him cold!"

Mr. Williams encouraged the Cadets to consider a career in the energy business. "There's not nearly enough youth in the petroleum business. The demand on Third World industry is increasing while our country's supply is dwindling. Solutions for energy alternatives are there, but the alternatives for petroleum to fuel an airplane is not. Youth, we need youth in the petroleum business."

### **MMA LEADER**

Published monthly by the  
**MMA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**  
320 Iwo Jima Blvd.  
Harlingen, Tx. 78550  
(956) 423-6006, ext. 235

Web Site <http://www.mma-tx.org>  
Email address: [wieland@mma-tx.org](mailto:wieland@mma-tx.org)

### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER**

*Debbie L. Wieland*

### **PAO SECRETARY**

*Connie G. Flores*

# Wall of Honor Dedication

The Alumni Reunion wasn't the only reunion on Campus Friday, April 15th. Alumni, faculty, staff, family and friends gathered in the Cadet Activity Center as The Murphy family sons and grandsons dedicated the MMA Wall of Honor to LtCol James A. Murphy, USAF (Ret.) in recognition of 32 years of military service from 1942 to 1973. Many members of the Murphy family were on hand for the dedication.

LtCol Murphy enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on December 8, 1941 with the intention of becoming a pilot. Murphy was called to duty on January 2, 1942 and sent to Sheppard Field in Wichita Falls, Texas for basic training. Following 35 days of Basic Training, Murphy was one of 15,000 troops loaded on ten troop trains and shipped to Boston, Massachusetts Harbor. There they were loaded on to the Queen Mary "minus all the fancy comforts they have nowadays," quipped LtCol Murphy as he addressed the crowd. Forty days later the troops arrived in Sydney, Australia. The call for front line troops was so great these men never finished their Basic Training.



**LTCOL JAMES MURPHY (r) reads the plaque inscription just moments after General Rollings (l) removes the veil.**

With the rank of Corporal, Murphy was assigned to General MacArthur's Headquarters in the Southwest Pacific just as he was returning from the Philippines. He was assigned the duty of driving for Major General Chamberlain. Headquarters was moved to Brisbane on the northeast coast of Australia in preparation for the Allies big push--taking over the occupied islands south of Japan. Advancing to driver for General MacArthur, Murphy was shipped along with the General's vehicles to New Guinea--the starting point of the invasion.

By September 1943, Murphy received orders to return to the States via San Antonio, Texas for the Air Crew training he originally signed on for. Because of a shortage of Bombardiers, he and all of the "would-be" pilots were sent to Gunnery School at Harlingen Army Air Field



*Photograph courtesy of William J. Murphy*

**MURPHY FAMILY members and MMA staff attending Dedication (l to r): Col Hobbs, Bill Murphy, Ryan Murphy--MMA Class of '97, Sherrie Murphy, Karen Murphy, LtCol James A. Murphy, USAF (Ret), Mrs. Anna Murphy, General Rollings, George Murphy, Rosey Murphy, and Pat Murphy.**

(AAF) which is now Marine Military Academy, then sent on to Childress AAF for further training. He received B-29 and Combat Crew training at Buckingham AAF, Fort Meyers and Florida. His squadron was headed to the Far East when World War II ended. Murphy stayed in Active Reserves and was called back to Active Duty in 1950 during the Korean War as Squadron Navigator with the 443rd Troop Carrier Squadron. He was assigned to USAF Strategic Air Command in 1951 as Navigator on KB-50 Air Refueling Tankers.

In 1952, Murphy left active duty and stayed in the active reserves as Squadron Navigator stationed at Carswell Air Force Base in Texas. During this time Murphy flew B-36's armed with A-Bombs on 36-hour missions. During these Cold War years, the U.S. flew aircraft 24 hours a day, seven days a week in case of attack.

From 1952 until 1961, Murphy was assigned to a Navigator Squadron stationed at Hensley Field in Texas. On the Navigation Winning Team that won the Air Force Navigational Meet two years in a row, Murphy was assigned to fly C-141 cargo missions consisting mainly of bombs and JP-fuel during the early years of the Vietnam conflict.

In 1962, Murphy joined the 181st Air Refueling Squadron of the Texas Air National Guard and became the Chief Squadron Navigator on missions that spanned the globe. The Guard became responsible for providing all in-theatre refueling in Europe under USAFE, refueling missions for all test refueling of the F-15, F-16, F-18, Thunderbirds, Blue Angels missions, including those in support of ferrying fighters to Vietnam. Murphy also contributed to the Trans Atlantic

ferrying missions and air refueling support of Reconnaissance Aircraft monitoring of the Russian Mediterranean fleet.

The Murphy family men followed closely in LtCol Murphy's boots. Sons Capt. William J. Murphy, USAF/TANG, Pilot 181st ARS (1968-1979), 1st Lt George M. Murphy, USA, Artillery, 25th Div. Vietnam (1965-1969), and 1st Lt Robert P. Murphy, USA, Infantry, MACV, I-Corps Vietnam (1967-1971) left similar boot prints for LtCol Murphy's grandsons to step into. 1st Lt William J. Murphy II, USMC, HMM-161 Pilot, MMA Alumni-- Class of 1996 and SSG Shay A. Murphy, USA, 1st Special Forces, IRAQ are presently serving. Sgt. Michael Todd Murphy, USA, 82nd Airborne, (1988-1992) has seen action in Kuwait, Panama, Deserts Shield and Storm. Alumnus Patrick Ryan Murphy graduated from MMA in the Class of 1997 and Sean Patrick Murphy attended MMA Summer Camp in 1996.

Row upon row of MMA Alumni names, those who have served our country, line The Wall of Honor. Inscribed upon the plaque are these words:

***"To those who have served their country, for they will know the true price for freedom."***

Gathering these names was one of the final missions of Gunny Ski, Operations Chief and Director of Alumni Affairs, before he passed away in 2003.

**All alumni who have served or are currently serving in military service are encouraged to e-mail your information to: [pickens@mma-tx.org](mailto:pickens@mma-tx.org) so that your name can be added to the Wall of Honor.**

## Continued from page 1

which began in Austin, Texas. This trip marked the Second Annual Gunnery Sergeant Wisnoski Memorial Ride. For a day-by-day account of the Ride, see page 13.

Activities kicked off Friday morning as alumni were welcomed by General Rollings while registering at the Peacher Memorial Cadet Activities Center. A dedication ceremony followed honoring LtCol James Murphy, USAF (Ret.) for 32 years of military service and commemorating Alumni's forty years of military service to our country. The dedication plaque reads, "To those who have served their country, for they will know the true price for freedom." See full article on pg. 3.

During the noon hour, Alumni and their families flocked along Battalion Street to watch the noon pass in review.

Retired Alumni Director SgtMaj Steigerwald took great pleasure in introducing Alumni David Dickerson, Class of '73; Pierre "Pete" Ortiz, Class of '70, John Rood, Class of '76; Kuni Beasley, Class of '72; James Tucci, Class of 2000; and Rick Anderson, Class of '82, to the Senior Class as they gathered in the Cadet Activity Center Theater late Friday afternoon. Senior cadets took notice when David Dickerson, now an aerospace strategic consultant to major air industries, took the floor. "A lot of things have changed since my graduating class of 29 Cadets walked across the stage to receive our diplomas. What hasn't changed are the fine young men here at MMA. Here's what I learned while at MMA -- to never give up. That, and honor, courage, and that 'no' just means to begin at a higher level. In June, that never-give-up spirit will take me to the Paris Air Show where we (*my company*) will introduce a new lightweight craft. I've been all over the world. And you can, too. Don't ever give up--it really does matter."

Next up was Pierre "Pete" Ortiz, who is currently teaching 11th and 12th grade U.S. History and Global History. Pete graduated from the Naval Academy and has a background as an aviator. "MMA taught me that what matters is honor, courage and commitment. That has always stuck with me. Don't take the easy way out and never be satisfied with being average."

Alumnus John Rood received his pilot's license while attending MMA, then received flight school training under fellow Alumnus Pete Ortiz. "All your life you will run into MMA Alumni," he joked. John pilots for United Airlines after retiring from the Marine Corps Reserve as an aviator. "You think you've been here at MMA a long time?" he asked the cadets, receiving an adamant and unanimous "YES, SIR!" from the seniors. "Well, I was a six-year Cadet, coming to MMA in the 7th grade. What a memory, me--all of 7th grade, here at MMA



**ALUMNUS DAVE DICKERSON, Class of 1973, imparts words of wisdom to Senior Cadets during the 2005 Alumni Reunion. Seated (left to right) Alumni James Tucci (2000), Kuni Beasley ('72), John Rood ('76), and Pete Ortiz ('70).**

with a brand new life, on my own. I learned to survive, and I learned there's always a way to succeed."

Alumnus Kuni Beasley, retired Major with the Army Reserve and educator of 18 years and continuing, came to MMA in 1968 because he wanted to do something different. "I'm not going to talk to you about MMA. I'm going to talk to you about what lies ahead of you. You need to decide today which you want to supply--the butt or the foot. People that sit down make more money, and it only takes one butt kicker to get things moving. Which one do you want to be?"

