



June/July 2017

Special Events

Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony

Three-hundred-and-eight campers received their certificate of completion at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony July 29.

The ceremony followed the morning parade and was held in front of the company barracks. The drill instructors congratulated and graduated all the young men before their family members and friends. They also recognized the campers who earned the Honor Man award, the Most Improved award and the Commandant's Achievement award (see Page 9).

When it was all over, the boys indulged their family members with hugs and photos. They also made sure to exchange phone numbers and social media accounts with their summer camp "brothers" before heading home.

This year, MMA's campers originated from nine countries and 33 states.



Platoon 1001 marches onto Battalion Avenue for the graduation ceremony.



Sean Wang of Austin, Texas, gets a hug from drill instructor MGySgt Heath Schaaf.



Alexander Moore of Cypress, Texas, takes a photo with his proud mother.



Buddies Oluseyi Fagbemi of Ikoyi, Nigeria, (left) and Jacob Swan of Houston say goodbye.



Andrew Lo of Frisco, Texas, accepts his certificate of completion from drill instructor SSgt Jose Montaña.

Recent Events

Summer Camp Registration

More than 300 boys from all corners of the globe checked in for Marine Military Academy Summer Camp July 1.

Traffic was high in Peacher Hall as parents, siblings and other relatives dropped off the campers and wished them well. After saying goodbye to their families, the campers were guided by cadet instructors through in-processing before getting settled into their rooms.



Jaxson Jones of Mustang, Okla., gives his mother a goodbye hug.



Jimmy Gordie of Hixon, Tenn., tries on his boots.



Benjamin Auldridge of Aledo, Texas, heads to the barracks with his gear in tow.



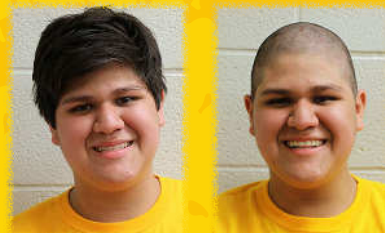
(Left to right) Brock Hickman of Broken Arrow, Okla.; Elijah Terry of McAllen, Texas; and Hugo Herrera Valverde of Metepec, Mexico, await luggage inspection.

High & Tight

At Marine Military Academy, all summer campers must get the perfect "wash-n-go" hairstyle: the induction cut! Campers are given the shortest possible clipper cut so they can develop a greater sense of confidence and unity. Below are some of the boys who rocked their new 'do!



Walter Franklin of Missouri City, Texas



Alejandro Salazar Mar of Papantla, Mexico



Logan Schoenrock of Hairhope, Ala.



Zhibo Zhang of Beijing

Recent Events

Field Meet

Relatives and other guests packed the stands of Bowman Stadium to cheer on the campers at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Field Meet July 27.

At the field meet, all the platoons competed in three events: Tug of War, Paul Revere and Dizzy Izzy. When the events were over, the families reunited

with their sons and spent a couple of evening hours with them on the MMA campus.

The games allow the campers to test their new strength and endurance, and practice their teamwork and sportsmanship. At times, the games also provide the families with a little comic relief!



Colby Box of Kyle, Texas, (top) and Christian Cisneros of Brownsville, Texas, run as one during Paul Revere.



Hugo Herrera Valverde of Metepec, Mexico, greets his parents for the first time in four weeks.



Stephon Payseur of Dallas walks back to the barracks with his beaming mother.



A summer camper spins around the bat during Dizzy Izzy.



Haoyuan Li of Shuijing City, China, tries to keep his balance as he runs after the bat spin.



Platoon 101 gives 100 percent during Tug of War.

Recent Events

Iron Man

On July 23, Platoon 201 finished the Marine Military Academy Iron Man with the top time of 56 minutes and 25 seconds.

Iron Man had three winning platoons, one for each division. Platoon 201 took first in the Oldest Boys division; Platoon 501 took first place in the Middle Boys division with a time of 66 minutes; and Platoon 701 took first in the Youngest Boys division with a time of 68 minutes and 06 seconds.

This multi-event race 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.

The platoon teams must complete 12 events in the following order: 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.

Listed are the finishing times for each platoon:

• 101	57:38	• 201	56:25
• 301	60:00	• 401	65:00
• 501	66:00	• 601	68:00
• 701	68:06	• 801	74:54
• 901	76:02	• 1001	86:26
• ESL	69:20		

Iron Man is always the third Sunday of summer camp.



Mitchell Hill of Austin, Texas, readily waits to start the Low Crawl.



Mateo Gonzales of San Antonio pushes hard during the Swim.



Victor Hurtado Reyes of Queretaro, Mexico, climbs over the Mud Course wall.



