MMA LEADER

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

Volume 26, Number 4 | **Dedicated to our Cadets - Leaders of Tomorrow** | February/March 2013

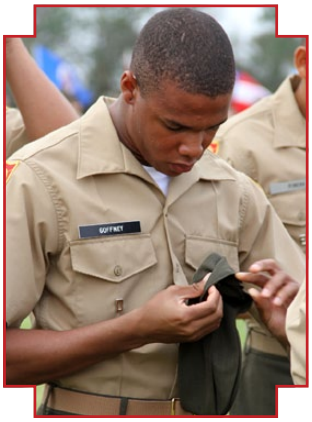
Special Events

Introductory Training Parade & Graduation

MMA held its Introductory Training Parade & Graduation on Feb. 9. Twenty-eight new students, also known as "plebes," officially graduated from their four-week introductory training and become official members of the MMA Corps of Cadets.

At the parade, the plebes took the official oath of an MMA cadet. Then they affixed the Marine Corps emblem to their covers and participated in the pass in review ceremony for the first time. After the parade, the newly minted cadets lined up in front of the barracks to receive their graduation certificate. That afternoon, they enjoyed their first weekend of liberty with their family members or classmates.

To view and/or download photos of this event, go to Flickr.com/photos/mmaharlingen and click on the January 2013 Training Parade & Graduation set.



Junior Daryl Goffney Jr. of New Waverly, Texas, pins the Marine Corps insignia on his cover.

Plebes salute during the national anthem.

Freshman Robert Cranshaw of League City, Texas, accepts his graduation certificate from Drill Instructor SgtMaj Larry Carson.

Freshman Alejandro Salinas Peña of Reynosa, Mexico, takes a photo with his drill instructor GySgt Frank Martinez.

Junior Oscar Villasenor Rodríguez of Tepic, Mexico, stands next to his proud father.

Aviation Display

LtCol James "Jim" Armstrong, a Marine fighter pilot in World War II and the Korean War, dedicated his aviation display to MMA's Iwo Jima Museum on Feb. 15. His wife, Dorothy, as well as his sisters and other family members attended the event. The display includes LtCol Armstrong's flight jacket and helmet, photos, medals and even a propeller from an actual fighter aircraft.

LtCol Armstrong served in the U. S. Marine Corps from 1942 to 1965. He was a pilot as a member of Marine Fighting Squadron 221 (VMF-221) in the First Marine Aircraft Wing. Later in his career, LtCol Armstrong was the squadron commander of Marine Fighting Squadron III (LMF-III), a reserve fighter squadron. During his career, he earned numerous awards, which include the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal.

After retiring from the Marine Corps, he became the director of aviation for Texas Instruments. Originally from Illinois, LtCol Armstrong now lives in Dallas.

LtCol Jim Armstrong sits before his aviation display at the Iwo Jima Musuem.

Special Events

Leadership Forum Speaker

Frank Gansz, Jr., the assistant/special teams football coach for Southern Methodist University (SMU), addressed the Corps of Cadets at the annual MMA Leadership Forum on Feb. 15.

Gansz discussed effective leadership principles that apply to all areas of life and insisted on giving the cadets an informative and engaging session. In fact, throughout his presentation Gansz prompted the cadets to finish the last word of his recurring sentence: "This is information you can .... USE!"

Of particular interest was his slide titled, "Five Traits of a Championship Team." According to Gansz, the traits are aggressiveness, confidence, discipline, consistency and resilience. A championship team — as well as a champion — must be aggressive enough to face challenges, confident enough to envision success, disciplined enough to follow a regimen, consistent enough to get stronger and resilient enough to overcome setbacks.

Gansz has coached at the collegiate and professional level. Prior to joining SMU in Spring 2011, he ran the special teams for the University of California, Los Angeles. This experienced coach was also the special teams coordinator for the Baltimore Ravens, Kansas City Chiefs and Oakland Raiders and the tight end/special team coach for the University of Houston and the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Gansz graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, S.C., in 1985, where he was a four-year defensive back. He attended MMA as a post-graduate student in the 1980-81 school year.

Coach Frank Gansz Jr. accepts a gift from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and Battalion Commander Eun Hyuk Kwak of Brownsville, Texas.

Special Events

Iwo Jima Parade

Sixteen World War II veterans turned out for the Iwo Jima Parade on Feb. 19. This year marked the 68th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima. Because of its warm and sunny location, MMA is one of the few places in the nation with winters mild enough to hold an annual Iwo Jima Parade. The parade was well attended by the public, particularly veterans from all wars and branches.

The veterans of World War II sat in reserved seating directly in front of the historic Iwo Jima Monument. During the parade, they all stood for the national anthem and joined Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill for the ceremonial pass in review.

Edward "Tommy" Thompson, a resident of St. Louis Park, Minn., and Pharr, Texas, attended the Iwo Jima Parade for the first time.

"Seeing the presentation and all those cadets from the school, it was very meaningful," said the Navy World War II veteran. "We're proud to serve our country and proud to have someone appreciate it."

Thompson attended the parade with his friend, Alvin Hays. Mr. Hays, also a Navy World War II veteran, actually scouted the island of Iwo Jima before the Marines landed.

