



# MMA LEADER

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

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## Special Events

### Leadership Forum

LtGen Dennis Hejlik, USMC (Ret), spoke to the Marine Military Academy Corps of Cadets at the Leadership Forum assembly Jan. 29.

LtGen Hejlik told the cadets that at age 19, he did not have any focus or discipline or direction. Joining the Marine Corps was the best thing that could have ever happened to him.

"It gave me the will to do something that was right. It gave me mental, physical and moral courage," he said.

LtGen Hejlik shared with the cadets that the first time he attended college his GPA was 1.17. After four years in the

Marine Corps, he returned to college — and his GPA shot up to 3.9!

"That's what structure and discipline can do for you," he said.

The general also told the young men to practice the Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment at all times. He reminded them that they will face peer pressure their entire lives, both at school and at work.

"It can be a good thing depending on how you handle it. It can push you to do the right thing," LtGen Hejlik said. "Do the right thing even when no one is looking."



LtGen Dennis Hejlik, USMC (Ret), accepts a gift from Battalion Commander Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas, and Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill.

### LtGen Dennis Hejlik

LtGen Dennis Hejlik, USMC (Ret), was the Commander of United States Marine Corps Forces Command; Commanding General of Fleet Marine Force Atlantic; Commander of United States Marine Corps Bases Atlantic; and Commander of United States Marine Corps Forces Europe. In his prior appointment, he was the first Commander of the United States Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command.

LtGen Hejlik's personal decorations include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal with Gold Star, Legion of Merit with Gold Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, Navy Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the Leftwich Award.

He retired in 2012 after a 44-year career in the Marine Corps.

LtGen Hejlik holds a bachelor's degree from Minnesota State University and is an honor graduate of The Basic School, the Amphibious Warfare School, the Command and Staff College and the Naval War College.

## Special Events

### Chosin Few Memorial Ceremony



The Chosin Few veterans rise for the parade pass in review.



Chosin Few veteran Albert Miller merrily accepts his bank of Tootsie Roll candy.



Senior Chukwuemeka Atuma of Abuja, Nigeria, proudly stands with Chosin Few veteran William Celis Jr.

Thirteen veterans of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir attended the Chosin Few Parade & Memorial Ceremony at Marine Military Academy Dec. 12. The 13 men traveled from across the country to reunite with some of their comrades 65 years later.

More than 150 people attended the parade to pay homage to these Korean War heroes. Thanks to Tootsie Roll Industries, all event-goers received a bank of Tootsie Roll candy.

Following the parade, the Chosin Few gathered at the MMA president's house for a reception. After a prayer by Chaplain Chris Elliott, Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill presented the 13 honorees with a giant bank of Tootsie Roll candy — the food they survived on back in 1950.

At the reception, Col Hill said, "It's been called the Korean Conflict. It's been called a police action. But everyone in this room knows it was a war."

Though the Battle of Chosin Reservoir was an epic military triumph, it remains a forgotten battle from a forgotten war. The Battle of Chosin Reservoir (Nov. 27 – Dec. 13, 1950) was one of the bloodiest

Korean War battles. It was also one of the coldest battles in history and often referred to as "Frozen Chosin."

It was during the coldest winter in 100 years in North Korea that 15,000 American fighters were surrounded by 120,000 Chinese and North Korean soldiers at Chosin Reservoir.

The men needed to break out of the encirclement, and their only "lifeline" was to walk down a steep and narrow mountain road they called the MSR, or main supply route. The MSR would lead the troops to the port of Hungnam, but they had to walk 78 miles in brutal, sub-zero temperatures to reach it. They also had to battle wave after wave of enemy soldiers as they made their way toward the sea.

Against seemingly impossible odds, most of the Allied troops reached the Hungnam port and managed to inflict crippling losses on the Chinese and North Korean forces. Their fighting spirit, courage and determination saved the lives of 98,000 civilian refugees.

The survivors of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir would later become known as the Chosin Few.



Thirteen Chosin Few veterans come together at MMA 65 years later.

