MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Desert WARRIOR

May 3, 2012
Volume 11, Number 15

A BOOMING CELEBRATION

STATION ORDNANCE MARINES CELEBRATE HERITAGE

WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN

ATC TOWER GETS DECONSTRUCTED

BACK IN THE SACC

MARINES GET SCHOOLED IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION

SAYONARA, OKINAWA

THE PLAN FOR TROOP RELOCATION TO GUAM

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Have an opinion? We want to hear it:

yumapao@usmc.mil

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

Photo of the week

"Let the dance lessons begin!"

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

Last week's top captions

Gil Torres Jr.:
"Boot Camp, Always something there to remind me.... La la la la la la"

Kari Madoll:
"This is my broom, there are many like it, but this one is mine..."

Aaron Diamant:
"Just four years for our Master's Degree in the Janitorial Arts! Woohoo!!!"

Hot Videos of the Week

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EgRWvPIwNrI

Marines train for the sky with advanced technology.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kdFYlhCBHfs

Are you a bone marrow match for Krystle?

Front Page Photo Credit

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

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Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU

Marine Attack Squadron 211
Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

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 thru Sunday, May 28th, on Historic Allen Street. The event will feature three full days of continuousaction packed street entertainment starting at 10:00 A.M. and conclude 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.

2ND ANNUAL ROJAS AND CLARK 5K/1 MILE MEMORIAL FUN RUN

The run will begin May 5 at 7 a.m. sharp at the Yuma Park and Swap (4000 st. 4th Ave. Yuma 85365). On site registration goes from 6 - 6:45 a.m. Fees include a $25 registration $200 military group run, up to 20 runners per group maximum. The best group cadence will receive a trophy. For any questions, contact Rafael Chacon at (928) 920- 3127 or Ben Campbell at (928) 581-4217. The run is a tribute to border patrol agents who have died in the line of duty while serving in the Yuma community.

FTAP BRIEF FOR FY 13 MARINES

GySgt. Jimmy Spence will be conducting a FTAP brief for all FY 13 Marines on May 17th at 0800 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.

CORRECTION

The Desert Warrior posted the Candlelight Vigil to pay tribute to victims of sexual assault from 4 - 4:30 p.m. on April 28 at the Station Chapel. The vigil was actually held from 6 - 6:30 p.m. We apologize for the misunderstanding and for any subsequent confusion.

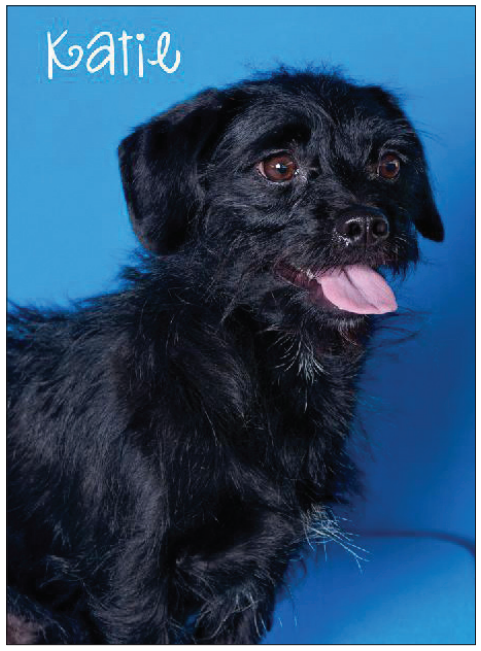
MESS HALL HOURS

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



Ms. Katie

This little girl is a young diva (2yrs), with terrier beauty and brains all in one. She knows how to use a doggie door, is great with people and kids too. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.

ICE Comments

MCCS - Child Development Center (Bldg 1085 & 1071)
Were you satisfied with your experience at this office/facility?: No
Customer Requested Response: Yes

Comment: I don't understand why the CDC charges higher rates for higher ranks or families that have to work more than one job. If my child receives the same care and attention as all the other kids, then why should I have to pay more? I think the CDC should have one set price for all Marines. Thank you for your time.

Response Provided to Customer:
Hello, Thank you for submitting and ICE Comment. I appreciate that you took the time to let us know your concern. Fees are set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense for all Department of Defense branches. The fees parents pay (called Non-Appropriated NAF) go directly to offset the cost of operating the program. Child Youth and Teen Programs funding is very heavily subsidized by appropriated funds(APF). The ratio is a 65% APF to 35% NAF. The fees charged by Child Youth and Teen Programs are less than the majority of child care business off the installation and the quality of facility, programming and over all service exceeds that offered else way.

I&L Department - Air Conditioning / Heating (Bldg 888)
Were you satisfied with your experience at this office/facility?: N/A
Customer Requested Response: Yes

Comment: I speak for all Marines living in Barracks 635E and humbly request that the A/C units be turned on. Leaving a window open during the day will no longer do due to climate change. Marines that work days are coming home to hot rooms and Marines that work at night are sleeping in ovens. Very respectfully.

Response Provided to Customer:
Thank you and all of the Military members residing in Bldg 635 for their patience in regards to receiving air conditioning. Your system was turned on this morning and you should be receiving cooler air as we speak. Please be advised that this is the start-up period for air conditioning and the temperatures fluctuate drastically. Cooler temperatures in the evenings, etc. may impact the cooling capabilities of this system.

