

Desert **WARRIOR**



June 14, 2012

Volume 11, Number 20

WELCOME BACK TOMCATS

**VMA-311 RETURNS
FROM 31ST MEU**

100 DAYS OF EXCELLENCE

**H&HS SAYS NO TO
DRUGS, ALCOHOL**

OPERATION ADRENALINE RUSH

**SANDSHARKS
TEAR UP THE
DUNES**

“OH GLORY” THE STORY BEHIND OUR NATION’S FLAG



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Where will you be June 16 at 6:30 a.m.?

Find us on facebook
[facebook.com/mcasyuma](https://www.facebook.com/mcasyuma)



It better be at the Firehose 5K Run

VISIT WWW.FVAP.GOV TO REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY!

AROUND THE CORPS



Photo by Cpl. Tommy Huynh

Marines with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit fire M240B machine guns during live-fire training aboard USS Pearl Harbor, June 7. The unit embarked the ship, as well as USS Makin Island and USS New Orleans in San Diego Nov. 14, beginning a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa and Middle East regions.

Desert *WARRIOR*

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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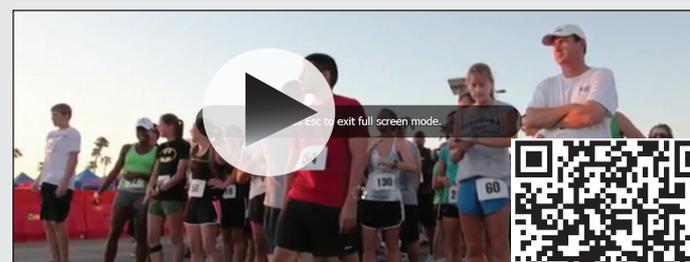
Lance Cpl. Zac Scanlon
Combat Correspondent

MARINES ON TV



[youtube.com/watch?v=IVM0mHvxUrI&feature=plcp](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IVM0mHvxUrI&feature=plcp)

Homecoming: VMA-311 Tomcats 2012



[youtube.com/watch?v=tCwcLGASfIo&feature=plcp](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCwcLGASfIo&feature=plcp)

Preview of MCAS Yuma Firehose 5K Run 2012

Front Page Photo



Father and daughter share a long awaited embrace during the Marine Attack Squadron 311 homecoming ceremony June 7.

Photo by
Cpl. Shelby Shields

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Marine Attack Squadron 211
Southern Afghanistan



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU,
Pacific Rim

News to Use

MCAS YUMA ROAD CONSTRUCTION

June 11 until completion: Prepare for lane closures approaching the Main Gate from the south on Avenue 3E due to construction between the Main Gate and County 13th St.

Update for June 14, 2012: From June 25-29 all outbound lanes to the main gate will be closed. All exiting traffic must use North Gate. A full listing of road closures and detours can be found in the MCAS Yuma Weekly E-news and at www.yuma.usmc.mil.

FIREHOSE 5K FUN RUN

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is scheduled to host a Fire Hose 5K Fun Run at 6:30 a.m. on June 16, 2012. MCAS Yuma invites the local community to participate in the fun run. During the run fire trucks will be stationed at certain parts to spray runners with the fire hoses. All participants will receive a t-shirt, medal and certificate of appreciation. Participants for the fun run can register at www.mccsyuma.com. A registration fee of \$20 is requested for active duty Marines and \$25 for all other participants.

MCAS SEEKS NEW VISITING NURSE

Must have current, active Arizona RN license, reliable transportation and good driving record. Med/Surg, home health background and current CPR certification desired. Must be able to travel a minimum of five consecutive working days per month.

Starting pay is \$21.48/hour plus benefits. Interested parties may obtain an application and application addendum by visiting www.nmcrcs.org/employ. Please send a completed and signed application, application addendum, and all supporting documentation to:

NMCRS Headquarters

ATTN: Human Resources

875 N. Randolph St, Ste. 225

Arlington, VA 22203

Fax: (703) 696-0144

E-mail: hr@nmcrcs.org (Scanned PDF or JPEG files)

For more information, contact Lora O'Hara at (928)-269-2373.

AVE 3E ROAD CONSTRUCTION, BRIDGE WIDENING PROJECT

The Arizona Department of Transportation and the City of Yuma are set to begin another round of Avenue 3E road construction projects by mid-July.

Once construction begins, the bridge will be limited to one lane in both directions throughout the duration of the project. ADOT encourages larger commercial vehicles to take Exit 7, Araby Rd. during this time frame to reduce congestion.

YUMA TERRITORIAL RIVER REGATTA

The second annual event is slated for June 30 at 8 a.m. at the Confluence of Gila & Colorado Rivers. Have your business and employees register to have the most fun you can have on a hot Yuma day! Visit www.caballeros.org for a registration form and more information.

NOTE FROM THE PROVOST MARSHAL'S OFFICE

All motorists entering MCAS Yuma must show their ID to gain entrance. If you are operating a motorcycle or other vehicle that prohibits making your ID available, please take the time before heading to the gate to make your ID easily shown to the gate guards. This will limit delays at the gate and ensure you are not being distracted while driving.



Clyde

Clyde is a 5-month-old terrier blend that loves to have fun, is good on a leash and knows how to sit. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at (928)782-1621.



5 Questions

Amberly's Place Executive Director
Diane Umphress

What is Amberly's Place and when was it established?

Amberly's Place is a crisis response victim center for victims of child abuse, both physical and sexual, as well as victims of domestic violence, elder abuse and adult sexual assault. Advocates respond on scene to assist victims and insure they understand their victim rights while providing crisis intervention and emotional support. Amberly's Place opened on Oct. 21, 2001 at its current location. Amberly's Place is a non-profit organization which is funded by grants from the Federal Government and receives less than \$75,000 in annual funding from Yuma County and the other Cities and towns it serves. The agency relies on fundraising and donations to provide for the emergency needs of the victim we serves.

Why was Amberly's Place established and who benefits from its services?

Amberly's Place was established to help child victims of abuse. However the group realized that victims of sexual assault, domestic violence and elder abuse also needed crisis intervention and assistance navigating the judicial system. All victim living in Yuma County and parts of Imperial County are eligible for crisis response assistance.

How many people were assisted by Amberly's Place over the last 12 months, what services are provided and what are the most prevalent issues?

In 2011, 2070 victims of abuse received services based on their individual emergency needs. Families are assisted with emergency housing if needed or a SAFEHOUSE. If, for any reason, they are not able to go to SAFEHOUSE, we provide emergency hotel rooms and food while they are awaiting re-location. Each act of kindness a victim receives helps in the recovery process.