Another guest to attend the 2013 Iwo Jima Parade was Glen Cleckler, a World War II veteran and the best friend of Cpl Harlon Block. Cpl Block is the Marine from Weslaco, Texas, who is depicted at the base of flagpole in the Iwo Jima Monument.

Mr. Cleckler and Cpl Block attended Weslaco High School and enlisted in the Marine Corps together in December 1942. In fact, they enlisted in the Marine Corps because they needed an excused absence for skipping a day of school. Mr. Cleckler returned from World War II and brought back Cpl Block's Marine Corps ring, which is now housed in MMA's Iwo Jima Museum.

World War II veterans view the Iwo Jima Parade from special "front row" seats.

Sophomore Alejandro Mejia of Kyle, Texas, performs with the Leatherneck Band.

Battalion Commander Eun Hyuk Kwak of Brownsville, Texas, recieves the 2013 MacArthur Cadet Award from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

Sophomore William Martin of Houston tosses his rifle to his drill team commander.

World War II Veteran Glen Cleckler stands before the Iwo Jima Monument.

Recent Events

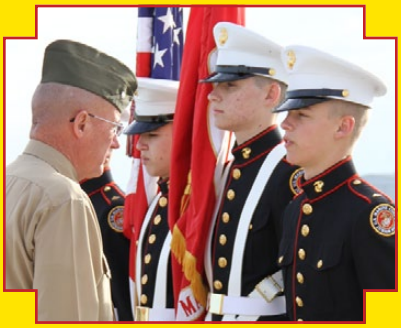
MCJRTOC Inspection

This year, 194 cadets out of 260 — or almost 75 percent — were rated "Outstanding" at the Marine Corps Junior ROTC (MCJROTC) inspection on March 1. LtCol Mark Stroman, director of the Region 5 MCJROTC program, reviewed the MMA Corps of Cadets. Prior to LtCol Stroman's inpsection, MMA military staff meticulously examined the cadets and quizzed them on Marine Corps history, regulations, customs, ethics and leadership traits.

This year, Delta Company and Golf Company tied for the "Best Inspected Company" award. In Functional Areas (administration/training/supply/armory/rifle range), MMA received the top rating: "Mission Capable." In the Personnel and Close Order Drill inspections, MMA earned an "Outstanding" rating.

To view and/or download photos of this event, go to Flickr.com/photos/mmaharlingen and click on the January 2013 MCJROTC Inspection set.

MSgt Michael Krauss inspects the uniform of Freshman Harrison Golightly of Anna, Ill.



LtCol Mark Stroman quizzes Junior Matthew Myers of Harlingen, Texas, on drill.

SgtMaj David Miller quizzes a cadet on Marine Corps history.

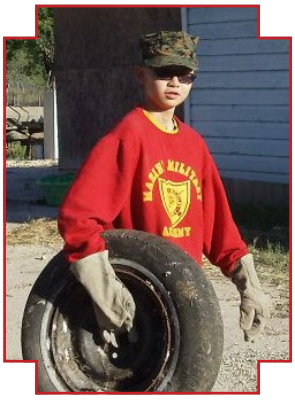
Junior Osie Harper V of Eagle Pass, Texas, awaits the inspection for Echo Company.

Sophomore Devin Lejeune of Cypress, Texas, awaits the inspection for Alpha Company.

(Left to right) Seniors Jarrod Royal of Bandera, Texas, and Alex Robertson of Alvin, Texas, accept the "Best Inspected Company" award on behalf of Delta Company and Golf Company, respectively, from Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

Recent Events

Neighborhood Clean Sweep



Sophomore Jinting Jiang of Beijing, China, hauls off a tire.

The Key Club participated in the City of Harlingen's "Neighborhood Clean Sweep" on Feb. 2. The cadets lent their muscle and discarded all types of items into dumpsters, such as couches, tires and mattresses. The members did such an outstanding job that the Key Club was recognized at the City Commissioner's meeting on Feb. 6. Junior **Ivan Vidishev** of Spring, Texas, represented the club and accepted the Letter of Recognition from Mayor Chris Boswell.

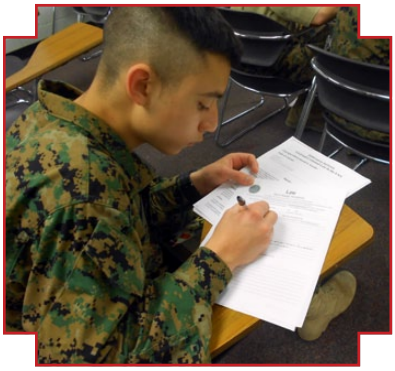
Thirteen members of the Key Club volunteered again on March 2 for the city's second "Neighborhood Clean Sweep."

3.0 & Above Luncheon

Sophomore Sebastián Díaz Galván of Mexico City glady grabs his grub.

One hundred and nine cadets enjoyed a Subway sandwich lunch on Feb. 25 for earning a 3.0 or higher with no failures in any subject for the second academic quarter. After lunch, the cadets were given afternoon liberty to watch a movie, shop at the mall or relax at the barracks.

