

Desert **WARRIOR**



Thunder in Florence

April 19, 2012
Volume 11, Number 14

SMP helps with seminal country music festival



VMA-311 MARINE A ROLEMODEL OF VERSATILITY
AIFRAME MECHANIC BY DAY, MILITARY POLICE BY NIGHT

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
DEBUNKING THE MYTHS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT

YUMA SQUADRON SETS SIGHTS ON AFGHANISTAN
VMA-211 DEPLOY TO SUPPORT MARINES ON THE GROUND



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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



“I’m Jumpin Jack Flash, it’s a gas, gas, gas.”

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

Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma’s Official Newspaper

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Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Combat Correspondent

LAST WEEK’S TOP CAPTIONS



Dell Brown:
“Ok bub, this is just a drill. Careful with that hand.”

Manny Felix:
“Ummm Dude?... They’re catching up!!!...REALLY FAST!!”

Laura Cardoso:
“I really need to go to the bathroom...”

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HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PBXkV2y4yIU>

Marines take part in African Lion.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d3Lek3rZ4M8>

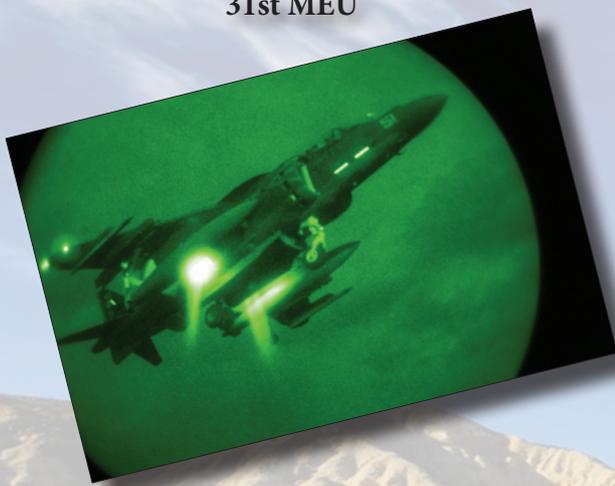
Sexual Assault Education.



Front Page Photo Credit

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 211
Good Luck in Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU



News to Use

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT VICTIMS

There will be a Candlelight Vigil to pay tribute to victims of sexual assault Sat., April 28, from 4-4:30 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.

H&HS JANE WAYNE DAY REMINDER

If your spouse has not pre-registered, please have them send me their registration forms ASAP. Our participation is pretty low as of today and we have many spaces to fill. Each participant will receive a Jane Wayne Day t-shirt, commemorative dog tag and lunch. This is a very fun and exciting event that I know your spouse will enjoy. The schedule is as follows:

Friday, April 20th 0800-1430

- Check-In
- Load buses for the obstacle course, H.E.A.T trainer (simulated vehicle rollover) and MCMAP Training.
- SAR Demo
- Crash Fire Demo
- Lunch in the Chow Hall
- Rifle Range
- Home by 1430

For more information, contact Tama Ward at 928-269-5566 or 928-941-7415

NONCOMBATANT EVACUATION OPERATION IN YUMA

There will be a Noncombatant Evacuation Operation in Yuma at Kiwanis Park and Trinity Christian Center, Fri., April 20.

The exercise is slated to run from 5-10:00 p.m. For more information on the exercise, contact the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Public Affairs Office at 928-269-3410. For noise complaints, call 928-269-2325.

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



Shilo

He is a 6 year-old, big loveable orange tabby. Shilo is part of our Lonely heart Program. His adoption fee is only 35.00. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions for the Identification Center

Krista Slotto
Verifying Official

1) Do Common Access Cards (CAC) have to be replaced by 01 OCT 2012 to have the Social Security Number removed?

No, it is through attrition only. For example, promotions, reenlistments, extensions, or if the card becomes unserviceable.

2) Who is eligible to immediately replace their military identification card? without their social security number?

This applies to Retirees, Disabled American Veterans rated at 100% disability, and Dependents over the age of 75 with an already existing indefinite identification card. Eligible members are not required to replace their identification cards, it is optional.

3) Does MARADMIN 171/12 require all active duty members to have their Common Access Card replaced by 01 OCT 2012?

No, MARADMIN 171/12 states, "Marine Corps sponsored CAC versions 64K and 72K with Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman (RSA) cryptography are being re-issued no later than 01 OCT 2012..." Card Holders of Marine Corps sponsored subject CACs will be notified through either email or written notice via their command. Once notification has been received, the member has 30 days to update their CAC.