Just returned home from military service in Iraq the week before, Alumnus James Tucci, USMCR CPL, encouraged the Seniors. "Get through this and you can do anything at all. MMA gave me the skills to get a 4.0 GPA at Michigan State University. Here at MMA I learned that honor, courage and commitment comes first every time. Everything else comes second.

"Lessons learned here at MMA have stayed with me throughout my life," stated Alumnus Rick Anderson. "I asked my parents to send me to MMA. It was the best thing that could have happened to me. I've applied what I learned throughout my life--in SEAL training, and in my career as a fire fighter and in law enforcement. Here's what I say to you: MAKE IT HAPPEN--DO IT!"

Across campus, the underclassmen were addressed by another group of alumni in an assembly held in Yeckel Auditorium.

A drum roll sounded off Friday evening's Alumni Reunion parade. The Iwo Jima monument illuminated in the evening sunset provided the backdrop as the Corps of Cadets marched in honor of the alumni. Major General Rollings re-

quested all alumni who served in Iraq, then all alumni to join him on the field as Parade Reviewing Party.

A reception in the Peacher Memorial Cadet Activities Center followed hosted by General Wayne E. Rollings, USMC (Ret) President of the Academy, faculty and staff.

Alumni were treated to a continental breakfast Saturday morning. Following breakfast was a business meeting and an update regarding the current state of MMA affairs by General Rollings.

With all business affairs completed, Alumni were challenged to traverse the rappelling tower, tackle the "O" (Obstacle) course and gauge their endurance and skill level on the two COPE course stations. After a scrumptious lunch in the mess hall, alumni challenged the cadets to a softball game and soundly thumped their competition.

Alumni, guests, faculty and staff gathered at the Valley Race Park for the annual Alumni Dinner. Alumni enjoyed a Powerpoint Photo presentation of MMA Alumni snapshots taken through the years, then dined on Italian cuisine. Following the dinner, Alumni Jim Mischel and Craig Matteson presented Major General Rollings with a check for proceeds from the Gunny Ski Memorial Bike Ride 2005. Alumnus Stefan Wisnoski and mother Isabel, son and wife of the late Gunny Ski received recognition and shared memorable anecdotes with the guests.

Early-rising Alumni enjoyed Sunday Brunch in the Mess Hall before embarking on Recon Paintball war versus the Cadets. This year's outing brought out Alumni family members as well, including one brave and courageous spouse!

For photos and quotes from alumni, see pull-out section located on pages 9-12.

## 18th Anniversary Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon and 4th Annual Dedication of Walkway Held

Volunteers were honored at the 18th Annual Visitor Center Luncheon and Awards Ceremony held 1 April in the Marine Military Academy Teachers' Mess. Approximately 50 volunteers and friends gathered for a delicious luncheon prepared by the Mess Hall staff. Visitors Center Director Sandy Reininger and Assistant Director Monte Catterlin welcomed the group, followed by Chaplain McDonald's invocation. Volunteers Bob Bloedorn and Earl DeLong, both Iwo Jima survivors, led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following lunch, Major General Rollings addressed the group. Volunteer of the Year awards were presented by Monte Catterlin to these volunteers: John and Janice Hartman, Dick Steeno, Ed Swaney, Earl DeLong, Linn Nelson, Charles "Monte" Catterlin, and Bernie Williams.

Immediately following the awards, the Fourth Annual Dedication of the Museum Volunteers Garden Walkway Ceremony got underway honoring the late Bill Sherman. A brick inscribed with his name was placed permanently upon the Walkway.



**VOLUNTEERS** are: Row 1 (seated L to R) *John and Janice Hartman, Dick Steeno, Ed Swaney, Earl DeLong, Linn Nelson, Monte Catterlin, Bernie Williams.* Row 2 (L to R) *Vyetta Losey, Dorothy DeLong, Hilda King, Tom King, John Waltrip, Gil Wells, Jerry MacManus, Caroline MacManus, Shirley McDonald, Virginia Hiill, Addie McGee, Betty Mackenzie, Katy Patterson, Lenore Davis, Virginia Waters.* Row 3 (L to R) *Bob Bloedorn, Ron Losey, Lynn Bloedorn, Jim McMahan, BJ Hendrix, Helen McMahan, Don Brandt, Roger Davis.*

## PARENTS TAKE NOTE!!! Scholarship Assistance For 2005-2006 School Year

The Marine Military Academy awards financial assistance to returning cadets on an annual basis. The number of applications and amount of financial assistance requested each year is far greater than the scholarship fund. Thus the cadet must compete for scholarships based on his performance and the family's ability to pay.

The largest single factor considered in the cadet's performance is his GPA, which must be at least 2.5 for the spring semester and at least a 3.0 cumulative MMA GPA. Other factors such as conduct, military leadership and participation in extracurricular activities are also considered.

To request an application, contact:  
*Institutional Advancement Dept.*  
*Attention: Scholarship Committee*  
*Marine Military Academy*  
*320 Iwo Jima Blvd.*  
*Harlingen, TX 78550*

If you have any questions, call Ester B. Reyes at (956) 423-6006 Ext. 231. An application will be forwarded immediately and must be completed and returned no later than **May 13, 2005**. Recipients of financial assistance will be notified by June 17, 2005.

**As part of the application process you must provide a copy of your 2004 federal income tax return (including copies of W-2 forms) for your application to be considered. Your cadet must be reenrolled for the Academic year 2005-2006 before the Scholarship Committee meets in June 2005. Applications received after May 13, 2005 will not be considered.**

## MMA Parents Organization Hosts 7th Annual Leatherneck Golf Tourney

A record number of parents turned out for the Parents Organization's 7th Annual Leatherneck Golf Tournament held April 8-9 at the Quail Valley Country Club in Houston. The weather cooperated and all who attended enjoyed a fun-filled, memorable weekend.

Cadets who attended and assisted with the event are: *Kevin Ryan, Grant Walker, Cory Slape, Zachary Bowen, Preston Meyer, John Shelton, Dalton Hodges, Richard Bretcher, Daniel Goodman, Ryan Heumann, Charlie Wulz, William Hardee, Trent Davis Jr., Aman Taymouri, Brett Randall Engalla, Forrest Macomber, Chris Hobart, Clint Behrens, Kyle Gannon, Napoleon Arizmendi III, Craig DeSantis, Cody Gebert, Chad Bruneman, Kevin Gurganious, and Austin Shuffield.*



**SUNSHINE AND A GOOD ROUND OF GOLD...IT JUST DOESN'T GET ANY BETTER THAN THIS!** (L-R) *Nancy Grider, LtCol Robert Grider, Cadet Zachary Bowen, Former MMA Parents Karen Christian and L.E. Fite.*

Photograph courtesy of Steve Wulz

# Cadets of the Month for March

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

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

**ALPHA COMPANY**  
**DAVID G. COOPER**  
Freshman - Orcas, WA

*“Cadet Cooper is one of the best first-year students I’ve seen. Initiative, academics and unselflessness are this cadet’s strong points. He’s a vital part to the smooth running of this platoon and is doing an excellent job in his squad, consistent in balancing his self discipline in classroom and barracks. Very deserving of this award.”*

- MSgt Walter Field, USMC (Ret)



**CHARLIE COMPANY**  
**JAMES R. GOLDEN**  
Sophomore - Berwyn, IL

*“Cadet Golden is a motivated, intelligent young man that strives to do his best at any and all tasks. As Squad Leader, he freely gives of his time and talents to assist other cadets in their academic and military endeavors. Destined for a stellar future at MMA.”*

- SgtMaj Al Szepeck, USMC (Ret)



**DELTA COMPANY**  
**LIAM DAWSON-THOMAS**  
Freshman - Vallejo, CA

*“Cadet Dawson, in the short time he’s been in Delta Company, has demonstrated an excellent attitude. He earned this nomination as a result of his performance, can-do attitude and unselfish work ethic.”*

- SgtMaj Larry Carson, USMC (Ret)



**ECHO COMPANY**  
**SCOTT G. McCLAIN**  
Freshman - Sammamish, WA

*“Cadet McClain is a great young man with good leadership skills for a freshman. He’s a first year cadet who sets a great example for all freshmen at MMA, has excellent grades and helps any cadet with academic issues.”*

- GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret)



**FOX COMPANY**  
**BENJAMIN C. SCHWARTZ**  
Junior - Plano, TX

*“Private Schwartz has done a fine job of setting the example for others to follow. Very mature in his actions and is always willing to help others when problems arise. He gets the job done and gets it done properly. Definitely an asset to the Corps of Cadets.”*

- MSgt Clifton Jones, USMC (Ret)



**GOLF COMPANY**  
**GUILLERMO A. TORRES**  
Sophomore - Belle Mead, NJ

*“Cadet Torres is a midterm join who has hit the ground running. He is an excellent cadet with a very bright future at MMA. He can be counted on to do any assigned task without hesitation, has unlimited leadership potential and is planning a career in the military.”*

- SgtMaj Albert Wilson, USMC (Ret)



**BANDSMAN**  
**MICHAEL D. KARFUNKLE**  
Freshman - Spring, TX

*“Cadet Karfunkle is a very talented musician who works tirelessly--both academically and musically. He is always early, has not missed a single day of rehearsal and contributes greatly to the band. Notably performed “Roast Beef of Old England” on the clarinet at the HM Smith Dinner.”*

- CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)



**DRILL TEAM/COLOR GUARD**

**MICHAEL J. SARTORIS**  
Sophomore - Dallas, TX

*“Cadet Sartoris is doing a fine job on the Team and has been put to the test lately. He has proven that he can step up to the plate and do the job. Gets to practice on time and one who enjoys being on the Team. He’s working hard to better himself as a cadet and a student.”*

- MSgt Clifton Jones, USMC (Ret)



# Cadets of the Month for April

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 April 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**  
**THOMAS L. HERMAN**  
**Junior - McAllen, TX**

*“Cadet Herman is one of the best first-year students I have seen.*

*Initiative, academics and unselflessness are this cadet’s strong points. As first Platoon Sergeant Herman is a vital part to the platoon’s smooth running. He is doing an excellent job. Consistent in balancing self-discipline in the classroom and barracks.”*

- **MSgt Walter Field, USMC (Ret)**



**CHARLIE COMPANY**  
**TYLERRAY**

**Freshman - Deer Park, TX**

*“Cadet Ray is a first-year cadet that has made a significant and steady improvement throughout the year. He was recently selected as Squad Leader despite his relatively short time at MMA. A gifted athlete earning All District Soccer honors, he’s motivated and dedicated.”*

- **SgtMaj Al Szepeck, USMC (Ret)**



**DELTA COMPANY**  
**ALFONSO TORAYADIAZ**  
**Sophomore - Merida, Yucatan MEXICO**

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

- **SgtMaj Larry Carson, USMC (Ret)**



**ECHO COMPANY**  
**RICARDO OLMEDO**

**Freshman - Mexico City, MEXICO**

*“Cadet Olmedo has learned the basic skills to being a good cadet. He has worked hard this quarter on getting good grades and has a great military appearance.”*

- **GySgt Frank Martinez, USMC (Ret)**

**FOX COMPANY**  
**ROBERT MOTHERAL**  
**Freshman - Kerrville, TX**

*“Private First Class Motherall has become a fine example for others to follow. He has stepped up to the plate and performed well.*

*Taking initiative has become second to him and has earned his position as Summer Camp instructor.”*

- **MSgt Clifton Jones, USMC (Ret)**



**GOLF COMPANY**  
**FELIX LOZANO IV**

**Freshman - Queens, NY**

*“Cadet Lozano is a fine young man with a very bright future.*

*He is a leader in the VISA program, and he is a future leader with unlimited potential.”*

- **SgtMaj Albert Wilson, USMC (Ret)**



**BANDSMAN**  
**WILLIAM J. THOMPSON**  
**Senior - Carrollton, TX**

*“Cadet Thompson has been Band Officer throughout the year and has served the Band extremely well. Always eager to take charge and ready to control any situation, he is a*

*consistent and loyal leader. He sets a civil and gentlemanly example as Cadet Corps officer.”*

- **CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)**



**BANDSMAN**  
**JUVENTINO VILLANUEVA**  
**Junior - Boerne, TX**

*“Cadet Villanueva has been Drum Major throughout the year and has served the Band extremely well. A 4-year band member, he always sets a civil and*

*gentlemanly example. He has proven to be very reliable and trustworthy and a student leader.”*

- **CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)**



**DRILL TEAM/  
 COLOR GUARD**  
**Brian Nguyen**  
**Freshman - Seattle, WA**

*“Cadet Nguyen is an outstanding individual that has become a fine example for others to follow. He displays initiative and strives to be the best he can*

*be. Very enthusiastic about being a member of the team. He’s definitely an asset to the Academy.”*

- **MSgt Clifton Jones, USMC (Ret)**

# Fourth Annual Bay Area Benefit Dinner A Rousing Success

Photographs courtesy of Proctor Jones Photography



**MajGeneral Richard F. Natonski, USMC, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division**



**Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr., (left) and General Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret) on the right.**



**MMA Board Trustee Jay Mancini**



**MMA Board Trustee Michael Bradley**

The Fourth Annual Bay Area Dinner brought together 167 friends of the Academy. The fund raising event, co-hosted by Jay Mancini, MMA Board Trustee and former Marine, and Michael P. Bradley, MMA Board Trustee and father of 2001 graduate, kicked off with a warm welcome to all by Mancini, followed by the Invocation by Dr. William Peters of Angel Fire Ministries of Los Angeles, California. Bradley introduced the head table then turned the microphone over to Major General Rollings. Following General Rollings' remarks a grilled salmon filet dinner was served.

Following dinner, Mancini introduced General Richard D. Hearney, USMC (Ret). Hearney presented Stephen D. Bechtel, Jr., Chairman Emeritus of the Bechtel Group, Inc. the Iwo Jima Award.

Guest Speaker MajGeneral Richard F. Natonski, USMC, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division, delivered a rousing address entitled "The War in Iraq."

Major contributors of the event include *Bechtel Group, Inc.; Edgar D. Aronson; Michael Bradley, Murphy, Pearson, Bradley & Feeney; Joseph V. Costello, Jr.; William A. Gary, Yavapai Builders; Charles S. Green, Mail Chute, Inc.; Mark Johnson, Mark Chapin Johnson Foundation; Emmett W. MacCorkle, Emmett W. MacCorkle Insurance; Jay Mancini; Tony McIntyre, The McIntyre Group; John E. McNellis, McNellis Partners; Georganne Proctor; John P. Roediger; Charles Wiser, Wiser/Sweeney LLC; William P. Wolcott; J. Peter Baumgartner; John G. Brunner; Jonathan Cosby; Paul L. Davies, Jr.; Evelyn East; George Eckard; Robert Enright; Steve Fee; James A. Felchlin, Paul Felton; Don Freeberg; Sherry Geyer; Charles B. Golson; Joseph Goodreault; Lynn Harrayway; Jack P. Heiner; Col and Mrs. Tom Hobbs, USMC (Ret); Roger Honour; David Hundley; Robert L. Jenkins; Rupert Johnson; Richard Klemmer; David L. Kraechan; Chase S. Lang; Dana G. Leavitt; Arthur Louie; Lynn Lowder; Thomas S. Macomber; Michael Marston; Theodore Mayer III; Terence Mayo; Charles McBride; John C. McCormack; George McDonald; Paul McInhenny; McNeely Construction; Mary Brooke McPherson; James Monfredini; Richard Moore; Joe Perrelli; Walter Pettie; Joe W. Pollard; General Colin L. Powell, USA (Ret); Robert J. Reynolds; Vincent Rios; Jack Ripsteen; The Honorable A. James Robertson; MajGen Wayne Rollings, USMC (Ret); Grant B. Schley; Russ Sherman, former Sec'y. of State George P. Shultz; Marina Simenstad; Justin Simpson, H. Wm. Smith III; Norman Spencer; John L. Sullivan; Michael Thiele, Todd Toral; David Tripaldi; Herbert Tully; James Ward, Franklin Watson III, and Gordon Yu.*

Presenting colors for the event were MMA Cadets Earl Evan Frye, Jairo Medina, Raymond Yu and Jacob Curry.

## U.S. Border Patrol Chooses MMA as Site for Prestigious Change of Command Ceremony

Hour upon hour, the U.S. Border Patrol meticulously rehearsed for the Change of Command and Badge Ceremony until every step and salute were in precise unison and introductions became second nature. Wednesday, April 20th arrived and so did the U.S. Border Patrol fleet complete with helicopters, boat patrol, manned horse patrol—even bagpipers from the San Francisco branch.

The ceremony began at precisely 10:30 a.m. inside MMA's Yeckel Memorial Auditorium amidst a flurry of media. John D. Quinn, Supervisory Border Patrol Agent and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) delivered the welcome and ceremony overview. The CBP Border Patrol Honor Guard and Pipers presented the colors, and the National Anthem was led by Curtis J. Hemenway, Senior Patrol Agent, CBP Border Patrol. Chaplain Howard Bloomquist, Weslaco Police Department, gave the Invocation.

Following the Invocation, Chief David V.

Aguilar, CBP Border Patrol, addressed the audience. The CBP was created on March 1, 2003 within the Department of Homeland Security to prevent terrorist and terrorist weapons from entering the U.S. while facilitating the flow of legitimate trade and travel. The Border Patrol patrols over 6,000 miles of border with Mexico and Canada. In 2004, CBP Border Patrol agents seized over a billion dollars worth of illegal drugs and facilitated 1.1 million arrests.

The change of command ceremony is deeply rooted in military tradition dating back into the Middle Ages. Chief Aguilar passed the Border Patrol Guideon, surrounded by 20 streamers representing each operational sector, to the new Chief Patrol Agent Lynne M. Underdown, formerly the Chief Patrol Agent of the Miami Sector. All Border Patrol present participated in the badge ceremony and oath of office before the colors were retired. A reception followed in MMA's Cadet Activity Center.