Law Merit Badge



Freshman Miguel Salinas of Brownsville, Texas, fills in his Law worksheets.

Seven Boy Scouts earned their Law Merit badge on Feb. 26. Attorney and math teacher Brad Shields taught the Law Merit Badge over a four-week period. Over the course, the Boy Scouts learned law definitions, the foundations of the laws and judicial system in the United States, famous trials, the role of law enforcement officers, consumer protection laws and emerging areas of law.

The Boy Scouts were also fortunate enough to have a law class taught by a retired federal judge, the Honorable Sue Shields — Mr. Shields' mother! Mr. Shields is the husband of Andi Atkinson, MMA's marketing and public relations director.

Camping Trip

Several Boys Scouts from Troop 22 went camping Feb. 22-24 at Adolph Thomae Jr. County Park, located wtihin the Laguna Atascosa Wildlife Refuge. The young men spent the weekend fishing, hiking, studying nature and gathering around the campfire.

During the camping trip, the Boy Scouts held a flag retirement ceremony led by Freshman **Robert Walter III** of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas. A few of the young men also used the outdoor opportunity to advance their rank by identifying at least 10 different types of plants and animals in the natural habitat.

The park officials did not charge Troop 22 fees and provided the group with special access. As a courtesy, the scouts conducted a thorough clean-up of all the camp areas on the southern end of the park.

Junior Cody Hubbard of Stafford, Va., and Eighth-grader Kevin Schiefelbein of Rio Grande City, Texas, get ready to do some serious fishing.

Recent Events

10th Anniversary

The MMA Key Club celebrated its 10th anniversary in March. Since the organization received its charter in 2003, over 450 cadets have been members.

In those 10 years, the club has participated in 105 community service projects, supporting groups and organizations such as the City of Harlingen, American Cancer Society, Make a Wish Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association, Alzheimer's Association, Texas Adopt-A-Beach, Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, American Military Support, Harlingen Food Bank and others.

To date, MMA Key Club members have contributed 6,194 hours of community service. SgtMaj Ford Kinsley sponsors the club.

(Left to right) Freshman Robert Walter III of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas, and Sophomore Maxwell Pascal of Westfield, N.J., proudly hold up items from a recent food drive. The Key Club raised $325 and collected over 100 canned and dry food items for the Harlingen Food Bank.

Recognition

CyberPatriot National Championship

The CyberPatriot team won first place in its division at the CyberPatriot V National Championship, held March 14-16 in National Harbor, Md. Out of 806 teams in the All-Service Division, only 14 schools made it to the finals. The MMA Devil Dogs defeated the remaining competition and took home the top trophy: the 2013 Commander-in-Chief's Cup. The team also placed first in the Marine Division and received the 2013 Marine Corps JROTC Service Champion plaque.

The MMA CyberPatriot team is composed of: Junior **Dylan Che** of Sugar Land, Texas; Junior **Drew Hopkins** of Harlingen, Texas; Sophomore **Daniil Murashov** of St. Petersburg, Russia; Junior **José Rodríguez** of Harlingen, Texas; and Senior **Kyle Rogers** of Seabrook, Texas (team captain). The club sponsor/coach is William Beckman.

In addition to the team awards, the five cadets each received a gold medal as well as a $2,000 college scholarship courtesy of the Northrop Grumman Corporation (Northrop Grumman). Northrop Grumman, a leading designer and manufacturer of military aircraft, also secured each of them with a paid summer internship.

In the CyberPatriot club, students learn to identify and correct all types of computer security threats. In the annual competition, every team is subjected to a series of challenges. The more vulnerabilities a team can spot and fix, the more points it earns.

U. S. Representative Filemon Vela Jr. personally congratulated the team on March 29 and presented them with a flag that was flown over U. S. Capitol.

(Left to right) Sponsor/coach William Beckman; Junior Dylan Che of Sugar Land, Texas; Junior Drew Hopkins of Harlingen, Texas; Senior Kyle Rogers of Seabrook, Texas (captain); Junior José Rodríguez of Harlingen, Texas; Sophomore Daniil Murashov of St. Petersburg, Russia; Congressman Filemon Vela Jr.; and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill

Recognition

Academic Awards Ceremony

Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill and Dean Dr. John Butler presented 42 cadets with a Gold or Silver Wreath for their academic achievement in the first semester at the Academic Awards Ceremony on Feb. 8.

The Gold Wreath is awarded to cadets who make the President's List, which requires a grade-point-average (GPA) of 3.75 to 4.0. The Silver Wreath is awarded to cadets who make the Dean's List, which requires a GPA of 3.5 to 3.74. The cadets wear their wreath on their uniform until the end of the school year.