MCCS - Arizona Adventures (Bldg 562)
Were you satisfied with your experience at this office/facility?: Yes
Customer Requested Response: No

Comment: On February 26, The entire Marine Drum and Bugle Corps Percussion section went to Lake Martinez. In seventeen years of doing this training evolution, I have never experienced a better way to unwind from our training. The staff provided two speed boats multiple rafts, skis', and wake boards, a pontoon boat, water trampoline and had tons of snacks and fed us lunch. They would do anything for us. Whenever we wanted to go out on the boats they were there to do it. This program is absolutely top notch. Please continue the program, it is essential to the morale of the Marines. Thanks so much!!We had a great time!

I&L Department - Mess Hall - Mainside (Bldg 710)
Were you satisfied with your experience at this office / facility?: Yes
Customer Requested Response: No

Comment: Thanks for all your support during WTI, came in for Breakfast this morning, and I was impressed on how the staff and Marines handled the extra Marines, it looked like everyone was satisfied! thanks again for all you do!!

Response Provided to Customer: None

MCAS Yuma says farewell to old Air Traffic Control Tower comes down

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

The old air traffic control tower, which has long stood companion to base operations, is soon to exist only as a memory.

The red and white Marine Corps Air Station Yuma ATC tower has been condemned, and it is currently being taken down.

Deconstruction work on the tower began in early March and is scheduled to be completed May 31.

It's being removed because it is obsolete, no longer needed and an obstruction to the view of the other tower, said Gregory M. McShane, the airfield operations officer. This deconstruction operation will end up costing the station $529,658.

Since the 1950's, the tower has stood at roughly 125 feet tall, and has been a landmark on MCAS Yuma.

It would direct upwards of 300 operations on a busy day in its prime, added Paul Edwards, an air traffic control tower supervisor. It even facilitating the takeoff and landing of multiple commandants and President George W. Bush.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

"Everybody's got stories about it," said Edwards. "I remember when I was a young lance corporal, they sent me outside to clean the windows, and I am a little hesitant of heights. The catwalk over there was a closer and the railing a little smaller than here. It was nearly impossible to clean those windows."

The new ATC tower, located on the northwest side of the airfield has been directing air traffic for the past six years, starting when the old tower ended its service. The removal of the old tower was delayed until now due to funding concerns.

The new tower is taller, standing at 163 feet. It was built to accommodate a larger capacity of Marines and personnel than its predecessor, and has the space to run numerous training exercises along with the daily operations of the air station and the Yuma International Airport.

Nothing is currently being planned to be built in place of the old tower.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Volunteers from the Military Comfort Center in the Yuma International Airport paid a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's air traffic control facilities, April 24. The MCC cares for military personnel as they travel, making the journey easier for servicemen and women, and this gave the volunteers the opportunity to glimpse how the flights of members of our armed forces are cared for. Due to the absence of a USO location in the airport, the volunteers created a home away from home for service members while they travel.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Cpl. Robert C. Hedgepath, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting rescue man and a Naples, Fla. native, directs the spraying of Suverkrup Elementary students during their track and field day, April 30. ARFF volunteered to support the event by assisting in the setup and operation of the field events.

Earth Day Message 2012

MarAdmin Number: 222/12 2012

Environmental considerations have a significant impact on our mission as a marine corps, both directly and indirectly. As a fighting force, we recognize the interdependence of our mission, the environment, and the communities in which we operate, both at home and abroad. Good environmental stewardship protects the condition of and access to the training areas that are integral to making marines. It also allows future generations of marines and our surrounding communities the same benefits from our planet that we enjoy today. Earth day offers us a chance to reexamine the way we do business in consideration of our environment. Sound practices that consider and minimize our environmental impacts serve to minimize our logistics footprint, reduce our operational costs, ensure the health of our forces and enhance force protection. I challenge all commanders to ensure that impact mitigation measures such as waste reduction, recycling, minimized energy use and proper waste disposal are being used at their commands. I challenge environmental program managers to pursue and exploit opportunities for partnerships, both within and outside of dod, to achieve environmental goals. I challenge all marines, sailors, civilians, and their families to consider the impact of individual actions and make changes that will protect our environment, increase our sustainability and set a positive example throughout the world. As good environmental stewards, you are all contributing directly to the mission success of the marine corps every day. Earth day is recognized on 22 april. The Corps theme for this years earth day is partnering for a greener future. Our installations are participating in a wide variety of activities to raise awareness of our environmental impacts and to reaffirm our commitment to safeguard the earth and its resources. Whether you are at home or abroad, I encourage everyone to use this earth day to reflect on our mission as marines, which includes a standing obligation to protect our environment as we protect our nation, in the air, on land, and sea.

SACO training prepares Marines to help others

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Six station Marines participated in the Substance Abuse Control Officer's training last week.

All SACO's Marine Corps wide are required to attend 40 hours of training prior to assuming the position.

"For some it's a full-time position, for others is a collateral duty," said Virgil S. Tapispisan, station Drug Demand Reduction Program coordinator. "Regardless of their situation we train everyone the same."