Daniel Wright of Lewisville, Texas, tackles the Obstacle Course.



Lucas Tucker of Savannah, Ga., feels great during the Final Run.

Recent Events

ESL Summer Camp

The English as a Second Language campers learned inside and outside the classroom at Marine Military Academy.

ESL Summer Camp incorporates a great deal of applied learning. The campers do more than writing and memorization. They engage in science-based projects that require them to follow English-only instructions ... and

then they test their projects outside!

After class, ESL campers engage in the same physical activities as the other summer campers. In fact, the events and sports greatly help the boys practice and reinforce their language skills, particularly during the team challenges. This year, the ESL campers came from four different countries.



Zhengxi Wang of Shenzhen, China, works on an assignment.



Luis Vega Robles of Naucalpan, Mexico, is about to measure the flight distance of his plane.



The boys of Charlie Company (ESL) cool down with a mud dip.



Yuqui Zhang of Piscatway, N.J., makes his way over the ropes web.



An ESL camper prepares to launch his rocket with help from his teacher and cadet instructor.

Recent Events

Camp Perry

All the Marine Military Academy companies took a field trip to Camp Perry in nearby Rio Hondo, Texas, the third week of July. At Camp Perry, all campers engage in archery, swimming and canoeing. The trip is an opportunity for campers to spend an afternoon in the outdoors of South Texas.

William Davis of Corpus Christi, Texas, thinks the pool water is just right.



Mario Zavala of Reynosa, Mexico, aims his bow and arrow at the target.



(Back to front) Luis Flores Hernández of Saucillo, Mexico, (front) and Luis Tress Villalobos of Fortin de las Flores, Mexico, paddle along the Arroyo Colorado.

Drill Competition

The platoons of each company competed against one another in the Drill Competition July 28. At this annual event, the platoons are evaluated on their marching skills and ability to perform a routine as a unit.

The campers of the winning platoons receive a special pin to wear on their graduation uniforms. All campers participate in this march-off and are reviewed by Commandant of Cadets SgtMaj Ford Kinsley, USMC (Ret).



Platoon 701 gets ready to execute drill commands.



Oluseyi Fagbemi of Ikoyi, Nigeria, (left) and Ghenuala Olaiya of Lekki, Nigeria, feel like jumping after their platoon wins.

Cadet Instructors

The cadet instructors of Marine Military Academy play a vital role in the success of summer camp. They fully assist the drill instructors and act as instructors and mentors to the campers. Below are some CI action shots.



Rising junior Trevor Roberts of Fairbanks, Ala., motivates campers in Fireman's Carry.



Rising senior Xiangyu Wang of Shanghai takes the time of a camper's rocket.



Rising junior Jared Walker of San Antonio helps a camper remove the rappelling line.

Recent Events

SAT & ACT Prep Camp

Boys from across the region participated in Marine Military Academy's SAT & ACT Prep Camp June 19-23.

The SAT/ACT campers studied intensely for four days in the classroom. They reviewed and practiced math and verbal applications, and then they took the PSAT, SAT and ACT practice exams. On the fifth and final day, the students

tackled the MMA Tower and spent the morning ziplining, rappelling and rock climbing.

The weeklong day camp helps high school boys measure their college readiness. It teaches them key subject material and test strategies to boost their scores on the SAT and ACT college admission tests.



Tyler Solis of San Benito, Texas, concentrates on his exam.



William Winston of Progreso Lakes, Texas, solves a word problem.



Trey Vento of Harlingen, Texas, begins his rappel down the tower.



Christopher Hinkle of Harlingen, Texas, rides down the zipline.

MMA LEADER

Recognition

Honor Man & Most Improved

Twenty-two campers were recognized for their distinguished achievement at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony July 29.

Given to a camper from each platoon, 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 physical and/or mental growth during the four weeks of camp.

Platoon 101 (Fox)



Honor Man
Malik Hatch
Converse, Texas



Most Improved
Alejandro Salazar Mar
Papantla, Mexico

Platoon 201 (Fox)



Honor Man
Micah Hatch
Converse, Texas



Most Improved
Oluwalomose Debo-Ogunjimi
Richmond, Texas

Platoon 301 (Golf)



Honor Man
Mitchell Hill
Austin, Texas



Most Improved
Zihan Gao
Zhengzhou, China

Platoon 401 (Golf)



Honor Man
Dominick Dandridge
Denton, Texas



Most Improved
Edward Ullman
Allen, Texas

Platoon 501 (Alpha)



Honor Man
Noah Khaytyn
Arlington, Mass.



