

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

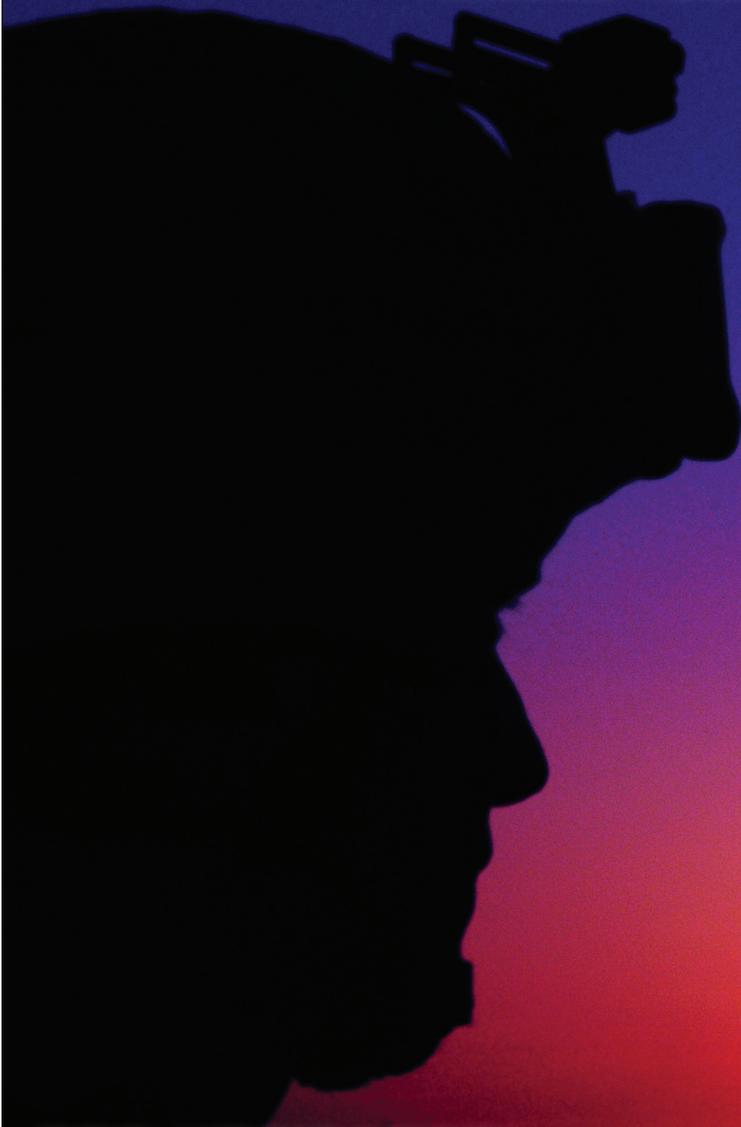
Desert **WARRIOR**



April 26, 2012
Volume 11, Number 14

NEO KNOCKS IT OUTTA THE PARK

MARINE NEO EXERCISE RETURNS TO YUMA



EOD UPGRADES

MARINE EXPLOSIVE ORDNANCE DEVICE EQUIPMENT TO SERVE AGAIN

PAPPY'S SWORD FINALLY HOME

SWORD REUNITES WITH BLACK SHEEP

50th Annual

MARINE MAIDENS

MARINE WIVES TAKE ON MILITARY LIFE FOR JANE WAYNE DAY



Visit us online with
your smartphone
[scan this QR code](#)

Have an opinion? We want to hear it:

yumapao@usmc.mil

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



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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“What Marines do best...”

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

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk
Commanding Officer

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino
Station Sergeant Major

STAFF

Capt. Staci Reidinger
Public Affairs Director

Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk
Public Affairs Chief

Patricia Zoskey
Community Relations Chief

Sgt. Daniel Malta
News Production Chief

Cpl. Jolene Bopp
Media Relations Chief

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Press Chief/Webmaster/Layout & Design

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Combat Correspondent

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Combat Correspondent

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Combat Correspondent/Layout & Design

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Combat Correspondent

LAST WEEK’S TOP CAPTIONS



Justin Killshot Blevins:
“They told me I could be anything. So I became a Kangaroo.”

Jessica Barney:
“When I say jump, you say, ‘How High?’”

Anthony Oquendo:
“Did you see that mouse that ran by me?”

DISCLAIMER

The Desert Warrior is printed Thursday each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc., at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to: **Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 99113, Yuma, AZ 85369-9113 or 928-269-3612/3410.**

Everything advertised, including inserts, in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age or sex of the purchaser, the user or the patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy will result in refusal to print advertising from that source. All queries concerning business matters or display ads should be directed to **Aerotech News and Review, Inc. at 623-487-7321.**

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma or Aerotech News and Review, Inc., of the products and services advertised.

The views and comments expressed in the opinion articles of the Desert Warrior are the author’s individual opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. If you have an opinion that you would like to see published, submit your article or letter to dunk@usmc.mil or bring it to the Public Affairs Office in building 852. Submissions must be handed into the Public Affairs Office no later than the Friday prior to the next issue’s publish date. All submissions are subject to editing and space availability, and they are not guaranteed to be published.

HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



youtube.com/watch?v=Lrg6Ox0Lh28&feature=relmfu

Boot camp for teachers.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwddBf1UD0Y>

State of the Marine Corps.