Training is held quarterly for all new SACO's, but all current SACO's are invited and encouraged to attend for a refresher.

"We always welcome them to come back to training," said Tapispisan, who is in charge of making sure all station SACO's are up-to-date on training. "Because things are always changing we meet up every other month to discuss our progress, issues each unit is facing and solutions for those issues."

The week long course covers what it takes to be a SACO.

"There are a lot of misconceptions about what a SACO does," Tapispisan added. "Many people think it's only conducting urinalyses, but that's really only about 20 percent of what they do."

Other portions of the SACO duties are treatment for those Marines who do suffer from substance abuse issues, this accounts for about 60 percent of their work, and the other 20 percent goes toward prevention.

"Most of the SACO's are recommended by their commanding officers for this position because of their expressed desire to help Marines," said Tapispisan. "This training is so important because these Marines are entrusted with other Marines personal information and case files. Especially with urinalysis, every time a SACO collects a sample they are holding that Marines career in their hands."

During the training oncoming SACO's cover their duties and responsibilities, drug testing procedures, Battalion Alcohol Intervention Curriculum, treatment requirements and community resources like suicide prevention, health promotion, legal, victim advocacy and more.

"This group is very enthusiastic," said Tapispisan. "Many of them have seen these issues within their families and friends and want to help their fellow Marines get out of or stay away from these situations. I like this kind of attitude, it makes for great SACO's."

For more information on resources available regarding substance abuse contact your unit substance abuse control officer or the Drug Demand Reduction Program at 928-269-2791.

Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Yuma Navy League Honors station, WTI Marines

Courtesy story
Yuma Navy League

A large gathering of Yuma Navy League members gathered at the Emerald Springs Resort to honor the Marine Aircraft Group 13 Marine and noncommissioned officer in charge of the Quarter from Marine Corps Air Base, Yuma.

Lance Cpl. Juan de la Cruz, a Marine Attack Squadron 214 ordnance technician and a native of Mission, Texas, and Cpl. Brandon Brown, a Marine Aircraft Group 13 warehouse chief and a native of Meridian, Conn., were thanked by a grateful community for their service by Yuma Council's President, Nancy Ramsey, and presented with framed copies of the American Creed.

The meeting's principle speaker, Lt. Col. Guy Berry, a pilot with VMA-311, provided an excellent overview of the Marine Corps' post-Afghanistan transition from a land-based army back to their traditional sea-based expeditionary role. The council was also honored with a brief presentation of Navy League Southwestern Region activities by its President, Mrs. Lisa Gallinat, including the scheduled May 2012 commissioning of the Navy's newest amphibious transport dock ship, the USS San Diego.

The League also supported Marine Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron 3, based in Twentynine Palms, Calif., during their time in Yuma. Responsible for operating the Marine Corps unmanned remote controlled aviation assets (UAVs), the Marines of VMU-3's WTI Detachment set up their gear, endured Yuma's high winds and dust, ate their dehydrated rations, and in typical Marine Corps fashion, provided video, communication and data needs to their supported units 24/7.

In a show of support for their service, two families in the north foothills opened their homes to these servicemen. Coordinated by Dean and Gloria Hager of the Yuma Navy League, 30+ Marines Corps enlisted and officers were provided a place to take a hot shower, launder their uniforms, and sample many pounds of good Yuma carne asada.

At the end of the second Saturday, the detachment staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Gunnery Sgt. Juan Varra, and officer in charge, Lt. Col. John Thurman, offered their gratitude to the Navy league and presented both families with VMU-3 challenge coins for their unselfish act. A Special thanks to retired deputy sheriff (and former Marine) David Champagne and his wife Sherri for their enthusiastic support of this event.

Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Lance Cpl. Juan de la Cruz, a Marine Attack Squadron 214 ordnance technician, and Cpl. Brandon Brown, a Marine Aircraft Group 13 warehouse chief, were thanked by a grateful community for their service by Yuma Navy League.

Courtesy photo

A combat logistics company 16 seven-ton hauls a satellite to be used in station operations, april 27.

CLC-16 RETRIEVES SATELLITE DURING CONVOY EXERCISE

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

Marines from Combat Logistics Company 16 led a convoy to set up and retrieve a Russian satellite for a training operation, April 26-27.

The seven Marines and one corpsman, traveling by four seven-tons, out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, worked in conjunction with civilian assets to deliver the satellite in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructors' course aerial operations.

The journey lasted five hours over rugged, off-road terrain, ending on the far side of the Chocolate Mountains from MCAS Yuma.

"The entire time (the Marines of CLC-16) have been out here, they've been dealing with a lot of basic trucks," said Staff Sgt. Kurt A. Diaz, the CLC-16 motor-transportation operations chief, truck master and an Oceanside, Calif. native. "The Russian satellite, due to the size and weight of it, provided good training as far as something out of the ordinary."

In addition to the transportation and operation of the equipment for the exercise, the party had to adapt to the mechanical failure of one of the trailers, causing an unintended addition to the training the Marines received.