**NEWLY-  
INSTALLED  
Chief Patrol  
Agent Lynne  
M. Underdown  
leads her unit  
in the U.S.  
Customs and  
Border  
Protection  
Oath of Office.**



# MMA's Own



*... Having served or are currently serving in Iraq or Afghanistan:*

Major Mike Holmes  
MMA Class of 1983  
[mike.holmes1@us.army.mil](mailto:mike.holmes1@us.army.mil)

Major Paul "Dutch" Bertholf  
MMA Class of 1984 (Post Graduate)  
[bertholpf@cemnfwiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:bertholpf@cemnfwiraq.usmc.mil)

SSGT Caleb Hood  
MMA Class of 1993  
[hoodcp@gcemnfwiraq.usmc.mil](mailto:hoodcp@gcemnfwiraq.usmc.mil)

LCPL Kurt D. Fulkerson  
Unit: CO B, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Saw Gunner  
YRS @ MMA: '95-'99  
[kurt\\_fulk@hotmail.com](mailto:kurt_fulk@hotmail.com)

CPL Brook Foreman  
UNIT: CO A, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Fireteam Leader  
YRS @ MMA: '94-'99  
[virtigo2@aol.com](mailto:virtigo2@aol.com)

CPL David Smith  
Unit: 4<sup>TH</sup> PLT, CO C, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Rifleteam  
YRS @ MMA: '93-'95  
[smiddy96@yahoo.com](mailto:smiddy96@yahoo.com)

CPL Todd A. Wayne  
Unit: MAP 1, CO WPNS, 1/23  
Billet: Mortarman  
YRS @ MMA: '95-'98  
Texas A&M Class of 2002  
[semperfi1314@yahoo.com](mailto:semperfi1314@yahoo.com)

GYSGT Raul Garcia  
MMA Leadership Studies

Major Stace Hayward  
Unit: CO H&S, 1/23  
Billet: Commanding Officer  
YRS @ MMA: '82-'83  
[sny2000@aol.com](mailto:sny2000@aol.com)

LCPL Ross Kyger  
Unit: CO H&S, 1/23  
Billet: Field Radio Operator  
YRS @ MMA: '97-'99  
[rosskyger@yahoo.com](mailto:rosskyger@yahoo.com)

PFC Jonathon Shirley  
Unit: CO H&S, 1/23  
Billet: Field Radio Operator  
YRS @ MMA: '95-'99  
[etexaggie2@aol.com](mailto:etexaggie2@aol.com)

SGT Miguel A. Morales  
Unit: 2<sup>ND</sup> PLT, CO C, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Squad Leader  
YRS @ MMA: '03-'04  
[fish7051@yahoo.com](mailto:fish7051@yahoo.com)  
MMA Staff Duty Officer

SGT Mario A. Moreno  
Unit: 2<sup>ND</sup> PLT, CO C, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Squad Leader  
YRS @ MMA: '00-'03  
[sgtmoreno@hotmail.com](mailto:sgtmoreno@hotmail.com)  
MMA Staff Duty Officer

SGT Rick Gonzalez, Jr.  
Unit: 2<sup>ND</sup> PLT, CO C, 1/23  
Billet: Infantry Platoon Guide  
[marine77@hotmail.com](mailto:marine77@hotmail.com)

Major Rick Rodriguez  
Unit: CO C, 1<sup>ST</sup> BN 23<sup>RD</sup> MARINES  
Billet: Commanding Officer  
YRS @ MMA: '79-'85  
[majorrickrodriguez@earthlink.net](mailto:majorrickrodriguez@earthlink.net)

SGTMAJ David Miller  
MMA Director of Facilities



*MMA Cadets, Faculty and Staff welcome home the 1/23rd "MMA-style"!*

Captain William Creamer  
Unit: CO C, 1/23  
Billet: Executive Officer  
YRS @ MMA: '85-'88  
[creamewr@hotmail.com](mailto:creamewr@hotmail.com)

CPL David Harris  
Unit: 81<sup>S</sup> PLT, CO WPNS, 1/23  
YRS @ MMA: '98  
[dharris1979@yahoo.com](mailto:dharris1979@yahoo.com)



**SGT Miguel A. Morales (left) and SGT Rick Gonzalez, Jr. (right) receive a hearty "Welcome Home".**



**Major Rick Rodriguez addresses the throngs of elated family members and members of the community.**



**"It's GREAT to be back home!" SGT Rick Gonzalez, Jr. exclaimed amidst a sea of hugs and kisses.**

# ALUMNI WEEKEND



**ALUMNI ATTENDING MMA REUNION 2005:** Class of '69: Arthur D. Holmes, Tracy Tomlinson, Harold Zurlo; Class of '70: Randy Bridgeman, Presley Clyde Funk, Greg Garrels, James (Jim) Griffith, Monty Kimball, William A. Lins, Pierre (Pete) Ortiz, Keith Shull, Michael Walker. Class of '71: Alan Earle. Class of '72: Kuni Beasely, Wendell Johnson, William D. Steigerwald. Class of '73: Mitch Ahoyt, Mike Bolafka, David Dickerson, Oscar Garza, Stan Sawyer, Steve Steigerwald. Class of '74: Luis Garza, Jorge Trevino. Class of '75: Bruce Schmitt. Class of '76: David Moore, John Rood. Class of '77: Richard Cobb, Fred Gladle, Mark Richards. Class of '78: Rodney Poche. Class of '79: Javier Jaime Campos, Craig Matteson. Class of '80: Bryan Broden, Jim Mischel, Jim Clements. Class of '82: Rick Anderson, Joe Ardito, Gordon Clements, Christopher Crum, C.J. Johnson. Class of '83: George B. Murray. Class of '84: Joe Bering, Thomas Brownell, Mark McCaleb, Gilbert Friedmann. Class of '85: Drew Dodson, William Huggins, Jonathan McDonald, John Mitchell, Paul Olson, Craig Poche, Richard Rodriguez. Class of '86: Kyle Clay, Matt DuPre. Class of '87: Alex Hinojosa. Class of '88: Stefan Wisnoski. Class of '89: Casey McClelland, Matthew Watkins. Class of '90: Benjamin Trimmer. Class of '92: Joe Matlega. Class of '95: Zack Bradford, Aaron Carlson, John Hall, Keith Jackson, Baxter Lesher, Joe Thompson. Class of '98: Elliott Campbell. Class of '99: Brook Foreman, Terrance Genry, Jonathan Shirley, Kyle Rudolph. Class of 2000: James Tucci. Class of 2003: Justin Meaders. Class of 2004: Ruben Bordes, Venceslao Romo.

Photograph courtesy of Cadet Zachary Shannon

4

*“I still got it!”* exclaims Gilbert Friedmann, Class of '84.



Photograph courtesy of Cadet Zachary Shannon

*“The paintball war is on!”* announces challenger Rick Anderson, Class of '82.

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

*“This is my first reunion. I graduated from MMA, then 15 days later reported for training at Parris Island. I’ve been everywhere but here for the past 5 years.”* says CPL James Tucci, USMCR, Class of 2000 (on right).



*Photograph courtesy of Cadet Zachary Shammon*

*“Are you positive that target is at regulation distance?”* inquires ‘Dead Eye’ George Murray, Class of ‘83.

# Alumni News

## Where are they now?

'78

### LtCol Ernie Matacotta

EMATACOTTA@comcast.net - Recently received the MSM (Meritorious Service Medal) for "contributing to high quality intelligence support" in the Middle East from Dec.01-July04.

'79

### Xavier "Jaime" Compos

sycompos63@aol.com - Owns business in Brownsville, TX.

'80

### SgtMaj Dale Knutson USMC (Ret.)

DKnutson@Decker college.com - Campus Director for Decker College in Jacksonville, FL.

'81

### Dr. Gilbert John

g\_john@sbcglobal.net- Associate professor of microbiology and molecular genetics at Oklahoma State University where he has an active research laboratory and teaches courses in microbiology. He also supports the recruitment and training of Native Americans in science through a departmental program called Native Americans in Biological Science, happily married for nineteen years with two beautiful daughters.

'84

### Tom Brownell

tbrownell@vistahc.com- Has lived in Harlingen for the last seven years, owns a home building company, married with two beautiful children.

'85

### Carlos E. Azuela

cazuela@erpsol.com.mx - New address: Cda. De Las Flores 29 Casa 3 Tiacopac, San Angel, Mexico, DF 01040

'85

### Dr. Paul Olson

paul.olson@louisville.edu - or paul@potentiapharma.com - Partner in a research laboratory.

'88

### James Burton

jburton@pcysis.net - Living in Colorado Springs, CO, working as a contractor at the Joint National Integration Center directly supporting the Missile Defense Agency. Says Shane Mason is in Las Vegas working as a senior manager for Capitol Grille. Would like to hear from Jason Gillman, Al Pratkan, and Angus Forbes.

'90

### Aldrin "Jim" Peralta

jimperalta@grupoperalta.com- Living in the Dominican Republic and vice-president of Grupo Peralta which works private and public security and defense, most recently coordinating security for the Pan American Games, married with a year-and-a-half-old son.

'93

### SSgt Caleb Hood (MMA Leadership instructor)

HoodCP@gcemnf-wiraq.usmc.mil - Beginning tour in Iraq, says things are quiet so far: "The most dangerous thing going is watching after detainees we pick up on missions." He and wife Brooke recently had their first child, a girl.