Most Improved
Dylan Hicks
Montgomery, Texas

Platoon 601 (Alpha)



Honor Man
Stephon Payseur
Dallas, Texas



Most Improved
Mark Reznikov
Porter Ranch, Calif.

Platoon 701 (Delta)



Honor Man
Logan Sanchez
Winter Garden, Fla.



Most Improved
Jason Delgado
McAllen, Texas

Platoon 801 (Delta)



Honor Man
Volodymyr Ploskanych
Belton, Texas



Most Improved
Clayton White
Woodward, Okla.

Platoon 901 (Echo)

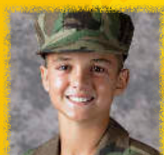


Honor Man
Eric Eckstein
Indianapolis, Ind.



Honor Man
Travis Lommerse
Sanford, Fla.

Platoon 1001 (Echo)



Honor Man
Jack Sanchez
Winter Garden, Fla.



Most Improved
Brock Hickman
Broken Arrow, Okla.

Platoon ESL 1 (Charlie)



Honor Man
Oscar Zamora Legoff
Cuidad de Mexico, Mexico



Most Improved
Haotian Sun
Beijing, China

**The only place success
comes before work
is in the dictionary.**

~ Vince Lombardi

Veteran Campers

Marine Military Academy had 26 veteran campers this year. MMA salutes the following young men:

2-Time Camper

- Michael Dillon of Houston
- Jackson Durbin of Coppell, Texas
- Antonio Tello Soberón of Huixquilucan, Mexico
- Ethan Ybarra of Harlingen, Texas
- Benjamin Auldrige of Aledo, Texas
- Jackson Mankowski of Madison, Wis.
- David Stilwell of New York City
- Mason Briley of Mabank, Texas
- Christian Cisneros of Brownsville, Texas
- Dylan DeViney of Houston
- Logan Sanchez of Winter Garden, Fla.
- Jacob Swan of Houston
- Emarion Ullman of Allen, Texas
- Jett Byler of Ballinger, Texas
- Byron Gray of Addis, La.
- Joshua Harding of Nantucket, Mass.
- David Hanson of San Antonio
- Mitchell Hill of Austin, Texas
- Zhibo Zhang of Beijing
- Calvin Crawford of Hudson Oaks, Texas
- Jordan Jones of Kingwood, Texas
- Ryan Webster of Ewing, N.J.
- Hans English of Austin, Texas
- Alejandro Salazar Mar of Papantla, Mexico

3-Time Camper

- Rodrigo Sánchez Suárez of Mexico City

4-Time Camper

- Dominick Dandridge of Denton, Texas

Recognition

Camper Eckstein

Though he was one of the youngest campers, Eric Eckstein of Indianapolis was one of the only boys to pay for his own summer adventure. This 11-year-old painted mailboxes for two years to earn enough money to attend Marine Military Academy Summer Camp.

When Eckstein first learned about MMA Summer Camp through the Internet, he knew he needed a job to pay for it. He noticed many of the mailboxes on his street looked drab gray instead of shiny black, so he decided to start a mailbox painting service.

He created a simple flyer that read: that "My name is Eric Eckstein. I live at ... I would like an opportunity to paint your mailbox so I can go to military summer camp. The price is \$25. You can reach me at ..." He began leaving flyers at mailboxes that were begging for paint, and the customers began calling.

Eckstein painted about 150 mailboxes. He spends nearly two hours per mailbox because he first sands down the box and post before he neatly brushes on the black paint. His effort to do the job correctly paid off.

"I charge \$25 for most mailboxes, but I also get tips. I once got tipped \$100," he said.

Eckstein never regretted working and saving his money for MMA Summer Camp.

"It's everything I thought it would be," he said.

He enjoyed all the activities, but his favorite events were the tower, confidence course and obstacle course.

"I like the tower because I like rappelling

and ziplining. I have my own ropes at home," Eckstein said. "I like the confidence course because I like the climbing and jumping and upper body workout; and I like the obstacle course because I like getting over all the bars and poles."

Eckstein, who will start the sixth grade in the fall, plans to attend MMA Summer Camp again. He will continue his mailbox painting business so he can generate income.

Though he has the makings of an entrepreneur, Eckstein already has other career goals. He intends on becoming a fireman and paramedic after he graduates high school. He will continue to volunteer his Friday nights at the Moral Township Volunteer Fire Department.



Eric Eckstein

Farewell

Mickie Pickens

Former and beloved Marine Military Academy teacher Michele "Mickie" passed away July 10 at age 67.

Ms. Pickens of Batesville, Ark., was born April 18, 1950, in Little Rock, Ark. She earned a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Central Arkansas (formerly State College of Arkansas) and a master's degree in English from Stephen F. Austin State University.