## Recent Events

### Spring Registration

Marine Military Academy welcomed a new crop of promising boys at the Jan. 9 registration. Approximately 50 boys started their new year at a new school.

No matter which semester they begin, cadets must arrive at MMA at least a few days before classes begin in order to collect their uniform items, visit the tailor and barber, meet with the academic counselor or registrar and complete any other necessary tasks before the start of school.

New students or "plebes" must also use these days to grasp the new daily routine, learn how to make their beds and clean their rooms, find their classrooms and way around the MMA campus, and start absorbing the Marine Corps drill, terminology and customs.

Plebes must also spend their first four weekends on the MMA campus participating in introductory training, where they engage in drill, physical training and numerous outdoor activities and challenges.



Eighth-grader Tyler Ferrell of Houston receives a heartfelt good-bye from his father.



Sophomore Cristobal Hernández Marquez of Monterrey, Mexico, gets escorted to in-processing by senior Lorenzo Casso of Baton Rouge, La.



Sophomore Lin Xiang of Shanghai can't decide which makes him more nervous — the headshaving or drill instructor GySgt Frank Martinez!

## Headshaving

All new students or "plebes" receive a headshaving soon after they check in. The headshaving is a rite of passage for cadets. They lose their hair but gain new courage and confidence. Below are just a few of the plebes who were caught on camera Jan. 9.



Eighth-grader Ethan Fuhrman of Spicewood, Texas



Freshman Hiolong Hong of Shanghai



Sophomore Jonathan Laube of Richmond, Texas



Eighth-grader Hiram Vazquez Jr. of Laredo, Texas

## Christmas Party

Marine Military Academy held its annual Children's Christmas Party Dec. 11. MMA hosts the event each year to give presents to Harlingen-area children who are eligible for the Toys for Tots program. This year, 75 children attended and received a Christmas gift.

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

Each year, about 75 cadets volunteer for this event. This year, senior **Joshua Williams** of Dallas played Santa Claus.



Santa Claus charms his youngest patron of the night.

## Recent Events

### Pow Wow Weekend

Fifteen Boy Scouts from Marine Military Academy Troop 22 attended the 18th Annual Pow Wow Dec. 4-6.

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

The highlight of the weekend was the Pow Wow ceremony the evening of Dec. 5. Not only did the boys engage in a Native American ritual, they experienced the true unity of a tribe.



Eighth-grader Cameron Dawson of Killeen, Texas, (left) and senior Malcolm Rowe Jr. of South Port, Conn., learn to make straw mats.

### Naval Air Station

Twenty-six Marine Military Academy cadet leaders toured the Naval Air Station in Kingsville, Texas, Dec. 3. This nearby military airport is one of the U.S. Navy's premier locations for jet aviation

training. Each year, Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley takes cadets to the Naval Air Station to see the aircraft and learn more about the flight operations.



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

## Recent Events

### Boxing Tournament

The Marine Military Academy Boxing Tournament took place Jan. 23 in Peacher Hall. The sanctioned event was open to amateur boxers, both men and women, from ages eight to 40 from across the region.

Sophomore **José Salazar Medina** of Puebla, Mexico, fought at the competition at 168 pounds and beat his opponent.

This was the first boxing event for MMA to host in at least 25 years. Coordinated by assistant boxing coach Sgt John Elizondo, the tournament was dedicated to boxing coach and former drill instructor SgtMaj Fred Robertson.

SgtMaj Robertson, who has worked

at MMA since July 1987, will retire for the second time in his life at the end of the school year. He is known for making his boxers run three miles in laps before entering the ring.



Sophomore José Salazar Medina of Puebla, Mexico, holds up his trophy with boxing coaches Sgt John Elizondo (left) and SgtMaj Fred Robertson.

### Plebe Training

Marine Military Academy's newest mid-term students or "plebes" spent their first four weeks getting fitter, stronger and braver at the MMA Back 40. The

plebes participated in intense physical training as well as 20-plus obstacle events their first four weekends. All activities required the plebes to focus and work as a team. These young men will become official cadets Feb. 6.