'01

### Joshua Cheatham

stdjdc39@shsu.edu - Attending Sam Houston State University, working on a degree in psychology.

'01

### Tyronn Mitchell

In his junior year at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA, named Southland Conference men's basketball Player of the Week in March for his contributions to the Demons winning their first Southland Conference championship.

'01

### Pedro Said

psaid@rhm.com.mx - Interning for a law firm and working toward college graduation.

'02

### Brian Cripps

usmc0352tow@hotmail.com - In Iraq.

'02

### Sean Ryan

sryan@middlebury.edu - In Cairo, Egypt specializing in International Studies of the Middle East and focusing on homeland security and anti-terrorism, would like to make contact with any alumni in this or related field.

'04

### Marcos Americus

mamericus@hotmail.com - In Israel living on a kibbutz and learning Hebrew, in July will join the Israeli army for a year.

'04

### Evan High

Will soon begin serving on the USS Abraham Lincoln.

## 2nd Annual Gunny Ski Memorial Ride

April 12-14, 2005

### I just wanted to ride my bike. Really.

*When I mentioned two years ago that I was contemplating riding my bike from Round Rock to Harlingen for the annual alumni reunion, I never expected anybody to join in the lunacy. I certainly didn't expect it to turn into a fund raiser. But Craig and I had so much fun last year, and since we managed to raise over \$5,000 for the alumni scholarship fund, we decided to do it again this year.*

*The idea is simple enough: ride the approximately 340 miles from Round Rock to Harlingen, Texas in three days. The goal: collect donations to endow the Gunny Ski Scholarship Fund—a permanent scholarship that will pay the tuition for one young man each year to attend the Marine Military Academy. The Fund is named in honor of Gunnery Sergeant Larry Wisnoski ("Gunny Ski"), who passed away in 2003 after a career in the Marine Corps and over 20 years molding young men at MMA.*

*I had another goal this year. My wife Debra had started training with me last April with the intention of joining Craig and me for the last day of the trip. At some point my lunacy infected her, and she decided to make the full three day trip. Since I knew that I could make the trip, my job throughout the year was making sure that she had sufficient training and experience to survive the ride. I'll spoil the ending right now and tell you that she finished the ride with strength to spare.*

*As of April 19, we've raised over \$3,400 for the scholarship fund and the school has received other donations not included in that number. We made one other change to the ride plan this year: we conned another former cadet, Chris Crum from the class of 1982, to drive behind us providing ride support and traffic management. Chris and Craig arrived from out of town on Monday. C.J. Johnson, also from the class of 1982, and his wife Kim had us all over to their house for dinner Monday night. Everything was packed, checked, and ready to go before we hit the rack on Monday night, ready to start our adventure in the morning... (See pg. 13)*

\* \* \* ALUMNI: Be sure to E-Mail your updates to [pickens@mma-tx.org](mailto:pickens@mma-tx.org) for inclusion in the Leader! \* \* \*

# A Daily Diary As Submitted by Jim Mischel, Class of '80



**THE BIKE TEAM ARRIVES amidst cheers from onlookers... ahead of last year's time and in great shape. Cyclers are: (L-R) Cadets Chris Latos and Rodrigo Franco-Medina, Cycling Coach Earl Gander, Chris Crum-Class of '82, Debra Mischel, Jim Mischel-Class of '80, and Craig Matteson-Class of '79.**

\*\*\*The full story and associated pictures can be viewed at: [www.mischel.com/SkiRide05](http://www.mischel.com/SkiRide05)\*\*\*

## Day 1: Round Rock to Kenedy, TX 135 miles

Got up at 5 a.m. this morning, loaded everything, checked our gear, and hit the road just before 6 a.m.. The first two hours, making our way to north Austin and then through town to the river, was uneventful. We lost Chris once when he had to detour around the pedestrian bridge over Town Lake, but he rejoined us at a convenience store for our first break.

The next couple of hours were the worst part as far as traffic was concerned. We had 15 miles to ride down a major road in south Austin, and then another 15 on some narrow two lane country roads. For the most part the drivers were considerate. We only had one bad patch of about five miles where traffic got backed up, mostly because some wallflower in an old car wouldn't pass and the drivers behind him started getting irate. One guy in a van almost clipped me with a trailer as he came around us. Debra, riding behind me, was not amused.

Craig got a flat about 50 miles in, most likely from running over a sliver of steel from one of the many radial tire pieces we saw on the road.

We stopped for a few minutes in San Marcos at a store owned by Debra's friend Susan and her husband. Susan is the person who came to our rescue a few weeks ago when Debra and I got stranded by a thunderstorm 55 miles from home.

We were making good time. Neither Craig nor I remembered the rolling hills on the road all the way from San Marcos to Kenedy.

We arrived at 6 p.m., almost exactly 12 hours after we left Round Rock. We covered 135 miles in that 12 hours, spending 9 hours and 48 minutes in the saddle and a little over two hours at rest stops, stop lights, and fixing flat tires. Our average rolling speed of 13.8 miles per hour gave Debra her fastest ever century, and our total time was about an hour and fifteen minutes shorter than Craig and I did it last year.

## Day 2: Kenedy to Kingsville, TX 105 Miles

Just like last year, getting up and preparing for the second day proved very difficult. This year, because we got in more than an hour earlier than last year due to daylight savings time, we were able to get more sleep. It still was difficult, but once we got on the bike we were fine.

The first 30 miles, from Kenedy to Beeville, is gently rolling hills. We hit a patch of road construction and while we were navigating through the gravel my right shifter stopped working. The result was that the rear derailleur was stuck in a single gear, giving me two gears total. The gear in which I was stuck allowed me to cruise at about 16 MPH on a flat, and shifting down to the little ring gave me a low enough gear that I could climb any hill that I was expecting to encounter.

We had little to no wind and made it to Beeville before 9 a.m. The old convenience store where we had planned to stop was in the process of being replaced by a modern new facility, so we had to head down the road about a mile to a Circle K store (to take a break). The route from Beeville to Sinton is mostly flat although the wind started to pick up out of the east towards noon, but we were feeling great and made good time to the little town of Odem just after noon.

I was a little concerned with crossing the Nueces River on I-37. Fortunately there was little traffic. Just after that crossing there is a series of small steep hills on the frontage road. Combined with the wind there, we all struggled a bit and I instinctively tried to shift down so I could pedal a little easier. Much to my surprise, the bike actually shifted!

The ride from Four Points to Kingsville went without incident. We made it to the hotel in Kingsville at 3:15 p.m., a full three hours faster than last year's ride. Total time for the day was right at 9 hours. We covered 105 miles in 7 hours and 25 minutes of riding, for an average of 14.2 MPH. Debra broke her own personal best century record set yesterday.

## Day 3: Kingsville to Harlingen, TX 95 Miles

Two MMA cadets, Chris Latos and Rodrigo Franco and MMA's cycling coach Earl Gander showed up at the hotel just before 6 a.m. along with Harold Compton who would assist Chris in providing ride support. We suited up, took pictures, and got on the road about 6:15 a.m. Winds were light out of the east northeast. We all were feeling good after 14 hours of rest, and we rolled out on the smooth roads headed south, cruising along at 16 MPH almost effortlessly. We made the 27 miles to the first rest area well before 9 a.m.

We made two planned stops on the 47 mile stretch between the rest area and Raymondville, and one unplanned stop to fix another flat. The wind shifted and picked up a bit as the day wore on, but we managed to make it to Raymondville just a little after noon with an average speed of over 15 MPH. After a long break we headed out again, hoping to finish the ride before 2 p.m.

Our route from Raymondville put us back on U.S. 77 for about eight more miles, and then followed a frontage road to the planned stop just five miles from the school. The wind picked up a bit more and turned southeast, and we fought a strong crosswind/headwind down to Sebastian. Everybody groaned when we hit a couple of short, steep hills and six miles of very rough surface to the planned stop.

Everybody in the group agreed that those six miles were the most difficult of the entire ride. We had expected the last 3.5 miles to be the most difficult because of the wind, but smooth roads and the prospect of finishing were enough to lift our spirits and let us ignore the headwind. We could see the red roofs of the school buildings as we headed in. We arrived at about 2:15 p.m., covering 95 miles in right at 8 hours, with 6 hours and 30 minutes total pedaling time at an average speed of 14.6 MPH. **WHAT A RIDE!**

# Sports Banquet Recognizes 2004-5 Outstanding Athletes

On Friday, April 22, the Marine Military Academy recognized 2004-2005 athletes at the annual All-Sports Banquet held in the Neuhaus Mess Hall.

Faculty, staff, parents and guests, along with coaches and players, enjoyed a hearty dinner of delicious roast beef. Following the feast, Major Rick Rodriguez, Commanding Officer of Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines, just returned home from a year's tour of duty in Iraq, delivered an inspirational and motivating address.

