

Desert **WARRIOR**



May 10, 2012
Volume 11, Number 15

DEVIL DOGS ON WHEELS

MARINES TEAR UP ROADWAYS (SAFELY)



LIFE'S A GAS

STATION SEES USE IN NEW GAS CHAMBER

SPICY SOLUTIONS TO HAZARDOUS PROBLEMS

PREVENTION TECHNIQUES MINIMIZE DRUG INCIDENTS

15TH MEU IN A RUT

YUMA WARRIORS SUPPORT EXPEDITIONARY UNIT



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Thank you Yuma teachers for choosing a profession that truly makes a difference!

On behalf of all the parents of MCAS Yuma

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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“Man, what a drag...”

Send your caption ideas to www.editorial@gmail.com. The top three captions will be featured in next week's Desert Warrior.

Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Combat Correspondent

Lance Cpl. Zach Scanlon
Combat Correspondent

LAST WEEK'S TOP CAPTIONS



Robert Loveless.:
“Are your shorts riding up on you too?”

Krystal Simpson:
“And down 2..3 and up man i should have tried out for dancing with the stars this dancing thing is easy”

Heather Langhofer- Classen:
“This will definately give an ass the girls will love!”

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HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



marines.mil/news/pages/marinesv.aspx?pid=8AsFcTrZ5c_s0XgbZ_qUuu2oGGXIUMJ

Marines defeat Army in wounded warrior volleyball tournament.



<http://www.youtube.com/user/marines>

Marines dominate shooting at warrior games.



Front Page Photo Credit

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 211
Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU



News to Use

CHEERLEADERS WANTED

Auditions for the 2012 MCAS Yuma Cheerleading, Dance and POM Squadron will be held 6-7 p.m., May 30, at the Community Center. For more information, contact William Tracu at (928) 269- 2324.

NEW AND IMPROVED STATION POOL

The station pool is currently open for lap swimmers only, Monday thru Friday from 6 - 7 a.m. and 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. The pool's grand opening will be held May 18 at 1 p.m. The weekend of May 18 the pool will be free. Prices for the rest of the year will be coming soon. Open swim will be available Monday thru Friday from 1 - 6 p.m. and lap swim will keep its same hours. Weekends and holidays will be open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

31ST ANNUAL WYATT EARP DAYS

See the "Old Wild West" come alive with a Weekend honoring Tombstone's most Notable & Legendary Lawman. Tombstone's 31st Annual Wyatt Earp Day's celebration is scheduled for Memorial Day Weekend from Saturday, May 26th through Sunday, May 28th, on Historic Allen Street in Tombstone, Ariz. The event will feature three full days of continuous action packed street entertainment starting at 10:00 a.m. and concluding at approximately 4:00 p.m. each day. For more information, please contact Event PR Chairman Bronco Bill at (520) 266-5266 or Entertainment Chairman Pat Kelly at (520) 457-3451.

FTAP BRIEF FOR FY 13 MARINES

GySgt. Jimmy Spence will be conducting a First Term Alignment Plan brief for all FY 13 Marines on May 17th at 8 a.m. at the Base Theater. The purpose of this brief is to educate Marines about reenlistment procedures, incentives, and boat spaces. If you have Marines that are saying they are "getting out", I still highly encourage them to attend for the information they will receive just in case they change their mind.

MESS HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday:

Breakfast: 5:30-7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11a.m. to 1 p.m. / Dinner: 4-6 p.m.
Midrats: 11 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.
SubMarine Bar: 7-9 p.m.

Weekend Schedule:

Brunch 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dinner: 3-5 p.m.

For full menu online, www.yuma.usmc.mil.



Tailspotter



Dylan

Dylan is a three month old trip chihuahua pup and cuddle bug, little guy who melts into your arms when you hold him. He loves to play when not being held, he is all puppy and will need some training. He is neutered, vaccinated and has his microchip. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions

for the Station Family Program

Branch Manager

Shanna Thomas

1.) What opportunities do you provide for military families?

The Youth Center is a full service program offering both before and after school programs for youth enrolled in Kinder to the age of 12 and Open Recreation opportunities for youth aged 6 to 18.

2.) Why is having a Youth Center so important to the military ?

The Youth Center is important to military installations because it provides support with structured, supervised activities for youth while their parents are supporting the mission of the installation. Parents can better focus on their work responsibilities knowing that their children are being taken care of. These programs are essential for working parents and provide an opportunity for youth to socialize, participate in community service projects and become well rounded citizens.

3.) Do you provide any after school care?

School Age Care (SAC) is provided before and after school. The SAC program is accredited through the National After-School Association organization ensure best practices in quality care. This is a paid program and the fees are based on a sliding fee scale associated with total family income. Registration is done through Resource and Referral in building 1071 the Child Development Center Annex for all of our programs. Documents that are required for registration are immunization records, parents leave and earning statements, medical power of attorney, family care plan for single and dual active duty members, and a completed 2012 registration packet. Parent orientations are schedule as part of the process. Transportation is provided through Yuma public schools and Desert View Academy.

4.) How are the age groups separated? What kind of activities are they involved in?