Front Page Photo Credit

Cpl. Austin Hazard

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 211
Good Luck in Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU



News to Use

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR 2012 SCIENCE EXPO

Military and Civilian volunteers are needed for the 2012 Yuma County Science Expo April 27 at the AWC Shoening Conference Center from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. They are seeking ten volunteer judges for the expo. Volunteers will be provided a free continental breakfast and a lunch. If interested, please call Community Relations for details at 928-269-2275. The address for the conference is:

AWC Shoening Conference Center
2020 Avenue 8E
Yuma AZ 85365

2012 EARTH FAIR SMP EVENT

Marine volunteers are needed for the Pueblo Elementary School Earth Fair. The fair is on May 4 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the elementary school. If interested, please call Community Relations for details at 269-2275.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

There will be a Candlelight Vigil to pay tribute to victims of sexual assault Sat., April 28, from 6-6:30 p.m. at the Station Chapel. The event is sponsored by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office and the Office of the Chaplain in honor of Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The vigil will include music, poetry, a visual montage, and the lighting of candles to recognize all those who have been impacted by sexual violence. It is free of charge and open to Marines, their loved ones, MCAS Yuma personnel, and concerned citizens. Civilian attendees can gain parking access by contacting Mary Chipman at 928-269-2994.

YUMA COUNTY SCIENCE EXPO

April 27, 2012
0800-1500
AWC Shoening Conference Center
2020 Avenue 8E
Yuma AZ 85365

Military and Civilian volunteers needed. Science Expo seeking 10 volunteer Judges for the 2012 Science Expo. Volunteers will be provided a free continental breakfast and a lunch. Please have them call Community Relations for details at 269-2275.

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



Mr. Ben

Mr. Ben, the two-year-old Chihuahua mix, is a sweet outgoing guy who has been here for a while. His adoption fee has been reduced to \$55. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions

for the Education Center

Kim Smith

1. How does someone get started going to school?

The first step is to take a career assessment. One online career assessment we recommend is through a site sponsored by the Department of Labor called O*Net at this website: <http://www.onetonline.org/>. Once you get to the site, you will go to the portal that states: Tell me what you would like to do. You will answer questions about what you are interested in and at the end of the assessment; you will have an idea of what careers are best suited for your interests. After you have that information, you can determine which schools offer the degree you are looking to pursue.

2. How many classes should I start out with? Should I take online classes? What else do I need to consider?

Here is a checklist to help you get started: Select a college to attend, complete a student application, send your SMART transcripts to your school, if you have previous college credits, have those transcripts sent to your new college for evaluation, take a placement test if applicable, determine your course schedule, register for classes and purchase books. For more information, stop in education center.

3. What is one opportunity that you would like Marines and Sailors to take advantage of while they are stationed here?

With the Transition Assistance Program, we have added two workshops which are beneficial to Marines that are planning to pursue some type of educational program when they exit the Corps. The two pathways are the College or Career and Technical Pathway. The College Pathway assists Marines who are planning on going to college or university as they exit the Corps. This pathway will walk you through the ins and outs of applying to school and beginning your GI Bill benefits. The Career and Technical Pathway highlights how to determine what type of education you will need while pursuing a vocational field. The briefs are given on May 1st, 15th and 29th starting at 1 p.m. in the education center. Please call to make a reservation at 269-5614/3589.

4. Is there a difference in Navy and Marine education programs?

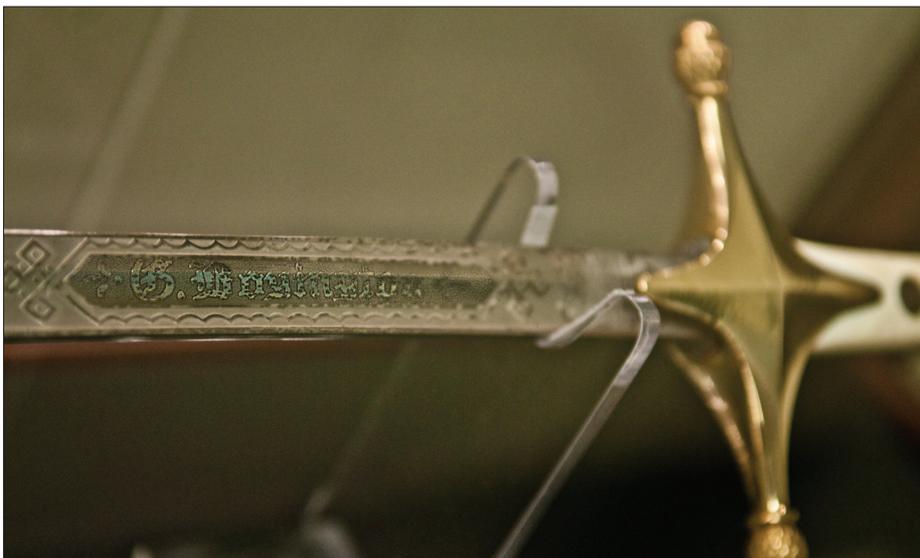
One main difference is the ability to process tuition through a web portal. The Navy processes tuition assistance through a virtual education center by a webTA portal and we still process tuition assistance forms by hand. Any Sailor that would like to begin taking off-duty education courses needs to contact the VEC at vec@navy.mil. Marines need to see the College 101 brief before pursuing off-duty education courses. It is given on Tuesdays at 1000 and Thursdays at 1400 in Building 850.

5. Can I still take classes if I deploy?

You certainly can, however, it really depends on the type of technology you have at your disposal. If the traditional online method is available, keep in mind that you will need to be able to login regularly, participate in on-line discussions and have weekly connectivity. In addition to that method, there are also MultiMedia courses which are designed for students who do not have consistent, reliable internet access. You purchase the course media when you purchase your textbooks. The course is available on CDs and SD cards, so you may take your course on your desktop computer, laptop, or handheld device and take tests with a test proctor. I suggest assessing your technology options then emailing us to explore enrolling in school.

Pappy's sword reunites with Black Sheep

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Marine Attack Squadron 214's first commanding officer was a bit of a celebrity in his day.