4) Do eligible members who need their Common Access Card replaced, due to MARADMIN 171/12, need to provide the email or written notice from their command?

No, the email or written notice is not required. Station ID will confirm the replacement of the CAC through a master list of eligible cards.

5) Do eligible members who need their Common Access Card replaced, due to MARADMIN 171/12, need an appointment?

Appointments are not required but are available. Station ID is available for walk-ins, Mon-Fri 0700-1130. Afternoon appointments are Mon-Weds, and Fri, 1300-1530. Thursday afternoons are for Public Key Infrastructure (PKI), email loads.

Yuma Marine displays occupational versatility aboard ship

Cpl. Garry J. Welch
31st MEU

USS ESSEX, At sea — Every Marine and Sailor aboard the USS Essex (LHD 2) serves a crucial role in the success of the mission, but Lance Cpl. Samantha A. Sabalboro serves two.

Sabalboro, an airframe mechanic with Marine Attack Squadron 311, 31st Marine

Expeditionary Unit, was assigned to assist the Master at Arms in maintaining safety and good order for the more than 2,000 service members on ship.

Her responsibilities require an eight hour shift every day, which is typically followed by rest and relaxation. But Sabalboro ends her shift by donning her maintenance gear and making her way towards the AV-8B Harriers she is trained to maintain.

The 21 year old native of Norfolk Va., says she enjoys the work, the chance to meet new people and the opportunity to gain valuable experience outside of her military occupational specialty.

“Doing both jobs is not challenging for me, I like to stay busy,” said Sabalboro. “Working as a patrolman helps me gain more confidence in the way that I talk and take charge of something.”

During a normal day, if Sabalboro was not working with the master at arms office, she would spend 10 to 12 hours a day working on the airframe of AV-8B Harriers. She repairs the body, landing gear, and other vital parts of the aircraft.

Although new to the job, Sabalboro still knows how important her job is to the safety of the pilots and completion of the mission.

“If we failed to install a panel correctly, then it could potentially fall off mid-flight and injure somebody on the ground, or get sucked into the intake of the engine and bring the entire plane down,” said Sabalboro. “If we didn’t fix the landing gear right then it may not come out when it needs to and the plane would crash when it landed.”

While working as a patrolman, Sabalboro spends her time helping the master at arms office with administrative work, patrolling the ship looking for safety issues, such as sliding down the stairwells, or patrolling for activities contrary to Navy and Marine Corps regulations.

“She does an excellent job here. She is always on time and comes in with a good attitude,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Carlos L. Jones, the anti terrorism training supervisor with Amphibious Squadron 11. “I usually see her back in her shop wearing her coveralls

working after she leaves here, so she definitely keeps herself busy.”

Jones, a native of Daytona Beach, Fla., went on to say that during the time as a patrolman, she helps maintain good order and discipline around the ship.

The master at arms office receives multiple Marines to assist them with policing the crew, and their involvement is paramount to the completion of the Navy military policemen’s mission.

“I think that without the Marines support we wouldn’t be able to do our job. With more than 2,000 people on board, with just the guys I have we wouldn’t be able to maintain law and order here,” said Lt. j.g. Antonio Williams, the security officer of the USS Essex. “So their augmentation is definitely a huge benefit to us, help us to do our job and maintain the overall mission on the ship.”

Sabalboro even helped the 31st MEU complete its Certification Exercise. Acting as a part of the Master at Arms clearing team, Sabalboro helped ensure the route from the flight deck of the Essex to the brig was clear when mock enemy prisoners of war were brought aboard.

“Overall she is doing pretty well, she is filling two billets and still progressing in both of them,” said Staff Sgt. David Camacho, an aircraft division chief with VMA 311, 31st MEU, and native of Brooklyn N.Y.

Sabalboro is eager to continue working as a patrolman and airframe mechanic throughout the duration of the 31st MEU’s deployment to the Asia-Pacific region.

The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed MEU and remains the nation’s force in readiness in the Asia-Pacific region.