Rodriguez, a 1985 graduate of the Marine Military Academy, attended Southwest Texas State University and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Planning. From 1990-1991, Rodriguez served the city of Brownsville, Texas as City Planner, then attended Officer Candidate School in Quantica Virginia in June 1991. He entered the Fleet Marine Force in June of 1992 through May of 1995. In 1996, Rodriguez was accepted to the US Drug Enforcement Administration's BAT Academy and, upon graduation in June 1996, Rodriguez was assigned to McAllen, Texas' District Office conducting large scale domestic and international drug investigations, also serving as the office's Primary Firearms and Raid/Tactics Instructor. In 1997, Rodriguez became the Peacetime-Wartime Support Team Officer In Charge in Harlingen, served as Executive Officer from 2000-2002 for Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines. He and his Battalion deployed to Iraq in May 2004 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. From August 2004 through March 2005 Rodriguez served as Forward Operating Base Hit while his company of 400 Marines conducted limited scale raids, security patrols, vehicle checkpoints, civil affair operations and Iraqi National Guardsmen training within the Haditha, Al Anbar Province corridor.

While a student at MMA, Rodriguez served as the Delta Company Commander. He participated with honors in football, track and



**SPECIAL GUEST MAJOR RICK RODRIGUEZ** is presented with a gift of appreciation by General Rollings after addressing cadets, faculty, staff and family members during the 2005 Annual Leatherneck Sports Banquet.

swimming. His stirring and energetic address was met with great enthusiasm by all attending the Banquet. "I learned the concepts of team work, commitment and faith while here at MMA--especially from Coach Morton and SgtMaj Steigerwald. They taught me that nothing is free and everything has a price. MMA instilled in me core values--honor, courage, commitment--which serve as the bedrock of my life." Rodriguez emphatically continued, "Honor--never lie, cheat or steal, on or off the field. Courage is both mental and physical in nature and helped me overcome fear. Commitment will set you apart from others by the act of dedicating your life towards achieving your goals."

Following Major Rodriguez' address, awards were presented. The **Most Valuable Player** award in football went to **Josh Gasaway**, with the **Most Valuable Offensive Lineman** award going to **Brian Simpson**. **Jamahl Randle** received the **MVP award for Offensive Back**, and **Scott Miller** was awarded **Most Improved**.

**Most Valuable Defensive Lineman** went to **Adam Gilles**, while **Andrew Winney** took home **Most Valuable Defensive Lineman**.

In basketball, **Jared Perry** was recog-

nized for his outstanding leadership as **Captain** for the 2004-2005 season.

**Ryan Law** pinned down the **MVP award for wrestling**, and **Spencer Logan** earned recognition as **Captain** of the first year team.

**Rodrigo Franco** received **MVP** honors for his performance on the **cross-country team** and **soccer**. Taking home the **Defensive MVP** award was **Yiming Wang**. **Jose Orantes** earned the **Offensive MVP** trophy.

Receiving recognition in track were **Co-Captains Leo Deng** and **Sean McCarver**.

**Swimming** Coach Earl Gander presented an award to **team captain Jared Faulk** and the **MVP award** to **James Caldwell**.

The **Judo MVP** recipient was **Andrew Davis**. The **Most Improved** trophy in **judo** went to **Shea Kumecki-Nelson**. Taking home honors as **Captain** was **Thomas Carroll**. **Robert Gurley** received recognition for "**Best Throw-Houston Tournament**."

Receiving recognition for **golf** were **Co-captains Geoff Howard** and **Max Cyphers**. **Geoff Howard** took home the **MVP award** for golf.

In **boxing**, **David Miller**, **James Enos** and **Matthew Parker** received varsity letters.

**Nick Rhodes**, **Cameron Nordbak** and **Daniel Sandland** were all recognized for their dedication as tri-captains of the **Leatherneck Baseball** team for 2005, while **Tennis** team captain **Colt Marcyan** received recognition for his contributions to the tennis team.

The **VISA League**, made up of eighth graders, also awarded **Most Valuable Player** and **Most Improved** awards.

In **volleyball**, **MVP** went to **Felix Lozano**, while **Most Improved** honors went to **Cody Hawkins**. **VISA basketball MVP** was **Cameron Rux**, while **Joe Alatrisme** was named **Most Improved**.

In **VISA softball**, **Issac Miller** took home the **MVP award**, while **Gerald Stratton** walked away with the **Most Improved** award.

When asked if these fine athletes had any words of wisdom for next year's competition they resounded, "**GO LEATHERNECKS!**"

**GENERAL ROLLINGS** and special guest **Major Rodriguez** present **Cadet Josh Gasaway** with the **MVP Leatherneck Football Award**.



## ★ RIFLE TEAM ★

Five members of the Marine Military Academy "Big Dawg" Rifle Team consisting of Cadets Daniel Taylor, Steven Park, Robert Landies, William Musa and Eric Sperling returned from Spring Break earlier than most to get in a last minute practice before leaving for San Antonio to participate in the 2005 JROC (Junior Olympic Committee) 3-Position Air Rifle Championships. Saturday, March 19, the Big Dawgs took aim on their competitors at Central Catholic High School.

Cadet Daniel Taylor, Big Dawgs Team Captain, fired a 577/600, and was the Match Winner. This put him in line to be considered as an invitee to the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, CO, not to mention competition at the National JROC Championships.

Cadet Steven Park, a first year shooter for the Team, fired a 569/600 and finished 5th overall. He is well on his way to becoming a force to be reckoned with here in the future.

The other team members did well. Cadet Robert Landies finished 12th--even with a badly-sprained ankle sustained while snowboarding during Spring Break. Cadets Musa and Sperling placed 13th and 14th respectively.

The Big Dawg Air Rifle Team finished third in the overall National JROC Championships.

On April 1-2, The Big Dawgs competed in the 2005 Bluebonnet Military Skills Championships.

Individually, Cadet Steven Park received 1st place in the Individual Prone, Kneeling and was the Overall Individual Match Winner. Cadet Daniel Taylor received 2nd place in Individual Prone and took home 3rd Place Overall.

The MMA Big Dawg **Gold** Team consisting of Cadets Park of Echo Co., Daniel Taylor of Golf Co., and Robert Landies and William Musa both of Delta Co., received 1st place trophies in both the Prone and Kneeling as well as 2nd place in Standing. The Team finished 2nd place overall.

The MMA Big Dawg **Scarlet** Team consisting of Cadets Joseph Tannehill of Golf Co., Eric Sperling of Delta Co., Tyler Erman and Christian Lamfers both of Fox Co. performed well. This was the first match for all on the Scarlet Team with the exception being Cadet Sperling. Top Shooter for the Scarlet Team was Joseph Tannehill who fired a personal best of 273/300.

All cadets performed well and received commendations from other schools concerning their professional conduct and presentation.

The results from the last three competitions are in and official. During the first part of April both Teams participated in the 8th Marine Corps District Precision Air Rifle Championships. The "BIG DAWGS" faired well in this competition bringing home eleven trophies. Here's the individual rankings overall: Match Winner - C/SSgt Steven Park of Echo Company scoring a 293/300; 2nd place went to C/2ndLt Daniel Taylor of Golf Company



**CADET DANIEL TAYLOR, Big Dawgs Team Captain, Match Winner at the 2005 JROC 3-Position Air Rifle Championships.**

with a 291/300; 3rd place was occupied by another MMA member C/LCpl William Musa of Delta Company with a 284/300--he just edged out C/LCpl Robert Landies (4th place) who also fired a 284/300. The tie breaker went to their standing scores. Cadet Musa shot a 91/100 and Cadet Landies shot a 90/100. The other team members placed: 5th-C/PFC Joseph Tannehill of Golf Company; 6th-C/LCpl Eric Sperling; 9th-C/Pvt Allami Fodeibou both of Delta Company and 8th went to C/PFC Tyler Erman of Fox Company.

In team rankings, Overall Team Champions MMA "BIG DAWGS" Gold consisting of Cadets Park, Taylor, Musa and Landies fired a 1152/1200. The Gold team also placed 1st in the Team Prone 398/400, Team Standing 372/400 and Team Kneeling 382/400. The number two position went to the MMA "BIG DAWGS" Scarlet consisting of Cadets Tannehill, Sperling, Erman and Fodeibou for firing an overall team score of 1049/1200. The Scarlet Team was successful in placing 2nd in the Team Prone 379/400, Team Standing 305/400 and Team Kneeling 365/400.

Later in April the "BIG DAWGS" went to battle again during the Jack C. Hays High School Texas Spring Shoot-Out. The Teams brought home (count them!) eleven more trophies. The individual rankings tallied in as follows: Overall Match Winner for the THIRD time this year was C/SSgt Steven Park of Echo Company scoring a 292/300, edging out C/2ndLt Daniel Taylor of Golf Company who also fired a 292/300. The tie breaker turned out to be their standing scores. Cadet Park shot a 97/100 and Cadet Taylor shot a 95/100. Third place went to MMA member C/LCpl Robert Landies of Delta Company with a 289/300. Cadet Landies who--in the previous match--was

## ★ BIG DAWGS ★

edged out of third by Cadet Musa during a tie breaker got his revenge. C/LCpl William Musa placed 5th this time firing a 286/300. Other team members placed as follows: 6th went to C/PFC Joseph Tannehill of Golf Company; 8th to C/LCpl Eric Sperling; 21st to C/Pvt Cody Gebert both of Delta Company and 9th to Christian Lamfers, 11th, C/PFC Tyler Erman both of Fox Company.