"Nothing could have been better," added Diaz about the operation. "They got the experience of hauling something that heavy out there. They had to use all the means available to get it out there, as well as to recover the trailer. The convoy commander had to think outside the box, and back on station we had to work hard to coordinate everything the operation needed. They used everything they had in their toolbox."

This exercise involving the satellite is a mainstay of every WTI course, and is slated to continue as long as the course does.

In addition to the transportation and set up of heavy equipment, CLC-16 can be tasked with providing a continuing supply of water, food, ammunition, fuel and transportation of personnel and gear for deployed units or units involved with exercises.

Full Ads

U.S., Japan Agree on Okinawa Troop Relocation

Karen Parrish
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 27, 2012 – U.S. and Japanese officials announced yesterday the two nations have agreed on a plan to relocate U.S. Marines from Okinawa to Guam.

The joint statement of the U.S.-Japan Security Consultative Committee spells out unit moves, land and facilities on Okinawa the United States will return to the Japanese government, and the costs each government will pay for the relocation.

The joint statement is the latest result of negotiations between the two countries dating to the 2006 Realignment Roadmap and the 2009 Guam International Agreement. The two nations issued a joint defense posture statement in February that "delinked" the two agreements so parts of the relocation plan could move forward more quickly.

"I am very pleased that, after many years, we have reached this important agreement and plan of action," Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said in a statement yesterday. He praised Japanese Defense Minister Naoki Tanaka for "spearheading discussions" leading to the joint statement.

"We will work closely with our partners in the Japanese Self Defense Force to implement these decisions and to further improve this vital alliance of ours," the secretary added.

Panetta said he looks forward to strengthening the two nations' partnership "as, together, we address security challenges in the region."

During a Pentagon background briefing to reporters yesterday, senior State and Defense Department officials outlined the agreement.

About 9,000 Marines will relocate from Okinawa, with about 5,000 moving to Guam and the rest transferring to other locations in the Pacific such as Hawaii and Australia, the defense official said.

The Marines will be organized in air-ground task forces, which combine command, ground, air and logistics elements that can deploy and operate as a unit.

photo by Pfc. Nicholas S. Ranum

Marines and sailors with 3rd Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment transport a casualty to an awaiting Japan Ground Self-Defense Force UH-1 Iroquois helicopter during a bilateral evacuation exercise at the Hijudai Maneuver Area, Japan, Feb. 9. Casualty evacuation training is a requirement prior to any artillery relocation training live fire.

"This new posture that we've created results in a more operationally effective presence across the region," the defense official said.

"In the end, we are sustaining the same presence in the Western Pacific that we've intended for some time," the official added.

About 10,000 Marines will remain on Okinawa when the relocation is complete, the official said.

The agreement also sets Japan's funding for the move to Guam at $3.1 billion of the overall $8.6 billion estimated cost, the defense official added.

"We're particularly appreciative of this commitment in the context of Japan's fiscal challenges, which we fully recognize," the official added.

One element of the agreement involves possible development of joint training ranges in Guam and the commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as shared-use facilities for U.S. and Japanese forces, the official said.

The State Department official said the plan will result in a stronger, more sustainable and more flexible alliance.

"This is really a key component of our strategic rebalancing toward the Asia-Pacific region," the official said. "As you know, one of the key aspects of that is strengthening partnerships with regional allies, and of course Japan is a very important alliance partner."

The official said the agreement reaffirms both nations' commitment to relocate Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, now in the center of Okinawa's Ginowan City, to a more remote area of the island. Until the Futenma relocation happens, both governments will share the cost of maintaining the existing facility, the official added.

The Japanese government will determine the timeline for the Futenma move, the State Department official said, noting the U.S. focus for Okinawa is sustaining an operationally effective Marine Corps presence there.

The defense official said U.S. representatives are "delighted" at the agreement.

"We think it's a significant achievement that demonstrates that the U.S.-Japan alliance is still capable of big things," the official said.

Station Marines celebrate Earth Day by running on Earth

Courtesy photo by Bill Shepherd

Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Top: Station environmental personnel pose for a shot after picking up trash in Yuma, Ariz, in celebration of Earth Day, April 22.

Top right: Station personnel get ready to run in celebration of Earth Day at the air station, April 22.

Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Left: Station children practice seed planting in celebration of Earth Day at the air station, April 22.

Courtesy photo

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Habits of Success"

Lt.Gregory Woodard, Station Chaplain

Several years ago Steven Covey wrote the bestseller, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. It presented a practical way for developing the habits of success.

An important lesson in the quest for success is this: successful people aren't necessarily smarter than others, they're not necessarily more gifted, and they're certainly not luckier. But they do tend to have certain habits that fan the flame of their success. They tend to be self-starters, goal oriented, have a strong sense of priorities, and tend to make business deals with others that are mutually beneficial.

I believe that there are three more habits that will help us on our course toward success. First, don't follow the crowd. In following the crowd, we are often going along to get along. We do need to have open conversation with people who had different values than us, but we need to be careful about allowing their habits and conduct to influence us. The amount of fellowship we have with people whose values are different than ours can lead us away from the pursuits that will take us in right directions for our lives. Wrong desires can lead to wrong actions that can ultimately lead to death of dreams.