The valiant Gregory "Pappy" Boyington was famous for his leadership style and more importantly his squadron's winning record in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Following his military career, Boyington had a rough life, returning to heavy drinking, which plagued him in the years after the war. He freely admitted that during the two years he spent as a prisoner of war his health improved, due to the enforced sobriety.

Much of his military memorabilia went into the wind so to speak, much of it never entering the hands of his family.

One day, a Boyington family friend found a Marine Corps officer's mameluke sword at a garage sale. Upon removing the saber from the scabbard, she saw "G. Boyington" engraved on the blade.

She purchased the sword and gave it to Gregory Boyington, Jr., the son of the now deceased famous aviator, who after a few years donated it to the squadron, believing the Black Sheep hangar was the sword's rightful home.



For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil

Right: Stefan Rohal, National Museum of the Marine Corps registrar, carefully places Col. Gregory "Pappy" Boyington's sword into a display case in the Marine Attack Squadron 214 hangar, April 23. Rohal hand-carried the sword in a heavily padded case from Quantico, Va to Yuma after it had been restored by the museum.

Resident Energy Conservation Program: Saving energy this summer

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

It's no secret; changes are coming for those families who live in on-base housing.

Marine Corps wide, installations are implementing the Resident Energy Conservation Program, an initiative put in place April 1 to give families living on base incentives to use less power.

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma has already begun putting this new plan into action, though no one should worry about receiving a "bill" any time soon.

"There is a lot of information gathering and planning that has to happen first," said Mark Smith, station military housing manager. "Even after the program is officially put in to action most

families won't be affected. If you're living a normal, conscious lifestyle you won't have anything to worry about."

As more information about the program is coming out all families residing in privatized military housing will receive updates, until then now is a good time to start learning ways to conserve energy at home.

Eight tips to save energy:

1. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs or light-emitting diode bulbs.
2. Use fans before air conditioners.
3. Shorten showers.
4. Wash clothes in cold water.
5. Report leaky faucets.
6. Eliminate power sneakers like phone chargers, printers,

monitors, etc. These things draw power even when not in use.

7. Get into the habit of turning off lights, TVs, fans, air conditioning, etc, when you leave the house.

8. During the summer, set your thermostat to the warmest comfortable setting.

Smith also highlighted it's important to remember a percentage of the basic allowance for housing is allotted to utilities and most families will have no change but more motivation to conserve energy.

"Little things individually may not seem like much but together will save energy," Smith added.

Families living in base housing should keep an eye out for an official letter describing in detail the program, its timeline and requirements, or contact the housing office at 928-269-3643.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Mayor Alan L. Krieger, of Yuma, Ariz., left, and Cpl. Timothy Rossiter, a Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 462 CH-53 Super Stallion crew chief and a Belleville, N.Y. native, right, hold on to the 50-caliber machine gun mount and enjoy the scenery passing below the helicopter. Krieger and other community officials and VIPs were passengers on this CH-53 flight to help improve relations between Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and the local community. This flight observed the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation exercise, part of the Weapons and Tactics Instructors' course held biannually on MCAS Yuma, as it progressed.



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

As part of Earth Day 2012, children from the station youth center helped to pick up trash and other debris at the Yuma Conservation Garden, April 19. The kids spent two hours cleaning up the area that includes vintage farm vehicles, native plants and a pond for ducks and geese.

Mexico travel policy update: Sonora off-limits

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

The Mexico state of Sonora has been added to the list of prohibited states.

Only preapproved mission-essential travel is authorized to this and all of the other states listed as prohibited including Michoacan, Tamaulipas, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Durango, Nuevo Leon, San Luis Potosi, Jalisco and Zacatecas, according to US North Command Force Protection Directive 12-087.

Sonora's addition to the banned states affects Marines on station due to the proximity of the state to the Arizona border, as well as, San Luis now being off limits.

In many cases only emergency leave, where a Marine has family in a restricted area will be approved.

All other travel to Mexico, even areas not listed on the prohibited list, must be preapproved through the chain of command.

"No if's, and's or but's about it, you have to route the correct approval package through S-1 and your chain of command," said Sgt. Rene Villalobos, with station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administration.

The directive also addresses cities and states where service members should use extreme caution when traveling to or through.

Air travel is the suggested form of transportation in and out of Mexico when visiting family or vacationing. In reference to vacationing, some resort heavy cities, like Acapulco, it is highly recommended to stay within the immediate area of the resort and avoid using ground transportation.

Cruises to Mexico are still authorized however; Marines and their families may not get off the ship at stops in restricted areas.

For more information on proper procedure for requesting travel approval reference the above directive, USNORTHCOM FP Directive 12-087 and speak with your administration section.



The highlighted states are part of the prohibited list of Mexican states. Travel to these states requires preapproval and must be mission essential.

Marine Explosive Ordnance Device equipment to serve again

Jeff Landenberger

Marines assigned to the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., are experts at getting rid of explosive items.



Photo by Jeff Landenberger

With one transaction DLA Disposition Services Yuma swas able to serve the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's Explosive Ordnance Disposal team.

When it's time to dispose of unwanted non-explosive items, however, they call the DLA Disposition Services staff there.

The EOD team at Yuma recently received an updated bomb disposal trailer.

It transports a total containment vessel, which is a heavy, hollow ball with very thick wall and a massive hatch meant to allows an explosive device to be moved more safely. The Marines' older containment vessel was in good shape but became excess when their new equipment arrived.

They knew what was now excess for them would be a welcome addition to

any EOD unit that did not have one.

The Marines contacted John Wilcox, the lead at their local DLA Disposition Services in Yuma site who accepted the vessel as a receipt in place. This technique allowed DLA customers around the world to look at the property while the Marines maintained physical custody of the item.