How can the public get involved to assist Amberly's Place with its mission?

The largest calls for service are for victims of domestic violence. While national statistics reveal one in 4 women will be the victim of domestic violence in their lifetime, one can understand why the most calls are for this group of victims. The second largest calls for service are for victims of child molestation. This is a crime which deeply impacts a family as 94% of the time the molester is a family member or a family friend. So the family and victim now are dealing with a betrayal as well as the fact their child was molested. Crisis intervention is provided to each victim.

How does Amberly's Place fund its operations and who can we contact for more information?

We are funded by grants and donations and fundraising. We are holding our largest fundraiser at this time called, "A Week In Paradise". Please visit www.amberlyspace.com or call if you have any further questions at (928) 373-9691.

Environmental department receives SECNAV award

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

MCAS Yuma received the Secretary of the Navy's 2011 Environmental Award in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement for Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation, in Washington D.C., June 5.

The award was presented to Col. Robert Kuckuk, commanding officer of MCAS Yuma, and David Rodriguez, the environmental department director.

There are seven categories of awards the Secretary of the Navy annually presents which Marine Corps installations compete for. Short of the Secretary of Defense awards, which MCAS Yuma's environmental department won three years ago, this is one of the highest honors the environmental department can achieve.

"This is very important to us," said Rodriguez. "It tells the entire Navy and Marine Corps we are doing the right thing. It's a great honor for us, the commanding officer, and the whole air station."

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

Left to Right: Brig. Gen. Thomas Gorry, Commanding General, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; the honorable Robert O. Work, undersecretary of the Navy; Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma commanding officer, David Rodriguez, MCAS environmental director and Senior Executive David Clifton, deputy of Marine Corps Installations Command present the Secretary of the Navy's 2011 Environmental Award in Recognition of Outstanding Achievement for Environmental Quality, Non-Industrial Installation to MCAS Yuma in Washington D.C., June 5.



Courtesy photo

Marine Corps Volunteers

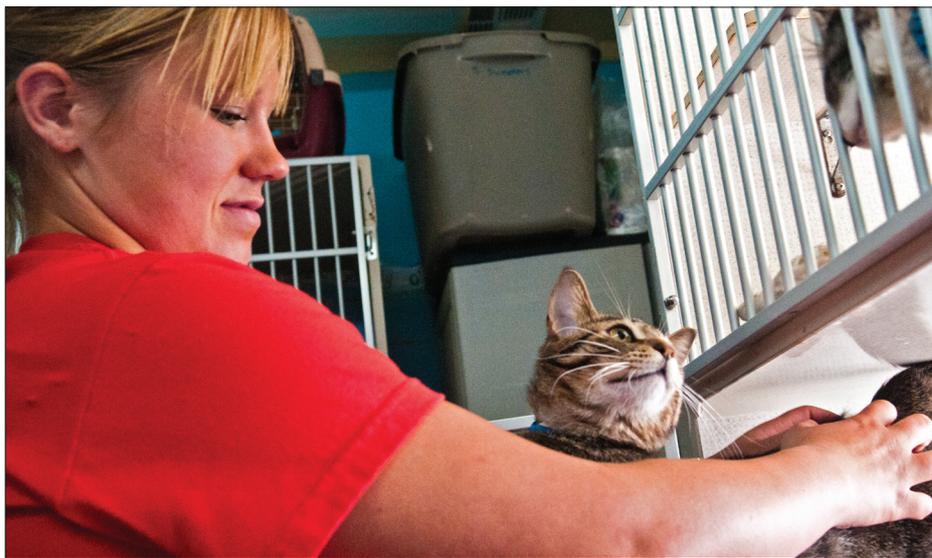


Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Lance Cpl. Meagan Craigo, a Marine Air Control Squadron 1 motor transportation operator and a Fort Wayne, Ind., native, helps care for pets at the Humane Society of Yuma by interacting with the animals outside their cages. This was part of a volunteer opportunity through the Single Marine Program.

MCCS EMPLOYEE AWARDS



Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

The Afterburner Mexican Grill staff receives the Golden Pickle Team award at the Marine Corps Community Services quarterly employee breakfast June 12 at Club Pulse. The Golden Pickle Team Award is for teams or departments that perform above and beyond their duties and is determined by four factors: service, attitude, consistency and teamwork. Staff Sgt. Jose Bugarin (center), currently assigned to the Afterburner also received an employee of the quarter award for this quarter.

H&HS achieves more than 100 days free of alcohol, drug incidents

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Members of MCAS Yuma's Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron reached 110 consecutive days with no drug or alcohol related incidents.

"In my experience, I've never seen a squadron of this size go that long without incident," said Lt. Col. Keith Couch, the H&HS commanding officer.

The entire squadron was rewarded with a day off to show the leadership's appreciation and admiration for everyone's hard work.

"Positive reinforcement. It goes both ways. If you don't praise and only punish, people are less likely to keep trying," said Couch. "You see Marines doing great things and I don't think its particularly anything I've done except offer support. This highlights the good and gives Marines the recognition they deserve."

Though having good leadership always plays an important role, most leaders attribute their success to the Marines in their charge.

"I think the ones who have the biggest effect on a squadron

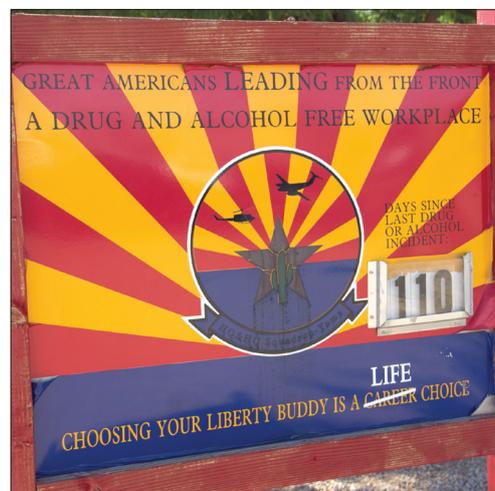


Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

The Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron entrance board proudly displays its accomplishment of more than 100 days free of drug- and alcohol-related incidents, June 11. "In my experience, I've never seen a squadron of this size go that long without incident," said Lt. Col. Keith Couch, the H&HS commanding officer.

are the NCO's, by mentoring the junior Marines and teaching them to look out for one another," added Couch. "Staff NCO's and officers do have a critical role but the heard of it all is the NCO's."

On his way out of the squadron, Couch says this was a great ending note.

"I am very proud of the effort that every Marine has given," said Couch. "It's not just about these last 101 days either. On a day to day basis, these Marines give they're all and without it the base wouldn't function. I'm just proud to have been a part of it."