Second, we need to get a one track mind. We are to delight in right thinking. We need to be vigilant in not allowing destructive thoughts into our minds.

Finally, we need to gain deeply rooted core values. A life that is not grounded by deeply held beliefs will be like tumbleweed. A life that is grounded, however, is like a tree planted by rivers of water. Likewise, a life that is rooted by core values will stand strong in the face of challenges from those who would seek to sway you from your path.

Growth in character takes time. We have to be patient and continue to maintain an honest and pure heart as well as commit ourselves to doing what is right. The Apostle Paul said it this way: "Let us not become weary in doing well, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Leader's Forum

"Changes to the base pool"

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer

It's true: we are going to begin charging a small fee (like the bowling alley and the movie theater) to use the station pool for recreational swimming.

Before the rumor mill reaches peak output, I want to go on the record to dispel some of the myths before they get started.

It's necessary for MCCS to charge a fee to recover some of the costs for this Category B (Mission Enhancing) activity. When the pool is used as a Category A Activity (Mission Critical) admission to the pool will remain free of charge. An example of this is lap swim and unit training. There will be other times when access to the pool for active duty Marines will be free. Typically, Friday is free to those who participate in field day of the barracks.

We have set the fee schedule to ensure it is less expensive than the fees out in town. Very few facilities are able to offer use of their pools and splash pads for free. The Navy and Air Force facilities on the West Coast charge. Other USMC facilities are considering the need to begin charging a fee. Pool maintenance, chemicals and life guards all cost money.

I recognize there are pools available to housing residents run by Lincoln Housing management that don't charge a fee. I live in housing, too, and I encourage everyone to make use of these facilities....I will if only to keep my eye on my son working there as a lifeguard. But don't kid yourself into thinking the use of these facilities are free. Their costs are included in the rent you pay each month. That's not a knock on Lincoln Management...I'm proud to be associated with them on our base...but running these sorts of activities costs money.

Finally, the children's pool and why it was demo'ed to make way for the splash pad. I decided the children's pool needed to go because we could not keep it clean enough to avoid it from becoming a health hazard. I have children too, and have used that very pool to escape the Yuma heat. But when presented with the evidence by our medical personnel, the conclusion I came to was that the splash pad area was a far safer environment for the children.

So, that's the long and short of it. I wish I could continue to provide this excellent activity free for all. It's my hope the improvements made to the station pool will provide value to you and your families that will make the hard earned money you have to spend worthwhile. I remain open to any and all suggestions through the ICE program to make this, and any changes to the base we are forced to make, more agreeable and worthwhile.

1/2 Ads

Ordnance Marines celebrate 90th birthday of bombastic community

Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

Ten short years after the Corps' took to the skies, a need for highly trained Marines to build, handle and repair weapons systems and ordnance led the creation of the aviation ordnance community.

On April 25, 1922, IYAOYAS, as ordnance Marines are known, were born, creating a vital part of the Marine aviation legacy.

Every year, ordnance Marines, both past and present, gather to celebrate the birth of their tight-knit occupational specialty, said Maj. Michael Kuzniar, the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ordnance officer.

This year, ordnance Marines from MALS-13, the station's Marine Attack Squadrons and Marines visiting for the current Weapons and Tactics Instructor course gathered with local retirees to celebrate 90 years of building bombs and fixing guns.

"This helps build camaraderie within the division," said Cpl. Benjamin Porter, MALS-13 ordnance technician. "We're a very tight-knit group."

While the event had food, drinks and games for the attendees, it also gave them a chance to mingle across generations of the ordnance legacy.

"It's a great chance to talk to retired ordnance Marines, show them the static displays of bombs and how things have changed over the years," said Cpl. Tara Dickerson, MALS-13 ordnance technician. "Plus, we have fun, eat some good food and play games."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Clockwise from above: Cpl. Tyler Miller is a CH-53D Sea Stallion ordnance technician with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 363. Miller, a native of Trenton, Ohio, said he joined the military to fulfill his childhood interest of adventuring around the world. Sgt. Kevin Pena and Sgt. Joshua Milhorn, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ordnance technicians, drag an inert training bomb behind the in one of the competitions during the ordnance birthday celebration April 27. The ordnance community celebrated 90 years of ensuring pilots have working bombs and bullets to support the Marine Air-Ground Task Forces worldwide.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Cpl. Michael Garetz, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 ordnance technician and Comstock, Texas, native, inspects flares loaded aboard one of the squadron's AV-8B Harriers on the flightline at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 29, 2011.

Top: Cpl. Joshua Carmack, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 munitions team member and Winchester, Ky., inspects the internal components of one of the bomb bodies MALS-40 is in charge of at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 30, 2011. Right: Marine Attack Squadron 513 ordnance technicians Cpl. Timothy Johnson, left, a Huntsville, Texas, native, and Lance Cpl. Devin Davis, a Washington Courthouse, Ohio native, successfully arm one of the squadron's AV-8B Harriers on the flightline of Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 20, 2011.