Plebes get their heart rate up as they perform rapid step ups.



Freshman Connor Parker of Houston utilizes all his strength for the double pull-over bar.

## Giving

### Recent Donations

#### In Memory of

- Anna M. Baker
- Sergeant Chandler M. Beasley – former Marine
- Harlon Block
- CWO Roy E. Bristol, Jr., USMCR (Ret)
- Jack H. Brouse - VMF 422
- Edwin Dunn
- Aurora V. Garcia
- Steven R. Godfrey - MMA '08
- Adam W. Hall - MMA '98, USAF 1999-2003
- Ira Hayes
- Chris Heard - MMA '99
- Maj O. Kepler Johnson, Jr., USMC (Ret)
- Maj Orrin W. Johnson, USMCR (Ret)
- Gerard Alec Julien "Gerry" - MMA Cadet "E" Co.
- Joseph Virgil Kight, Jr.
- LtCol James Landers
- Howard Lombard "Lee" - MMA '76
- Armand Major (Served in the U.S. Air Force)
- The Marines Who Raised the Flag at Iwo Jima
- Capt Leo J. McDonald, CHC USN (Ret)
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)
- Austin P. Roberts
- Capt Robert J. Shirk, USMC
- Sgt Andy Stevens, USMC - KIA IRAQ 12/1/05
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA, ROK 1951
- Leticia Torres "Letty"
- Cdr Donald Marion Waymire, Sr., USN (Ret) "Don"

## Solo Flights

Two Marine Military Academy cadets passed their first solo flight Dec. 17. Junior **Luis Álvarez Quintana** of Monclova, Mexico, and junior **Grant Taylor** of Houston now sport their solo wings on their MMA uniforms.

Both are currently preparing for their private pilot's exam, which they expect to pass in April.



Junior Luis Álvarez Quintana of Monclova, Mexico, is ready and waiting for take-off.



Junior Grant Taylor of Houston feels good about his trip into the sky.

## Recognition

### Eagle Scout Project

Marine Military Academy senior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas, built and donated three custom pieces of office furniture to Blue Sunday, a Harlingen organization that serves abused and neglected children.

Newbury, a Life Scout, finished his leadership service project with the help

of his team as soon as he returned from holiday break. Newbury constructed and painted a computer desk and two hall tables, and he refinished the main office desk in the same color. He delivered and set up the pieces Jan. 16.

Newbury expects to achieve Eagle Scout rank in May.



Senior Jack Newbury of Richmond, Texas, stands in the office area he created for Blue Sunday.

### Battalion Competition

Alpha Company was the victor in the Marine Military Academy 2nd Quarter Battalion Competition Jan. 15. Alpha Company will carry the Golden Guidon for the third academic quarter and receive a Friday evening liberty. The winning company is evaluated on its overall performance during an academic quarter.

Alpha Company received the Academics and Military streamers while Delta Company took home the Athletics streamer. The winning company for the 3rd Quarter will be announced April 1.



Senior Zachary Alexander of Pflugerville, Texas, (left) and sophomore Tzu-Hsien Yang of Brownsville, Texas, proudly accept the Golden Guidon and streamers for Alpha Company.

## Recognition

### BSA Court of Honor

Marine Military Academy's Troop 22 conducted its Court of Honor ceremony Dec. 8. The following are the cadets who earned the following ranks and/or merit badges during the first semester:

- Sophomore **Adrian Arranaga** of Harlingen, Texas: Auto Mechanics & Dog Care
- Senior **Christopher Ballance** of Houston: Eagle Palm Bronze & Dog Care
- Sophomores **Giancarlo and Giovanni Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Aiden Berg** of Bainbridge Island, Wash.: Shotgun Shooting & Auto Mechanics
- Sophomore **Brett Boren** of Rancho Santa Fe, Calif.: Life Scout
- Freshman **Tyler Broussard** of League City, Texas: Auto Mechanics & Music
- Eighth-grader **Denys Chepulsky** of Milpitas, Calif.: Auto Mechanics & Indian Lore
- Senior **Mark Cruz** of Houston: Dog Care
- Eighth-grader **Jan Daniec** of San Antonio: Indian Lore
- Eighth-grader **Cameron Dawson** of Killeen, Texas: Indian Lore
- Junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas: Emergency Preparedness, Dog Care & Music
- Senior **Michael Durak** of Mission, Texas: Dog Care
- Freshman **Jonathan Fournier** of Homestead, Fla.: Chemistry & Auto Mechanics
- Junior **Aaron Frahm** of Corpus Christi, Texas: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Ty Hamilton** of Austin, Texas: Auto Mechanics & Dog Care
- Freshman **Erick Hernandez** of Cypress, Texas: Tenderfoot Scout & Dog Care
- Sophomore **Harrison Kunneman** of



Sophomore Harrison Kunneman of Spring, Texas, accepts his merit badge from Superintendent Col. R. Glenn Hill.

Spring, Texas: Citizenship in the World, Personal Fitness, Shotgun Shooting, Dog Care, Music & Indian Lore

- Junior **West Lataille** of DeLand, Fla.: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Zheyuan Lin** of Shanghai: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Haoxiang Lou** of Yiwu, China: Dog Care
- Eighth-grader **Vikram Makker** of Brea, Calif.: Dog Care, Auto Mechanics, Shotgun Shooting & Music
- Sophomore **Claude Minkandi** of Houston: Dog Care
- Eighth-grader **Caleb Montgomery** of Key Largo, Fla.: Auto Mechanics, Music & Indian Lore
- Freshman **Shane Murray** of Dallas: Music
- Sophomore **Christian Morse** of Converse, Texas: Tenderfoot Scout, Shotgun Shooting & Indian Lore
- Senior **Jack Newbury** of Richmond, Texas: Orienteering & Rifle Shooting, Life Scout, Public Speaking, Environmental Science, Family Life, Citizenship in the World, Communications & Personal Management
- Senior **Abisola Odusanwo** of Brooklyn, N.Y.: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Benjamin Ohikhuare** >>>

>>> of Dulles, Va.: Auto Mechanics

- Eighth-grader **Ignacio Osorio Jr.** of Sugar Land, Texas: Shotgun Shooting, Dog Care & Music
- Sophomore **Dawson Pate** of Richmond, Texas: Star Scout, Family Life, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Citizenship in the Community, Communication, Cooking, Dog Care & Auto Mechanics
- Sophomore **Maxim Pepper** of Austin, Texas: Dog Care
- Freshman **Jeshua Podliska** of Orangevale, Calif.: Dog Care
- Senior **Kristopher Richey** of League, Texas: Dog Care & Music
- Freshman **Giovanni Rodriguez** of Laredo, Texas: Auto Mechanics, Dog Care & Indian Lore
- Senior **Malcolm Rowe Jr.** of Southport, Conn.: Indian Lore
- Sophomore **José Salazar Medina** of Puebla, Mexico: Auto Mechanics
- Senior **Ebadullah Saleh** of Kabul, Afghanistan: Shotgun Shooting & Music
- Sophomore **Alejandro Sánchez Guzmán** of Uriangato, Mexico: Auto Mechanics, Music & Indian Lore
- Senior **Phillip Seaman** of San Jose, Calif.: Music
- Sophomore **Madhav Sood** of Sanford, Fla.: Shotgun Shooting
- Sophomore **Chase Tomlinson** of Katy, Texas: Tenderfoot Scout
- Sophomore **Mokutmfon Utibe-Ukim** of Pleasanton, Calif.: Indian Lore
- Freshman **Zilong Wang** of Weifang, China: Auto Mechanics
- Sophomore **Matthew Wisely** of Kerrville, Texas: Dog Care
- Sophomore **Zhaoyang Zhang** of Beijing: Dog Care

## Academic Bowl

Marine Military Academy's team scored high enough in the Marine Corps JROTC Academic Bowl on Nov. 13 to continue to the next level of this national competition. The eight cadets are scheduled to test online in the Division II, Level II tier Feb. 13.