Leadership is optimistic about H&HS's keeping up their incident free streak and has high hopes for the unit.

MALDONADO BIDS YUMA ADIOS

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior Staff

Sgt. Maj. Leonard Maldonado's last day as Marine Attack Squadron's 214 sergeant major and his last tour of duty in the Marine Corps was a blessedly cool evening for Yuma, Ariz. Perhaps the weather received notice that his 26 years of faithful service to Corps and country was coming to end and responded accordingly.

"It's humbling to think a homeboy from New Mexico could've made it this far," said Maldonado, a native of Farmington, N.M., to the audience present for his retirement.

While Maldonado relinquished his position as the squadron's senior enlisted advisor to Sgt. Maj. Charles Williams, recruits at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, Calif. prepped for the next day's training towards becoming a U.S. Marine. Elsewhere, Marines in Afghanistan and on ships continued to conduct operations.

The Corps released a valuable member of its ranks June 8, but still continued, stronger than before. Marines such as Maldonado are to thank for that perpetuation.

"The Marines were in the cards for me when I was in ninth grade," he said.

Maldonado's father served in the Korean War with 5th Marine Regiment. His five other brothers also served. Their time in uniform was commemorated in a room at Maldonado's grandmother's house.

"There were photos of all my uncles," he said. "I was going through some stuff and I

happened to stumble across my father's boot camp yearbook."

That one moment of discovery would lead to more than two decades of service.

Maldonado shipped off to boot camp on June 16, 1986. From there, he began his career as a dispersing clerk in Okinawa, Japan. He would deepen the Maldonado footprint in Korea when he deployed there in support of Operation Bear Hunt in 1987.

Maldonado went on to do a tour in Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii. He ruminated on how the Corps changed since he's been in.

"The biggest advantage to my upbringing in the Marine Corps is we didn't have all this technology," said a smiling Maldonado as he worked on an email. "Word was passed in formation. I was able to pick out things from individuals, like the way they carried themselves."

He agrees transition from formations to electronics as the preferred medium of communication has both ups and downs.

"We have email, texting . . . we can almost guarantee instantaneous changes to plans," said Maldonado.

However, "We do not take the opportunity to address Marines face to face. It's really easy to appear harsh and aggressive over email," he said.

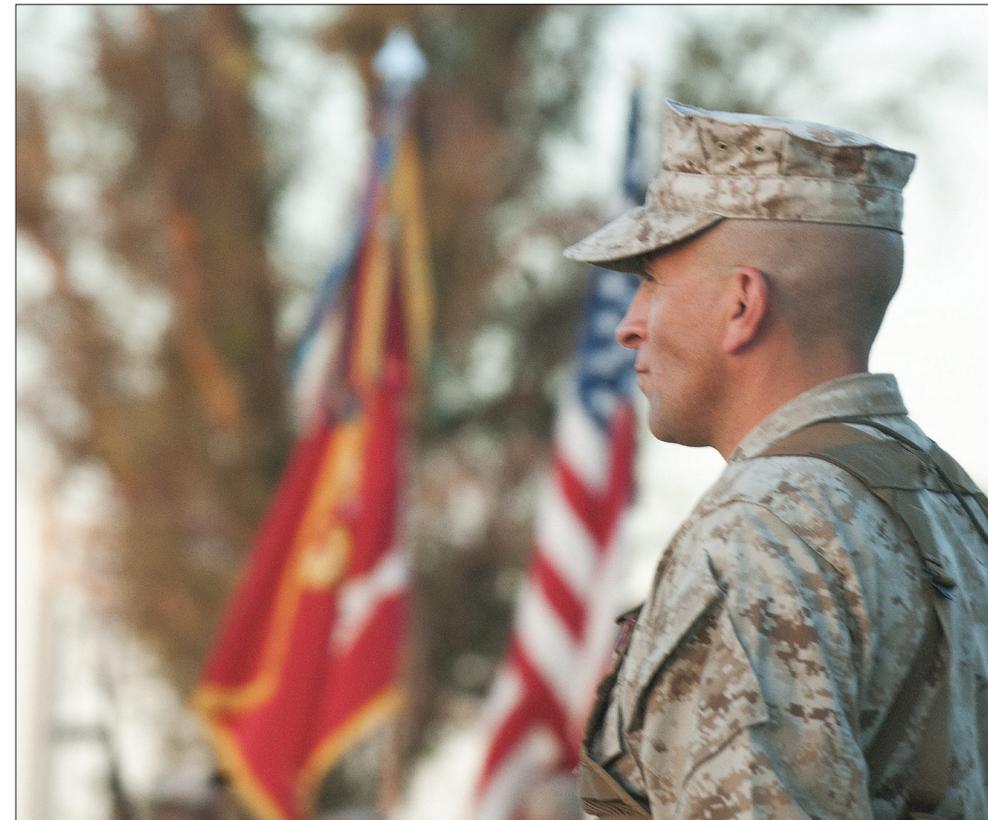
"What hasn't changed is Marines are still the roughest, toughest bunch around," Maldonado added. "We always represent ourselves proudly and take care of one another."

In 1994, then Sgt. Maldonado reported for drill instructor duty at Parris Island, S.C.

"Whether you joined in 1950 or 2012, your part of a family," he said. "Everything I know about the Marine Corps told me if you want to make the Corps better, going to the drill field was the way to do it."

The star-cen-

tered chevrons of sergeant major appeared on Maldonado's uniform in 2007, whereupon he reported for duty with Marine Air Control Squadron 1. Previously, he served as Landing Support Company's first sergeant with 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, based in Okinawa, Japan.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Sgt. Maj. Leonard Maldonado, Marine Attack Squadron 214's outgoing sergeant major, watches the Marine Corps and national color during the pass in review at his relief and appointment ceremony on the parade deck, here, June 8. Maldonado, a native of Farmington, N.M., will return to his hometown with his family after more than two decades of service to his country.

tered chevrons of sergeant major appeared on Maldonado's uniform in 2007, whereupon he reported for duty with Marine Air Control Squadron 1. Previously, he served as Landing Support Company's first sergeant with 3rd Transportation Support Battalion, based in Okinawa, Japan.

"Making the transition into the Air Wing with MACS-1 was simple for me due to the fact MACS-1 was structured more like a battalion," Maldonado explained. "VMA-214, however, exposed me to the life of a flying squadron."

A history buff, Maldonado jumped at the chance to further the VMA-214 Black Sheep's storied history.

"From that, I've gained new respect for the young Marines responsible for keeping this machine running," he said."

As a sergeant major, Maldonado has seen the ups and downs of the Corps throughout both enlisted and officer ranks. How does one maintain a cool head when in the Corps for 26 years?