Top left: Lance Cpl. Bryan Lee, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 ordnance system technician and Orlando, Fla., native, ensures the components are properly aligned on a GBU-54 bomb at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 30, 2011. Top right: Cpl. David Chang, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 ordnance technician and Los Angeles native inserts a box of flares into one of the squadron's AV-8B Harriers on the flightline at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Sept. 29, 2011.

Full Ads

Recent Changes to the Student Aid Programs

Federal Student Aid
http://studentaid.ed.gov

As a result of recent legislative changes, you should be aware of a number of new requirements for the federal student aid programs. Most of these changes are effective with the 2012-13 school year (July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013).

Here's an overview of the changes that could impact your financial aid for the upcoming academic year and in the future.

Eligibility of Students Without a High School Diploma

If you are enrolling in higher education for the first time on or after July 1, 2012, in order to be eligible for federal student aid, you must have either a high school diploma or a recognized equivalent (such as a General Educational Development certificate (GED) or have been home schooled).

You will no longer have the option of becoming eligible for federal student aid by passing an approved test or completing at least six credit hours or 225 clock hours of postsecondary education.

Expected Family Contribution

The lower a student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), the higher the student's federal student aid eligibility. A change has been made to the income amount that is used to determine if a student qualifies for an automatic EFC of zero.

When you complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you receive an Expected Family Contribution, which is a number used to determine your federal student aid eligibility. For the 2012-13 school year, you will automatically qualify for an Expected Family Contribution of zero if your family income does not exceed $23,000. This is a reduction from the previous maximum income of $32,000.

Federal Pell Grant Program — Duration of Eligibility

Once you have received a Pell Grant for 12 semesters, or the equivalent, you will no longer be eligible for additional Pell Grants.

You are eligible to receive a Pell Grant for up to 12 semesters or the equivalent. If you have exceeded the 12-semester maximum, you will lose eligibility for additional Pell Grants beginning in 2012-13 school year. Equivalency is calculated by adding together the percentage of your Pell eligibility that you received each year to determine whether the total amount exceeds 600%.

For example, if your maximum Pell Grant award amount for the 2010-2011 school year was $5,550, but you only receive $2,775 because you were only enrolled for one semester, you would have used 50% of your maximum award for that year. If in the following school year, you were enrolled only three-quarter time, you would have used 75% of your maximum award for that year. Together, you would have received 125% out of the total 600% lifetime limit.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Leaving the Corps: Veterans' group life insurance

VA.gov

What is VGLI?

VGLI is a program of post-separation insurance which allows service members to convert their service member group life insurance coverage to renewable term insurance. Members with full-time SGLI coverage are eligible for VGLI upon release from service.

How Much Coverage is Available?

VGLI coverage is issued in multiples of $10,000 up to a maximum of $400,000. However, a service member's initial VGLI coverage amount cannot exceed the amount of SGLI they had in force at the time of separation from service.

Effective April 11, 2011, VGLI insureds who are under age 60 and have less than $400,000 in coverage can purchase up to $25,000 of additional coverage on each five-year anniversary of their coverage, up to the maximum $400,000.Â No medical underwriting is required for the additional coverage.

Other features include:

The VGLI's premium rates are based on age only.

No physical or background health check is required. Members with PTSD are not excluded.

One can choose how often to pay premiums, including discounts if premiums are paid early.

No enrollment or membership fees.

Special benefits for the terminally ill, such as requesting a payment of up to 50% of your VGLI coverage if you are diagnosed with an illness that results in a life expectancy of 9 months or less.

To find out if the VGLI is right for you, visit http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/VGLI/vgliFaq.htm.

Marine Corps Community Services

LIFELONG LEARNING & TAMP

Job & College Fair

When: Mon, May 14, 9:00am – 2:00pm
Where: Sonoran Pueblo

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 269-5181

SONORAN PUEBLO

Mothers Day Brunch

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

This special Mother's Day Buffet is $15 per person. Children 7-12 are half price and children under 7 are free.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP Free Movie & Popcorn

When: Wed, May 16, 6pm – 8pm
Where: SMP Rec Center

Single Marines, come relax and enjoy a free movie and popcorn. For more information call 269-5794 Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Events Calendar.

Full Ads

Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month 2012:

A look at Asian-Pacific American Veterans

Warren Michio Tsuneishi

Courtesy photos

Branch: Army
Rank: Technical Sergeant
Wars served:
World War, 1939-1945;
Unit:
306th Headquarters Intelligence Detachment, XXIV Corps

Born on the Fourth of July in California, Warren Tsuneishi was the son of Japanese immigrants. After Japanese forces bombed Pearl Harbor and the U.S. entered World War II, his family was evacuated to Heart Mountain, a Japanese internment facility in Wyoming. But Tsuneishi craved freedom and the chance to serve his country, in spite of his family's confinement. He volunteered for the Military Intelligence Service Language School and served in the Pacific, translating captured documents that gave U.S. forces a big advantage in securing the Philippines and Okinawa.