This is the first year for MMA to enter this scholastic event, which measures college readiness and MCJROTC knowledge.

The team members are: junior **Carlos De Leon** of Rancho Viejo, Texas; sophomore and team leader **Brice Kolle** of Sugar Land, Texas; junior **Jack Parker** of Newcastle, Calif.; and junior **Phillip Seaman** of San Jose, Calif. The alternate team members, who are also allowed to test, are sophomores **René Rodríguez Ehrli** of Mexico City, Mexico, and **Cameron Montgomery** of Key Largo, Fla.



Junior Carlos DeLeon of Rancho Viejo, Texas, shows the team's 90 percent score on the Current Events section.

## Recognition

### Drill Team

The Marine Military Academy Drill Team & Color Guard beat out 24 other teams in Exhibition Drill at the Rio Grande Valley Skills Competition Jan. 16. In

addition to the first-place win, it also won second in Armed Drill and third in Armed Regulation. The team's next event takes place April 2 near Houston.



Superintendent Col R. Glenn Hill (left) and drill team instructor MSgt Robert Fracasso (right) proudly stand with the award-winning MMA Drill Team & Color Guard.

## CyberPatriot

The CyberPatriot teams at Marine Military Academy continue to climb in the CyberPatriot VIII national competition. The four groups battled in the Round II match Dec. 5-6 and in the Round III match Jan. 30-31. The results of Round III will determine which teams will advance to the Semifinals.

Below are the cadets on each team:

- Team 1: Senior **Ryan Barnard** of Cypress, Texas; sophomores **Giancarlo** and **Giovanni Betti Hernández** of Huixquilucan, Mexico; senior **Karl Fischer** of Colfax, Wash.; senior **Patrick Gallagher** of San Pedro, Calif.; and senior **George Zenner** of Houston.
- Team 2: Sophomore **Zihao Liu** of Jinhua, China; sophomore **Aiden Berg** of Bainbridge Island, Wash.; **Yu Khew** of Shanghai; and junior **West Lataille** of DeLand, Fla.

- Team 3: Senior **Miguel Martinez Porras** of Willemstad, Curacao, and sophomore **Kenna Muanya** of Sugar Land, Texas.
- Team 4: Eighth-graders **Ignacio Osorio Jr.** of Sugar Land, Texas; **Vikram Makker** of Break, Calif.; **Pablo Gumez García** of Huixquilucan, Mexico; and **Chidalu Muanya** of Sugar Land, Texas.



Sophomores Giancarlo (left) and Giovanni Betti Hernández of Huixquilucan, Mexico, practice for CyberPatriot.

## Recognition

### Rifle Team

The Marine Military Academy Rifle Team made its mark at the Tri-City Rifle Team Competition Jan. 31.

The judges awarded three MMA shooters with the superior marksmanship device, which is equivalent to the Marine Corps JRTC Superior Marksman Ribbon for achieving expert scores. The cadets

were: senior **Chaunce Lee** of Shanghai with a score of 233; junior **TianHong Liu** of Jiangyin, China, with a score of 225; and junior **Grant Taylor** of Houston with a score of 226.

Sophomore **Sergio Hernandez** of Harlingen, Texas, team alternate, received a sharpshooter score of 188.



(Left to right) **Sophomore Sergio Hernandez of Harlingen, Texas; senior Chaunce Lee of Shanghai; rifle instructor 1st Sgt Felix Hernandez; junior Grant Taylor of Houston; and junior TianHong Liu of Jiangyin, China.**

## Alumni Affairs

### Richard Moxley Family Foundation

Thanks to a grant from the Richard Moxley Family Foundation, the student athletes of Marine Military Academy now have access to a new sports medicine room.



Sophomore Chase Tomlinson of Katy, Texas, uses the resistance band for strength and recovery.