SAC is groups with youth Kinder to age 10. Youth are typically groups 10 to 12 years old. Teens have a separate enclosed area. These groups depend on the participation and the activity on any given day. There is a lot of Boys and Girls Clubs of America programming as an affiliation is held at the Headquarters level for the Marine Corps. Clubs include Healthy Habits, Pass Port to Manhood, Power Hour (homework), Digital Arts, Torch Club, Triple Play, Keystone, and other clubs. Cooking projects occur each week where youth contribute to meal planning, discuss nutrition, budgeting for food and cooking. This club is very popular as is the Digital Arts. There are field trips to the college getting youth in the mindset of further education, business planning as they run the Youth Center "store", Peace Patrol as they discuss bullying and help others be aware of it and Preteen/Teen Friday nights where the theme changes weekly based on the youth's interests.

5.) What major events are held at the youth center?

The Youth Center hosts many events. There is typical on each month like the Friendship Dance around Valentine's Day, April's Month of the Military Child Carnival, End of School Bash and Back to School Bash, Marine Corps Balls for SAC, Youth and Teen. The Teen Ball is typically held at the Sonoran Pueblo which is well attended by the teens on the installation. There are many other events that occur including Lock-ins (where they spend the night at the Youth Center) and pajama parties. Additional information about all programs and registration can be obtained by calling (928) 269-5390 or (928) 269-3234.

Yuma leadership assesses Corps' suicide prevention training

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

Station leadership attended a suicide prevention site brief at the station chapel, May 1-3.

Led by Master Gunnery Sgt. Phillip Bush, senior enlisted advisor for behavioral health, Headquarters Marine Corps, staff noncommissioned officers and officers gathered to understand where the Corps' suicide prevention programs are heading.

"The purpose of my brief is to inform leaders of current initiatives in the overall suicide prevention programs," said Bush, a native of Newton, N.C.

Presentors discussed different methods of suicide prevention as well as how to best use training.

Bush described the most important points of his brief as: "Suicide prevention is a priority in the Marine Corps. Suicide is preventable.

As Marines we can help to prevent suicide by simply knowing our Marines."

"The focus is on senior leaders with the assumption that by approaching this from the top, the methods, knowledge and idioms will disseminate across the forces," he added.

The Corps' prevalent Never Leave a Marine Behind program is perhaps the most well-known suicide prevention training, and slated to be the only program on suicide prevention in use by the Marine Corps, according to Sgt. Lydwin Grizzle, the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron safety manager and one of the master instructors on NLMB on base.



Photo by Marine Corps Community Services

A still frame from the "Never Leave a Marine Behind" video. The video is widely circulated throughout the Corps as part of its suicide prevention training. NLMB is slated to become the only program in use to combat Corps suicide.

According to Marine Administrative Message 228/11, which officially implemented the NLMB training in April 2011, "the objective of the SNCO and officer Never Leave A Marine Behind suicide prevention training is to support leaders in their efforts to promote resilience, encourage Marines and sailors to

seek help early and maintain an ongoing dialogue on suicide prevention."

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

New email-based system to streamline clinic interactions

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

The Branch Medical Clinic has a new method of communication between patients and providers.

A new, secure email-based system allows patients to contact their providers for myriad reasons, eliminating the need to call in and possibly be placed on hold.

"The purpose is to facilitate effective communication between the provider

and the patient. They can ask questions about labs, medications, symptoms of illness, renewal of prescriptions or referrals, or to schedule an appointment," said Steven Kuder, the clinic's lead nurse.

"As an example, I had a patient e-mail today, asking about the side effects she was experiencing from a medical therapy," explained Kuder. "We were able to answer her question in a timely manner, and avoid her having to call, wait, and leave a message, then wait for a call

back."

Relay Health is a secure message system between the patient and the provider. There is a link on the Camp Pendleton website. Patients can register and find out more information at this site.

"Key things to note are that all patients 18 and older have to have their own account," said Kuder. "There can only be one e-mail address per patient/account, and parents can register for minor children to message and receive on their be-

half."

The system is designed to benefit both the clinic and the patients, but requires at least 25 percent of patients to participate to be effective for the clinic.

"This system has real promise to expeditiously provide information and feedback to patients and enhance their experience of care," said Kuder.

For more information on Relay Health, visit <http://open.med.navy.mil>, or contact the Branch Medical Clinic.

EOD and CLC-16 Marines visit junior high school career day fair

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff



photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Staff Sgt. David Crosby, a Combined Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician and a Newport, Va., native, helps students from Fourth Avenue Junior High School into the bomb suit May 4. EOD took part in the career and college day the junior high school was hosting to help students learn more about the military.

Four Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Marines paid a visit to 4th Avenue Junior High School for its Career and College Readiness Day in Yuma, Ariz., May 4.

Two Marines hailed from station Explosive Ordnance Disposal and the other two from Combat Logistics Company 16's motor transportation department. For two hours of the morning, the Marines answered questions about the Corps as they observed the various EOD and CLC-16 equipment brought for display.

"I think it's important for young people to talk to military members and get their feet wet," said Kerry Morse, a 4th Avenue Junior High School teacher and a Bennington, Vt., native. "I started asking my students what they wanted to do for careers as they got older, and a lot of them were interested in the military. They need to prepare now. The choices they make now will effect what they can and can't do later on. Their choices today do impact their future."

"They asked what they had to do, and we told them to graduate, get good grades, make sure you have an education and stay out of trouble," added Cpl. Timothy Owens, a CLC-16 motor transportation mechanic and a Louisville, Ky., native.

