MMA LEADER

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

Volume 28, Issue 1 | **Dedicated to Our Cadets – Leaders of Tomorrow** | June/July 2014

Special Events

Summer Camp Parade & Graduation

MMA graduated 334 young men at the MMA Summer Camp Parade and Graduation Ceremony July 26. More than 800 people came to Harlingen to watch the campers graduate from their four-week journey.

That morning, the campers all marched in the parade as parents, siblings and other family members proudly watched from the stands.

Following the parade, the campers lined up in front of the barracks for the graduation ceremony. The campers all received a certificate of achievement from their drill instructor. Every drill instructor then announced the recipient of the Honor Man Award and Most Improved Award for each platoon.

When it was all over, the campers exchanged bittersweet hugs and goodbyes and then departed for home. This year, the campers came

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Platoon 701 comes to parade rest.

Nicholas Kuhlmann of Fountain Hills, Ariz., (top) and Adetola Salako of Lagos, Nigeria, lead Platoon 101 and Platoon 601, respectively, in the parade pass in review.

Special Events

Summer Camp Parade & Graduation

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from 17 countries around the world and 33 states across the nation. Forty-three campers who were distinguished at the parade with scarlet hats returned to MMA just three weeks later as cadets for the 2014-15 school year.

To see the photo gallery of this and other MMA Summer Camp events, visit Flickr.com/Photos/MMAHarlingen.

Platoons 101 and 102 line up for the graduation ceremony.

Dutch Gary of Winslow, Ariz., shakes the hand of a cadet instructor at the Platoon 701 and 801 graduation ceremony.

With everything in hand, Eli Oliver of Spicewood, Texas, heads on home.

Colin Love of Chardon, Ohio, proudly holds up his certificate of completion.

Drill Instructor SgtMaj Larry Carson recognizes Lorenzo Lozano of San Antonio for graduating from summer camp for the fifth year in a row.

Platoons 501 and 601 "drop and give 20" at the end of the graduation ceremony.

Recent Events

Registration Day

On June 28, more than 300 young men from all corners of the globe checked in for MMA Summer Camp. Traffic was high in Peacher Hall as parents, siblings, grandparents and friends dropped off the campers and wished them well.

After saying goodbye to their families, the campers were guided by cadet instructors through in-processing. In approximately one hour, the campers received a headshaving, collected their uniforms and gear, and settled into their rooms.

Cadet Instructor Giovanni Betti Hernández welcomes camper Aldo Ortega Sánchez of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Carrying a load almost his own size, Juventino Arguelles of Bartlett, Texas, makes his way to the barracks.

Josiah Davis of Naperville, Ill., (left) and Justin Dodds of The Woodlands, Texas, clutch each other before the headshaving.

Grant Tarbox Jr. of Fort Worth, Texas, cleverly sends a message via photo.

Registration Day

After check-in, all summer campers must stop by the MMA barber shop to get the perfect summer hairstyle: a buzz cut! The headshaving is a right of passage at MMA, symbolizing a new start. Below are just a few of the campers who were caught in the barber's chair June 28.

Joseph Patterson IV of Mission, Texas

Zakary Sparks of Houston

Zhengze Yang of Shanghai, China

Charlie Zhang of Newport Beach, Calif.

Recent Events

Field Meet

MMA Summer Camp held its annual Field Meet July 25, and the stands at Bowman Stadium were packed with parents, siblings and other relatives eager to see the campers for the first time in four weeks.

During the Field Meet, the platoons from each of the six companies competed in four events: 100-Yard Sprint, Tug of War, Paul Revere and Dizzy Izzy. The campers not only demonstrated their improved strength and endurance during the games, they demonstrated exemplary teamwork and sportmanship.

After the Field Meet, the families were able to spend time with their campers. The Field Meet is the final activity of summer camp, taking placing the day before graduation.

Family members cheer on the campers at the Field Meet.

A camper completes his spins around the bat during Dizzy Izzy.

Holden Murphy of Boerne, Texas, holds his little brother for the first time in four weeks after the Field Meet.

Max García Márquez of General Escobedo, Mexico, pounds the pavement during the 100-Yard Sprint.

Dawson Pate of Richmond, Texas, (top) and Michael Gale of Keller, Texas, race as one in the Paul Revere.