The cadets who made the President's List and received the Gold Wreath were: Sophomore **Niko Bakanec** of Salem, Wis.; Senior **William Bood** of Kingwood, Texas; Senior **James Calcagnini Jr.** of Darien, Conn.; Junior **Dylan Che** of Sugar Land, Texas; Senior **Matthew Dorris** of Crystal Springs, Miss.; Sophomore **Richard Farr** of Schertz, Texas; Sophomore **Alfonso García Garza** of Monterrey, Mexico; Senior **Thomas Goaley** of Waco, Texas; Junior **Michael Huang** of Bellaire, Texas; Sophomore **Irvin Ie** of Temple City, Calif.; Senior **Osaretin Igbinedion** of Newton, Mass.; Freshman **Preston King** of Dallas; Senior **Eun Hyuk Kwak** of Brownsville, Texas; Sophomore **Robert Lauzon** of Houston; Freshman **Chaunce Lee** of Pudong Shanghai, China; Senior **Alexander Li** of Albany, Calif.; Sophomore **Daniel López Álvarez** of Mexico City; Sophomore **William Martin** of Houston; Sophomore **Daniil Murashov** of St. Petersburg, Russia; Sophomore **Nikita Nemchuk** of Moscow; Senior **Connor Perley** of Long Island, N.Y.; Senior **Jarrod Royal** of Bandera, Texas; Freshman **Miguel Salinas** of Brownsville, Texas; Freshman **José Tancredi Charur** of San Antonio; Sophomore **Meng Yu Wang** of Taipei, Taiwan; Sophomore **Xichen Wang** of Shenyang, China; Senior **Tyler Weale** of Yreka, Calif.; and Junior **Baker Weil** of Austin, Texas.

The cadets who made the Dean's List and received the Silver Wreath were: Senior **Zijian Cao** of Daye, China; Senior **Cheng Ying Chung** of Alhambra, Calif.; Senior **Obiajulu Ezenwabachili** of Sugar Land, Texas; Sophomore **Sebastián Díaz Galván** of Mexico City; Sophomore **Diego Espinosa Valdez** of Monterrey, Mexico; Junior **Cody Hubbard** of Stafford, Va.; Sophomore **Jinting Jiang** of Beijing, China; Sophomore **Yuri Juárez Segón** of Mexico City; Junior **Bruno López Álvarez** of Mexico City; Eighth-grader **Seth McNair** of Frisco, Texas; Freshman **Dylan Noland** of Crown Point, Ind.; Senior **Ramiro Rodríguez Jr.** of Brownsville, Texas; Senior **Kyle Rogers** of Seabrook, Texas; and Sophomore **Jeremiah Ruvalcaba** of Belmont, Calif.

In addition to the Gold Wreath, four cadets received a Gold Star, which is awarded to those who make the President's List for two consecutive semesters. The recipients were **Che**, **Kwak**, **Perley** and **Weil**. Four cadets also earned a Blue Star, which is awarded to those who make the Dean's List or President's List for two consecutive semesters. They were **Li**, **Murashov**, **Ruvalcaba and Jiang.**

Senior Kyle Seabrook of Seabrook, Texas, accepts a Silver Wreath from Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

Senior Osaretin Igbinedion of Newton, Mass., accepts a Gold Wreath.

Sophomore Yuri Juarez Segon of Mexico City accepts a Silver Wreath.

Sophomore Daniil Murashov of St. Petersburg, Russia, accepts a Gold Wreath.

Recognition

Golden Gloves Tournament

For the second year in a row, the MMA boxing team took first place in the Sub-Novice class at the 2013 RGV Golden Gloves Boxing Tournament on Feb. 16 in Brownsville. Additionally, two cadets beat out all other contenders in their division. Senior **Salvador Espinosa Valdéz** of Monterrey, Mexico, prevailed in Middleweight 165 and also won Outstanding Boxer. Junior **Emiliano Hernandez-Summers** of Santa Rosa, Calif., triumphed in Heavyweight 195.

Three other cadets also took home Golden Gloves trophies. Junior **Bruno López Álvarez** of Mexico City placed second in Light Middleweight 151 as did Sophomore **Meng Yu Wang** of Taipei, Taiwan, in Middleweight 165. Junior **Cody Hubbard** of Stafford, Va., finished third in Middleweight 155.

The MMA boxing team is coached by SgtMaj Fred Robertson and Sgt John Elizondo.

(Left to right) Junior Brian Rodriguez of Sylmar, Calif.; Junior Cody Hubbard of Stafford, Va.; Junior Emiliano Hernandez-Summers of Santa Rosa, Calif.; Junior Bruno López Álvarez of Mexico City; Sophomore Meng Yu Wang of Taipei, Taiwan; and Senior Salvador Espinosa Valdéz of Monterrey, Mexico

Rio Grande Valley Skills Competition

The MMA Drill Team beat out 17 other teams and won first place in Exhibition Drill at the Rio Grande Valley Skills Competition on Feb. 16 in Laredo, Texas.

The cadets who competed in the event were: Sophomore **Niko Bakanec** of Salem, Wis.; Freshman **Lorenzo Casso** of Baton Rouge, La.; Junior **Dylan Che** of Sugar Land, Texas; Senior **Henry Frost** of Dallas; Senior **Nicholas Hamblin** of San Antonio (captain); Junior **Adam Hatfield** of Smithville, Texas; Sophomore **William Martin** of Houston; Freshman **Bailey Ragsdale** of Tahlequah, Okla.; Freshman **Miguel A. Salinas** of Brownsville, Texas; Sophomore **Bailey Wilhelm** of Broken Arrow, Okla.; and Junior **Chase Williams** of Austin, Texas.