Photo by Cpl. Garry J. Welch

Lance Cpl. Samantha A. Sabalboro, an airframe mechanic with Marine Attack Squadron 311, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, conducts a speed brake functionality check on an AV-8B Harrier, March 21.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Volunteers with the station’s Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society pose for a group photo during their volunteer dinner at the Sonoran Pueblo, April, 17. The dinner is held to recognize the contributions of members of NMCRS, with this year’s motif being “hats off to you for all that you do,” hence the intriguing array of headwear. “NMCRS assists with Marines and sailors during financial hardships so they can keep their mind on the mission instead of financial worries,” said Lara O’Hara, station NMCRS director.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Maj. Thomas Dahoney, a retired Marine Attack Squadron 225 A-4 Skyhawk pilot and a Gold Canyon, Ariz., native, looks and his grandson, Ben Heritage, a Kingston, Mass., native, observe the cockpit of an AV-8B Harrier while Capt. Eric Biskner, the Marine Aircraft Group 13 assistant operations officer and a Inverness, Ill. native, sits behind the controls at the flightline of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, April 16. This was part of Dahoney’s tour of the air station, years after he flew his Skyhawk here.

Station Marine displays passion for creativity

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior Staff

Do you know a ventriloquist? A violinist? A pianist? Someone who writes poetry? How about an illusionist? Well, now you do.

Lance Cpl. Gerod Wallace, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 ordnance technician, and a native of Bay Minette, Ala., does

all the above.

Wallace traces his enjoyment of hands-on artistry to his youth.

“My parents were children youth ministers, so it’s no wonder I got into those things,” he said. He also acted as his church’s youth pastor for a time.

His hands have found themselves controlling things such as musical instruments to marionettes.

Possessing more than two decades worth of experience in various art forms, including music and artistry, Wallace uses his talents for a variety of reasons, from relieving the stress of the day to simply having fun. His creative mindset has also lent him an altruistic attitude toward those around him.

“I’d like to be able to do stuff that helps other people get their dreams accomplished.”



Courtesy photos by Lance Cpl. Gerod Wallace

Marine volunteers at country music festival as last act

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Desert Warrior Staff

On their final days in the Corps, most Marines spend their time finishing their check out and packing to head on to the next chapter of life.

Billy Jay Younger, previously a corporal with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, spent his final days as an active duty Marine volunteering with the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Single Marine Program at one of the largest country music festivals in Arizona, Country Thunder USA.

“My last few days in the Marine Corps at Country Thunder were a blast! I couldn’t have thought of any better way to go out then listening to great American country music,” said Billy Jay.

Billy grew up near the farm lands and cranberry marshes of Wisconsin and has always had a love for country music.

“I choose to do this trip because I have a strong passion for country music and I saw it as a great opportunity to go see some of the artists I grew up listening to,” Billy added. “I really appreciate what the artists and bands do and the songs they sing. Country is one of

the last pure genres left in music.”

There is one thing in his life even stronger than his love for music, his love and loyalty to his family, leading him to both his decision to join and leave the Marine Corps.

“I decided to join to keep my family name in the service. Both my grandfather and father served as US Marines, and me being the oldest of three boys I saw it as my duty to join,” said Billy Jay. “I was never pressured by my dad or grandpa to join, it was all my choice and the bond my dad and grandpa have as father and son is one I want with my dad.”

Despite his lineage in the Corps, his desire to be near the ones he loves is the most important.

“I’m leaving the Marines because I’m a family man, a momma’s boy and want to be there for my brothers when they need me,” he added devotedly. “One of the things I’m most looking forward to is seeing my family again, not missing out on birthdays and being the brother I’m supposed to be.”

Although eager to get back to his family and his roots, Billy Jay speaks fondly of his time and experiences as a Marine.

“I will probably miss all the people I’ve

met in the Corps. The bond you have with the people you meet in the Marines is so much closer than the one you have with your friends from high school.

For full story, visit yuma.usmc.mil



Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Billy Jay Younger, previously a corporal with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, spent his final days as an active duty Marine volunteering with the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Single Marine Program at one of the largest country music festivals in Arizona, Country Thunder USA.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month : Challenging Myths and Misconceptions

Mary Chipman

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program Manager

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and an excellent time to learn more about a devastating crime that can leave broken hearts and ruined careers in its wake.

Prior to the 1970s, those who were sexually assaulted had no specialized services available and were often misunderstood and ostracized when they attempted to gain support from police, social service agencies, and even friends and family. Fortunately, today more is understood about sexual assault and more victim-friendly services are available.