In the end, the Arizona State Police became the new owners of the unit.

According to Chief Warrant Officer 3 Simon Wade at the base EOD office, the Marines and state police bomb squad train together and respond to some of the same incidents out in town. "This is perfect that this piece of gear can be reutilized by them," Wade said.

"What this piece of equipment does is allow our bomb squad technicians to work with explosives or potentiality explosive items," said Jerry Diechl, commander of the Arizona State Department of Public Safety Bomb Squad, "and that allows us to put these inside the container and keep them safe until we can transport them to an area where we can destruct, explode or get rid of them in a safe manner."

Diechl estimated that by going through DLA Disposition Services and the Law Enforcement Support Office program his department saved the taxpayers of Arizona more than \$250,000. He also noted that the total containment unit will not only protect the members of the bomb squad but the people of Arizona as well.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Capt. Eric Biskner, the Marine Aircraft Group 13 assistant operations officer and an Inverness, Ill. native, speaks to the Phoenicians, a part of the Phoenix area chamber of commerce, who visited Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, April 19. The Phoenicians travel Arizona, promoting business and the military. They visit military installations regularly to keep their knowledge of the military up-to-date. Thirty-four of these business owners and executives visited Marine Attack Squadron 211 and Search and Rescue while on station.

MARADMIN

MARINE DSTRESS LINE EXPANSION TO CORPS WIDE CAPABILITY

MarAdmin Number: 226/12 2012

This maradmin announces Corps-wide expansion of the Dstress line. The Dstress line is a CMC initiative that provides an anonymous, Marine-to-Marine counseling and referral service to Marines, attached sailors, and families. The Dstress line is for all Marines, attached sailors, and families-especially spouses who may be the first to identify health and wellness issues of the entire family. Callers can speak anonymously about anything from everyday stress to life-threatening crises. Callers to the Dstress line will speak, chat, or email one-on-one with veteran Marines, fleet Marine force corpsmen, and Marine spouses who are all trained in behavioral health counseling. These peer counselors are supervised by licensed clinical counselors with specialized training in Marine Corps culture who also answer the Dstress line. The anonymous chat feature is available through the Dstress line homepage at www.Dstressline.Com. The website also contains an email link, more information about the dstress line, videos, and an international list of government resources for behavioral health needs. The purpose is to increase total fitness and develop the necessary skills required to cope with the widely varying challenges of life in the Marine Corps.

Full Ads

Face of Defense: Marine Earns Top-Shooter Status

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

American Forces Press Service

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C., April 23, 2012 – Gunnery Sgt. Joshua A. Peterson is one of the few riflemen to earn a coveted place on the Marine Corps Shooting Team, where the time-honored art of marksmanship is a full-time job.

Peterson recently earned top-shooter status at the Eastern Division Match Championship held here, dropping only 12 points out of a possible 600.

Peterson said he was no stranger to firearms growing up in Wisconsin.

“I grew up shooting with my dad,” Peterson said. “I learned on iron sights as a kid and he wouldn’t let me shoot with scopes or anything like that until I was proficient.”

Peterson says the examples his family set helped him to become the Marine he is today.

“I’ve done a lot of things in my life that probably haven’t been the greatest, but you always have to deal with those and take that right step forward,” he said. “Character just comes from my family. My mother and father always pushed [me] to do the right things and do the best I can and the best with what you’ve got. I give a lot of credit to both of them.”

Peterson said his work on the Marine Corps Shooting Team helps to spread the art of shooting across the Marine Corps community. In his spare time, he also coaches the local West Potomac High School air rifle team.

“The [Marine Corps] shooting team keeps us on a pretty busy schedule,” said Master Sgt. Gregory T. Schardein, the team’s staff noncommissioned officer in charge and an accomplished shooter himself. “I

know [Peterson] likes to ride [motorcycles], but what little time he does have he’s coaching the high school shooting team.”

It’s not the kind of activity one might expect upon meet-



DOD photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Gunnery Sgt. Joshua A. Peterson, one of the crack shots on the Marine Corps Shooting Team, practices his aim at the Stone Bay Ranges on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., April 13, 2012. The custom-made rifle he uses is specially weighted.

ing Peterson, a veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom with a Bronze Star medal for valor, though he’d never bring it up in an interview. He’s not a man to revel in his own accomplishments, nor does he ever stop pushing to do better.

Peterson enlisted in 1997. In 1998, his feet graced the same yellow footprints that greet the future of the Marine

Corps today at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego. He considers himself fortunate.

“I have had the opportunity to serve with some of the best Marines that have come into the history of the Marine Corps,” said Peterson, as he patiently waited for his turn on the pistol range here.

A stoic with a quiet but sincere passion for shooting, Peterson’s solid frame, shaven head and strong gaze say more than words about his character. His teammates describe him as a dangerous threat to the enemy with a weapon in his hand.

Schardein describes Peterson as a natural leader and the kind of shooter other competitors can never discount.

“He’s highly competitive and forces everyone to bring their ‘A’ game,” Schardein said of Peterson. “Gunny Peterson is a known quantity. He’s someone you can count on -- highly reliable.”

Peterson said he believes the skills and discipline that are forged on the shooting range are not about winning competitions.

“I don’t consider this to be a sport,” Peterson said. “I consider this to be training, [as part of preparation] to go back in-country to take out those that are putting our guys in harm’s way.”

“There are some really good shooters, one or two that could probably match, or on a good day, beat him,” Schardein said of Peterson’s shooting ability. “He’s probably one of the top 10 shooters in the Marine Corps.”