Carolyn Hisako Tanaka

Branch:
Army Nurse Corps
Rank: Captain
Wars served:
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Unit:
24th Evacuation Hospital

Courtesy photos

Nicknamed Road Runner for her unflagging energy and enthusiasm, Carolyn Hisako Tanaka served in Vietnam in spite of a scarring childhood memory. At the age of six, she saw her family evicted from their California home in the wake of Pearl Harbor and relocated to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona. When the family returned to California after the war, they found their home burned to the ground. In 1966, as an emergency room nurse, she decided to enlist in the Army, telling skeptical friends, "I have a skill that is needed in Vietnam, and I'm going there to do my duty for my country." Ironically, she returned from that war to a "welcome" that brought back bitter memories.

Jimmie Kanaya

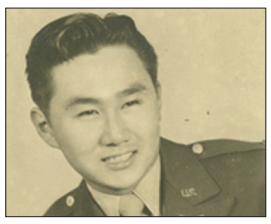
Courtesy photos

Branch: Army
Rank: Colonel
Wars served:
World War, 1939-1945;
Korean War, 1950-1953;
Vietnam War, 1961-1975
Unit:
3rd Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team

As a youth, Jimmie Kanaya became fascinated with the military, and at 20 he jumped at the chance to enlist in 1941—months before the attack on Pearl Harbor. After helping his parents relocate from their Oregon home to an Idaho internment camp, Kanaya took his skills as a medic to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. He aggressively looked out for his men, even negotiating a halt to fighting to bring in casualties from the battlefield. Captured by German troops, he escaped three times and at war's end was the only non-Caucasian in his POW camp. Kanaya continued to serve his country during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

For full profiles, video interviews and more stories of American heroes visit http://lcweb2.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/html/search/browse-war.html

Warren Michio Tsuneishi



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1/2 Ads

Jones & Jones, the place to go for guns

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

I love guns. I don't try to hide it at all, and I encourage others to purchase firearms all the time.

I get that quality firearms can be pricey, but often you get what you pay for. If I spent a little bit more to buy a firearm from a reputable manufacturer, I know that it comes with their guarantee. In the off chance something does go wrong, they'll make it right.

The same can be said about a gunsmith. If I need or want some gunsmithing done, I want to go to the best.

Jones and Jones, firearms dealer in nearby Somerton, Ariz. is veteran-owned and operated business, both of the Jones' are retired military officers, and Mike Jones is the only certified master gunsmith in Yuma County.

I've seen and handled a lot of weapons over the years, and some of Mike's creations are among the finest. If something goes wrong with one of my weapons, he'll be my first stop.

On top of being masters of their craft, Mike and Margie Jones have to be some of the nicest people on the face of the planet. We've had some lengthy conversations out there, and they're always a blast to be with.

While their in-stock selection of firearms isn't as large as other gun shops, they can find and order just about anything and have some of the greatest prices you'll find.

If you need a gun, and everyone does, or you need one of your guns worked on or customized, go see Mike and Margie, you won't regret it.

Photo by Cpl. Laura Mapes

Movie Review: *The Killer Angels*

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Desert Warrior Staff

The historical novel, The Killer Angels by Michael Shaara is about the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War. The book is written from the perspective of the people fighting and shares their thoughts and feelings about the battle as it goes on.

The book is an accurate and fair account of the battle of Gettysburg.

Shaara states in the beginning of his book that his primary sources and documents were accounts from the Marines involved. He studied letters and notes and historical artifacts from the Marines. He states he did not consciously change any facts. His purpose was to bring this part of American history to life. Throughout, Shaara attempts to evenly show both sides of the war and explain why the Marines were really fighting. By using Harrison, an actor who is hired by General Longstreet to spy on the Union forces, as a narrator, Shaara is able to remain neutral as he tells the events leading up to and during the battle.

He is able to tell what both the Confederate and Union forces are planning. This story begins in June 1863 just days before a battle called the biggest and bloodiest battle ever fought on American soil. Colonel Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain, who is in command of the 20th Maine, is given command of 120 mutinous men. By accident, these men signed three year contracts, rather than the two year contracts the rest of the men in their regiment had signed. When the other men returned home, these men wanted to return as well. They were starved, punished, and taken to Chamberlain who is ordered to kill any who refuse to return to fight.

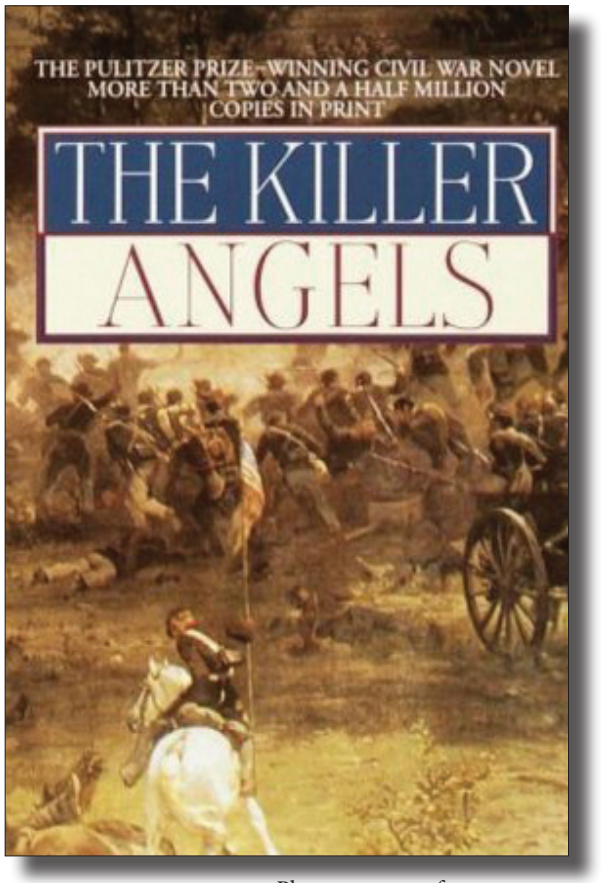


Photo courtesy of amazon.com

This book is one of my favorite historical novels. A superb re-creation of the Battle of Gettysburg, but its real importance is its insight into what the war was about, and what it meant.