Unfortunately, some sexual assault myths linger to this day, causing victims to feel blamed and therefore making them reluctant to come forward. One of the goals of the SAPR program is to dispel these myths and educate Marines about the realities surrounding sexual assault. The following list was compiled from SAPR Headquarters materials as well as from “The Sociology of Rape,” University of Minnesota, <http://www.d.umn.edu/cla/faculty/jhamlin/3925/myths.html>.

Myth #1 Sexual assault is sex.

Fact: Sexual assault is experienced by the victim as an act of violence and can range from unwanted sexual touching to oral, anal, or vaginal penetration. It can be a life-threatening, terrifying experience. Power and control are the primary motives of the offender, not sex. In fact, most sexual offenders have access to willing sexual partners.

Myth #2 Most victims lie about being sexually assaulted.

Fact: The Marine Corps estimates that only about 7% of sexual assault reports are false. Instead, sexual assault is considered one of the most under-reported crimes. The Marine Corps estimates that approximately 80% of sexual assaults go unreported.

Myth #3 People cause others to sexually assault them by the way they dress and act.

Fact: Sexual assault is usually premeditated. Both men and women are capable of controlling and being responsible for their sexual conduct.

For full story, visit yuma.usmc.mil

Full Ads

Panetta Vows to Continue Fighting Sexual Assault in Military

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, April 13, 2012 – With the release of an annual report today on sexual assault in the military, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta vowed to continue fighting to stamp out the crime among service members.

DOD officials delivered the Report on Sexual Assault in the Military to the House and Senate armed service committees today. The report noted there were 3,192 reports of sexual assault in fiscal 2011 compared with 3,158 in fiscal 2010, a one percent increase.

“Sexual assault has no place in this department,” said Defense Secretary Leon Panetta in a press release on the report. “It is an affront to the basic American values we defend, and to the good honor of our service members and their families.”

Countering sexual assault has been one of the secretary’s top priorities since taking office last year. Panetta wants all members of the department “to do everything we can to reduce and prevent sexual assault, to make victims of sexual assault feel secure enough to report this crime without fear of retribution or harm to their career, and to hold the perpetrators appropriately accountable.”

The secretary will meet with members of Congress next week to propose new measures to counter sexual assault and give DOD new tools to erase this scourge.

The report details ways the department is working to implement its sexual assault prevention and response plan. The first step is to institutionalize prevention strategies across the services. DOD looks to influence the knowledge, skills and behaviors of service members to prevent sexual assaults from happening. Officials are looking to training, a social media campaign and posters/commercials to increase awareness and encourage good behaviors.

The strategy also looks to increase the confidence those who have been assaulted have in the reporting process. DOD wants

to engender a positive and supportive command climate that encourages people to reports cases of sexual assault. The department also wants to reduce stigma and other barriers that deter reporting.



DOD photo by Erin Kirk-Cuomo

The report also details additional programs, policies and activities that will improve the response to sexual assault. It details the new 24/7 hotline for sexual assault victims and improvements to education for case workers, as well as new exams and health care for victims of sexual assault.

The report also recommends ways to improve service through system accountability. “In fiscal 2011, commanders had sufficient evidence to take disciplinary action against 989 subjects,” the report says. “For the 791 subjects who could be disciplined for a sexual assault offense, 62 percent had courts-martial charges preferred for a sexual assault offense, 24 percent received nonjudicial punishment under Article 15 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice and 14 percent received a discharge or another adverse administrative action.”

This is a 10 percent increase in courts-martial over fis-

cal 2010, the report says. The proportion of military subjects against whom commanders decided to take disciplinary action for sexual assault offenses by preferring court-martial charges has increased steadily since fiscal 2007, when only 30 percent of subjects had charges initiated against them.

Finally the strategy looks to “improve stakeholder knowledge.” This means reaching out to service members about the sexual abuse prevention and response program. It also means reaching out to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services. It further means taking the message of the mission to non-traditional audiences to enlist their support for the effort.

Panetta appointed Air Force Maj. Gen. Mary Kay Hertog to oversee the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office. He also directed several new victim-focused policies that have been implemented since the end of fiscal 2011. Among these are expanded legal assistance, expedited transfers for victims of sexual assault and extended retention of forensic examination and investigative reports.

Other initiatives to enhance prevention and response efforts include establishing a sexual assault advocate credentialing and certification program; expanding sexual assault support services to military spouses and adult military dependents; expanding emergency care and support services to DOD civilians stationed abroad and DOD U.S. citizen contractors in combat areas; and increasing funding for investigators and judge advocates to receive additional specialized training.

