

LEATHERNECK NEWS



VOLUME 1 - ISSUE 1 AUGUST 31, 2026

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER CONNECTING OUR MMA FAMILIES AND OUR CAMPUS COMMUNITY



A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

COL C.S. DOWLING, USMC (RET)

Dear Marine Military Academy Families,

On behalf of the Marine Military Academy community, I am pleased to welcome you and your son back for the 2026–2027 school year.

We are delighted to begin another year of learning, growth, and discovery together. Earlier this month we recognized 13 individuals who have given more than 290 years of dedicated service to MMA. This long tenure reflects the stable, committed environment your son is joining.

Whether your student is returning to familiar classrooms and friends or joining us for the first time, we are committed to providing a supportive, inspiring, and rigorous environment where every young man can thrive. Our faculty and staff have thoughtfully prepared for his return. Students are already in class, and we have established an atmosphere of enthusiasm, care, and high expectations.

This year we look forward to:

- Building on the strong foundation of academic excellence and character development that defines the Marine Military Academy
- Strengthening our sense of MMA community through shared experiences, traditions, and new opportunities

- Partnering closely with you, our parents and guardians, as essential members of our educational team

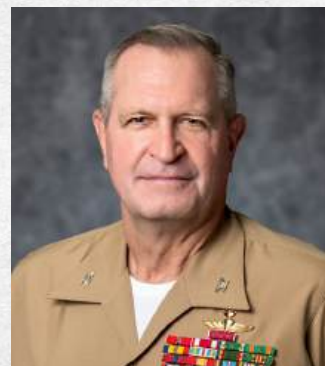
Upcoming Events

- Plebe Graduation – 12 September
- Parents Weekend – 22–24 October (Birthday Ball Dance, Teacher/Parent Conferences, Company BBQ, Football game/Senior Night Recognition, and more)
- Thanksgiving break begins at noon on 20 November and ends 29 November
- Holiday break begins at noon on 18 December and ends 20 January

As we begin the school year, I encourage you to stay connected through our regular communications—the monthly Leatherneck News, emails from the Drill Instructors and teachers, Marine Military Academy Parents Organization (MMAPO) events, and the many other ways we invite family involvement. Your partnership remains one of our greatest strengths.

Thank you for entrusting us with your young man's education and well-being. We are honored to walk alongside your family in the year ahead and are excited for all that we will accomplish together. Leatherneck Strong,

Colonel Christopher Dowling



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT 08

- ROTC & SERVICE ACADEMIES BRIEF

SEPT 11

- NHS/NJHS INDUCTIONS

SEPT 12

- PLEBE GRADUATION

SEPT 19

- SATURDAY TUTORIALS
- ACT TESTING

ACADEMICS READY FOR ANOTHER AMAZING YEAR



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN BUTLER

Welcome back to the 2026–2027 school year! We are excited to have our cadets back on campus and look forward to a successful year filled with academic growth, personal development, and new opportunities.

Tarleton State University Dual Enrollment

Tarleton State University and Marine Military Academy began fall classes on the same day, August 19. However, because of MMA's enrollment and arrival schedule, our dual-enrollment cadets did not have the same opportunity as other Tarleton students to participate in the university's early orientation sessions, some of which began as early as April 11.

As a result, our dual-enrollment cadets are currently working through a temporary "catch-up" phase as they become familiar with Tarleton's academic requirements, assignments, and online systems while simultaneously managing their responsibilities at MMA. We expect this process to become much smoother as our cadets gain familiarity with Tarleton's expectations, systems, and routines. Our faculty and staff will continue to support them throughout this transition.



Computer & Laptop Access

Cadets have access to multiple computer resources across campus. In addition to the company computer rooms, the MMA Library has a total of 52 computers available for cadet use. These resources provide cadets with additional opportunities to complete academic assignments, conduct research, and access online coursework.

Cadets are also permitted to use their personal or campus-issued laptops during CCQ (Closed Call to Quarters) and during weekend liberty for academic work and other authorized purposes.