"The secret to my success is my beautiful wife Madonna," said Maldonado. "She's been the glue to the Maldonado household from start to finish."

And there you have it.

Maldonado received the Meritorious Service Medal at his retirement, with Madonna receiving a certificate of appreciation. Lt. Col. Troy M. Pehrson, the commanding officer of VMA-214, closed the ceremony and retirement with a fitting quote.

"Two words: simply outstanding," Pehrson said. "My dictionary just got a new definition of the word Marine. It's Maldonado."

Sgt. Maj. Leonard Maldonado, Marine Attack Squadron 214's outgoing sergeant major, accepts a Meritorious Service Medal from Lt. Col. Troy Pehrson, VMA-214's commanding officer, during Maldonado's relief and appointment ceremony on the station parade deck. Sgt. Maj. Charles Williams, right, replaced Maldonado as the squadron's senior enlisted advisor.



Gimmie' Shelter: Lincoln Military Housing adds to community

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Desert Warrior Staff

One of the many amenities offered to service members is the option to live in base housing. Convenience, location and lack of utility bills are just some of the reasons why service members may choose to take advantage of this opportunity.

Lincoln Military Housing, the privatized group responsible for providing premier homes and outstanding management and maintenance services to military families, has taken the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma housing community to new levels.

"We want to show our appreciation to service members and their families," said Manuel Padilla, MCAS Yuma housing district manager. "To help build a sense of community by having our residents come together, meet their neighbors and have some fun. It is important to us that their stay is as pleasant as possible. Community events contribute to this."

Since the first Christmas Carnival in 2004, Lincoln has been offering monthly community events completely free to the residents and their families.

"We hold events that correspond with holidays for the month," said Padilla. "Mother's Day drawings, Easter egg hunt, Pumpkin patch, Breakfast on-the-go, gift certificates, Dinner and movie gift cards, movie nights and twice a year a neighborhood block party where we have food, music and bouncers for the children.

Flyers, banners and speaking with residents are Lincoln's main avenue for promotion of its events and so far have helped achieve good event turn out, Padilla added.

"Our staff works hard to come up with events that are of interest to our residents. We are always looking for new ideas and are open to resident recommendations," said Padilla.

For full story, visit

Yuma.usmc.mil

Full Ads

Africom Will Maintain 'Light Footprint' in Africa

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

STUTT GART, Germany, June 12, 2012 – The United States has no plans to seek permanent bases in Africa, and, in the spirit of the new defense strategic guidance, will continue to maintain a “light footprint” on the continent, the top U.S. Africa Command officer said.

“In Africa, I would say a light footprint is consistent with what we need and consistent with the defense guidance,” Army Gen. Carter F. Ham told the House Armed Services Committee in February.

With no troops directly assigned to it, Africom relies heavily on its service components: U.S. Army Africa based in Vicenza, Italy; U.S. Air Forces Africa, at Ramstein Air Base, Germany; U.S. Marine Forces Africa and Special Operations Command Africa, both based here.

“It is that proximity to the theater that enables the agility we require,” Ham told Congress.

Africom has had its headquarters here since it initially stood up in 2007 as a subcommand of U.S. European Command before reaching full operational capability in 2008. Then-Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates and the first Africom commander, Army Gen. William E. “Kip” Ward, agreed to defer any decision on its permanent location until 2012.

A congressionally directed review of alternate basing plans is under way, and is expected to be delivered sometime this year. None of the plans being developed involves relocating the headquarters to the African continent, Ham said.

While not expressing his own preferences, Ham said he believes Africom has “been very well served” by its Stuttgart headquarters. In addition to good facilities and proximity to an international airport with direct links to Africa, he noted, Stuttgart offers the operational advantage of being in the same time zone as many of Africom’s African partners. “We are on

the same daily rhythm,” the general said.

In addition, he said, collocating Africom with U.S. European Command makes sense, promoting their tradition of working together as they share forces, resources and capabilities.

Ham underscored the importance of Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, the only permanent U.S. base in Africa. With about 2,000 U.S. personnel deployed there as part of Combined Joint Task

Force Horn of Africa, many from the Army National Guard, it provides a stable platform for U.S. military operations in a critical part of the world, he said.

“It’s a great strategic location,” he told American Forces Press Service. “It facilitates not only our operations for U.S. Africa Command, but also U.S. Central Command and U.S. Transportation Command. It is a very key hub and important node for

us, a good location that allows us to extend our reach in East Africa and partner with the countries of East Africa.”

Ham said he recognizes concerns among some African countries about increased U.S. presence on the continent, but emphasized that cost alone would preclude the United States from establishing more permanent bases there.

Meanwhile, a new initiative that Army Chief of Staff Gen. Ray Odierno announced last month could increase Africom’s engagement opportunities with no uptick in permanent staffing.

The Army plans to implement a regionally aligned force concept next year to better support combatant commanders, Odierno said. Africom is expected to be first to receive rotational forces as part of the pilot program to begin next year, followed by U.S. Southern Command, U.S. Central Command and U.S. Pacific Command.



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Kelly Ontiveros

Army Pfc. Daniel Baetson, deployed to Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, serves as a mentor with Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa to help African partners build niche capabilities such as logistics, legal affairs and medicine, Aug. 6, 2009.

Yuma mobile team improves Miramar Marines' aviation capabilities

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior Staff

An improvised Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team (MMT) from Marine Aviation Control Squadron 1, working with both local and California units, completed the last leg of a four-part airfield exercise at Auxiliary Airfield II in the Barry M. Goldwater Range, maintained by MCAS Yuma, June 7.

MMTs, which are comprised of air traffic controllers, communications technicians, navigation aid technicians, are used to alter airfields to better meet pilots' needs for aviation operations, or in this case, training.

"This provides all Marines involved the ability to provide aerial support in an expeditionary manner for forward deployed operations," said Sgt. Clinton Singleton, a MACS-1, Detachment Charlie air traffic controller and a native of Atlanta, Ga.

From Arizona to Afghanistan to Africa, MMTs are key in molding a command's area of operations. Since the end of May, the MMT has overseen the piloting abilities of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, based out of MCAS Miramar, Calif., in support of Enhanced Mojave Viper.

"Depending on what pilots want, we'll determine what airfield is put up," said Singleton of the KC-130J Hercules with VMGR-352.

Singleton explained that the Marines go off of what's called an airfield marking pattern (AMP). Depending on which of the three AMPs pilots want, the airfield has more or less markings for pilots to use.

The purpose of the markings, with AMP-I having the most markings, is to help increase the pilots' landing accuracy.