The department is also assessing how the department trains commanding officers and senior enlisted leaders on sexual assault prevention and response.

“As this report makes clear, we have more work to do to confront this problem,” Panetta said in the release. “There are no easy answers, but that makes it all the more essential for us to devote our energy and our attention to trying to confront this challenging crime.”



Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Top: Marines of Marine Attack Squadron 211 pose for a picture shortly before beginning their deployment to Afghanistan on the flightline of MCAS Yuma, April 17. Below, left: Capt. Tim Otten, a VMA-211 AV-8B Harrier pilot, taxis his aircraft to the runway for takeoff, effectively beginning his squadron's deployment.

Marine Attack Squadron 211 heads toward Afghanistan



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior

The pilots of Marine Attack Squadron 211 kicked off the squadron's deployment to Afghanistan, April 17, beginning their AV-8B Harriers' travels to Southwest Asia.

More than 200 Marines with both the squadron and Marine Aviation Logistics 13 boarded aircraft to follow their brethren the following day..

The squadron, out of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, will be conducting offensive air operations across the theater in support of the 3rd Marine Air Wing under Operation Enduring Freedom, said Lt. Col. Chris "Otis" Raible, VMA-

211's commanding officer.

VMA-211, which will be based out of Kandahar, Afghanistan for the deployment, will be using the Intrepid Tiger II, which will provide electronic warfare capabilities for the AV-8B Harriers of the squadron. The Intrepid Tiger II, a pod that fits to the outside of the aircraft, will have the ability to be controlled from the ground as the aircraft is in flight. This will help balance the heavy demand for electronic warfare capability that is provided for by an insufficient supply of EA-6B Prowlers.

Once the squadron has set up operations in Afghanistan, VMA-211 will be relieving Marine Attack Squadron 223.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

“Is Image Everything?”

LT Greg Woodard, Station Chaplain

We live in a world where “image is everything.” Every shiny magazine cover, store, and television program proclaims the message that how you look, what you own, where you live, what you wear, or what you drive, determiners of worth.

None of us want to be superficial, but honestly, it is hard not to allow these external influences to become the lens through which we assign value to ourselves. How many times do we size people up with our faulty filters in order to form our vision of the worth of other people?

In the Hebrew Scriptures, there is a story told of a man named David who had risen from impoverished beginnings as a shepherd boy to become the most powerful head of the Kingdom of Israel. If anyone knew about chasing external things, it was David. He had risen to the pinnacle of power and had defined his image by the level of his success.

In my faith tradition, image is defined in very different terms than it is in popular society. This image has nothing to do with external influences and everything to do with internal.

Why do we spend so much energy tending to the superficialities and so little time tending to our souls? Why do we spend so much time tending to our resumes and so little time tending to our spiritual life?

All people are created as masterpieces: the unborn child, the man in prison, the old veteran sitting alone in the nursing home, the young person who has almost given up on life, or the discouraged or despairing person reading this message. God sees into your eyes and mine. The light he finds there is more luminous than the moon and the stars. However faded or distorted it may be, this sparkle is our spiritual value; it is our relational vision; it is our creative vocation. It is what makes us most like the perfect image of God.

A Message From Secretary of State Ken Bennett

It is with great pride that I address you, Arizona’s servicemen and women who protect our freedom. As the saying goes, ‘freedom isn’t free’ – you defend our many constitutional freedoms and our right to vote in a free society. I want to personally thank all of you for the sacrifices you make on a daily basis.

As Arizona’s Chief Election Officer, I am pleased to present this information to help you through the voter registration process, obtain election ballots, submit a ballot, and to better understand Arizona’s election procedures.

If you request an early ballot through this site you will receive information on how to submit a voted ballot using our secure ballot upload system. You’ll be able to vote your ballot, log onto the site and upload an image of the voted ballot which will then be securely transmitted to the proper county. If you wish you can fax your voted ballot directly to the proper County Recorder for processing.

Arizona is the leader in the country in developing and implementing innovative ways for military and overseas personnel to participate in the election process while away from Arizona.

To all U.S. citizens temporarily living overseas, thank you for your service and interest in your country’s election process.

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

1/2 Ads

Country Thunder, Hear My Cry: Station SMP supports music festival

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

Eight Marines with the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Single Marine Program served as volunteer security for the 2012 Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz., April 12-15.