Competitive shooting takes mental fortitude and physical strength, said Peterson, who sets aside time each day to ensure his physical and shooting skills remain sharp.

“You wake up every morning and the first thing that you see in the mirror is what you are,” he said. “You are a Marine.”

Marine wives take on military life for Jane Wayne Day



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant



Photo by Sgt. Michael Whitnel



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Top: In the final event of Jane Wayne Day, the spouses geared up and loaded M16A4 service rifles, firing from the same positions their Marines do for annual rifle qualification. In true Yuma fashion, the temperature was above 100 degrees on the range, giving the spouses a taste of the heat their Marines deal with on a daily basis.

Top Left: Beth Cullen puts Jill Hauck in an arm bar during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program lesson during Jane Wayne Day. The spouses were taught several MCMAP moves, some basic and some more advanced, such as pistol take away techniques, taught by the H&HS MCMAP coordinator Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Spence.



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Far Left: Cpl. Max Page, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron legal chief, demonstrates how to maneuver over the short wall portion of the station's obstacle course as part of the H&HS and Marine Fighter Training Squadron 401 joint Jane Wayne day. Twenty spouses spent a day in the boots of their Marines, taking part in various training requirements and even ate lunch at the station mess hall.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Incidents, Accidents, and Providence"

Lt. Jason Arant, CHC, USNR

Sometimes the BEST thing that can happen is for your plans to fall through!

James Whistler painted a portrait of his mother that is quite possibly the most recognized painting in the world. Whistler had hired a model to stand in this room for the painting but when the woman failed to show up he decided to ask his mother to pose instead. Mrs. Whistler was frail however and after a while she had to have a chair in which to sit.

Thus one of the most famous profiles in art history was created. The portrait is officially titled: Arrangement in Grey and Black-Portrait of the Artist's Mother yet it is known even round the world as: "Whistler's Mother".

Q: Would we know this painting if it were titled: "Arrangement in Grey and Black: Portrait of an Anonymous

Model"?

Has anyone you've been counting on dropped the ball and spoiled your plans?

Perhaps you are encountering a God-given opportunity to take your plans in a different direction that will turn out for the best.

The ancient book of proverbs says:

"The mind of man plans his way,
But the LORD directs his steps."

(Prov 16:9, NASB)



About Absentee Voting

www.FVAP.gov

Voting is a constitutional right that American citizens eighteen years and older can freely exercise. The Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) covers all active-duty members of the Uniformed Services and their families, members of the merchant Marine and their families, and US citizens who reside overseas, and assists them in exercising their right to vote.

Elections are managed individually by all 55 states and territories. This means that there are 55 sets of rules for absentee voting by UOCAVA citizens, but the basic steps are simple: Citizens register to vote and request an absentee ballot by filling out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), and mailing it to their local election official in the state in which they are eligible to vote. The election official approves/disapproves the FPCA or requests additional information. If the FPCA is approved, the election official sends an absentee ballot to the citizen.

The citizen votes and returns their ballot to their election official by their state's deadline. To successfully vote absentee, UOCAVA citizens should:

- Allow plenty of time to request, receive, and return their ballot.
- Notify their local election official each time their mailing address changes.
- Become familiar with their state's absentee voting laws, procedures, and deadlines to make sure their ballot is properly executed and will be counted.

This website provides UOCAVA citizens with the state-specific information they need to register to vote and request and return their ballot, or to complete an emergency back-up write in ballot. If you wish to perform any of these tasks, go to www.fvap.gov and choose the "Get Started" button under the category of UOCAVA citizen that describes you.

Remember: The FVAP.gov Web Portal is Your 2012 Election Resource

1/2 Ads

NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATION

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

Yuma's Kiwanis Park was abuzz with activity Friday night, as Marines participating in the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course completed a noncombatant evacuation operation as part of their curriculum.

The event takes place twice a year, drawing crowds of locals to watch as Marine CH-53E helicopters land to load and unload Marines and role players.

The NEO is designed to prepare the students to evacuate civilians from hostile countries around the globe in the event of an emergency.

There have been 16 NEOs conducted since the Korean War, and Marine pilots and crews train in the event there's another one.

"It is the only place where the students are going to see and it's a place where we can make it as realistic as possible," Maj. William Lewis, assault support coordinator.

At the landing zone, the Marines worked with the consular affairs officer to coordinate the evacuation, just as it would happen in real life.



photo by Sgt. Richard A. Tetreau

place where the students are going to see and it's a place where we can make it as realistic as possible," Maj. William Lewis, assault support coordinator.

At the landing zone, the Marines worked with the consular affairs officer to coordinate the evacuation, just as it would happen in real life.

A ground based quick reaction force were the first Marines into the park, quickly setting up a perimeter for the Super Stallions landing zone. Two UH-1N Hueys circled overhead to provide immediate fire support in the event of an attack, as the massive CH-53E Super Stallions landed in the park to drop off additional Marines for security and to evaluate the role players, provided by the Canadian Army, who are also in Yuma for training.

As the sun set, the helicopters returned to ferry the role players away from the simulated hot zone and back to the safety of the air station, and also picked up the Marines as the ground mobile forces left.

The crowds watched in amazement, many of them children who were seeing the military aircraft in use for the first time, as the Marines and soldiers prepared for an event they hope they never need to perform.



photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Bottom: U.S. Marines from 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion provide security for a landing zone during Assault Support Tactics 3 (AST-3) at Kiwanis Park, Yuma, Ariz., April 20, 2012. AST-3 was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



photo by Sgt. Richard A. Tetreau



photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant



photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Marines from 2nd Low Altitude Air Defense Battalion provides security for a landing zone during Assault Support Tactics 3 (AST-3) at Kiwanis Park, Yuma, Ariz., April 20, 2012. AST-3 was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



photo by Sgt. Richard A. Tetreau

Full Ads

Temporary Financial Assistance

The American Legion
Legion.org

Since its establishment in 1925, The American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program has awarded cash grants to minor children of veterans who are eligible for American Legion membership. These grants help families in need meet the cost of shelter, food, utilities and health expenses, thereby keeping the child or children in a more stable environment.