ESL 1 pulls together during the tug of war.

Recent Events

Iron Man

On July 20, Platoon 201 won this year's Iron Man competition with a finish time of 47 minutes and 26 seconds.

This annual event requires 24 campers from each platoon to participate. The whole campus is utilized during Iron Man and the race starts and ends at Bowman Stadium.

Held in two rounds, the platoon teams must complete the following series of events: Initial Run, Low Crawl, Fireman's Carry, Rifle Range, Run to Obstacle Course, Obstacle Course, Confidence Course, Run to Paintball Course, Paintball, Mud Course, Swim and Final Run.

All of the platoons successfully finished the grueling Iron Man in under 70 minutes, a strong testament to ability and stamina of the campers.

Listed are the times for each platoon:

- Platoon 201 (Alpha): 0:47:26
- Platoon 101 (Alpha): 0:48:41
- Platoon 301 (Delta): 0:48:55
- Platoon ESL: 0:51:47
- Platoon 401 (Delta): 0:53:59
- Platoon 501 (Echo): 0:54:50
- Platoon 601 (Echo): 0:54:53
- Platoon 701 (Fox): 0:57:06
- Platoon 801 (Fox): 1:03:16
- Platoon 1001 (Golf): 1:09:04
- Platoon 901 (Golf): 1:09:53

Cade Johnson of New Braunfels, Texas, splashes his way through the Mud Course.

Felipe Florez Zambrano of San Jose del Cabo, Mexico, rapidly cuts the water during the Swim.

Lorenzo Lozano of San Antonio gets ready to fire during Paintball.

Gavin Workman of Tomball, Texas, pumps hard during the Initial Run.

Dylan Haim of Woodland Hills, Calif., walks across a utility pole in the Confidence Course.

Recent Events

ESL Projects

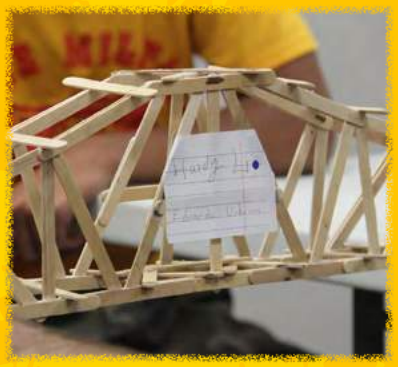
The English as a Second Language (ESL) campers completed two creative projects during their last two weeks of summer camp.

The projects require the ESL campers to read and follow English-only instructions. This year, the ESL campers assembled a model bridge, paper kite and model rocket. They stepped out of the classroom on two separate days to fly their kites and launch their rockets.

The ESL Summer Camp program incorporates a great deal of applied learning. ESL campers not only take 120 hours of English in the classroom, but they practice their new languague skills during their afternoon and weekend activities, particularly during the team challenges.

This year, the ESL campers were of Chinese, Mexican, Russian and Vietnamese descent.

Christopher Cavazos Salazar of Santiago, Mexico, listens intently to the model bridge instructions given in English.



A camper from China and a camper from Mexico teamed up to construct a strong model bridge.

Yingshuo Li of Beijing sees how well the model bridge he and his partner constructed can stay together as more weight is applied.

An ESL Camper proudly shows off the kite he made.

King Li of Shenzhen, China, (left) and Eduardo Urbina Pena of Victoria, Mexico, hold up the rocket they built.

Two ESL campers prepare to launch the rocket they made.

Nikolai Titovetc of Schaumburg, Ill., tests out his paper aircraft.

Recent Events

Drill Competition

The platoons of each company competed against one other in the Drill Competition July 25. At this annual event, held the day before graduation, the platoons are evaluated on their marching ability. The campers of the winning platoons receive a special pin that they wear on their uniform the day of graduation. All campers participate in this march-off and are reviewed by Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley.

Platoon 201 marches according to drill instruction.

Charlie Zhang of Newport Beach, Calif., gets a little excited after learning his platoon won the competition.

Boxing Smokers

MMA held its annual Boxing Smokers July 11. The annual event allows campers to bout with those from other platoons in the same weight division for one or two rounds.

This popular tournament allows the boys to express their team spirit and demonstrate sportsmanship. Basic boxing teaches them how to focus and counteract mentally and physically.

Two campers battle it out in the ring.