Country Thunder is one of the largest and most anticipated country music festivals to come through Arizona. Country Thunder also hosts an annual show in Twin Lakes, Wis.

Although Country Thunder is no stranger to Arizona, this is the first time the MCAS Yuma SMP has taken part and volunteered for the event.

"I had a really great time meeting a lot of the artists," said Lance Cpl. Jeremy Pittman, a Marine with the SMP who attended Country Thunder. "I hope we get a chance to go back next year."

With big-name headliners like Big & Rich, Dierks Bentley, Blake Shelton and Alan Jackson appearing on stage, the Marines provided additional support in security and crowd control. They also provided assistance escorting raffle winners to the "Poser Decks", two balcony-like structures placed on either side of the stage, giving concert goers a back stage view of the show.

"My job was to ensure whoever was on backstage had the appropriate pass to be back there. I loved having the authority," Pittman

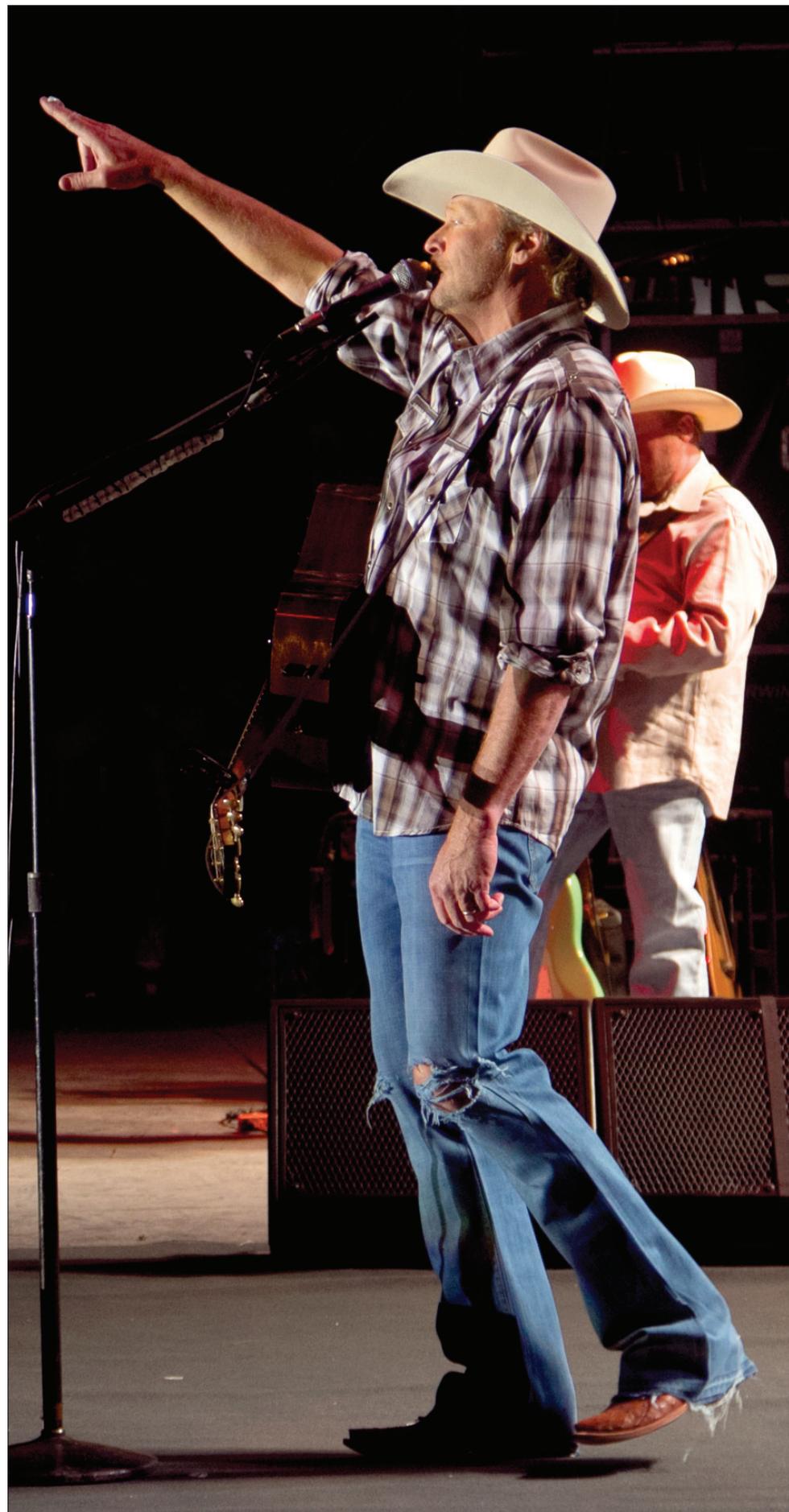
Despite working during the trip, Marines were still able to enjoy themselves and meet plenty of new people.