The Marines give pilots data to compute, and call where the craft's tires touch down, with the end result being the pilot comes in for a smooth, safe landing, explained Gunnery Sgt. Jose Rodriguez, the MMT leader and a native of Philadelphia, Penn.

AUX-II is 3,000 ft. long. The Hercules needs 2,000 ft. top stop. It's a chore for the pilots to analyze the weather information and safety advisories given by the MMT, but it's either that or a shoddy landing.

What the pilots strive for are 'bulls-eyes', said Rodriguez.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

A KC-130J Hercules with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 352, based out of MCAS Miramar, Calif., lands at Auxiliary Airfield II in the Barry M. Goldwater Range in Arizona, June 7. An improvised Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team (MMT) from Marine Aviation Control Squadron 1, based at MCAS Yuma worked with the unit, and others from California, with improvised airfields. The orange marker in the foreground is used to calculate where a plane lands, and how accurate a pilot's landing was.

Though touch-and-goes are usual for pilots, the exercise also included rapid ground refueling for the Hercules. Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 provided the ground refuelers as well as Crash, Fire and Rescue Marines lest something go wrong during training.

The Marines packed away their gear after the Hercules performed its final love tap in the Yuma desert, another exercise complete, another pilot more experienced after training in the desert Southwest.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Best Offense is a Good Defense

LCDR James Bradshaw
Command Chaplain

I have joked many times about being an "Offensive" driver. I would continue on by saying something like, "If I am in total control of my vehicle and know its limitations as well as its capabilities and drive alertly yet aggressively, I stand a better chance of avoiding an accident than a purely "defensive driver."

There seems to be a number of OIF/ OEF vets returning to the states that are "offensive" drivers for a different reason: survival. Traffic Safety/Occupational experts have discovered many deployed troops learn very quickly to drive unpredictably on the wrong side of the road, through traffic signals, running without lights as fast as their 14,000 pound up armored Humvees will take them to avoid potential threats, such as IED's. Returning combat vets report, "My driving style and the way I was taught was to be purely

100% aggressive, this included ramming other vehicles to move them out of the way if seen as a potential threat."

Fatal auto accidents are the #1 cause of death among post-deployed service members according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

A just released study by USAA insurance found that troops coming off deployment had 13% more at-fault auto accidents in the 6 months following deployment compared to their time prior to deployment. Who are the most at risk? Young enlisted men E-1 to E-4.

Some recently returned servicemen and women have been struggling with typical every day road safety practices, such as stopping for stop signs, wearing seat belts or even driving in their own lane. Why? Because those actions in a war zone can get you killed.

The warning signs are there. It is up to all of us to take note and take care of each other.

Leader's Forum

"Summer Daze"

Col. Robert Kuckuk
MCAS Yuma Commanding Officer

Well, it's that time of year again. We have begun the 101 days of summer. Activity on the river is picking up. Folks are looking for ways to beat the heat and still have fun. If you're looking to get some PT, come on out with me Saturday morning for the Firehose 5K. Bring the family. It's a great time and open to the public. It's a fun way to meet some fitness minded people from the base and town, and get wet at the same time. You don't even have to run, walk it with the stroller to make it a nice family morning. You're going to have to roll out of the sack early to make the 0630 start...but in Yuma, you have to get up early to beat the heat.

Another great event happening in June is the Territorial River Regatta sponsored by the Caballeros De

Yuma. I encourage all units, shops, or groups of station personnel to build a float for this event. Talk to your supervisors and get a team together for this float down the Colorado on 30 June. A great time sponsored by an organization designed to bring fun events to Yuma. All proceeds go to charity.

My point is there is fun to be had if you go looking for it. Single Marine fun in Flagstaff, equipment rentals from Arizona Adventures, swimming at the pool or boating on the river. Mike at Lake Martinez tells me the largemouth bass are biting in the late afternoon with top water bait, so take your spouse, kids or boyfriend/girlfriend out fishing and see what happens, then spend the night with your family at one of the cabins or park model trailers. Sometimes you have to make your own happiness, so come on out and enjoy.

But put your sunscreen on...And call your dad on Sunday, it's Father's Day.

1/2 Ads

WELCOME HOME

MARINE ATTACK SQUADRON 311



Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

VMA-311 gives up the ocean, returns to the desert

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Approximately 150 Marines and sailors with Marine Attack Squadron 311 returned home June 7 from a six month deployment in support of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit based in Okinawa, Japan.

“By and large, we were there to support wherever we were needed,” said Sgt. Maj. William Shaw, the VMA-311 sergeant major. “We are the big brother of the world; we’re trained to support just as much as we’re trained to fight. Fighting is only a piece of the pie.”

During the deployment, Marines visited Okinawa, Iwakuni and Sasebo, Japan, and conducted approximately seven major all-hands movements.

“The ability to pick up, move, set in and get operational as quickly as possible is crucial,” said Shaw. “For the entire squadron to pick up and move on and off ship as fast as they did is incredible.”

In addition to large movements, Marines took the opportunity to train and progress their skills.

“We are training our young Marines today to be tomorrow’s leaders,” said Shaw. “On this trip alone we got 15 Marines up to resident PME (professional military education) and advanced our qualifications that are organic to what we do.”

Marines also spent time joint training with both the Air Force and the Navy.

“A tool unused is a useless tool,” said Shaw. “Getting this training with our sister services can only make us

better and it’s a great chance to learn more about each other.”

Overall, the deployment proved successful, beneficial and educational for everyone aboard, but Marines were definitely happy to be home with their loved ones.

“It comes down to one thing; we have good Marines, that’s it,” added Shaw. “In addition to our Marines we have an outstanding family readiness program, have a person that is dedicated and engaged is the most reassuring thing when we’re gone and away from our families.”

Families and friends of VMA-311 gathered at the squadron’s hangar to welcome home their Marines. The homecoming event was also broadcast live online to allow supporters who could not be there to join in on the occasion.

“A lot of guys were coming back and seeing their kids for the first time. Those are memories that are going to last forever,” said Shaw. “Our welcome was just amazing. Marines were raving about the media broadcast and getting to see everyone they cared about.”

Since their return, the VMA-311 Marines are continuing on with their daily missions and preparing for a future deployment in support of the 15th MEU based in Marines Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Top: Marines from Marine Attack Squadron 311 take their first steps back on MCAS Yuma soil, June 7. Right: Sgt. Jerry Huwe kisses his daughter during a homecoming event at the Marine Attack Squadron 311 hangar June 7. After a six month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Marines were anxious to return to their loved ones.





Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields



Clockwise from top: Father and daughter share a long awaited embrace at the Marine Attack Squadron 311 hangar June 7. Marines from Marine Attack Squadron 311 take their first steps back on MCAS Yuma soil June 7. Family and friends of Marine Attack Squadron 311 celebrate the return home of their Marines at the VMA-311 hangar June 7. After a six month deployment with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, the Marines were anxious to return to their loved ones.

Full Ads

5 REASONS YOU WERE REJECTED FOR CREDIT

military.com

Proportion of balances to credit limits is too high on bank revolving or other revolving accounts.

Focus on paying down balances that are close to the credit limits as quickly as possible. What about transferring a balance from a maxed-out card to one with a smaller balance? While that might help, it's not likely, since you still have just as much debt as before (another factor). If you can't make headway on paying down your credit cards, you may want to talk with a credit counseling agency.

Amount owed on accounts is too high.

This one is particularly frustrating because you probably have no idea how much debt is too much, nor do you know which balances to try to pay down first. Typically, though, you'll get the most bang for your buck, credit-wise, by focusing on paying down your credit cards with balances that are closest to the limits first.

Too many inquiries in the last 12 months.

This reason is more likely to appear when you have a limited credit history or strong credit, simply because there are fewer other significant negative factors affecting your scores. But it doesn't hurt to lay low for a while. Avoid opening new retail cards. While all inquiries resulting from shopping for a mortgage, student loan or auto loan aren't as likely to hurt your score as the same number of inquiries for credit cards, limit your applications to a short period of time, such as 14 days.

Level of delinquency on accounts.

If the information is inaccurate, you can dispute it. If it's correct, you'll have to deal with it for a while, up to seven years. Focus on making your current payments on time. Remember that all you have to do is make the minimum payment on time to avoid a delinquency on your report.

Time since delinquency is too recent or unknown.

The good news is that as time passes, these delinquencies will carry less weight, especially when you are paying current bills on time. But the date is important here. If an inaccurate date (or no date) is reported for a charge-off or collection account, for example, make sure you dispute that with the credit reporting agency.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Retirement Planning 101

military.com

If you're a member of Generation X, it's time to save for retirement. And don't think you can count on Social Security or pensions. The future of those retirement savings products is uncertain.

So where do you start? Investing in variable annuities may be a good option. According to John. M. Gannon, author of "Variable Annuities: Beyond the Hard Sell," variable annuities can be appropriate as a retirement investment under the right circumstances. However, there are restrictive features. If you're unsure of what a variable annuity is, you might want to do a little research. Here's Gannon's introduction to this product:

What is a Variable Annuity?

Although variable annuities offer investment features similar in many respects to mutual funds, a typical variable annuity offers three basic features not commonly found in mutual funds:

1. Tax-deferred treatment of earnings
2. A death benefit
3. Annuity payout options that can provide guaranteed income for life

Generally, variable annuities have two phases: (1) the "accumulation" phase when investor contributions - or premiums - are allocated among investment portfolios - or subaccounts — and earnings accumulate; and (2) the "distribution" phase when you withdraw money, typically as a lump sum or through various annuity payment options.

If the payments are delayed to the future, you have a deferred annuity. If the payments start immediately, you have an immediate annuity.

As its name implies, a variable annuity's rate of return is not stable, but varies with the stock, bond, and money market subaccounts you choose as investment options. There is no guarantee that you will earn any return on your investment and there is a risk that you will lose money. Because of this risk, variable annuities are securities registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The SEC and NASD, the primary private-sector regulator of America's securities industry, also regulate sales of variable insurance products.

Events Calendar

Don't forget to mention you saw this on the MCCS Events Calendar!

June 14

Success over Stress and Anger
WHEN Thu, June 14, 1pm - 3pm
where Building 598
 This weekly group is for individuals who have completed the Anger/Stress Management course and who feel they would benefit from additional support.

Weekly SMP Tournaments
WHEN Thu, June 14, 7pm - 9pm
where SMP Recreation Center
 Starting at 1800 every Tuesday and Thursday, come join us for Tournaments! Tournaments include: Xbox, Wii, PS3, Texas Hold 'Em, Ping Pong & Pool. Today: Ping Pong.

June 15



Toddler Crafts
WHEN Fri, June 15, 11am - 12pm
where Building 645
 Weekly on Friday, until Dec 28, 2012. Call (928)-269-2561 for more information.

Youth Center Cosmic Bowl
WHEN Fri, June 15, 7pm - 11pm
where Youth Center

2 hours of cosmic bowling all for just \$8.25, including shoes. After we bowl we will enjoy open rec. For more info, call (928)-269-5390.

June 16

2012 Firehose 5k Fun Run
WHEN Sat, June 16, 6:30 a.m.
where Starts and ends at the parade deck
 Open to the entire Yuma community! Runners will get soaked six times throughout the course. Awards for 1,2,3 place finishers. For more information or to register, call (928)-269-2383



Live DJ
WHEN Fri, June 15, 8pm - Sat, June 16, 1am
where Club Pulse
 Every Friday and Saturday come out to Pulse the Night-club to listen to the Live DJ. Call (928)-269-2711 for more information.

June 17

Father's Day Brunch
WHEN Jun 17 11am-2pm
where Sonoran Pueblo
 This special Father's Day brunch is \$15 per person. Kids 7-12 are half price and kids under 7 eat free. Call (928)-269-2711 to make a reservation.

June 18

Session One Swim Lessons
WHEN Tue, June 11-21
where Building 850
 Classes are offered at 7am, 8am, 9am and 10am. Parent-tot, pre-school, level 1/2 and level 3/4 are available. Cost is \$40. For more information, call (928)-269-2914.

June 19

PCS Move Workshop
WHEN Tue, June 19, 9am - 11am
where Bldg. 598
 All relocating Marines are required to attend. Spouses are welcome. Information provided includes entitlements, TMO and stress free move techniques. For more information, call (928)-269-5615.

See all the full list of upcoming events online @ www.mccsyuma.org

Full Ads

What's in a name?: The Old Glory story

Cpl. Jolene Bopp

Desert Warrior Staff

The Star Spangled Banner. Stars and Stripes. Red, White and Blue. Old Glory. The American Flag...

Most of the American Flag's names are common sense, except for one, Old Glory. How did this term of endearment become a part of American history?

In 1831, Capt. William Driver, a shipmaster of Salem, Mass., was about to set sail on one of many voyages aboard the Charles Doggett. A few of his friends presented him with a flag of 24 stars, as the flag opened in the breeze for the first time, Driver exclaimed "Oh Glory!"

After Driver retired to Nashville, Tenn., the Civil War began. When Tennessee seceded from the union, rebels tried to find Driver's flag to destroy it. The union searched multiple times for Old Glory.