Zachary Pate of Richmond, Texas, (left) and Dylan Haim of Woodland Hills, Calif., show mutual respect before the fight.

Antonio Alaniz of Allen, Texas, stops for a quick pose after winning the Light Flyweight division.

Alaska Road Trip

Board Trustee Dr. Bruce Heilman set off on another road trip across America on his Harley-Davidson motorcycle. His destination? Alaska!

On June 8, the 87-year-old (now 88) embarked on his journey from Richmond, Va. Just two weeks and 5,100 miles later, Dr. Heilman arrived safely in Fairbanks, Alaska.

This Marine and World War II veteran has how now ridden through 49 states since the age of 83. In April 2013, Dr. Heilman took a cross-country trip through 17 mainland states.

When he is not riding, Dr. Heilman is working. He is the former president of the University of Richmond and now serves as chancellor.

Dr. Heilman still has one more future road trip that he must take. His destination? Hawaii!

Board Trustee Dr. Bruce Heilman takes a photo of himself when he reaches Alaska.

Recent Events

Camp Perry

All of the platoons took a field trip to Camp Perry, the local Boys Scouts camp, the third week of July. At Camp Perry, all campers engage in archery and swimming on the 260-acre site and canoeing on the Arroyo Colorado river. The campers spend an entire afternoon at Camp Perry and return to MMA in time for supper.

A camper aims for the target during archery.

Michael Porter of Austin, Texas, (left) and Canyon Schwartz of Houston prepare to canoe — Siamese twin style!

Photo Messages

Thanks to social media, some campers were able to communicate with their parents via photo. The last week of camp, MMA's photographer asked campers to write messages back home. After taking the snapshots, she uploaded them to Facebook where parents could see their sons and read their messages. MMA regularly uses several social media platforms to strengthen communication with parents and other school patrons.

Mitchell Mayers of East Lansing, Mich., is grateful for his summer camp experience.

Wei Hu Fang of Beijing wouldn't mind staying at summer camp a little longer.

Recent Events

Murphy Family

(Left to right) LtCol James Murphy, USAF (Ret), Lil' Brother Murphy, Holden Murphy of Boerne, Texas, and Ryan Murphy, Class of 1997, stand before the MMA Wall of Honor in Peacher Hall.

Ryan Murphy, Class of 1997, returned to his alma mater July 26 to watch his son Holden Murphy of Boerne, Texas, graduate from MMA Summer Camp. LtCol James Murphy, USAF (Ret), Ryan's father and Holden's grandfather, also attended the graduation.

Before the family headed home, the son, father and grandfather stopped by Peacher Hall to see the MMA Wall of Honor. The MMA Wall of Honor lists the cadets who served their country in the armed forces. It was given to MMA April 15, 2005, by the family of LtCol Murphy.

AirVenture 2014

For the first time, three MMA aersopace cadets and two administrators attended AirVenture 2014 in Oshkosh, Wis., July 27 to Aug. 2.

AirVenture is an annual gathering for aviation enthusiasts. Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill, recruiter SgtMaj James Poe, junior **Lorenzo Casso** of Baton Rouge, La., junior **Brooks Dickerson** of Golden, Colo., and sophomore **Kevin Schiefelbein** of Rio Grande City, Texas, promoted MMA's aerospace program and its flight instruction partner Redbird Skyport.

MMA has been graduating young pilots since the 1970s.

Junior Brooks Dickerson of Golden, Colo., gets the opportunity to meet famous aviator Robert "Bob" Hoover.

Junior Lorenzo Cass of Baton Rouge, La., (left) and sophomore Kevin Schiefelbein of Rio Grande City, Texas, stand by to answer questions from event-goers.

Yeckel Family

Former Board Trustee Carl Yeckel watched his grandson Bryghte Johnson of Dallas graduate from MMA Summer Camp July 26. Before leaving MMA, Mr. Yeckel and his family visited Col Philip J. Yeckel Memorial Hall, the auditorium named after his father.

Inside Yeckel Hall are four display cases that hold the memorabilia of Col Philip J. Yeckel. Mr. Yeckel donated another item to his father's display in mid-July, a F4U Corsair model, an American fighter aircraft used in World War II and the Korean War.