Team rankings came in as follows: Overall Team Champions MMA "BIG DAWGS" Gold consisting of Cadets Park, Taylor, Musa and Landies fired a 1160/1200. The Gold team also placed 1st in the Team Prone 399/400, Team Standing 377/400 and Team Kneeling 383/400. The number two position went to the MMA "BIG DAWGS" Scarlet Team consisting of Cadets Tannehill, Sperling, Erman and Lamfers firing an overall team score of 1113/1200. The Scarlet Team was successful in placing 2nd in the Team Prone 390/400, Team Standing 346/400 and Team Kneeling 377/400.

This year the MMA "BIG DAWGS" brought home a grand total of 42 trophies (Individual and Team) this year, consisting of 23-first places, 16-second places and 3-third places.

For the first time in Academy history a member of the "BIG DAWGS" C/2ndLt Daniel Taylor made it to the National JROTC Air Rifle Championships at Ft. Benning, Georgia accompanied by MSgt Lunday as well C/SSgt Steven Park (who just missed the cutoff). The four day competition is hosted by the Competitive Marksmanship Program and the Army Marksmanship Unit. The competition is intense and extreme between cadets from all over the nation and Europe, all competing for the number one Individual and Team slots. The competition is two training days and two match days, and the match itself is a 3x20 (20 rounds fired in each of three positions Prone, Standing and Kneeling). The Top 8 each day in each classification fire a "FINAL" ten shot standing match and score one shot at a time. Each score is announced for each shot fired before the next shot can be fired. Cadet Taylor fired a 575/600 on Day 1 placing him 6th. In finals he fired a 95.2/100 giving him a total of 670.2/700. On Day 2 Cadet Taylor fired 576/600 placing him 7th and in the FINALS once again. This time he fired a 96.3/100 giving him an overall score with an average FINALS of 1246.73/1300 placing him 8th in the Nation and 2nd in the Marine Corps JROTC Program Nationally.

Cadet Taylor closed the season as State Junior Olympic and State JROC Champion.

**A job well done** to all the cadets and Coach Lunday of the "BIG DAWGS" Rifle Team!



# Sports WrapUp

## State Track Meet Qualifiers



2005 MMA Track team: (L-R) Front row-Adam Yera, Charles Gurney, Kyle Wood, Kaveesh Sehgal, Abdur Olajuwon, Stephen Kang ; Middle row-Yile Deng, Domonic Rocco, David Nekuyi, Justin Toth, Sean McCarver; Back row-P.J. Randle, Robert Motheral, Luke Smith, Adam Gilles, Peter Jager, Vincent Cervassi.

CHARLIE COMPANY  
GEORGE ADAM GILLES



CHARLIE COMPANY  
PETER JAGER



2005 MMA Tennis team: (L-R) Henry Brasch, Taylor Simmons, Jonah Mitchell, Colt Marcyan, Ryan Gabriel.

## Golf Team Captures 1st Place

GENERAL  
ROLLINGS  
congratulates  
GEOFF  
HOWARD  
following  
Geoff's State  
win.



Congratulations to the MMA Golf Team on placing first at the March 24th Bulldog Invitational held at Llano Grande Golf Course in Mercedes. Leading the way for MMA was Geoff Howard who captured First Place Medallist by shooting a -1 under 71 on the par 72 course. Also assisting the Leathernecks to victory was Max Cyphers who shot an 85 and missed out of placing 3rd by two strokes.

MMA took home the team title by beating out Port Isabel by two strokes within a field of ten teams. Other members of the team contributing to the victory were Tommy Swan (93), Cody Steves (95), and Ryan Heumann (95).

The Team travelled to Vista Hills Country Club in El Paso, Texas to take part in the TAPPS District Tournament on April 4-5. Geoff Howard shot a two-day total of 76 and 74 respectively to finish second among 18 competitors. Leathernecks Geoff Howard, Max Cyphers, Ryan Heumann, Cody Steves and Tommy Swan placed third overall as a team.

A round of applause goes to Geoff Howard for winning the TAPPS 6A State Golf Tournament. Geoff completed the two-day tourney by shooting a -1 under 70 and +2 over 73 for a total of 143 to finish +1 overall. Geoff triumphed over 64 other competitors.



2005 MMA Baseball team: (L-R) Front row - Steven Godfrey, DJ Stokes, Jeffrey Lam, Cameron Norback, Nickolas Rhodes, Sam Gasaway, Robert Dikes, Blake Kaelin, James Golden. Back row-Trevor Long, Clayton Dunn, Blake Hibbett, Ryan Baines, Josh Gasaway, Winston Elliot, Danny Sandland, Coach DJ Wood, Coach Albert Esparza.

## VISA Basketball

**ALPHA COMPANY**  
**CAMERON RUX**  
 All Star Selection  
 60 points  
 40 Rebounds  
 14 Steals



**ECHO COMPANY**  
**ISSAC MILLER**  
 All Star Selection  
 40 points  
 35 Rebounds  
 9 Steals

**FOX COMPANY**  
**DALTON HODGES**  
 All Star Selection  
 55 points  
 45 Rebounds  
 8 Steals



**FOX COMPANY**  
**JOHN WILDSMITH**  
 All Star Selection  
 36 points  
 41 Rebounds  
 4 Steals

**GOLF COMPANY**  
**FELIX LOZANO IV**  
 All Star Selection  
 75 points  
 38 Rebounds  
 17 Steals



## VISA Softball

The cadets took the field Tuesday, March 22nd following Spring Break and faced their fiercest competitors of the season, First Baptist, Brownsville.

First Baptist opened the first inning with three runs. The cadets showed some rust after the break, but took the lead in the bottom of the first with four runs. First Baptist opened the second inning with their strong bats scoring three more runs. MMA closed out the inning with three runs and

held onto the lead. First Baptist went down in the third not scoring. MMA scored two more runs and led with a score of 9-7. In the fourth, First Baptist scored three runs and took the lead. MMA rallied and scored two runs. In the fifth, First Baptist scored two. The first three batters for MMA drove the ball to the outfield and scored two runs to close out the game 13 to 12.

The competition saw strong fielding plays from Cadet Crocker, Delta Company with two outstanding catches; Cadet Wildsmith, Fox Company, who made some saving stops at first base; and Cadet Hawkins, Delta Company, who closed out the game.

The team took the field once again on Tuesday, March 29th, facing off against St. Anthony's of Harlingen. St. Anthony scored first in the top of the first inning. Cadet Stratton pitched an outstanding game allowing only five hits and adding four strike-outs to his season stats.

St. Anthony's team proved powerless against MMA's unstoppable bats. Cadets Ruz, Alpha Co.; Lozano, Golf Co., and Miller, Echo Co. each scored a home run. The final score saw MMA-



**VISA SOFTBALL (L-R) Front row: Cadet Miller, General Rollings, Cadet Lazono. Middle row: Cadets Wildsmith, Kazakevitch, Valdez, Chen, and Meza. Back row: Cadets Beardon, Alatrisme, Crocker, Yerian, Rux, Lanski, and Geiger.**

18, St. Anthony - 2. The cadets ended the regular season 6 wins and no losses.

Entering the Varsity Tournament as the number one seed, the cadets jumped out on St. Anthony's in the first inning and scored eight runs. Without looking back so much as once, the cadets won the first game in four and one half innings with a final score of MMA-24 and St. Anthony's-2.

MMA was matched against First Baptist of Brownsville (second in regular season action) for the second game. The cadets held First Baptist in the first and scored eight runs. The cadets' fielding was perfect. Cadet Stratton of Golf Co. pitched another great game and finished with five strike outs. Cadet Ruz, Alpha Co., scored 6 home runs; Cadet Lozano, Golf Co. scored 5; and Cadet Miller, Echo Co. scored 4.

MMA closed the tournament with a win over First Baptist in four and one half innings: MMA-20, First Baptist-9.

Congratulations go out to this young, promising team. We look forward to seeing more of the same effort next season!



**2005 MMA VISA BASKETBALL** Team ends regular season in first place with 6 wins, 1 loss. Front Row Center: Rux, General Rollings. Front row (l-r) Hodges, Wildsmith, Liverpool, Miller, Lozano, Lanski. Back row (l-r) Chaplain Elliott, Alatrisme, C. Hawkins, Beardon, Yerian, Stratton, Geiger.



**2005 MMA VISA TRACK** Team placed 3rd overall out of 7 schools in sizzling track action with two 1st's--400 meter relay and long jump plus two 2nd's--800 meter relay and the softball throw. (L-R) Front: General Rollings, Cadets Wildsmith, Kazakevitch, Chen, Valdez, GySgt Villarreal. Back : Cadets Alatrisme, Crocker, Yerian, Rux and Lanski.

# CADETS ON THE GO

## Annual Junior/Senior Ring Ceremony and Dance Held

The Annual Junior/Senior Ring Ceremony and Dance was held on Saturday, April 23, 2005 in Peacher Memorial Cadet Activity Center. The traditional ring ceremony was held at 7 p.m., with twenty juniors receiving their graduation rings from a senior cadet they chose prior to the ceremony. The ceremony traces back to the Naval Academy tradition wherein the exiting seniors "pass" the school down to the rising senior class, along with a few words of wisdom and, of course, the class rings.