The event began with excitement in the air, and it was plain to see the enthusiasm written on the faces of the students as they caught their first glimpses of the EOD robots and bomb suit, as well as the CLC-16 seven-ton truck.

"The kids were so excited when the Marines got here," said Morse. "When they got here at seven, the kids ran right over to see them and what they brought."

"When they saw the truck, they ignored the fire trucks and ran straight to us," added Owens. "We had the biggest crowd out of everyone there."

In addition to providing information about a possible future

in the military, events like this are important in establishing transparency to the local community of the activities of Marines on MCAS Yuma.

"It lets them see what we do, and that it isn't just about world war," said Owens. "I had a couple of kids ask me if I've been to war yet, and it's not all about that."

"The military presence in Yuma is huge," added Morse. "It's important our students understand what their mission is and what they do for the community."

All in all, the presence of the Marines at the career fair helped to foster a healthier and more positive relationship between the Marines and the community.

"When civilians see us out there helping kids and teaching them about what we do, it puts a positive image in their heads," said Owens.



Marines gain confidence in new gas chamber

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

The station's new individual protective equipment confidence exercise facility, commonly known as the gas chamber, saw its first use by Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron Marines at its location near MCAS Yuma's pistol range, May 8.

Before being used for training purposes, station chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) Marine's tested the new site May 4.

The chamber's new location is a result of the ongoing Joint Strike Fighter-related construction, as well as to adhere to guidelines regarding such a facility.

"The reason they put it way out here was because the requirements to be away from the airfield and main traveled road," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Donald Johnson, the CBRN defense officer of Marine Aircraft Group 13 and a native of Ventura, Calif.

The facility also contains a new safety feature; Marines can now push open the inside doors to allow for speedier evacuation in case of accidents during training.

The gas chamber is part of Marines' annual training quali-



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

fications. During the training, a CBRN specialist releases CS (2-chlorobenzalmalononitrile) gas and directs Marines to perform various activities to ensure their equipment works properly.

Faulty gear can mean the difference between safety and a health hazard.

"We prepare Marines to operate in contaminated environments," said Johnson. "The purpose of the chamber is to give them confidence in their protective equipment."

Station military working dogs also participated in the facility's debut. While their handlers wore their protective equipment, the dogs took commands including sit, lay down and also attacked aggressors who entered the chamber.

With the chamber's new location, Marines must note gas chambers will now be handled like rifle range; Marines will be shuttled to and from location on buses. Personally operated vehicles are not allowed unless there is a nonparticipant driver, as Marines may not drive for at least an hour after exposure to the gas.

While chemical warfare has not been a major player in the Afghanistan theater, insurgents used it during Operation Iraqi Freedom, notably in Ramadi during 2004. As well as scattered attacks, including anthrax, it is imperative for Marines to know how to use their equipment if and when protection is needed.

Marine air station keeps spice incidents at bay

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Throughout the Marine Corps, synthetic drugs like "Spice" and "bath salts" have presented Marines with yet another hazardous temptation.



Courtesy photo by abovetheinfluence.com

Drug Demand Reduction Program prevention efforts on station have helped to keep the amount of incidents on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma minimal.

"We are constantly educating Marines on the risks and consequences of using synthetic drugs so they are aware of what can happen," said Virgil S. Tapisipan, station Drug Demand

Reduction Program coordinator. "We do testing for synthetic drugs and our numbers aren't increasing thanks to the education we provide."

MCAS Yuma Station Order 5355.1 states, "The actual or attempted possession, use, sale, distribution or manufacture of Spice, Salvia Divinorum or any derivative, analogue or variant of either substance is prohibited."

Marines aboard MCAS Yuma found in violation of this order will be immediately turned over to their respective chain of command for processing in accordance with established regulations and standing General Orders, according to Commanding Officer's Policy Letter 03-10.

"When it comes to Spice, ignorance is not bliss," Tapisipan stressed. "If you use, you will get caught and you will get discharged from the military."

Civilian employees on station are also subject to permanent debarment from the air station as a consequence for violating the previous mentioned order.

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

FOD-FINDING TRUCK HELPS FREE DEBRIS OFF AIRFIELD

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Over the past four months, the station has been implementing yet another piece of its overall efforts to create a Foreign Object Debris free airfield.

A black petroleum-based soil stabilization solution has been sprayed on just under half (the most high traffic areas) of the station's airfield.

"This method is primarily used for FOD mitigation," said Greg McShane, station airfield operations officer.

First, the infield areas are scrapped of all foliage to include and bushes, shrubs, trees, etc. The area is then sprayed with an herbicide to avoid re-growth.

"Getting rid of vegetation is essential," McShane stressed. "The shrubs and other plants attract birds and rabbits which then bring the coyotes and other wildlife on to the airfield and can be extremely dangerous for both the animals and the aircraft."

Once all of the plant life is removed, the black FOD reduction spray is laid down. This solution adheres to the ground and hardens keeping underlying dirt from stirring.

"As we all know it can get pretty windy in Yuma," said McShane. "This spray will greatly help reduce the amount of flying dirt, rock and debris landing on the runways."

Any rock or piece of dirt on the runway can make its way into an aircraft's engine, causing substantial damage and even put the pilot's and passenger's lives in danger.

"Potential for cost savings is significant, especially when you consider a pilots life or replacing an entire aircraft," McShane added.