CCQ Time

The CCQ (Closed Call to Quarters) timeframe may be extended at the discretion of the Drill Instructor when additional time is needed for cadets to complete academic requirements and assignments.



Registrar's Corner: Graduation Progression Plans

For our new joins, individual Graduation Progression Plans will be developed by the Registrar and emailed directly to families in late September or early October.

These plans will provide families with a tentative outline of their son's anticipated academic progression and graduation requirements. The plans are intended to help families better understand their academic pathway and monitor progress toward graduation.

We appreciate your patience and partnership as we begin the new school year. Our goal is to ensure that every cadet has the support, guidance, and resources necessary to be successful both at MMA and beyond.

Welcome back, and here's to a great 2026–2027 school year!

Respectfully,
Denise Butler
Dean of Academics

COLLEGE ROOM: THE NEXT CHAPTER STARTS HERE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COLLEGE COUNSELOR, MRS. RODRIGUEZ

As we move through this school year, I want to share an overview of the college and career readiness work happening across grades 7–12. Our goal is to make sure every cadet, no matter their grade level, is building the habits and knowledge that will serve them well after graduation.

What Cadets Are Learning

- **College & Career Expectations** — An introduction to what colleges and future employers look for, so cadets can start planning early and with purpose.
- **Career Clusters** — Exploring different career pathways and industries to help cadets identify interests and strengths that can guide course selection and extracurricular choices.
- **Community Service** — Understanding why service matters — both for personal growth and for building a meaningful record for college applications and scholarships.
- **Clubs & Organizations** — Encouraging involvement in activities that build leadership, teamwork, and lasting interests outside the classroom.
- **Resume Building** — Learning how to document achievements, service, and experience in a professional format that will be useful for jobs, internships, and applications.
- **College Applications** — For our upperclassmen, hands-on guidance to complete applications accurately, meet deadlines, and present their best selves to admissions committees.



ROTC SCHOLARSHIP & SERVICE ACADEMY INFORMATIONAL SESSION

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS VIRTUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026



LOOK OUT FOR MORE INFORMATION!

CONTACT MRS. RODRIGUEZ FOR MORE INFORMATION

crodriguezemma-tx.org
(956) 421-9216

ATTENTION SENIORS

**START YOUR COMMON APP NOW!
BEGIN APPLYING TO YOUR COLLEGES OF
CHOICE. STOP BY THE COLLEGE ROOM TO
GET STARTED TODAY!**

**PARENTS, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
EMAIL OR CALL TO HELP ANSWER
ANY QUESTIONS YOU HAVE ABOUT
THE PROCESS.**

SERVICE ACADEMY FORUM RECAP



On Sunday, August 23, six of our cadets attended a Service Academy Forum hosted by the United States Naval Academy at the University of Texas San Antonio's Main Campus. It was a powerful event featuring representatives from Senator Cornyn's and Senator Cruz's offices, who shared valuable information about nomination packet submissions. Cadets also heard directly from two USNA Class of 2026 graduates, who spoke about their experiences as Midshipmen.

MILITARY DEPARTMENT GEARING UP FOR AN EXCITING YEAR AHEAD

Dear MMA Parents and Families,

Our cadets have made an impressive start to the 2026–2027 school year. Before classes began, many completed football camp, band camp, and leadership camp. These programs required discipline, teamwork, and long hours in the South Texas heat.

Our new cadets are progressing through Plebe Training. Before earning the title of cadet, they must learn and follow the standards in The Right Guide. These include learning Academy regulations, customs and courtesies, drill, uniform care, room standards, accountability, and daily routines. More importantly, they must demonstrate integrity, discipline, and responsibility.

Our returning cadets are also being tested. Leadership is more than wearing rank or giving orders. Leaders must set the example, teach standards, maintain accountability, and care for those they lead. General John A. Lejeune stated, “The relationship between officer and enlisted should be that of a father and son or a scholar and teacher.” This principle continues to guide how we develop young leaders at MMA. I am thrilled to see our experienced cadets accepting the responsibility to lead. I am equally proud of our younger cadets for learning to follow and persevere through difficult moments.

