



Brian D. 'Jumper' Childs, Col (Ret) is a former British 'Airborne' pilot and paratrooper with 15,000 hrs of flight experience, including 8,000+ as a Flight Instructor. He has served in uniform on three continents and is the former Wing Commander of the University of London ROTC. He is the Director of the MMA Air Wing and also Chief Instructor and a Check Pilot Examiner with the USAF (Auxiliary). He still speaks with a 'funny' accent and loves to remind all his english-speaking American colleagues that he doesn't have the accent, "Y'all do"!

Maj Paul 'Pablo' Chapman, USMC Ret. graduated from Baylor right after the earth cooled. He joined the Marines to see the world, got to see Vietnam twice in F-4s, taught at the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis and then retired from the USMC. Paul went on to teach high school, became a high school administrator as well as a college history professor.....and finally retired when he was solvent enough to become a Flight Instructor. Paul holds three graduate degrees. He is also a former member of AOPA's Flight Instructor Re-certification tea, an FAA Safety Advisor, and leader of aviation safety seminars across the state.

Tom 'Mascot' NeSmith, Lt Col, USAF (Ret) was a T-37 and T-38 instructor pilot in the USAF undergraduate pilot training and pilot instructor training schools. He also flew A7D Corsair II and A10 Thunderbolt II (affectionately called the warthog) ground attack fighters and got the call sign "Mascot" (not sure how he got that handle). Tom is also a retired airline Captain on DC9 and Boeing 767 aircraft. Tom has been flying professionally since 1970 (13200 total hours). His first flight was in a Cessna 172, just like the ones in the MMA Air Wing.

Austin 'T.C' Alt, Commercial Multi/Single Engine Land, CFI, CFII
Austin grew up in Ft. Wayne (Hoosierville), Indiana, graduating in 2008 from Homestead High School with Academic honors, and a position as Lacrosse team captain. Thereafter, he decided to pursue his aviation career at Delta Connection Academy in Sanford, Florida. Graduating from the Professional Pilot Program at Delta Connection Academy in September 2009, he was quickly hired on as a Flight Instructor, and worked for the Academy starting in December of that year. Now with MMA Air Wing, at the young age of 21, Austin is continuing his Flight Instructor experience.



Nalin 'Sic'em' Thakkar is a new addition to the Air Wing, first introduced in the fall semester of 2010. His qualifications include ratings as a Certified Flight Instructor for both single, multi-engine, and IFR aircraft, as well as a BA in both Pre Law and Sociology from the University of Washington. Born and raised in Portland Oregon, Nalin grew up as an avid skier and a Jr. Olympic Gymnast. With a burning passion for flying from a young age, Nalin enrolled at the Delta Connection Academy in September of 2008, graduating their program in just 12 months. At the Marine Military Academy Air Wing, Nalin takes great pride in mentoring what he believes is tomorrow's generation of career pilots. During his free time, he enjoys racquetball, bicycling and food challenges. Buffalo wings are his favorite.

Kevin 'Lofty' Klose is a Jersey boy and couldn't be more proud of it! He would like to set the record straight and say that New Jersey does not smell and is actually the best state around. Kevin started his flying career in the New Jersey mountains. He attended college and graduated with a degree in Aviation Flight Technology. He may also be the only pilot who has worked as a butcher during his college years to pay his way. Kevin also attended Delta Connection Academy in Florida and graduated with some impressive stick and rudder skills after completing his CFII.

Michael "Hulk, Chalks, Smurf" Schmuff was born and raised in Baltimore Maryland. He attended Loyola High School – Blakefield, then Juniata College in central Pennsylvania. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management he worked for MBNA and BankOne. After four years in banking Michael knew his true calling was aviation. For the following six years he pursued his dream part-time acquiring his CFI and CFII in helicopters. In 2008 he was hired by Channel 9 in Washington DC to fly their news helicopter in the notorious FRZ (flight restricted zone) encompassing our nation's capital. Since 2009 Michael has been flying Helicopter EMS in Harlingen, TX for Valley AirCare. Michael is also a Fixed-Wing CFI and will be backing up the full-time instructors at the MMA when he is not saving lives with Valley AirCare.



Capt Robert 'Papa Bear' Brayton – Executive Officer -XO

Capt Robert 'Papa Bear' Brayton has more than twenty-five year's aviation experience in the U.S. and Europe. Most recently he was the President and Chief Executive Officer of MidAtlantic Airways where he headed the development of US Airways' regional carrier; previously he served as the Vice-President of Operations for Allegheny Airlines, Vice President of Operations for Potomac Air, and Corporate Vice President of Operations for three of Virgin Express' certificates in Belgium, France and Ireland.

His aviation career began at Bar Harbor Airways, which later became Continental Express and held the position of Vice President of Operations for Continental Express overseeing 980 pilots and 111 aircraft. Capt Brayton has operated his own aviation consulting business serving a variety of airline and charter companies throughout the United States. Capt Brayton holds an Airline Transport Pilot License with five aircraft type ratings

Chris 'Gunpowder' Bujanos, Lt Col USAF(A) is South Texas born and bred. He is a Squadron Commander with the USAF(A), Mission Pilot and bi-lingual Ground Instructor. He is also a qualified Incident Commander (I/C) for Search and Rescue missions. He runs the simulator laboratory for the Air Wing and gives tutorials for our budding aviators. Gunpowder - Boom!