The team is led by MSgt Robert Fracasso.

(Left to right) Junior Adam Hatfield of Smithville, Texas; Junior Dylan Che of Sugar Land, Texas; Junior Chase Williams of Austin, Texas; Freshman Lorenzo Casso of Baton Rouge, La.; Sophomore Bailey Wilhelm of Broken Arrow, Okla.; Senior Nicholas Hamblin of San Antonio (captain); Sophomore Niko Bakanec of Salem, Wis.; Freshman Bailey Ragsdale of Tahlequah, Okla.; Freshman Miguel Salinas of Brownsville, Texas; and Sophomore William Martin of Houston. Not pictured: Senior Henry Frost of Dallas

Recognition

Eagle Scout Project

Sophomore **Clayton Rhodes** of Natchitoches, La., completed his Eagle Scout service project on March 23 — his birthday!

Thanks to Rhodes and his team, the Harlingen Humane Society now has a new outdoor patio valued at approximately $2,500. In addition to the brick pavers the Boy Scouts laid, they also built three pieces of wood patio furniture: a backrest bench, a straight bench and a square table. The patio area will be utilized during the pet adoption process. Staff and volunteers will also be able to use the area for breaks.

SgtMaj David Miller, the facilities director for MMA, provided the team with expert guidance during the cutting and installing of the pavers.

Sophomore Clayton Rhodes of Natchitoches, La., lays down the final paver for his patio construction project.

Volunteer Luncheon

The Iwo Jima Museum & Gift Shop held its 26th Anniversary Volunteer Luncheon on March 28. At the event, MMA honored 20 volunteers for their vital role in promoting and sustaining MMA's historic Iwo Jima Monument and World War II Museum. MMA presents the annual Volunteer of the Year award at this recognition. Linda Huffman of Harlingen/Topeka, Kansas, and Teona Henry of Weslaco, Texas, received this honor for the 2013 year.

(Left to right) Linda Huffman and Teona Henry

(Left to right) Sitting: Cruz Galvan, Assistant Director Gracie Galarza, Teona Henry, Caroline Macmanus, Director Gloria Boling, Amy Van Deest, Brent Greer Crow, Barbara Bagley, Hilda King and Virginia Hill. Standing: Rick Gartley, Joe Kight, Max Henry, Garry Betts, Gerald Macmanus, Tom Laney, Bob Bloedorn, Don Van Deest, Larry Crow, Neil Bagley, Tom King, Jodie Hill and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill

Cadet of the Month - February

Alfred Nicolosi of Mt. Laurel, N.J. - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 8, Activity: Football
Future educational goals: Earn a master's degree from Drexel University
Career goals: Become a professional football player or a mixed martial arts athlete

Kevin Schiefelbein of Rio Grande City, Texas - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 8, Activity: Band
Future educational goals: Attend Texas A&M University and be in the Corps of Cadets
Career goals: Work in the agricultural field

Sebastián Díaz Galván of Mexico City - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal
Grade: 10, Activity: Weightlifting
Future educational goals: Graduate from a college in Mexico
Career goals: Own a business

Luis Bravo Zorrilla of Nuacalpan, Mexico - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Sergeant
Grade: 11, Activity: Jiu Jitsu
Future educational goals: Go to college and study business
Career goals: Become a politician in Mexico

Brandon Van Patten of Mountain House, Calif. - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Staff Sergeant
Grade: 11; Activity: Jiu Jitsu
Future educational goals: Attend college and study criminal justic or business
Career goals: Be an officer in the Marine Corps or a police SWAT officer

Nicholas Hamblin of San Antonio - Drill Team

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant
Grade: 12; Activity: Drill Team
Future educational goals: Attend The Citadel
Career goals: Become a Marine Corps officer

Nicholas Beall of Austin, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Alpha, Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 9; Activity: Band
Future educational goals: Attend Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Career goals: Most likely become an officer in the Marine Corps

Cadet of the Month - March

Yang Yi Wu of Yorba Linda, Calif. - Alpha Company

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal
Grade: 9, Activity: Football
Future educational goals: Attend Texas A&M University
Career goals: To be a scientist

Chace Andrea of Spring, Texas - Delta Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 11, Activity: Color Guard
Future educational goals: Attend Texas A&M University
Career goals: Become an anthropologist

James Shores of Fisher, Ind. - Echo Company

Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 9, Activity: Weightlifting
Future educational goals: To graduate from college
Career goals: To be a Marine

Nathan Logan of Magnolia, Texas - Fox Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal
Grade: 10, Activity: Baseball
Future educational goals: Attend Texas A&M University
Career goals: Work as an aerospace engineer

Joshua Talley of McAllen, Texas - Golf Company

Rank: Cadet Corporal
Grade: 10, Activity: Baseball
Future educational goals: Go to college; major in criminal justice and minor in civil law
Career goals: Enlist in the Marine Corps and then federal law enforcement

Chase Williams of Austin, Texas - Drill Team

Company: Fox, Rank: Cadet Gunny Sergeant
Grade: 11, Activity: Drill Team
Future educational goals: Attend Texas A&M University
Career goals: Become a Marine Corps officer

Taylor Adamson of Austin, Texas - Leatherneck Band

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Private First Class
Grade: 11, Activity: Band
Future educational goals: Study engineering and computer science at Oxford University
Career goals: Work in the engineering field

Col James O'Mara

Former Superintendent Col James Raymond O'Mara, USMC (Ret), passed away on March 10 at the age of 89. Col O'Mara led MMA from 1985 to 1987.