Who is eligible for a grant?

TFA is limited to minor children (17 years or younger) whose biological parent, or legal guardian, is a veteran and is, or would have been, eligible for American Legion membership. However, Legion membership is not required. Children 18-20 years old will also be considered if a current disability requires special schooling or indefinite in-home care, or they are enrolled in an approved high school and unmarried. To be eligible for Legion membership, the parent or guardian must have served at least one day of active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during one of the following periods:

Dec. 7, 1941-Dec. 31, 1946

June 25, 1950-Jan. 31, 1955

Feb. 28, 1961-May 7, 1975

August 24, 1982-July 31, 1984

Dec. 20, 1989-Jan. 31, 1990

Aug. 2, 1990-Cessation of hostilities as determined by the U.S. Government.

No child is considered eligible for Temporary Financial Assistance until a complete investigation is conducted at the post or department level; a legitimate family need is determined; and all other available assistance resources have been utilized or exhausted. Additionally, the TFA application must originate and be filled out by someone at the local level.

Make a donation

You can donate to the Temporary Financial Assistance program by sending a check or money order, made out to The American Legion Endowment Fund, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN, 46206 or you can donate at [https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=TALFUNDNR+webtrn=WR_donorinfo+mI=LANSA:XHTML+part=tal+lang=ENG+f\(trantype\)=END](https://www.members.legion.org/CGI-BIN/lansaweb?webapp=TALFUNDNR+webtrn=WR_donorinfo+mI=LANSA:XHTML+part=tal+lang=ENG+f(trantype)=END).

LEAVING THE CORPS

Career Training for the Real World

Education4military.com

Take the first step to prepare for your post-military career or enhance your current one with Allied's many available programs. All courses are available online from anywhere in the world.

The training provides you with the skills to move ahead in your current job or to transition from the military and build a successful post military career. Allied offers career training in the following fields:

- Professional Programs
- Private Investigation
- Introduction to Computer Systems
- Professional Property Management
- Administrative Assistant
- Microsoft Office Professional
- Computerized Financial Accounting
- Introduction to the Principles of Small Business Management
- Professional QuickBooks

Enter the job market with a career advantage. There are a variety of skills that are in high demand in today's corporate world and we have designed our programs to give you exactly what you need. Become proficient with computer, administrative, management and private investigation skills and be one step ahead.

Enrolling in a quick and easy military distance learning program is all it takes to get the expertise you need to join an existing company or start your own business venture. Inquire about a Professional Course or enroll today.

Enrolling in an Allied's career program begins with two easy steps. First, we ask that you take a few minutes to fill out a student information form you can find in our website – this will help us understand your personal situation and better serve you.

After submitting this form, a representative will discuss your career options and sign you up for one of our many available programs.

Marine Corps Community Services

BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Lei'd Back Luau

When: Sat, April 28, 10pm – Sun, April 29, 3am

Where: Pulse Nightclub

Free food, Live Band.

Dress in beachwear and be ready for the water balloon/ water gun blow-out volleyball and hula hoop contest. 50 cent drink specials for the ladies. 269-2711 for more information. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Event Calendar.

FAMILY SERVICES

Picacho Peak Quad Riding and Overnight Camping

When: Tue, May 1, 11am – 3pm

Where: Building 850

From 1000-1400 a representative from Northern Arizona University visits the Education Center to provide information and answer questions. Open to Active Duty, retirees and dependants. Call 928-317-3067 or 928-317-6400 for more information.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP Free Movie & Popcorn

When: Wed, May 2, 7pm – 9pm

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

Who's who in USMC: Major Henry Talmage Elrod

TECOM.usmc.mil

Henry Talmage Elrod was born on 27 September 1905, in Turner County, Georgia. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in December 1927, and was appointed a Marine second lieutenant in February 1931. He attended the University of Georgia and Yale University prior to his entry into the Marine Corps.

Following over a year at the Marine Corps Basic School in Philadelphia and at the Marine Barracks there as a student aviator, 2dLt Elrod was ordered to the Naval Station in Pensacola, Florida. There he served as a company officer at the Naval Station, and as student aviator. He was promoted to first lieutenant on 29 May 1934.

In February 1935, he earned his wings and, as a Marine Aviator, was transferred to Quantico, Virginia, where he served with a Marine aircraft unit until January 1938. In addition to his other duties, he was squadron school, personnel, and welfare officer. He was also promoted to captain during this time on 1 September 1937. In July 1938, Capt Elrod went to San Diego for duty at the Naval Air Station and served as squadron material, parachute, and personnel officer, until January 1941, when he was detached to the Hawaiian Islands area.

He arrived at Wake Island a short time before the hostilities commenced and was one of the twelve pilots who flew the Marine planes onto the island. During the defense of Wake, Capt Elrod repeatedly displayed conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life, above and beyond the call of duty. On the 12th of December he single-handedly attacked a flight of 22 enemy planes and shot down two. On several flights he executed low altitude bombing and strafing runs on enemy ships, and became the first



Courtesy Photo by Tecom

man to sink a major warship with small caliber bombs delivered from a fighter-type aircraft.

When his plane was destroyed by hostile fire he organized a unit of ground troops into a beach defense and repulsed repeated Japanese attacks until he fell mortally wounded. Capt Elrod was killed in action

defending Wake Island against the invading Japanese on 23 December 1941.