Other methods of FOD prevention will continue being used, like the FOD finder, but the addition of the new airfield landscape helps maintain a FOD free airfield.



photo by Lance Cpl. Ken Kalemkarian

Mr. Steve Klauck, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 Family Readiness Officer, was deemed MCAS Yuma's employee of the quarter by Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer, for his outstanding workmanship and dedication to the the station's mission. "I was absolutely humbled to recently receive the MCAS Employee of the Quarter award!" said Klauck. "I was surprised to be recognized and singled out amongst so many outstanding MCAS employees. I credit this recognition to the fact I'm surrounded by so many "superstars" all of which are as equally passionate and dedicated to supporting Marines and their families as I am. I especially appreciate the enormous contributions of our volunteers but also want to express thanks to my fellow FRO's, Marine Corps Family Team Building/MCCS, the Command Team at 371 and especially for the unconditional support of my lovely wife."

Full Ads

Panetta: U.S.-China Relationship One of World's Most Critical

Cheryl Pellerin

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 7, 2012 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta welcomed Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Liang Guanglie to the Pentagon today as part of the first U.S. visit by a Chinese defense minister in nine years.

Liang's visit occurs at a time when the armed forces of both nations seek to expand cooperation, improve understanding, build trust and reduce differences.

"The United States and China are both Pacific powers, and our relationship is one of the most critical in the world," Panetta said at a news conference with Liang after their meeting.

"In my meeting with General Liang, I expressed my commitment to achieving and maintaining a healthy, stable, reliable and continuous [military-to-military] relationship with China," the secretary said, adding that at Liang's invitation he will visit China within the next few months.

"We share many interests across the Asia-Pacific region and beyond," Panetta added, "from humanitarian assistance to concerns about weapons of mass destruction to terrorism to drug interdictions to trade to counterpiracy."

The nations have worked together in several areas, the secretary said, and expect to expand cooperation in areas such as peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterpiracy.

"As you all know," Panetta said, "the U.S. Department of Defense recently released a new defense strategy, recognizing that no region is more important than the Asia-Pacific for our country's future peace and prosperity."

Liang spoke through an interpreter, describing the purpose of his visit as being "to implement the important agreement reached by President Hu Jintao and President [Barack] Obama on developing the China-U.S. state-to-state and military-to-military relationship."

As part of that agreement, the general said, both nations'

militaries will continue to take advantage of ongoing defense consultative talks, defense policy coordination talks, the Military Maritime Consultative Agreement and the defense telephone link between Washington and Beijing.



DoD photo by Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Chad J. McNeeley

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta conducts a joint news conference with Chinese Defense Minister Gen. Liang Guanglie at the Pentagon, May 7, 2012.

Both sides, he added, acknowledge that cooperation in security areas in the Asia-Pacific region serves each other's fundamental interests, and that both agree to conduct joint exercises on disaster recovery and counterpiracy operations this year.

"At present, China-U.S. bilateral relationship is on a new starting line in history," Liang said, "to build a new kind of military relationship based on equality, cooperation and mutual benefit."

On his tour of U.S. defense facilities, Liang visited Naval Base San Diego in California over the weekend. After he leaves Washington, he will travel to Miami to visit the U.S. Southern

Command and its commander, Air Force Gen. Douglas Fraser.

There, Southcom officials will highlight opportunities for practical cooperation in areas such as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and expand the conversation on nontraditional security cooperation efforts such as counternarcotics, an important part of Southcom's mission.

May 9, Liang will visit Camp Lejeune, N.C., for meetings and interaction with 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force and a chance to interact with some of the senior Marine Corps non-commissioned officers.

He also will visit Fort Benning, Ga., Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C., and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., to have lunch with cadets.

At today's news conference, Panetta described several ways in which the United States and China have already worked together and will expand -- including peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and counterpiracy.

"On counterpiracy," he said, "China has ably conducted maritime operations in the Gulf of Aden for more than three years, and these operations have helped to secure the free flow of commerce in vital sea lanes from the Red Sea to the Indian Ocean."

Thanking Liang for those efforts, the secretary said that later this year U.S. and Chinese ships will conduct a combined counterpiracy exercise in the Gulf of Aden.

Panetta said he also conveyed his appreciation to Liang for China co-chairing a group dedicated to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

On regional security challenges, the two leaders discussed North Korea and other areas of mutual interest, Panetta said, "areas that require our continued cooperation and dialogue."

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

TOMCATS PREP FOR 15TH MEU WITH RUT EXERCISE

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

Before any Marine Expeditionary Unit prepares to set sail on the high seas, various training requirements must be accomplished to ensure complete integration of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force.

Part of the Realistic Urban Training requirements, which provides opportunities to train in various closequarter combat situations, took place at Naval Air Station El Centro, Calif., with AV-8Bs Harriers from Yuma's Marine Attack Squadron 311 providing close air support.

The Tomcats will serve as part of the aviation combat element for an upcoming deployment with the 15th MEU this fall.

"It's a chance to integrate standard operating procedures on how to insert, support and extract the Maritime Raid Force," said Capt. David Selmo, VMA-311 pilot training officer.

The MEU's ground combat element is from Battalion Landing Team, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

With a compliment of special operations and reconnaissance Marines at their disposal, Maritime Raid Force serves as the high speed, low drag boots on the ground, requiring equally skilled pilots to support them in a hostile environment.