Junior SgtMaj **David Miller**, son of Mr. and Mrs. David Miller, of Harlingen, Texas, served as master of ceremony for the evening.



**"KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK AND LEADERSHIP." Senior Yu Wang (left) imparts words of wisdom to Junior Stephen Cooper (right), both of Alpha Company.**

During the presentations, seniors stepped into the seven-foot ring and shared their words of advice with the junior class.

At the close of the ceremony, LtCol Andrew Winney gathered everyone onto the dance floor and toasted to the Marine Military Academy seniors and a great future for all.

Following the ceremony, DJ Frankie Gi from WILD 104 spun the tunes while cadets and their dates enjoyed an evening of great dancing.

A GRAND thank you to Cadet Captain Stephen Kang, Battalion Public Affairs Officer, and Social Directress Monica Bates for their special efforts which made this event a lasting memory for all in attendance.

## DAR Honors Awarded to Winney and Alatrisme



**CADET LTCOL ANDREW WINNEY**, recipient of DAR 2005 Good Citizen award.

The Thomas Barlow Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual Awards Tea on February 19, 2005 at the Peacher Memorial Cadet Activities Center. This highly-respected organization awards medals and recognizes students for their efforts put forth in the field of American citizenship.

**Cadet LtCol Andrew Winney, Battalion Commander** was selected as Marine Military Academy's representative for the "Good Citizen" award to the senior cadet displaying qualities of dependability, service, leadership and patriotism to an outstanding degree. **Cadet Jose Gabriel Alatrisme** was chosen as Marine Military Academy's representative for the "Good Citizenship" award to the 8th-grade student displaying qualities of honor, service, courage, leadership and patriotism to an outstanding degree.

**Congratulations** to these deserving young men.



**CADET JOSE GABRIEL ALATRISME**, recipient of DAR 2005 Good Citizenship award.

## Relay For Life Run

The North Cameron County American Cancer Society held its 11th Annual Relay for Life on April 8, 2005 at Boggus Stadium in Harlingen. MMA entered two teams this year consisting of 15 National Honor Society and 15 Key Club members. Together the teams raised over \$5,000 for the Cancer Society.

The first cadet began running laps at 6 p.m. on Friday. Each relay team member kept the laps tallying up until 8 a.m. on Saturday. Each MMA team racked up over 380 laps and were awarded second and third place for the most laps run by a team. MMA has participated in this event for eleven years and raised over \$25,000 overall for the American Cancer Society.

Special thanks to SgtMaj Kinsley and Faculty Member Diolanda Dye for their organization, guidance and participation throughout the community event.



# MMA BAND STEPS OUT SMARTLY IN MILITARY SCHOOLS HONOR BAND FESTIVAL

The Marine Military Academy was represented in first class fashion at the Military Schools Honor Band Festival held in February at Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana. Sixteen schools and universities attended the event.

The MMA Band arrived at Culver Friday amidst chaotic conditions brought about by changing flights and destinations. Yet, when chair auditions began Friday morning promptly at 0900, MMA cadets were in place and ready to compete. Cadet Shuffield placed second in Trumpet--missing first chair by only 6 points to a college sophomore from Valley Forge. Cadet Slape placed a very close third in Trumpet. Cadet Duncan placed third out of seven tubas--missing first by 8 points. Cadet Adam Harris placed fourth out of six in percussion--missing first chair by 14 points. Cadet Chase Cooper had the First Alto Chair in the Jazz Band and was second in consideration for the Outstanding Jazz Musician .

Both Friday and Saturday were full rehearsal days, continuing all day and into the night in preparation for the Sunday Festival Concert. MMA Band Director CWO-3 Edward Harris commends the Honor Band on representing themselves and MMA "in an absolutely superb manner" throughout the competition. The MMA Honor Band placed third overall in the category of "Best Prepared School" based upon the average chair audition scores--fantastic marks and accomplishments considering there were



MMA Honor Band members lent their musical stylings to the 2005 Spring Festival Concert held at Culver Academy in Culver, Indiana.



Pictured above (l to r): Cadets Travis Duncan (F Co.), Cory Slape (G Co.), Austin Shuffield (G.Co.); Capt. Lewis Buckley, Commander, USCG Band-Washington D. C., Drum Major Nigel Jackson, H.M. Royal Marine Band; CWO Kirk Edwards, Director of Bands, USCG Academy; Cadets Stephan Cooper (A Co.), Adam Harris (A Co.); CWO-3 Edward D. Harris, MMA Band Director.

three universities in attendance and other schools were represented by considerably more students. Special recognition goes out to MMA Honor Band Officer Cadet Lt. Thompson and Drum Major Cadet Staff Sgt. Villanueva who remained behind at MMA to lead the Band through the H.M. Smith Dinner and Parade.

## C'était magnifique!

The Cuisine Team did very well in the Rio Grande Valley French Competition 2005 held on Saturday, February 19th, at the Weslaco East High School. MMA brought two excellent individual performances, although the team attributes the key to their success overall to outstanding teamwork.

MMA's Cuisine Team consisting of Cadets Artigue, Ferrara Adame, Gonzalez-Rodriguez and Saldivar-Gonzalez of Fox Co. and Cadet Faulk of Echo Company created a Marsaellaise dinner of bouillabaisse, a fish-and-seafood stew that Artigue recognizes as the ancestor of Cajun gumbo; a vegetable

dish called ratatouille consisting of eggplant, zucchini, sweet peppers, tomato, onion, olives, artichoke hearts and mushrooms; a layered salad of greens, cucumber, hard-cooked egg, tuna and tomatoes in a vinaigrette sauce; freshly baked homemade French baguette bread, and--for dessert--orange-almond cheesecake. While teammates were competing in another on-site tournament, Cadet Faulk, assisted by Cadet Thacker of Alpha Co., took charge of preparing and presenting the entry, taking away a 3rd place team trophy for their efforts.

Cadet James Caldwell of Delta Co. entered a hand-crafted balsa-wood model of a Napoleonic artillery piece. Although he was unable to attend the tournament, his entry took 1st.

Cadet Thacker of Alpha Co. placed second in Sight Reading for the second year in a row.

Before entering their tournament, MMA's Pétanque team took time to demonstrate and explain the game to a team of girls from Brownsville's Hanna High School. These girls had never played before and, despite their inexperience and perhaps thanks to the cadets' good instructions, the girls played fairly well in competition. However, MMA team members Ferrara, Gonzalez-Rodriguez and Saldivar proved invincible defeating powerful Lopez High School and bringing back the first place trophy.

Two 1st's, one 2nd, and a 3rd--a winning trophy in every event in which MMA competed! We salute Dr. Ricciardi and her co-chaperone Ms. Kathleen Charrey who not only accompanied the group to Weslaco East on Saturday but also helped coach the Cuisine Team on Friday as they prepared their magnificent feast in MMA's Neuhaus Dining Hall.

# Calendar of Events

## May

7 SAT  
 Deadline for 2005-06 Re-enrollment contracts/Summer Camp Applications  
 14-18 Second Semester/Final Exams  
 16 Deadline for Financial Aid Packets  
 20 Eagle Scout Ceremony  
 Academic Awards/8th Grade Graduation  
 Senior Banquet  
 21 Graduation Parade, Awards & Ceremony

## June

Enjoy Summer break!

## July

03 Summer Camp/ESL Registration  
 Field Day  
 30 Summer Camp/ESL Graduation

# Memorials

Mrs. Bettye Beasley (Chandler), Mrs. Edna Stuckey (Wilbur) and all other spouses of the members of the VMF (N) 542 Association who have passed on.

Myron Ludvick, MMA Class of 1996

## IN HONOR OF

Manly Cooper  
 David Robert Jepsen  
 Sgt J.C. Lincoln, USMC  
 Myrtle Mason  
 Brig Gen George W. McHenry, USMC (Ret)  
 Theodore "Ted" Mickle  
 Maj Gen Raymond A. Murray, USMC  
 Major George O'Brien, USMCR (Ret)  
 Luis Romero  
 Jean Sproatt  
 Pfc Brian B. Thornton, USMC  
 SSgt E.L. Walsh

## History Of MMA "Marching in Cadence" Now Available



Marching in Cadence, The History of the Marine Military Academy, written by Ed and Corinne Swaney of Harlingen is now ready for purchase.

Copies of the book, which would make great Father's Day or graduation gifts, are currently available from the Iwo Jima Museum and Gift Shop, located on the grounds of the Marine Military Academy. For more information, please call the Museum at (956)423-6006, ext 676 or 678 or e-mail at [visitorcenter@mma-tx.org](mailto:visitorcenter@mma-tx.org).

**Corinne and Ed Swaney, co-authors of Marching in Cadence, The History of the Marine Military Academy.**

## Taps

*Our condolences to the family of MMA Alumnus Myron Ludvick, Class of 1996, who passed away Monday, April 18, 2005 while doing graduate work at the Naval Academy.*

Marine Military Academy  
 320 Iwo Jima Boulevard  
 Harlingen, Texas 78550  
 (956) 423-6006

Non-profit Org.  
 U.S. Postage  
 PAID  
 Permit No. 462  
 Harlingen, Texas