Col O'Mara was born on July 22, 1923. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1941 and retired in 1975. Col O'Mara was a professor of naval science at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque prior to his retirement.

Col O'Mara joined MMA in 1976 and held the following positions: chief of staff, commandant of cadets, deputy superintendent, acting superintendent, and finally, superintendent.

This Marine held a bachelor's degree from Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio, and a master's degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

Col O'Mara is survived by his wife, Martha O'Mara; his two children, Cheryl and Jim O'Mara; and other family members.

Col James O'Mara
1923-2013

Farewell

Jacqueline Palamara

MMA English teacher Jacqueline Patricia Ann Smith Palamara passed away on Feb. 14 at the age of 63. Mrs. Palamara was a strong and dedicated English teacher for nearly 30 years, four of those at MMA. She was well respected by her students and colleagues, and she was diligent about the education and well-being of her students.

Jacqueline Palamara
1949-2013

Mrs. Palamara was born on October 19, 1949 in Astoria, N.Y. She graduated from St. Agnes High School in College Point, N.Y., in 1967 and earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in reading from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor in Belton, Texas.

She began her career in Central Texas, where she taught a total of nine years at the Copperas Cove and Killeen school districts. She moved to South Texas with her spouse in 1993 and became a resident of Harlingen.

Mrs. Palamara worked at South Texas Independent School District for 16.5 years. She taught English at South Texas Business, Education & Technology Academy in Edinburg for five of those years and was voted Teacher of the Year twice. This lifelong educator received many teaching honors and awards, and even held the prestigious Master Teacher Certification.

When Mrs. Palamara joined MMA, she taught upperclassman English classes as well as reading. Her mission was to develop her students to read and write at the college level.

When Mrs. Palamara noticed that a significant number of incoming eighth and ninth-graders were reading below their grade level, she launched the Fast ForWord Reading program in September 2012. Under her direct supervision, the cadets — both domestic and international — quickly improved their reading competency using the computer-based tool.

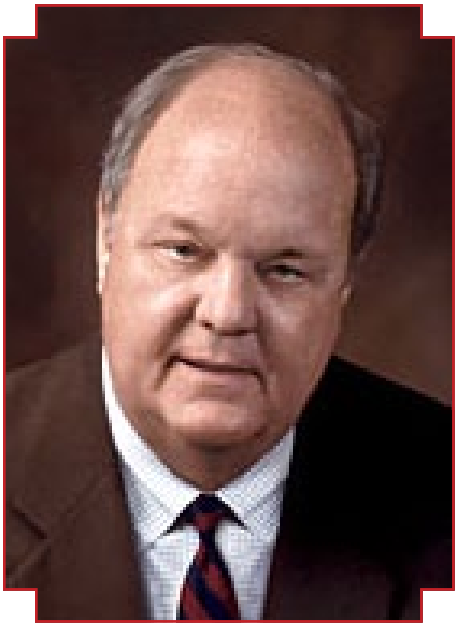
Mrs. Palamara was also not only passionate about her profession, she was passionate about life. In her free time, she enjoyed horseback riding, scuba diving, traveling, reading, scrapbooking and yoga.

Mrs. Palamara, or "Jackie" to those who knew her, is survived by her husband of 43 years, Joseph Palamara; her mother, Dorothy T. Smith; her sisters: Monica Storms, Jocelyn Lugo, Deirdre Vaughan and Christina Trammel; her son and daughter-in-law, Marcus and Angelica Palamara; and her five grandaughters: Toni, Ashley, Laura, Nicole and Victoria Palamara. She is also survived by brothers-in-law, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and many other family members.

Farewell

Paul McIlhenny

Paul Carr Polk McIlhenny, a member of the MMA Board of Advisors, passed away on Feb. 23 at the age of 68. Mr. McIllhenny was the chief executive officer, chairman of the board and director of McIlhenny Company, maker of TABASCO® brand Original Red Sauce.



Paul McIlhenny
1944-2013

This Marine and pepper sauce mogul joined the MMA Board of Trustees in 1984. Mr. McIlhenny moved to the Board of Advisors in 1991.

A fourth-generation member to produce TABASCO® brand Original Red Sauce, Mr. McIlhenny directly oversaw the production and quality of all products sold under the TABASCO® brand for 13 years. He was the great-grandson of Edmund McIlhenny, who invented TABASCO® sauce after the Civil War.

During his tenure, McIlhenny Company experienced many years of record growth in sales and earnings, marked by the introduction of multiple new products and flavors, including TABASCO® brand Chipotle Pepper Sauce, TABASCO® brand SWEET & Spicy Pepper Sauce and TABASCO® brand Buffalo Style Hot Sauce.