The MEU will travel the Pacific Ocean, taking part in various joint-force exercises during their deployment.



Left: Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit's Maritime Raid Force ascend the stairwell of an oil platform off the coast of Carpinteria, Calif., April 16. The MRF practiced gas and oil platform raids during the week-long maritime portion of Realistic Urban Training. The exercise prepares the Marines for a new and unfamiliar environment and further enhances their skill sets as the unit's special operations force.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Timothy Childers

1/2 Ads



Photos by Lance Cpl. Claudia M. Palacios

USS Pearl Harbor, left, and USS Makin Island, sail with Marines and sailors serving with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, including Marine Attack Squadron 214, on May 8. The unit embarked the ships, as well as USS New Orleans, in San Diego Nov. 14, beginning a seven-month deployment to the Western Pacific, Horn of Africa and Middle East regions.



Leader's Forum

"Thank a teacher - You'll make their week"

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer

Teacher Appreciation week is this week, May 7th through the 11th. We all put a great deal of time into our mentoring program. We try mightily to get to know our Marines, Sailors and employees, teach them what we know and guide them on the right path. I challenge each of you to think back on your time from Kindergarten through high school and remember that teacher who taught you something that made you what you are today. Maybe it was a teacher, or a coach, or a guidance counselor that motivated you, challenged you, and encouraged you so in the end you got that A (or just barely passed!) or got you through to graduation.

I can remember mine like it was yesterday. Mr Richter was my math teacher in 10th grade in Madison East High School. After a spectacularly bad performance on a math test he called me aside and said "If you put half the time into school as you do in wrestling practice, you could be somebody". Well, I did. I never failed another test (OK, almost never), got through school with a decent GPA and went to college. Now I have a Masters degree and the Corps allows me to run the air station. Maybe that's not exactly what Mr Richter meant...but I'm pretty happy with it.

So I wrote him a letter about 5 years ago when I was lucky enough to be commanding VMA-311 and thanked him for what he said. Wrote a couple others too, but Mr Richter had the words that stuck. I Googled his address and sent him a note. That's the challenge I have for you. Find that teacher and send them a note, or an email, or even give them a call. Tell them you joined the Marines or the Navy and are serving your country. Thank them for the time they took to help you succeed. You'll make their week.

Then, call your Mom. It's Mother's day Sunday. If you're married to a mother, do something nice for her, then call HER mother to thank her for having the daughter you are married to. Ronald Reagan was famous for sending flowers to his Mother-In-Law every year. If you don't get along with your Mother-In-Law...this will help, promise. This week we recognize and thank those who do something we men can't: be a mother.

1/2 Ads

Motorcycle training: Not

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Desert Warrior Staff

Anyone on station who rides a motorcycle, and even those who don't, are regularly being reminded of training and proper riding equipment.

Marines are constantly hearing things like "make sure you take all the riding courses" and "always wear your PPE (proper protective equipment)." For some it becomes redundant and often ignored.

However, taking these training courses and wearing the right gear potentially saved Johnny Semroska's life.

"I know it gets said all the time, but dress for the crash, not for the ride," said Semroska, a station motorcycle instructor with Cape Fox Professional Services.

Last month, Semroska was involved in a high speed accident while out riding at the Chuckwalla Valley Raceway in Desert Center, Calif.

"I was going about 120 mph down one of the straight-aways, I tried to down shift and hit a false neutral twice and wasn't able to break in time for the upcoming turn," explained Semroska. "My bike went off the track and not far in front of me was this huge dirt burm, all I can remember thinking was 'this is going to hurt'."

When Semroska's bike impacted the burm the front end of the bike, the speedometer, front suspension, etc., hurred back and knocked Semroska in the chest and helmet. He was then catapulted approximately 30 feet from his bike and briefly lost consciousness.

Luckily, Semroska only sustained minor injuries, some lacerations, bruises and a mild concussion thanks to proper protective equipment. According to paramedics, his leather riding suit and chest protector prevented Semroska from broken ribs and potentially punctured lungs. He was released from the hospital that evening and returned to work on Monday.

"I never cut corners with riding gear, even if I'm just going down the street," added Semroska. "Some people like to judge me for it, but it only takes an extra couple of minutes and things could have gone a lot different that day if I hadn't been wearing it all."

Any personnel on station, military or civilian, must adhere to not only Department of Defense and Marine Corps mandated riding rules but Arizona law as well.

"We see violations almost every day and it's a huge concern," said David Haller, station traffic safety manager.

For full story, visit

Yuma.usmc.mil



photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Rob Hephner, total control instructor with the Lee Parks' Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic, demonstrates how to properly maneuver a bike during a turn at the station motorcycle range during a Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic Monday.



just another check in the box



photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Station riders participate in a Lee Parks' Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic Monday at the station motorcycle range. Riders learned more complex riding techniques and were able to correct any bad habits acquired before the training.



Left: Last month, Johnny Semroska was involved in a high speed accident while out riding on the Chuckwalla Valley Raceway in Desert Center, Calif., when his bike impacted the berm the front end of the bike, the speedometer, front suspension, etc., hurled back causing substantial damage to his helmet, riding suit, chest and back protector. Wearing the right gear and taking all appropriate training classes potentially saved Semroska's life. Thus, station riders participate in a Lee Parks' Total Control Advanced Riding Clinic Monday at the station motorcycle range. Riders learned more complex riding techniques and were able to correct any bad habits acquired before the training.