In 1862, Union forces regained control of Tennessee and raised the American flag over the Nashville's capitol. The flag reminded people of Driver's Old Glory, and they asked if he managed to hold on to it. Driver quickly went home and began tearing at his bed seems. As the quilt separated it revealed the beloved flag.

Though the retired captain was 60 years old, he found the strength and determination to climb to the top of the capitol's tower and replaced the small flag with Old Glory, showing dedication and love for the

American Flag.

The Stars and Stripes originated as a result of a resolution adopted by the Marine Committee of the Second Continental Congress at Philadelphia on June 14, 1777. The resolution read:

"Resolved, that the flag of the United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; that the union be thirteen stars, white in a blue field representing a new constellation."

The American Flag underwent many changes throughout the years, beginning with 13 stripes, representing the original 13 colonies. As most people know the stars increased in number with each new state bringing us to 50 today. Some may not know, however, that even the colors of the flag are symbolic.

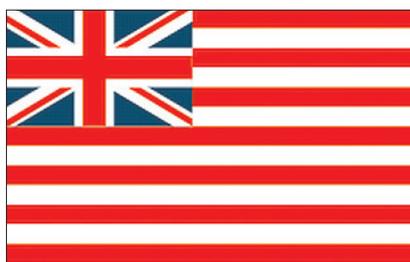
"Red symbolizes hardness and valor. White symbolizes purity and innocence, while blue represents vigilance, perseverance and justice."

To this day, the flag rises in times of peace and in times of war. It is given as a token of gratitude to families of those who died fighting for freedom. Americans may look to the flag in times of celebration, remembrance and hope.

Though the flag may change its appearance, one thing remains the same: it is a symbol of American pride and strength. This Flag Day, June 14, the birthday of the American Flag, let's reflect on its meaning both historically and personally.



Courtesy photos



Top: The 13 Star Flag familiar to most Americans regarding the flag's history. Left: The flag in various stages of its evolution. Counterclockwise from left: The British East India Company colors, the 26 Star Flag and the 38 Star Flag.



1/2 Ads

Romeo's Car Wash & Auto Detailing

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

With the constant layers of dust that seem to accumulate on everything lying outside here in Yuma, it's difficult to keep a car looking like it hasn't just braved a sandstorm. I am always looking for the best car wash for the lowest price, and so far the best has proven to be Romeo's Car Wash and Auto Detailing.

Located on S. 4th Ave., just north of 24th St., the drive from base isn't far. Its location is also in one of Yuma's prominent commercial sectors, on the way to the Yuma Palms.

Romeo's offers a simple car wash and hand dry for \$4.99, which is the best deal I have seen so far. Also offered are many other cleaning options such as washing or vacuuming interiors, but these prices are significantly higher, too much for aesthetic car care for me.

In addition to the cleaning services, Romeo's offers a detailing side. From waxing and coating, to window tinting, this shop offers anything a car enthusiast could want for making his hot rod shine.

While waiting for the completion of your car's spa treatment, there is a small convenience store inside, offering anything a typical gas station would have in stock. For comfort, there is a small lounge area with leather chairs and a television to help pass the time.

Though this location has no website describing its services, it still deserves a B-, being marked down for slightly higher than average prices on advanced cleanings and longer wait times than a simple car wash should require. Overall, good service though.

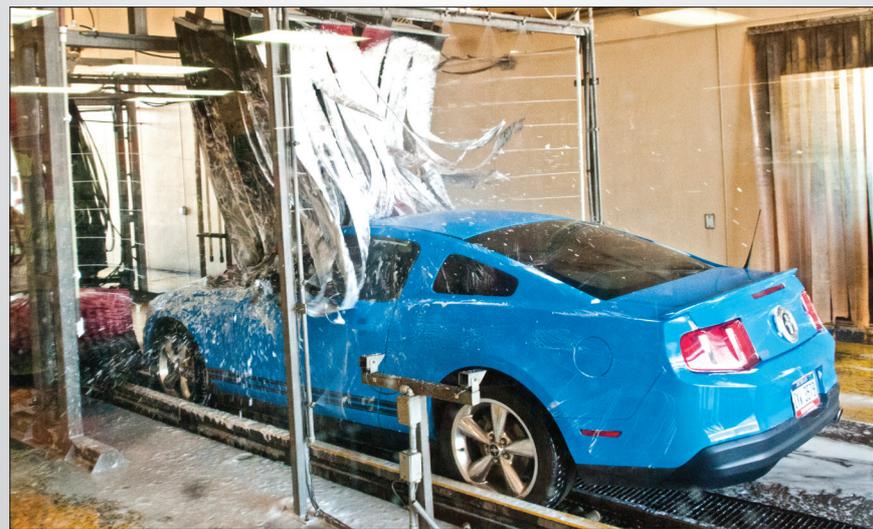


Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Book Review: Soldier Dogs

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

'Soldier Dogs, The untold story of America's canine heroes,' by Maria Goodavage, can almost be summed up in the title.

People Magazine called it, "A moving portrait of the loyal, courageous, furry warriors who truly are enlisted man's best friend."

Coming into writing this review, I felt there wasn't much I could say about this book that hasn't already been said, after all, it IS a New York Times best seller.

What I can say, as I read the book, it felt as if Goodavage herself was telling me the story, not a dry, stuffy, scientific research paper, but almost a conversation among friends. The words seemed to form in my head in what I can only imagine was her voice.

Goodavage is no stranger to writing about man's best friend, but is not a current or former military working dog handler. Like many of us, she started as a curious outsider, but was given access to some of the mili-

tary's top programs for military working dogs and their handlers for her research into this delightful book, including a top-of-the-line course taught here in Yuma.

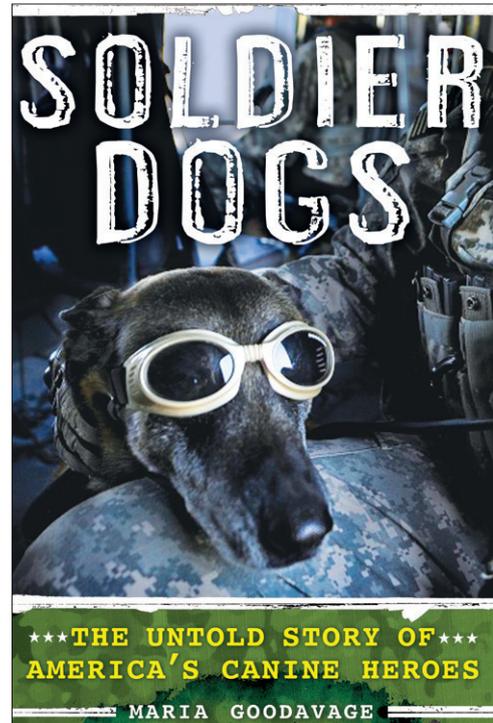
It's an inside look into what makes these dogs and their handlers so special, important and necessary to today's military. It humanizes the canine warriors, but also relates them to the furry creatures many of us have roaming our homes.