Born on March 19, 1944, Mr. McIlhenny attended Metairie Park Country Day School in Louisiana, the Woodberry Forest School in Virginia and the University of the South in Sewanee, Tenn. He served stateside as an artillerist in the United States Marine Corps Reserve. He joined the family business in 1967 and led the company in 2000.

Mr. McIlhenny took a deep interest in the evolution of the American palate and led 145-year-old McIlhenny Company to consistently respond to the culinary and flavor trends that shape the way America eats.

He also led an expansion of the brand's merchandising, licensing partnerships and product offerings to include numerous products co-branded with the TABASCO® brand name. This includes a thriving catalogue business in licensed merchandise, such as the popular TABASCO® neckties.

Mr. McIlhenny continued to expand the distribution of TABASCO® brand products globally to more than 165 countries and territories where they »» are sold today. He also co-authored The 125th Anniversary TABASCO® Cookbook, which was first published in 1993.

In 2006, Mr. McIlhenny reigned as Rex, the first King of Carnival for Mardi Gras after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. He served as an example of the resilience and determination of the city of New Orleans.

He was inducted into the James Beard Foundation's Who's Who of Food & Beverage in 2010. He was also a member of the Boston Club of New Orleans, the Bayou Club of Vermilion Parish and the Chevaliers de Tastevin.

As an active and concerned member of the community and environment, Mr. McIlhenny served on the board of the America's WETLAND Foundation, and worked diligently to preserve Louisiana's coastal wetlands. He also served as president and director of Bayou Corporation (Bayou Club).

Mr. McIlhenny's other passions included wing shooting, red fishing, wine tasting and game cooking.

He is survived by his wife, Judith Goodwin McIlhenny; two daughters, Barbara McIlhenny Fitz-Hugh of New Orleans and Rosemary McIlhenny Dinkins of Nashville, Tenn.; a brother, Gustaf McIlhenny; a sister, Sara McIlhenny Ringle; and four grandchildren.

Alumni Affairs

MGySgt Henrik Iversen

Alumnus MGySgt Henrik Iversen, Class of 1981, retired from the U.S. Marine Corps on Feb. 1 after serving 29 years. Held at the Marine Corps Base in Quantico, Va., the ceremony was officiated by Col Patrick Redmon, also from the MMA Class of 1981. MGySgt not only received his certificate of retirement, but the Legion of Merit medal.

In attendance of the ceremony were his wife Tammi, his son James and his daughter Amanda. Also present were his older brother Michael and his younger brothers: Christian, Class of 1984, and Robert, 1983-85.

MGySgt Iversen is originally from Denmark, but his family moved to Harlingen when he was a young boy. After graduating from MMA, he earned his associate degree from Texas State Technical College in Harlingen and then enlisted in the Marine Corps. He currently resides in Dumfries, Va.

MGySgt Henrik Iversen
Class of 1981

College Corner

Financial Aid Myths by Jennifer Caballero

If your senior hasn't already filled out his financial aid forms, now's the time to do it! The deadline is right around the corner: Friday, May 3!

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) needs to be filed for all scholarship, loan and work-study programs. The College Scholarship Service (CSS)/Financial Aid Profile may also need to be filed for some private colleges. You may access the FAFSA and CSS/Financial Aid Profile forms on the following websites: fafsa.ed.gov or collegeboard.com.

Applying for financial aid is absolutely free, so there's no nothing to lose. For those who think it's not worth the time, take a moment to read this article by Jennifer Gross and get the straight facts.

Focus on Financial Aid: Myths and Misconceptions

The financial aid process has given rise to a number of myths, misconceptions, and just plain misinformation. You might hear one or many of the following statements. Don't get taken in.

"I have too much money to get aid."

So your parents (or you) have good jobs, a nice house, and even a car you're not ashamed to be seen in. You figure that only people who struggle to pay for food will qualify for aid, but it's just not true.

"The only way to know if you qualify for aid is to complete the applications," says Ann Hendrick, director of financial aid at Millsaps College.

Whether you qualify for aid depends on two things: how much your family is able to pay and how much your chosen college(s) cost.

The amount of money that your family can afford to pay is determined by the FAFSA. After you submit the FAFSA, you will receive a report telling you what your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) should be. Colleges may adjust that a little, depending on their own methods, but the EFC is the amount of money the colleges figure you can pay toward this year's tuition. College can cost anywhere from a few thousand a year at a community college to upwards of $50,000 to $60,000 at a private college.

The magic number in financial aid, then, is the EFC — and the only way to determine your EFC is to apply for aid.

"Only straight-A students get aid."

Sure, the academic (or athletic, or music, or leadership) stars may have a

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College Corner

Continued from Page 14

better chance of getting merit scholarships, but most financial aid — and all government aid — is need-based. It is given to students because they need it to pay for college, no matter what their grades are.

"As long as you make satisfactory academic process, you're going to be as eligible for federal student aid as somebody who's on the dean's list," says Bill Ryan, acting director of Student Aid Awareness, Student Financial Assistance (part of the U.S. Department of Education).

"Loans are not financial aid."