The funding allowed MMA to renovate the sports medicine room and purchase new medical and strength equipment. The project took six weeks, and the room was fully ready for use by December.

With a full-time athletic trainer on board, MMA is now able to provide in-house rehabilitation for injured cadets. This will maximize recovery time and minimize missed class time. The updated sports medicine room will allow the trainer to care for a larger numbers of cadets simultaneously.

Richard Moxley, Class of 1986, established the Richard Moxley Family Foundation.

## Public Notice

### Asbestos Plan

IN ACCORDANCE with 40 CFR Part 763 of the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Section 736.93 pertaining to the Asbestos-in-School Identification and Notification Rule, Marine Military Academy hereby notifies all concerned parties of the availability of an Asbestos Management Plan. The plan and copy of inspections and assessments are available for review during office hours, Monday through Friday, in the Central Administrative Office. Should any interested parties desire to view the plan, contact the MMA Facilities Department at (956) 423-6006, ext. 244, or [facilities@MMA-TX.org](mailto:facilities@MMA-TX.org).

## 50th Alumni Reunion

Make plans to attend the 50th Alumni Reunion April 1-2. Reunion events will begin the morning of Friday, April 1 on the Marine Military Academy campus. Starting Friday evening, the reunion events will be moved to the Hilton Garden Inn at South Padre Island, Texas. This year's commemorative reunion offers several more activities.

To register for the reunion and reserve your hotel room, visit [MMA-TX.org/Alumni/Reunions](http://MMA-TX.org/Alumni/Reunions) to download the forms. For questions, call (956) 421-9232.

## Cadet of the Month - December



### **Jonathan Sison of Centreville, Va. - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, Activity: Jiu Jitsu

Future education goals: I plan to attend New York University and major in film studies.

Career goals: I want to be the next Steven Spielberg and also own a production company.



### **Zhongyuan Wei of Beijing - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 10, Activity: Basketball

Future education goals: I will attend a top-tier university and major in economics.

Career goals: I would like to be a self-employed entrepreneur.



### **Erik Towne of Port Townsend, Wash. - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10, Activity: Football

Future education goals: I would like to play football for the University of Washington.

Career goals: I plan to become a maritime engineer.



### **Aiden Berg of Bainbridge Island, Wash. - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, Activity: Drill Team

Future education goals: I would like to attend the United States Naval Academy.

Career goals: I plan to become a pilot in the Marine Corps.



### **King Li of Shenzhen, China - Golf Company**

Rank: Cadet Gunnery Sergeant

Grade: 12, Activity: Youth Physical Fitness Team

Future education goals: I want to get a master's degree in aerospace engineering.

Career goals: I want to become an aerospace engineer and someday work for NASA.



### **Brice Kolle of Sugar Land, Texas - Leatherneck Band**

Company: Alpha, Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 10

Future education goals: I plan to attend Texas A&M University and study veterinary medicine.

Career goals: I would like to become a small-animal veterinarian and assist in my community.



### **Austin Cunningham of Dallas - Silent Drill Team**

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11

Future education goals: I will attend a college with an excellent graphic design program.

Career goals: I will most likely become a graphic designer.

## Cadet of the Month - January



### **Christopher Lucas of Dallas - Alpha Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 10, Activity: Baseball

Future education goals: I plan to attend the University of Miami and major in business.

Career goals: I would like to be a businessman and/or a professional baseball player.



### **Fernando Vázquez Arreola of Monterrey, Mexico - Delta Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 11, Activity: Color Guard

Future education goals: I will enlist in the Marine Corps and study nursing while I serve.

Career goals: I will work as a registered nurse after I finish serving in the Marine Corps.



### **Max Kutschinski of Norderstedt, Germany - Echo Company**

Rank: Cadet Sergeant

Grade: 12, Activities: Basketball & Tennis

Future education goals: I plan to study mechanical engineering at the University of Texas.

Career goals: I would like to become a mechanical engineer.



### **Yosef Devany of Katy, Texas - Fox Company**

Rank: Cadet Private First Class

Grade: 8, Activity: Soccer

Future education goals: I would like to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Career goals: I plan to become a military pilot.