On 8 November 1946, his widow was presented with the Medal of Honor, posthumously awarded to her husband for his heroic actions during the last bitter days of the defense of Wake.

Major Elrod, who had been posthumously promoted to major in January 1942, was initially buried on Wake Island, but was reinterred in Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia, in October 1947.

MEDAL OF HONOR CITATION

The President of the United States takes pride in presenting the MEDAL OF HONOR posthumously to

**CAPTAIN HENRY T. ELROD
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS**

for service as set forth in the following

CITATION:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty while attached to Marine Fighting Squadron TWO HUNDRED ELEVEN, during action against enemy Japanese land, surface and aerial units at Wake Island, from 8 to 23 December 1941. Engaging vastly superior forces of enemy bombers and warships on 9 and 12 December, Captain Elrod shot down two of a flight of twenty-two hostile planes and, executing repeated bombing and strafing runs at extremely low altitude and close range, succeeded in inflicting deadly damage upon a large Japanese vessel, thereby sinking the first major warship to be destroyed by small caliber bombs delivered from a fighter-type aircraft. When his plane was disabled by hostile fire and no other ships were operative, Captain Elrod assumed command of one flank of the line set up in defiance of the enemy landing and, conducting a brilliant defense, enabled his men to hold their positions and repulse determined Japanese attacks, repeatedly proceeding through intense hostile fusillades to provide covering fire for unarmed ammunition carriers. Capturing an automatic weapon during one enemy rush in force, he gave his own firearm to one of his men and fought on vigorously against the Japanese. Responsible in a large measure of the strength of his sector's gallant resistance, on 23 December, Captain Elrod led his men with bold aggressiveness until he fell, mortally wounded. His superb skill as a pilot, daring leadership and unswerving devotion to duty distinguished him among the defenders of Wake Island, and his valiant conduct reflects the highest credit upon himself and the United States Naval Service. He gallantly gave his life for his country.

/S/ HARRY S. TRUMAN

1/2 Ads

Come fly away

Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Desert Warrior Staff

As someone who's flown in just about every military aircraft I can, often hanging out the back or side to get photos, my expectations for the excitement of hot air ballooning over Yuma weren't very high to start with.

I can admit when I'm wrong, and this was definitely one of those times.

Balloons Over Yuma might be pricey, at nearly \$180 per person, but the ride is unlike any other I've been on.

Literally floating under the 160,000 cubic foot balloon Miss Guided Intelligence at nearly 1,000 feet in the air in near silence is an amazing feeling. Of course, they don't tell you the name of the balloon until you're in the air, but are quick to point out it's three words.

There's no loud droning of jets or turbo prop engines, just the morning breeze against you face.

The silence is only interrupted by occasional blasts from the burners to keep the air hot and the balloon in the air. But those blasts also shoot about 25 feet of flame straight up into the inside of the balloon, so it's fun to watch!

Not being a fan of heights myself, I was amazed that I never felt like I was in any danger, partly due to the expert flying of chief pilot Colin Graham, who has been piloting balloons for more than 15 years. He's flown in 30 states and five countries, to include Mexico, Canada, New Zealand, and China, and he's one of only 13 balloon pilots in the world to fly over Inner Mongolia.

One thing that had me worried was the landing, there's no landing gear or shock absorbing equipment of any kind, but once again, the expert piloting skills played in and we made a smooth landing after nearly 80 minutes of a wonderful flight along the Colorado River and over the west side of Yuma.

Since Yuma is one of the hottest cities in the U.S., they don't fly during the summer, but go ahead and call to see if they have any spots left this season, or make reservations for the fall.

For anybody who has ever even thought about going on a hot air balloon ride, I can only think of two words, "Do it!" Seriously, you will not regret it!



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Movie Review: *The Last Stand of Fox Company*

Cpl. Laura Cardoso

Desert Warrior Staff

The Last Stand of Fox Company tells the incredible story of a small company of Marines fighting to hold open a mountain pass in Korea. Out-numbered and out-gunned, these 246 Marines hold off 10,000 Chinese soldiers determined to overtake the Toktong Pass near the Choisin Reservoir.

The story of their eight day battle is a moving account of bravery and of sacrifice. Something Marines are well known for throughout history.

Drury and Clavin have given the reader a riveting day-by-day picture of the efforts of this strong group of Marines.

The narrative is brought to life by first-hand accounts from the Marines themselves. The terrors of the days, where the Marines must battle both the elements and the enemy, are meticulously detailed.

This book is not an easy read by any means but I found it hard to put down. I found myself engulfed fully into the story and could almost feel myself there.

It truly draws the reader in and makes finishing this book an imperative. I highly recommend this book to anyone interested in learning something about those men who fought and died for our great country.