Our Drill Instructors are doing an outstanding job teaching, coaching, and caring for these young men. The training is challenging, and there will be tiring or frustrating days. We will continue to hold every cadet to a high standard while protecting his health, safety, and morale.

Thank you for trusting Marine Military Academy with your cadet. We are pleased with the progress our cadets have already made and excited about the year ahead.

Semper Fidelis,
Maj Devin Mullen, USMC (Ret)
Commandant of Cadets



WHAT'S happening

DELTA COMPANY



Delta Company is off and running and off to a fantastic start to the school year! The boys are settling in nicely and have started to sharpen their schedules to stay on top of schoolwork, activities, clubs, and responsibilities. We have had some great parent support, and we thank everyone who has been encouraging our cadets! We are proud of our plebes as they are working hard and ready to become cadets! We look forward to our hard-earned success in the days ahead!

ECHO COMPANY



We are so proud of the great start to the school year our Mighty Echo Company has had! Our cadets are doing great in their classes, learning their new schedules, keeping up with extra activities, and life in the barracks. The boys enjoyed a nice treat from Kona Ice to beat the heat! We are excited about the rest of the school year and all the amazing things Echo has in store!

PLEBES WORKING HARD, PERFORMING WELL DURING INTRODUCTORY TRAINING

Plebe training is underway and these young men are proving they have what it takes to become a part of the Corps of Cadets! From the Right Guide to schoolwork, training and barracks life, these young men are getting better every day! We are excited to watch them learn and grow and even more excited to celebrate their graduation in September!



WHAT'S happening

FOX COMPANY

Hello Fox Company! We are doing well and moving in the right direction! We are working to keep improving our efficiency through better time management. This will assist the Cadets in learning to managing their activities, studies, and life in the barracks. Doing so, they can enjoy their time and build lasting friendships. Additionally, plebe training, although tough, is also progressing in a positive direction. proud of all of their work!

SgtMaj Howell



GOLF COMPANY

Golf Company has had a great summer transition into the 2026-27 school year! Golf has instilled the culture of brotherhood, family, and home away from home. We welcome our new Assistant Drill Instructor, SSgt. Cantu, who was a vital part of the summer camp success. ADI Cantu brings leadership and experience to the Gladiator hallways, motivating these young men daily. We have a very young company with 8 seniors, 4 juniors with the rest rounding out with middle school freshmen and sophomores. We have plenty of room to grow, and the leadership within the young ranks is nipping at the heels of the upperclassmen for leadership positions. Our company mom, Erin Quinn, has done an amazing job assisting parents and keeping us all informed. Cadets are adjusting and learning their new environment with a positive eagerness. We celebrated the first week of school with a food truck meal that served some delicious tacos. Thank you to all of our support team! The best is yet to come so we can all be Gladiators in our own Arena!