It really helped the reader to understand what the men were feeling at the time. I was entirely pleased with the story.

Opinion: Wandering the Maze

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

If anyone has recently tried to drive from the front gate to the flight line, you know that it can be quite an interesting feat to get there.

With the ever-changing road closures, you are often forced to endlessly weave through a veritable maze until you can finally emerge somewhere near where you need to be.

Such can be said for life in general.

Often, the path of most resistance is the one that brings us the greatest lessons. Selecting the easy way isn't always the right way to accomplish a task.

We often learn the most from difficulties, hardships and mistakes in both our personal and professional lives.

Like my grandfather always says, "There's a right way, a wrong way and a government way."

Every time I think of that saying, I also hear my gunny saying, "Treat every decision like a career decision."

It's a fancy way of telling us not to be idiots, but it's a valid point.

We are held to a higher standard than the vast majority of Americans, and in this maze of life, it's important for us to make wise decisions. We might not be given many choices as Marines, but when we are, we are expected to make the right decision, right away, whether it's on duty or off.

A large part of what helps us make those decisions are our role models, for better or worse. I try to learn a little bit of something from everyone, be it something I want to do or a leadership style I want to emulate, or the opposite.

As Marines, we serve as role models for our junior Marines and others within the community. In my position, I often find myself out in the community in uniform, representing the station and the Corps, or covering others that are doing so for this newspaper.

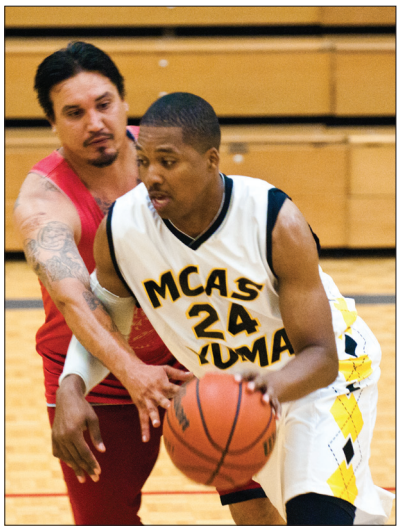
To me, the best parts are the kids who want to take pictures with us because we are Marines. To them, we're heroes and role models, and we need to remember that and to continue to be a positive influence on the community.

MARINES DRIVE THROUGH IN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

The basketball courts of the Winterhaven, Calif., Community Center resounded with the footsteps of Marines fighting to take their team to victory, April 27 and 28.

The fourteen Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma who comprise the station's basketball team competed in a tournament against other teams from across the region, some from as far away as Phoenix and Tuscon, Ariz. The team made it to the fourth round of the tourney before being eliminated from the competition.



This tournament was just the start of the season for the team, with competitions like this one occurring almost every other weekend. The team has been practicing together two-three times per week in two hour sessions since February, under the guidance of coach Stephanie Van.

"They are a very young team and are still learning to play with each other, but they have impeccable talent," said Van, an environmental department secretary and a San Jose, Calif. native. "They are a very talented group, and all of them bring something to the table."

A MCAS Yuma varsity men's basketball team has existed for years, and to become part of this fraternity is no simple task. Each player must pass through try-outs to show they have what it takes to help further the team.

"Talent and experience are requirements," stated Van. "If you have potential to play and the team can mold you, that's one thing. But for someone who's never really played basketball, it would be like if that person tried out for a college team."

Van, who became coach after offering advice from the stands to the players during one of their games, which led them to a victory, leads her team with a ferocious, no-nonsense attitude.

"I prefer to be a vocal coach rather than just sit there and say nothing," added Van. "I want them to know that I am paying attention. If I see a mistake I'm going to fix it right then and there. I don't yell and scream at them, but I try to be motivating and loud enough to be heard. I told them I would coach them only on one condition: they would listen and do what they are told."

The team normally competes against the teams from other military installations, but tries to add in tournaments run by civilians, which the players have to pay for out-of-pocket.

"They've come a long way since February," said Van. "As long as they grow, learn to play better together and play their hearts out, that's what matters."

Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Top: Gunnery Sgt. Merwin McIntyre, the Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 operations chief and an Aliquippa, Penn. native, goes up for a shot against two defenders after driving to the basket at the Winterhaven, Calif. Community Center, April 27.
Inset:Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Capel, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food services specialist and a Troy, N.C. native, drives on an opponent during a basketball tournament at the Winterhaven, Calif. Community Center, April 27.

1/2 Ads