Ms. Pickens began teaching at MMA in August 1977 — and she retired after 35 years in May 2012. In addition to teaching all levels of English courses, she also taught the SAT Prep class.

She was known for her unwavering passion for teaching and her deep caring for the students. Ms. Pickens was named the 2012 MMA Teacher of the Year. At the 50th Alumni Reunion in April 2016, she was the star of the event.

This teacher was not just popular with her students, but with her former students. She kept in contact with a huge number of MMA alumni over the decades and always forwarded their contact information to MMA administrators. She gladly served as an Alumni Affairs liaison.

Ms. Pickens was buried at Oaklawn Cemetery in Batesville, Ark.

She was preceded in death by her parents Charles J. Pickens and Edna Bratton Pickens; and brother Charley Pickens.

She is survived by a brother Jack Pickens (Cindy) of Searcy; two sisters, Vickie Shaver-Couch (Bill), and Sally Ann Pickens of Batesville.

Gifts in memory of Ms. Pickens should

be made to Marine Military Academy and mailed to: Institutional Advancement / MMA / 320 Iwo Jima Blvd. / Harlingen, TX 78550. Please write "The Legacy Fund" on the memo line.



Mickie Pickens is the center of attention at the 50th Alumni Reunion.



Mickie Pickens is named the 2012 MMA Teacher of the Year.

Alumni Affairs

Charlie Brothers

Two Marine Military Academy alumni and Charlie Company brothers crossed paths for the first time in 10 years at Fort Benning, Ga. 1stLt Colt Marcyan, Class of 2008, graduated from Airborne School in February 2017 ... and Sgt Hunter Carmichael, Class of 2006, had the privilege of pinning his wings!



Sgt Hunter Carmichael, Class of 2006, (left) congratulates his "brother" 1stLt Colt Marcyan, Class of 2008.

African Affairs Expert

Jacien Carr, Class of 1988, presented at the 7th European Conference on African Studies in Basel, Switzerland, June 29-July 2. Mr. Carr, an African Affairs expert, is earning his doctorate degree at the University of London.



Jacien Carr, Class of 1988, presents his research to the conference panel.

Important Dates

- **August 6:** Football Camp Check-in, by 3 p.m.
- **August 6:** Leadership Orientation, by 6 p.m.
- **August 12:** Check-in for First-Year Cadets, 8 a.m. to noon
- **August 13:** Check-in for Returning Cadets, by 6 p.m.
- **August 14-15:** Military Orientation for Plebes
- **August 16:** First Day of School
- **August 26:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **September 9:** MMA Parents' Organization Meeting, 8:30 a.m.
- **September 9:** Introductory Training Graduation Parade, 10 a.m.
- **October 7:** SAT, 8 a.m.
- **October 11-13:** 1st Quarter Exams
- **October 18:** PSAT, 8:45 a.m.
- **October 28:** ACT, 8 a.m.
- **November 3:** Parent's Day
- **November 3:** Birthday Parade, 4 p.m.
- **November 3:** Homecoming Game, 7 p.m.
- **November 4:** Birthday Ball, 5:30 p.m.
- **November 11:** Veterans Day Parade, 10 a.m.

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Extra! Extra!

Brothers of Honor

This year, two sets of brothers received the Honor Man award at the Marine Military Academy Summer Camp Graduation Ceremony July 29.

Sixteen-year-old Malik Hatch of Converse, Texas, was named Honor Man for Platoon 101 as was 17-year-old Micah Hatch for Platoon 201. Thirteen-

year-old Logan Sanchez of Winter Park, Fla., took Honor Man for Platoon 701 as did 12-year-old Jack Sanchez for Platoon 1001.

Though it is not unusual for brothers to attend summer camp together, it is highly unusual for two PAIRS to achieve Honor Man!



Logan Sanchez of Winter Park, Fla., (left) and his brother Jack hold up their Honor Man certificates.

Giving

Recent Donations

In Honor

- MMA-Class of 2017
- SgtMaj William E. Steigerwald, USMC (Ret)

In Memory

- Darrell Arnulfo Canales
- Milo Taylor Logan Christenson – MMA Cadet "E" Co.
- MSG William E. Grider, USA (Ret) "Bill"
- Carl T. Lawendowski
- Maj Edward T. McGee, USMCR (Ret)

- Gale C. Park
- Michele Pickens "Mickie"
- Dorothy L. Sable
- William Semak "Bill"
- Mary Steigerwald
- The 7 sailors (US Navy) killed on the USS Fitzgerald
- Pfc Brian A. Thornton, USMC, KIA, ROK 1951
- Moises V. Vela, Sr.
- John C. Waltrip
- John Richard Williams, Jr.