I'm almost at a loss for words when it comes to my adoration of military working dogs, and I feel this book sheds some much-needed and well-deserved light on what these devoted animals and handlers do on a daily basis.

I can't recommend picking this book up and reading it enough, and to be honest, that's really saying something coming from me. It's the first

book I've actually finished in quite a long time.

Talking to Goodavage, it sounds like she has another military working dog project in the works. I look forward to reading it!



Opinion: Running out of Wireless Spectrum

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

There is a growing issue in American society that very few are aware of, and only recently did I hear of this very serious problem. We are running out of bandwidth.

Alone, that sounds insignificant, except to those who are extremely technically savvy and understand the implications of the problem. But before explaining what this problem truly means for us all, we must come to an understanding of bandwidth and what it does in our daily lives.

Bandwidth is the lifeblood of wireless communication. It is the system of roads down which all wireless information travels, like an information interstate system. More technically, bandwidth is the width of the range of frequencies that an electronic signal uses on a given transmission medium. It is the range of waves that exist in the air which are capable of transmitting data.

All wireless communication, whether it be phone calls, television shows picked up by antennae, text messages, radio, internet browsing by smartphone or tablet, or home wireless internet connections, use bandwidth to send and receive information.

So it is easy to see how running out of bandwidth would affect commodities we are accustomed to having.

However, it is not as dire as it may seem. While this bandwidth shortage, also called the wireless spectrum crunch, will

have consequences for some industries, existing television, radio, phone call, text or home internet network providers should not be meaningfully impacted. It is the smartphones, tablets and other new technologies, such as machine-to-machine communication and smart grids, which rely on large transfers of data wirelessly, which will be under the headsman's ax.

This is because the amount of data transfer required by new technologies dwarfs that of previous generations. Mobile Future, a coalition of vendors and consumers, estimated in a March 2011 report that the average smartphone uses 24 times the data an older model cellular phone does, and the average tablet uses 120 times the data of each smartphone.

With the proliferation of mobile devices in our society capable of accessing the internet at anytime, and our ravenously growing demand for them, we are running out of roads to send our data down.

In the past this has been remedied by companies who provide the wireless services, such as AT&T and Verizon, studying usage and compensating for predicted demand. Sadly, data usage of smartphones and tablets doesn't fall into this model, and cannot be predicted as easily. What can be predicted is that our wireless data usage will continue to rise exponentially. By 2015, consumer use of wireless applications and services will be almost 60 times today's volume estimates the Yankee Group, a research firm.

This is extended to the point that, in 2011, when Credit Suisse conducted a survey, they found America's networks oper-

ating at 80 percent capacity, with 36 percent of locations already facing capacity constraints.

So America is demanding too much data, what does this mean?

This means if nothing is done alleviate the problem, wireless data transfer will first slow, a little at first, then crawl, then nearly stop, making our expensive smartphones or tablets worthless. This will also greatly hamper innovation of new technologies as the world moves forward. Ever dream of being able to play your favorite video game, no matter the console, straight from your iPad, wherever you are, or have cars that talk to each other and drive themselves? These are things being developed, but they cannot work without bandwidth.

Luckily, things are being done to try to fix this problem. Wireless technologies have been one of the few industries to steadily grow over the last ten years, and powerful people have taken notice.

The Federal Communications Commission and President Obama's administration have are working with Congress and private companies to redistribute the rights to bandwidth. The proposed plan will double the available space in the next 10 years, but that is simply not enough and is being accomplished too slowly.

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

Sandsharks tear up sand dunes postdeployment

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Desert Warrior Staff

Seven months in a foreign country, under high levels of stress, with little to no sleep, can leave a Marine worn and torn. In the past this may have led to poor behavior, but in today's day and age outlets such as Arizona Adventures ensure Marines are provided with the best help possible.

Adjusting from a high-level stress area to garrison life can be difficult for many Marines which is why Arizona Adventures stepped in with Operation Adrenaline Rush. OAR was formed specifically for deployed units coming home.

OAR gives redeployed Marines a chance to decompress through stimulating activities in a safe environment, such as a day riding Arizona's sand dunes.

MWSS-371 recently returned home from a long and arduous deployment in Afghanistan, in which they provided the aviation combat element with logistical support.

"Right off the bat, we hit the ground running," said 1st Lt. Andrew Stueven, MWSS-371 motor transportation operations platoon commander. "We had a mission right away and never really stopped. We were busy doing several missions throughout the deployment."

MWSS-371's mission included providing motor transport for aircraft recovery missions; transporting personnel and equipment to helicopter landing zones, supporting maintenance by

fixing and setting up landing zones and dealing with added stressors like IEDs and unfavorable weather conditions.

"The professionalism, however, of my Marines was incredible," said Stueven. "They all handled themselves with the utmost professionalism, always working together and helping each other out. It was incredible."

Left: Helmets to be used by Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 as part of post deployment activities, June 6, put on by Arizona Adventures.



After being in Afghanistan for six months, the transition back to garrison can take some time. "In a deployed environment, it is very fast paced, there is a lot of adrenaline going on a lot of the times and Marines tend to replace that once they get back with unhealthy activities so this is an alternative to that," said Chief Warrant Officer II Stephen Chesser, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 motor transportation maintenance officer.

Bill Cardenas, Marine Corps Community Services outdoor director, works with returning squadrons to organize these great events. "We have the quads, the razors and we are having a lot of fun with the Marines."

This is the first time Marines participated in an event with the off-road equipment and it proved to be a big hit.

"It actually releases a lot of stress and builds unit cohesion with us," said Cpl. David Ortiz, MWSS-371 Motor transportation mechanic. "This is helping us see each other in a different environment and build stronger bonds. The adrenaline, when going through convoys, is a different kind of adrenaline than we see here. Here we have to remain vigilant but it's also fun adrenaline," Ortiz added.

The Marines spent several hours riding the sand dunes, easing back in to life in the U.S.



Photos by Cpl. Laura Cardoso

A Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 Marine waits to ride his off-road vehicle during Operation Adrenaline Rush at the Imperial Dunes in California, June 6. The program, put on by Arizona Adventures, is designed to relieve stress levels of redeployed Marines.

1/2 Ads