### **Chaunce Lee of Shanghai - Golf Company**

Rank: Cadet Second Lieutenant

Grade: 12, Activities: Rifle Team & Youth Physical Fitness Team

Future education goals: I plan to earn a civil engineering degree from the University of Texas.

Career goals: I want to develop something in civil engineering that will benefit society.



### **Christopher Ballance of Houston - Leatherneck Band**

Company: Delta, Rank: Cadet Lance Corporal

Grade: 12

Future education goals: I will attend the University of North Texas and major in music education.

Career goals: I am going to become a music teacher.



### **John Ream of St. Simons Island, Ga. - Drill Team**

Company: Echo, Rank: Cadet Corporal

Grade: 10

Future education goals: I would like to attend the United States Air Force Academy.

Career goals: I intend to become an Air Force pilot.

## Important Dates

- **March 5:** Vietnam War Parade, 10 a.m.
- **March 8-11:** Quarter 3 Exams
- **March 11:** Spring Break Begins, flight departure after noon
- **March 20:** Spring Break Ends, return by 6 p.m.
- **March 21:** Quarter 4 Begins
- **April 1:** Alumni Reunion Parade, 4 p.m.
- **April 7:** General H.M. Smith Dinner, 6 p.m.
- **April 9:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **April 22:** Jr.-Sr. Ring Ceremony, noon
- **May 7:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **May 13, 16-18:** 2nd Semester Exams
- **May 20:** Eagle Scout Ceremony, 10 a.m.
- **May 20:** Annual Awards & 2nd Semester Academic Awards, 1:30 p.m.
- **May 21:** Graduation Parade & Military Awards, 9 a.m.
- **May 21:** Graduation Ceremony, 11 a.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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## Correspondence

### Thank You, CWO3 Harris

CWO3 Harris,

I don't know if you remember me, but I was in Alpha Company in 2005. You wrote some nice things about me when you made me Cadet of the Month. You also made me Academic NCO of Alpha.

I hated you. I didn't understand why you made me NCO of Academics when I hated school and MMA in general. I didn't understand why you kept promoting me when all I wanted to do was skip formation and play basketball. I didn't want anything to do with the structure you were trying to build.

I left MMA after 2006. I turned 18 and finished high school in Miami. I went to junior college in Miami and dropped out before finally finishing. I then went to the university and dropped out twice before getting my bachelor's. I am now in law school and set to graduate. Ironical since I always hated school so much.

I was sitting here tonight writing some outlines and preparing for mid-terms, and for some weird reason I thought of you. I thought of my time in Alpha and at MMA. It's happened before, only this time I didn't want to let another day pass without reaching out to you.

I want you to know that despite my feelings at the time, you changed my life. That "Cadet of the Month" paper I thought was dumb, I kept it all this time. I didn't admit it to myself, but I kept it because it was the nicest thing anyone had ever said about me. It was my biggest accomplishment for a long time. Now, 9 years later, I see that you believed in me. I see that you gave me responsibility that I wasn't ready for because you saw in me what I didn't see in myself.

I wanted to thank you. I wanted to apologize as well. I apologize for being an immature child. I apologize for not realizing the leadership you displayed and taking advantage of it. I apologize for not finishing my studies there with you. Most of all, I apologize for failing you when you were the first person to ever really believe in me.

I am a different man today because of that one year that I spent with you. I am thrilled to see you're still a DI for Alpha and changing lives, like you did mine. I hope to one day thank you in person.

Respectfully,

Francisco Vianello, 2005-06

#### ALPHA COMPANY FRANK A. VIANELLO Junior - Miami, FL

*"Cadet Corporal Vianello is a strong, respected leader. His improvement this year has been nothing short of inspirational. He takes fellow cadets aside providing meaningful counsel and guidance, with a genuine concern, entirely of his own accord. As Education NCO he's never been prompted to do his duties...A clear standout."* - CWO3 Ed Harris, USMC (Ret)