Former Board Trustee Carl Yeckel stands with his grandson Bryghte Johnson of Dallas in the Yeckel Hall auditorium.

A model of the F4U Corsair is now on display in the Yeckel Hall lobby.

Recognition

Honor Man & Most Improved Awards

Twenty-four campers were recognized for their distinguished achievement at the MMA Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony July 26. Given to a camper from each platon, the Honor Man award is presented to the young man who consistently exemplified the Marine Corps qualities and values. The Most Improved award goes to the individual who showed the most significant physical and mental growth during the four weeks of camp.

Platoon 101 (Alpha)

Honor Man
Nicholas Kuhlmann
Fountain Hills, Ariz.

Most Improved
Samuel Putnam
Austin, Texas

Platoon 201 (Alpha)

Honor Man
Kurt Pokopac
Moreland Hills, Ohio

Most Improved
Chad Calhoun
Long Valley, N.J.

Platoon 301 (Delta)

Honor Man
Lorenzo Lozano
San Antonio

Most Improved
Addison Beale
Katy, Texas

Platoon 401 (Delta)

Honor Man
Christopher Saroza
Lawrenceville, Ga.

Most Improved
Nicholas Lew
Arcadia, Calif.

Platoon 501 (Echo)

Honor Man
Thomas Fiedor
Boca Raton, Fla.

Most Improved
Edgar Burton
Houston

Platoon 601 (Echo)

Honor Man
Adetola Salako
Lagos, Nigeria

Most Improved
Andrew Reynolds
Corona, Calif.

Platoon 701 (Fox)

Honor Man
Marco Chang Ceasar Cato,
Belize

Most Improved
Damien Walker
Philadelphia

Platoon 801 (Fox)

Honor Man
Jonathan Carlsson
Catham, N.J.

Most Improved
Moyosore Oyebode
Victoria Island, Nigeria

Platoon 901 (Golf)

Honor Man
Jase Gallaher
Cordova, Tenn.

Most Improved
Wei Hu Fang
Beijing

Platoon 1001 (Golf)

Honor Man
Adebowale Salako
Lagos, Nigeria

Most Improved
Kameron Maxie
Kenai, Alaska

Platoon ESL 1 (Charlie)

Honor Man
Omar Wong Espinosa
Aguascalientes, Mexico

Most Improved
Tung Pham
Hanoi, Vietnam

Platoon ESL 2 (Charlie)

Honor Man
Max García Márquez
General Escobedo, Mexico

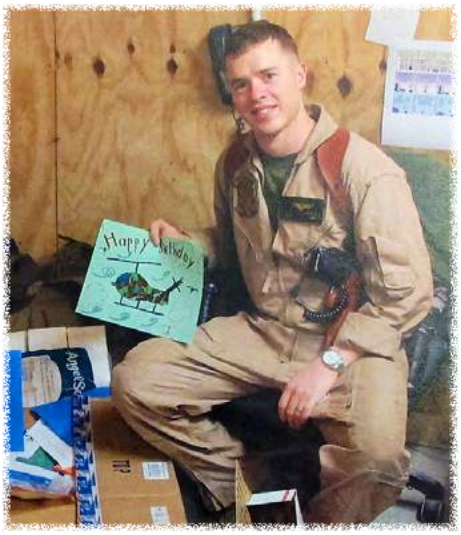
Most Improved
Yijing Huang
Shanghai, China

Alumni Affairs

Jared Spencer

Capt Jared Spencer, Class of 2003, is a member of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 466 (the "Wolfpack") and is currently serving in Afghanistan.

In the spring, Capt Spencer and his squad received care packages from Ms. Smith's third-grade class from New Orleans. Like a true gentleman, he sent back a letter thanking the class for the supplies and support. Capt Spencer also took the time to answer several questions submitted by the students. The class even received photos from him as well as an American flag that was flown aboard a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.



Capt Jared Spencer, Class of 2003, holds up the birthday card he received in a care package.

A New Orleans native, Capt Spencer graduated from MMA as the company commander of Delta and as an Eagle Scout, who constructed a bridge to the MMA Back 40 for his community service project. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2007 and was commissioned to the Marine Corps as a second lieutenant.