GAME DAYS

FLAG FOOTBALL

SEPTEMBER 3
AWAY 6:30PM VS
RISING SCHOLARS

SEPTEMBER 8
HOME 6PM VS
BR HARMONY

SEPTEMBER 14
AWAY 5:30PM VS
JUBILEE LEADER

SEPTEMBER 17
AWAY 5:30PM VS
IDEA SAN BENITO

SEPTEMBER 21
HOME 5:30PM VS
RISING SCHOLARS

SEPTEMBER 25
AWAY 5:30PM VS
JUBILEE HAR

SEPTEMBER 28
AWAY 6:00PM VS
BR HARMONY



VARSITY FOOTBALL

SEPTEMBER 3
AWAY 7:00PM VS
BANQUETE

SEPTEMBER 11
AWAY 7:30PM VS
SKIDMORE-TYNAN

SEPTEMBER 18
HOME 7:30PM VS
BEN BOLT

SEPTEMBER 24
HOME 7:00PM VS
LA VILLA

ALL IN: THE LEATHERNECKS GEAR UP FOR ANOTHER WINNING SEASON

The Marine Military Academy Leathernecks are ready to kick off a new football season with a strong sense of purpose, determination, and pride. The Leathernecks enter the 2026 season looking to build on last season success and continue raising the standard for MMA football. The Leathernecks officially opened the season at home on Friday, August 28, against Progreso, beginning a nine-game regular-season schedule. The team will also face Banquete, Skidmore-Tynan, Ben Bolt, La Villa, Agua Dulce, Incarnate Word Academy, and S SAC throughout the season.

For the Leathernecks, the goals extend beyond wins and losses. The team is focused on building a strong culture based on discipline, teamwork, accountability, toughness, and commitment. Each player is expected to give his best every day, compete for his teammates, and represent Marine Military Academy with pride both on and off the field.

The goals are set. Now it's time to compete.



CADETS STAY ENGAGED WITH CADET EVENTS

KARAOKE



SEPTEMBER 19
5:30PM - 7:30PM
IN THE CAC



We are thrilled to kick off the new school year and excited to offer our cadets social activities that all can enjoy! Throughout the school year, we will be offering our cadets game nights, field trips and opportunities to socialize and enjoy the MMA brotherhood! We can't wait for our first event!





HEALTHY SHOTS

★ NEWS FROM THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT ★



Dear MMA Parents & Guardians,
The MMA Medical Department will be offering several important health services for our students during September & October.

Please review the information below and make sure your student is up to date!



VACCINES SEPTEMBER / OCTOBER

We will be offering *Healthy Shots* for students who may be missing required or recommended vaccinations.



SENIORS - MCV VACCINE

Attention Senior Parents!

Many universities require students to have the MCV (Meningococcal) vaccine before enrollment.

If your Senior needs the MCV vaccine, please plan ahead and contact the Medical Department for assistance.



DON'T WAIT UNTIL COLLEGE ENROLLMENT DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING!



CONTACT THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

✉ medical@mma-tx.org

☎ 956-421-9208

★ KEEP OUR STUDENTS ★
**HEALTHY, ACTIVE
& READY TO SUCCEED!**



VACCINES



FLU SHOTS



SPORTS PHYSICALS



FLU SHOTS

= \$30 =

Protect your student and your family this flu season!

**FLU VACCINATIONS
WILL BE AVAILABLE
FOR ONLY \$30.**



AVAILABLE DURING
SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



SPORTS PHYSICALS

Sports physicals are required yearly for ALL students participating in athletics.

If your student's sports physical is more than one year old, MMA will be conducting sports physical exams during September & October.

IMPORTANT:

A Pre-Exam History Form must be completed **BEFORE** the physical exam.



MMAPO SUPPORT SECOND TO NONE AT MMA

MMAPO was excited to welcome new families at Fall Registration and already planning for another year of sparkles!

Battle of the Barracks kicks off September 1st and family and friend support is needed! Be sure to follow MMAPO on Facebook to find out more information on Battle of the Barracks and all the great things happening at MMA and how MMAPO supports these amazing opportunities!



IMPORTANT

ANNOUNCEMENTS



NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY
NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY

INDUCTION CEREMONY

SEPTEMBER 11, 2026 | 2:00 PM
YECKEL AUDITORIUM



Please join us for
PLEBE GRADUATION
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2026
YECKEL HALL AUDITORIUM
9:00AM

INDIVIDUAL COMPANY CEREMONIES WILL TAKE PLACE
IN THE COMPANY AREAS ON BATTALION STREET AFTER THE CEREMONY.



Save
The
Date

Parents Weekend

OCTOBER 22 - 25, 2026

BIRTHDAY BALL
ACADEMICS DAY & COLLEGE FAIR
HOMECOMING FESTIVITIES
HOMECOMING FOOTBALL GAME
FAMILY LIBERTY

We hope you will join us!