Full Ads

OUTBOUND INTERNATIONAL MAILING OF LITHIUM BATTERIES

David Ager
Post Office Clerk in Charge

Effective May 16, 2012 until further notice, USPS will prohibit outbound international mailing of lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries and devices containing lithium batteries.

This change is required by standards of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) and the Universal Postal Union (UPU). Under the rules of these international agencies, lithium metal or lithium-ion batteries cannot be sent as mail matter on international commercial air transportation, including to or from APO (Army Post Office), FPO (Fleet Post Office) and DPO (Diplomatic Post Office) locations.

This prohibition does not apply to lithium batteries when mailed within the United States.

Customers sending electronic devices containing removable lithium batteries must remove the lithium batteries before tendering international shipments for mailing. Electronic equipment with non-removable lithium batteries may not be sent by international or military mail.

Effective May 16, 2012 until further notice, customers may not tender electronic devices containing lithium batteries, including equipment with non-removable lithium batteries in Outbound International Mail.

Examples of common electronic devices containing lithium cells or batteries

Video cameras	Walkie talkies (2 way radio)	GPS devices	Radio controlled toys
			
Cameras	Scanner	Cellular Phones	MP3 players
			
Bluetooth headsets	Smartphones/mobiles	Laptop computers	Shavers
			
Power Drills	Tablets	Portable DVD players	Measuring equipment
			

LEAVING THE CORPS

Q's for your employer

Washington.gov

Advancement

- Can you tell me how success in this position is measured?
- What skills would I need to be successful in this position?
- What are the opportunities for personal growth?
- What is the retention rate of people in this position?

Responsibilities

- Tell me about a typical day in this job.
- Who would I work with most closely on a day-to-day basis?
- How often can I expect to relocate during the initial years?

Being New on the Job

- What do you consider the most challenging aspect of this position for someone who is new to your organization?
- What qualities are you looking for in your new hires?
- What are your expectations for new hires?
- Could you describe a typical first assignment?
- What are the most challenging facets of the position?
- What do I need to accomplish in the next 6-12 months?

More about the Organization

- Why is this position available?
- What are your department's major projects in the coming year?
- What is the work environment like?
- What makes your organization different from its competitors?
- What are your organizations strengths and weaknesses?
- How would you describe your corporation's personality and management style?
- Why did you join the organization? Why have you stayed with the organization?

Marine Corps Community Services

Business Operations



Mother's Day Brunch

When: Sun, May 13, 10am – 1pm
Where: Sonoran Pueblo, MCAS Yuma

This special Mother's Day Buffet is \$15 per person. Children 7-12 are half price and children under 7 are free. (928)269-2711 for more information. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Events Calendar.

Family Services

Career & Education Fair

When: Mon, May 14, 9am – 3pm
Where: Building 1200, MCAS Yuma

The Career Resource Management Center and the Education Center jointly host a job and education fair twice a year where approximately 45 companies, employers and educational organizations are invited to participate. Job/ Career Fairs are open to all active duty members, veterans, DoD civilians and family members. For more information call (928)269-5181.

Single Marine Program

SMP Weekly Tournament

When: Tue, May 15, 6pm – 8pm
Where: SMP Rec Center, MCAS Yuma

Starting at 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, come join us for Tournaments! Tournaments include: Xbox, Wii, PS3, Texas Hold 'Em, Ping Pong & Pool. Today: Video Games
Have Single Marine Program Questions? Call (928)269-5794.

Full Ads

Chesty, the Mascot, Becomes Children's Best Friend at Museum

Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

<http://www.marineheritage.org>

Triangle, VA – Parts of the National Museum of the Marine Corps are “going to the dogs” — and to the kids. The Museum recently installed two new exhibits geared to put smiles on children’s faces, and they have been stamped with the paw print of the Museum’s mascot, Chesty, the bulldog. Chesty’s Dock and Chesty’s Corner are the two latest neighborhoods at NMMC, and their purpose is to make the Marine Corps story more interactive for our youngest visitors.

“Since the Museum opened in 2006, we’ve been watching the number of family visitors with small children grow,” said Museum Director Lin Ezell. “It quickly became clear that this Museum is not for adults only! We saw the need to provide very special places for our youngest visitors. Chesty’s Dock and Chesty’s Corner invite young children to make the Museum their own.”

The exhibits allow children to get some hands-on experience in Chesty’s world. They can learn to tie lines to a ship, try on uniforms, read his books, create a rubbing, and learn about Colonial life.

The kids are already “lapping up” the fun. Tommy Cissel, 13, and his 10-year-old sister Maggie enjoyed snooping around Chesty’s Dock. “I like the ropes,” Maggie said, “but then Tommy tied my hands up.” Brothers can be that way sometimes. “I like Chesty’s Dock because you can touch things and you’re not reading a sign all the time,” Tommy said.

The exhibits offer a convenience to parents, as well.

“It’s a great addition because I can bring my whole family and some friends along with me,” said Sgt Scott Howard of The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico. “My wife can take the kids to Chesty’s while I show my friends other parts of the Museum.”

NMMC features a “Family Day” one Saturday afternoon each month, which is of special interest to youngsters, but, with the addition of Chesty’s Dock and Chesty’s Corner, there is an opportunity to fetch the smiles and laughter of little ones every day.