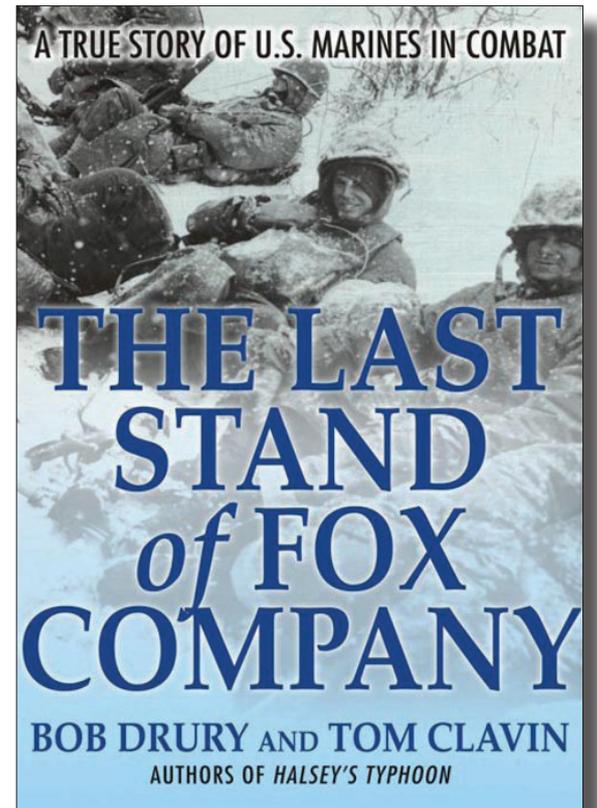


Photo courtesy of amazon.com

Opinion: Put North Korea on Trial

GEOFFREY NICE and WILLIAM SCHABAS

New York Times

Shin Dong-hyuk was 14 in 1996 when prison guards suspended him from the ceiling of an underground torture chamber by his hands and legs, all because his mother and brother had tried to escape. The flames of a charcoal fire scorched his back; a steel hook pierced the flesh of his groin; he lost consciousness.

Shin is the only known inmate to have escaped from one of North Korea's top-security prison camps, where he had lived since birth (his parents were among the few granted conjugal rights).

He escaped by clambering over a would-be escapee whose dead body provided a safe channel through an electrified wire fence. He was 23 when he first glimpsed the world outside.

Shin's terrible story is told in a new book by the journalist Blaine Harden, "Escape from Camp 14." It describes the atrocities he witnessed in detention — the executions of his own mother (hanging) and brother (shooting) and the fatal beating of a nine-year-old girl — as well as his own tortures and struggle for survival.

Like many of the 200,000 prisoners of the North Korean political prison camps, Shin was not incarcerated for anything he did. His uncles had allegedly collaborated with South Korea during the Korean War.

Shin fell afoul of North Korea's "guilt-by-association" law, which allows for the collective punishment of as many as three generations of the family of a "political enemy." Some inmates — like Shin — are actually born in the prison camps, to live and die in captivity with no prospect of release.

For decades, international human rights groups and the United Nations have documented these abuses. The current U.N. special rapporteur for North Korea, Marzuki Darusman, has described the humanitarian situation in North Korea as "dire" and has reported an "absence of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights" for the people of North Korea.

Although the U.N. Security Council may ignore its special rapporteurs, it would be much harder for it to do nothing if faced with the conclusions of a formal commission of inquiry. Several of the international criminal tribunals were preceded by such commissions. Could such a commission work for North Korea and force the United Nations to act?

Even if North Korea continues its blanket denials and refuses to cooperate, the evidence is available. Among authoritative works built on the accounts of former detainees is a 2003 report, "The Hidden Gulag," by David Hawk. It published striking satellite imagery of the political prison camps showing fencing punctuated by guard towers at the outer perimeters. A second edition was released a few weeks ago.

**For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil**

Make a Splash With Water Fitness Now

Ace Fitness

Are you ready to take the plunge and try a new fitness activity? How about water exercise? Also known as aquatics, water exercise is one of the best non-impact fitness activities around and just about anybody can participate. Pregnant women, the elderly or overweight, individuals with arthritis or those recovering from an injury can all benefit from the wide variety of aquatics classes currently available.

Here are the facts: The buoyancy of water reduces the “weight” of a person by about 90%, which means that the stress on weightbearing joints, bones and muscles is similarly reduced. For this reason, it is unlikely that a water workout will result in injury or leave you with sore muscles. That’s why the pool is such a great place for people with arthritis or back problems to exercise. It is also great for those who are new to exercise.

But don’t get the idea that just because it doesn’t hurt, you can’t get a great workout in the pool. Water exercise can encompass all of the components of fitness: cardiovascular fitness, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility. And, when done regularly, water exercise can help reduce body fat.

Works Your Heart

Aerobic workouts in the pool are perfect for those who find certain movements on land—running, striding, kicking, leaping and even dancing—too jarring or painful.

Keep in mind that in the water, heart rate will be reduced by as much as 17 beats per minute when compared to land exercise. That’s why it’s so important to pay attention to how you feel. Your heart rate might indicate that your intensity is too low when you are actually exercising quite strenuously.

Water Adds Resistance

The resistance of water is perfect for a strength-training workout; instead of weights, the water itself provides the resistance. One of the easiest ways to create resistance in the water is to cup your hands and push or pull the water away from you.

Other devices, such as hand-held paddles and water chutes can increase the resistance to provide a more intense workout.

The Flexible Benefits of Water

One of the greatest benefits of water exercise is its effect on flexibility. Water is a welcome environment for performing stretches that might otherwise be difficult on land.

Because the effects of gravity are lessened, you can move your joints through a wider range of motion and achieve long-term flexibility.

Aquatics 101

Once you’ve decided to take the plunge, it’s simply a matter of finding the right class for you. Check with your health club or YMCA to see if they offer aquatics classes and drop in on one or two to see if they are right for your fitness level.

A good class should include a good warm-up, a period of cardiovascular and muscle conditioning that gradually increases and then decreases in intensity, and a cool-down. The cool-down should include plenty of flexibility exercises for the entire body.

If you have a preference for music, find a class that suits your taste. Don’t be afraid to ask about instructor qualifications and safety precautions. Your instructor should be certified and may also have special training in aquatic exercise.

The pool is a fun place to feel like a kid again and get a great workout. In fact, instead of feeling out of breath or exhausted, you may feel surprisingly calm, yet energetic, following an aquatic exercise class. So, even if you’re a dip-your-toe-in-the-water type of person, don’t be afraid to take the plunge into water fitness.



Photo courtesy of bodybuilding.com

1/2 Ads