Many students expect all financial aid to be "free money," but neither the government or colleges have enough money to give to the number of students that need it. That's why most financial aid packages are a mixture of grants (that don't need to be paid back) and loans (that do). Even if all you get is a government-subsidized loan, you have received financial aid. Unlike a regular bank loan, subsidized student loans allow the borrower (you) to wait until after college to pay it back.

Loans do bring some risk. You're agreeing to (usually) 10 years of monthly payments once you graduate college. It's a good idea to minimize the loan amounts, if possible. Just because you're offered a loan doesn't mean that you have to take it. You may be able to earn more at a summer job or perhaps spend less at school than the financial aid office estimates.

"If you have to borrow money to pay for required educational expenses, that's borrowing with good sense," says Jim Craig, director of financial aid at Montana State University at Bozeman. "If you're borrowing money to support a lifestyle, that's not good borrowing."

"There's a lot of temptation for students to borrow to keep up with friends or roommates," says Judith Lewis Logue, director of financial aid services at the University of San Diego. Resisting that temptation means you'll be in a better financial position later.

"I can do it at the last minute."

Deadlines are very important in the financial aid process. Of course, you can send your FAFSA in the day before a college's last deadline, but college financial aid goes fast, especially the grants. The earlier you can get in your application and all of the documentation that the college asks for, the sooner you'll receive your financial aid package.

Pay attention to each college's "priority" deadlines — and stick to them.

Jennifer Caballero is the new College Placement Officer at MMA.

Alumni Affairs

Thanks to Mr. Thacker & Maj Sousa

E-mailed to Jada Thacker on Jan. 30, 2013

Not sure if you remember me but I'm Jonathan Jones, Class of 2011, and now a sophomore at the Gallatin School of Individualized Study at NYU where I am studying Public Policy, Politics, and Sociology.

I can't thank you enough for all you taught me in your AP U. S. History class. In fact, just now for my Intro to Public Policy Management class I encountered a reference to Frederick Winslow Taylor, who you happened to mention in a class discussion.

All in all, I am writing you to thank you for your and Major Sousa's excellent teaching methods and all that you have done to prepare me for college. I can only hope that the students who you are teaching now recognize the knowledge you bring to the table and how much that class really mirrors a college environment.

Having said all this, I think it worthwhile that you might introduce them to some discussion on the Elitism within the United States and the role elites play in public policy making.

Thanks again,

Jonathan Jones, Class of 2011

Important Dates

- **May 3:** Deadline for Financial Aid application
- **May 4:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **May 18 & 20-22:** Second Semester Exams
- **May 24:** Eagle Scout Ceremony, 10 a.m.
- **May 24:** Spring Awards, 1:30 p.m.
- **May 25:** Graduation Parade & Awards, 9 a.m.
- **May 25:** Graduation, 11 a.m.
- **June 1:** Re-enrollment contracts due
- **June 25:** Summer Camp (SC) instructors report by 6 p.m.
- **June 29:** SC registration, 8 a.m. to noon
- **July 26:** SC Field Meet
- **July 27:** SC graduation
- **Aug. 11**: Football Camp
- **Aug. 17**: Registration/check-in for plebes, 8 a.m. to noon

Aug. 18: Check-in for returning cadets

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Recent Correspondence

MMA: The Right Choice

E-mailed to SgtMaj Al Wilson on Feb. 7, 2013

SgtMaj Wilson,

Thank you again for your hospitality during our visit last week to Harlingen, TX and the Marine Military Academy. I am so pleased that Phillip has been accepted.

As we discussed, Phillip and I also toured the Army Navy Academy in Carlsbad, CA. We left Carlsbad thinking that Army Navy would be a great fit. The location is very nice with beach front property. The school is building a new sports complex to be ready this fall. The weather is nicer than San Jose and it is possible to drive to the school instead of flying. The school offers a structured environment with extra support as needed for their students.

We flew to Texas and wondered what we were doing there. The humidity, wind and town felt very foreign to us upon our late night arrival. I think Phillip was very surprised when he first met you and you were already holding him accountable for his actions, past and present. But as we spent the time with you to understand the staff, the school, and the students' accomplishments, I came to realize that Marine Military Academy was the better school. I think it is also the more challenging school. I am impressed that Phillip also recognizes that MMA is the better school. (Actually he said he wished MMA was in California.) I believe that the Marine Military Academy will give Phillip the structure, community, and impressive authority figures he needs to be successful.

Again, if it was not for your thoughtful and thorough tour of the school, we would not have come to understand what MMA has to offer. I am so glad that we discovered your school and took a chance by travelling to Texas. Phillip has also been accepted in Army Navy but we will be choosing MMA. We are both hopeful and excited for the fall semester.

Best regards, Nora Seaman

Institutional Advancement

Recent Donations

In Memory

- JoAnn Daugherty
- Pete Gilbert
- John F. Goodman
- Arden R. Grover
- Donald R. "Babe" Hees
- Paul C. McIlhenny
- Jacqueline S. Palamara
- Matthew Gregory "Matt" Thornton
- Myrtle Means
- Lloyd E. Pratt, Jr.
- Milton P. Staudt
- James O'Mara

In Honor

- Brent J. Beverly
- Landon A. Rudolph