These new exhibits were made possible through the support of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway, Triangle, Va., and is open from 9:00 am – 5:00 pm every day except Christmas.



Courtesy photos

The museum is organized to take spectators through a chronological series of exhibits on everything from the Revolution through the War of 1812, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I and II, the Korean War, Vietnam and the Cold War.

1/2 Ads

AH-SO

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior Staff

I love sushi and I love steak. It goes without saying I adore Ah-So Sushi & Steak.

One of the fancier restaurants at the Yuma Palms, Ah-So combines traditional Japanese cooking with Western culinary sentiments, creating a dining experience both savory and satisfactory.

The full dinners, such as the chicken teriyaki, are prepared right in front of you. The chefs are masters of their art, putting on a full show including edible volcanoes made of onions as well as dexterous maneuvers involving spatulas and knives.

The sushi is awesome, well prepared, usually heavy on the sauce which is a bonus for gluttons like me, and you definitely get what you pay for.

That said, Ah-So is a bit on the expensive side, with dinners ranging from \$17-40. The rolls are less expensive but just as fulfilling, and they're usually what keep people coming back for more.

Boasting a creative drink menu, patrons can sip on the customary water or go for something more daring. I'm particularly fond of the Velvet Dragon, which mixes White Zinfandel with strawberry puree.

Service is smooth but depending on the crowd, slow. Not the staff's fault! With such an amazing array of food and drink, it can be tough to get your food in a timely manner. Luckily I can count on one hand the amount of times I've been salivating by the time my food arrived.

Ah-So has always been a favorite for me, and bet that I'll come back. Whether it's a date to impress, a luncheon or just a fun night out with friends, Ah-So is awesome.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Book Review: *The Old Man's Trail*

Cpl. Laura Cardoso

Desert Warrior Staff

The Old Man's Trail was a very informative and engrossing read. A.U.S. Vietnam veteran, Tom Campbell, presents the war from his enemy's perspective: a platoon of 15-year-old boys ordered to carry a ton of cargo 650 miles along a primitive network of trails. Campbell, a Marine veteran of 29 years and several tours in Vietnam, steps into the shoes of North Vietnamese soldiers in this traumatic tale of a deadly trek through the Ho Chi Minh Trail. Campbell begins by describing the events that led up to the world-famous footage of a Vietnamese officer executing an apparently innocent man in the middle of the street. Although the novel sometimes reads like a nonfiction account, Campbell successfully brings to life, life under duress, producing an emotional tale that has the reader rooting for the boys to survive each new hardship the jungle heaves at them. I thought the book was extremely well written and the narrative unfolded quickly, bringing the reader into the mysterious maze of the Viet Cong supply route that belied the powerful bombing capacities of the U.S. military. Because it is written from the eyes of the teenagers recruited into military duty, beginning with their grueling boot camp and their seasoned drill instructor, the reader can truly get to know the characters. Scenes of the trail are very well presented, and readers will find themselves caught up in the suspense of the outcome. The book is not overly sympathetic to either side, but quite professional in presenting the nitty-gritty daily decisions soldiers from both sides were forced to make. The story is an incredibly moving account of a terrible human sacrifice on both sides.

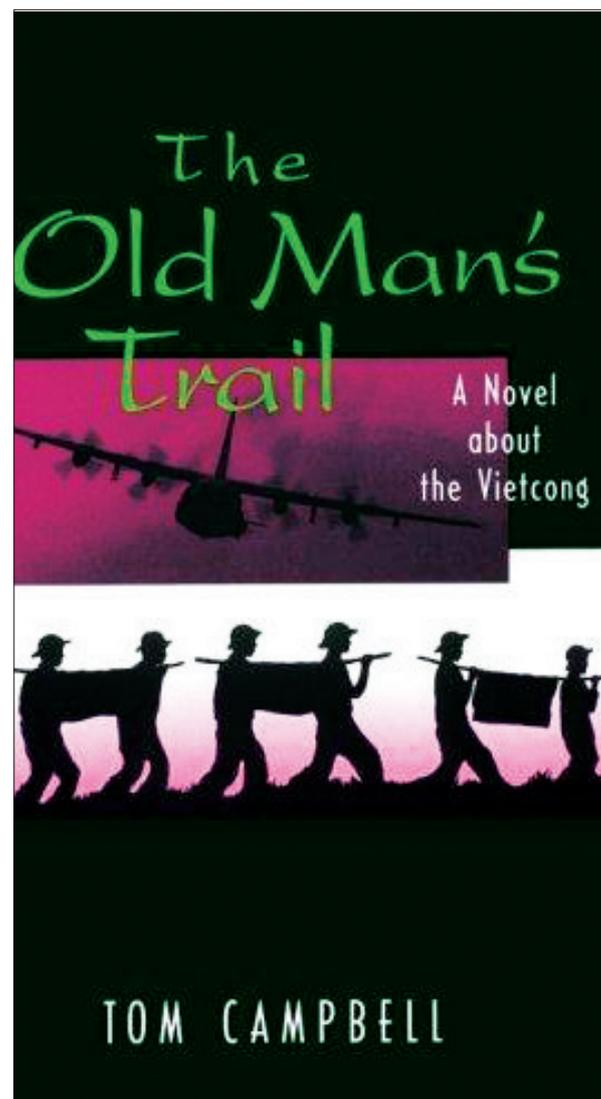


Photo courtesy of amazon.com

Opinion: Tattoos: art or unprofessional?