López Family

When Bruno López Álvarez graduated from MMA May 24, a few proud alumni from Mexico City came to see him: father Fernando López Machinena, 1975-76; brother Ignacio López Sfara, 1999-2002; and brother Juan López Álvarez, Class of 2009. Bruno's brother Daniel will graduate in May 2015.

(Left to right) Ignacio López Sfara, 1999-2002; Bruno López Álvarez, Class of 2014; Fernando López Machinena, 1975-76; senior Daniel López Álvarez of Mexico City; and Juan López Álvarez, Class of 2009.

Class of 1969 Reunion

The Class of 1969 gathered Nov. 8-11, 2013 in — where else? — Las Vegas! Several classmates and friends attended and shared a fun weekend. The Class of 1969 tries to reunite annually. To learn when the "brothers" will gather again, email Harold Zurlo, Class of 1969, at zurlohj@yahoo.com.

(Left to right) Calvin Horvath, Class of 1969; Harold Zurlo, Class of 1969; CWO-4 Dannie Miller, USMC (Ret), Class of 1971; and Theodore Mayer III, Class of 1969.

Capt Gary Memorial Pavers

MMA will unveil a bust of MMA's recently departed founding father Capt William "Bill" Gary in April 2015. The bust of Capt Gary will be surrounded by brick pavers of alumni. All alumni are encouraged to purchase a brick paver in honor of themselves and/or departed classmates. The cost is $250. To purchase one, contact LtCol Robert Grider at grider@MMA-TX.org or 956-421-9230.

Important Dates

- **Sept. 13**: MMA Parents Organization Meeting: 8:30 a.m.
- **Sept. 13**: Introductory Training Graduation: 10 a.m.
- **Oct. 8-10**: First Quarter Exams
- **Oct. 11**: SAT, 8 a.m.
- **Oct. 15**: PSAT, 8:45 a.m.
- **Oct. 25**: ACT, 8 a.m.
- **Oct. 30**: Parent's Weekend Reception, 7 p.m.
- **Oct. 31**: Parent's Day, 7:30 a.m.
- **Oct. 31**: 49th Anniversary Parade, 4 p.m.
- **Oct. 31**: Homecoming Game, 7:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 1**: 49th Birthday Ball Banquet, 5:30 p.m.
- **Nov. 1**: 49th Birthday Ball, 8 p.m.
- **Nov. 11**: Veterans Day Parade, 4 p.m.
- **Nov. 21**: Begin Thanksgiving Break (flight departure after 4 p.m.)
- **Nov. 30**: End Thanksgiving Break, return by 6 p.m.

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

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Parent's Corner

Bay Area MMA Family

On Aug. 3., MMA cadets and parents from the San Francisco Bay Area met for lunch at Johnny's Garlic Restaurant in Dublin, Calif., to set up a support system for each other.

Liz Nonato-De Jesus, former president of the MMA Parent's Organization (MMAPO), organized the luncheon. All parents are not just encouraged to join MMAPO but to form local or regional chapters.

To plan an MMA "family" gathering in your area, email perez@MMA-TX.org and president@MMAPO.com.

(Young men in front row, left to right) Brandon Van Patten, Class of 2014; senior Jack Thant of Fremont, Calif.; eighth-grader/plebe Joseph Marcelli of Brentwood, Calif.; and freshman/plebe Bert Davies of Palo Alto, Calif. Not pictured: Freshman Maxime Dowla of Castro Valley, Calif.

Institutional Advancement

Recent Donations

In Honor Of

- Jack H. Brouse VMF 422
- Class of 2014 – MMA
- Joseph Kight – MV / 90th Birthday
- Robert A. Lutz "Bob"

In Memory Of

- José Alfredo Águilar – MMA '81
- LtCol James B. Armstrong, USMCR (Ret)
- LtGen Ernest C. Cheatham, USMC (Ret)
- Mildred Mary Cizler
- ADM Jeremiah Denton, USN (Ret)
- Sgt David Fuller, USMC (Ret) – 9th Marines RVN
- Gregory Alan Grider "Greg"
- Gregorio G. Hernandez, Sr.
- Richard L. Hosea, Jr. "Dick"
- Dolly Howard
- Maj Orrin W. Johnson, USMCR (Ret)
- Betty L. Mackenzie
- Max Joseph Maimone – MMA '07
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Enrique Montfort – MMA '81
- Howard D. Rash
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA, ROK 1951