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Desert Warrior Staff

Over the past few decades it seems society has become more and more accepting of tattoos. This goes hand-in-hand with the younger generation's fascination with getting tattoos the second they turn 18.

There still are some employers who won't hire people covered in ink or require they wear long sleeves to completely cover them during the workday, but many are looking beyond the body art.

The Marine Corps, typically known for tatted up members, has begun, unlike the outside society, cracking down on tattoo regulations.

"I believe tattoos of an excessive nature do not represent our traditional values. Some have taken the liberty of tattooing themselves to a point that is contrary to our professional demeanor and the high standards America has come to expect from us," said Gen. James T. Conway, former commandant of the Marine Corps, in a March 19, 2007 message.

In accordance with the March 2007 message, full sleeves are now prohibited, along with hand, neck,

wrist, face and inside of the mouth tattoos. Quarter sleeve tattoos are acceptable as long as it cannot be seen while wearing the issued physical training gear.

Additionally, the size of any individual tattoo seen outside of PT gear cannot be larger than the Marine's hand with fingers extended and joined and the thumb touching the base of the index finger.

The policy covers a number of other issues from band tattoos, to the nature of tattoos and many other dos and don'ts when it comes to getting a tattoo.

Luckily, those Marines who already had tattoos deemed "out of regulation" before the new policy was issued are "grandfathered" in and should not receive any unfair treatment when it comes to promotion or retention, but are ineligible for some enlisted commissioning programs.

Those of us who had plans of starting our sleeves after we joined can kiss those ideas goodbye, especially if you plan on staying in longer than one enlistment.

I understand the desire for uniformity and professionalism, it makes perfect sense and when some Marines arms are bare and others full of tattoos; we lose that uniformity, but not necessarily the professionalism.

Yes, some Marines with tattoos don't embody the core values, some do. The same goes for Marines without tattoos. Simply because they have no ink doesn't mean they are a perfect Marine.

But, rules are rules, and as Marines it is our responsibility to follow the rules put before us.

"A Marine with tattoos doesn't mean you're a bad Marine," said Sgt. Maj. William Wiseman, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron sergeant major, in an interview in 2010. "However, since tattoos are a visual reminder of your personal thoughts, feelings and ideas, a Marine with visible tattoos may not be the best candidate for a high-profile assignment. Since the Marine Corps has the most recognizable uniform in the world, this makes the Corps a high-profile assignment. ... You joined the Corps; the Corps didn't join you."

However, I encourage everyone to make sure to look beyond the skins surface. To many people their tattoos are art, holding extreme significance and a deeper meaning which they can carry with them forever, not an act of rebellion.

To double check if your tattoos are within regulations, check out Marine Administrative Message 29/10.

Wounded Warriors ride the wave to rehabilitation

Lance Cpl. Derrick Irions

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Sun rays pierced through the early morning clouds as ocean waves curled and crashed onto Camp Pendleton's Del Mar shore.

Juan M. Garcia, assistant secretary of the Navy returned to Pendleton's waterfront, May 5, to surf alongside Wounded Warrior Marines, participating in the Jimmy Miller Memorial Foundation ocean therapy program.

"This is about reintegrating a cadre of Wounded Warriors," said Garcia. "The Miller family and the [JMMF] have taken on this mission and are changing lives during every session."

Ocean therapy is gaining recognition among military members for being an alternative means to enhance the recovery and rehabilitation for Marines challenged by Post Traumatic Stress Disorders, traumatic brain injuries and other mental and physical illness.

"We found surfing to be a catalyst for the Marines that inspires them forward," said Carly Rogers, director of programs for the JMMF. "The ocean therapy program takes the sport of surfing and teaches Marines resilience themes and self-efficacy."

The JMMF is a non-profit organization dedicated to the life of Jimmy Miller, a Southern California native and avid surfer, which provides free ocean therapy surf sessions to Veterans from the West LA Veterans Hospital, Marines with the Wounded Warrior Battalion - West, Camp Pendleton, and youth from care and shelter facilities for abused and foster children.

Before taking to the water, the group gathered in a meet-and-greet circle where they shared a few words about themselves followed by a brief tutorial on proper surfing techniques.

"Surfing is this dynamic sport that takes strength and agility," said Rogers. "And uses it in a playful, positive and encouraging environment."

Through the JMMF surfing sessions, wounded warriors are given a chance to learn how to surf while interacting with others in a social and supportive setting.

"A huge part of the program is engaging with civilians," said Rogers. "[Marines] have to learn to trust the volunteers in the ocean. It really ends up being this beautiful relationship that the volunteers and the Marines share."

For more information about the ocean therapy program and future events visit <http://www.jimmymiller-memorialfoundation.org>.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Derrick Irions



Top: Assistant Secretary of the Navy Juan M. Garcia and Jim Miller, president of the Jimmy Miller Memorial Foundation exchange gifts and a handshake in Del Mar, May 5. The Honorable Mr. Garcia returned to Pendleton's Beach May 5, to surf alongside Wounded Warrior Marines, participating in the JMMF ocean therapy program.

Left: Participants with the Jimmy Miller Memorial Foundation gather in a meet-and-greet circle before hitting the water for a surf session, part of ocean therapy. Ocean therapy facilitates improved self-esteem for service members dealing with mental and physical illness.

1/2 Ads