"It was hard work but it was fun too, we made a lot of new friends, met some celebrities and created some amazing contacts for the future," Pittman added.

Members from the Country Thunder staff and stage crew shook hands and thanked the Marines for their help throughout the weekend as the final performance wrapped up Sunday night.

"There are a lot of perks that come from being a Marine and this is one of them. We were the celebrities this weekend," said Pittman.

For more information on upcoming SMP events contact your unit SMP representative or SMP coordinator Jude Wood at 928-269-6556.



Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

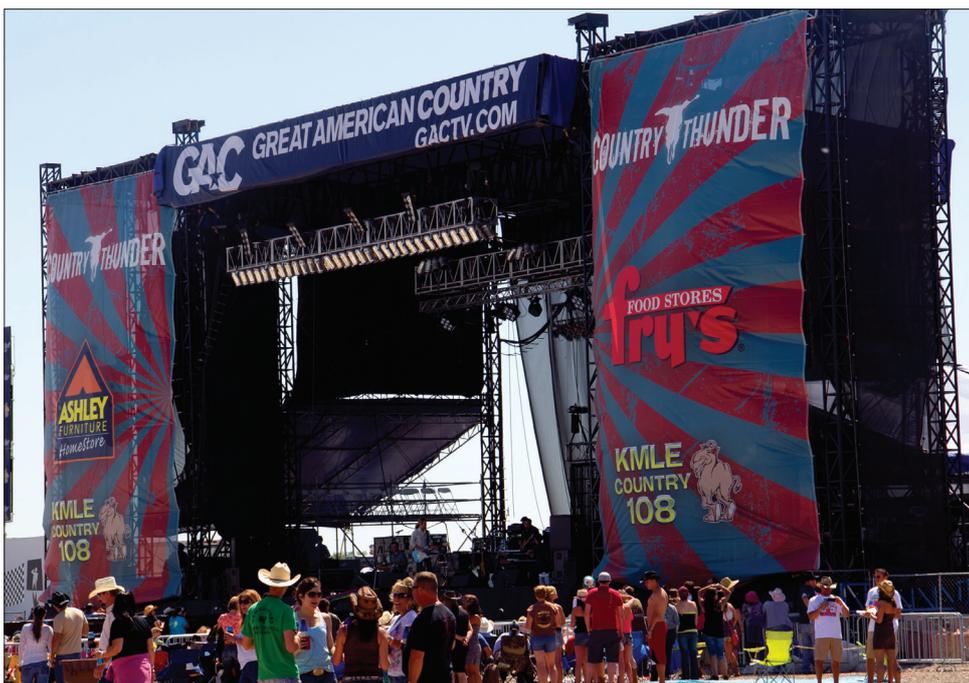


Top: Country music legend Alan Jackson wraps up the 2012 Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz. April 15 as the fourth and final headline performance. Other big artists like Dierks Bentley, Big & Rich and Blake Shelton also made appearances throughout the weekend. Eight Marines with the MCAS Yuma Single Marine Program provided additional support in security and crowd control.



Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Top Center: Country music legend Alan Jackson sings some of his many number one hits during the 2012 Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz. April 15 as the fourth and final headline performance. Other big artists like Dierks Bentley, Big & Rich and Blake Shelton also made appearances throughout the weekend.



Top Right: Country music artist Phil Vassar entertained crowds with his piano skills at the 2012 Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz. April 12-15. The four day music fest featured 24 different country music artists, ranging from well known stars to up and coming acts.

Top left, bottom: More than 75,000 country music fans came out to enjoy the 2012 Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz. April 12-15. The four day concert featured 24 different country music artists including headliners Dierks Bentley, Big & Rich, Blake Shelton and Alan Jackson.



Full Ads

Weekly financial tips: Identity theft

Ryki Carlson

While watching the news, reading the paper or even viewing the headlines online, it's hard to get away from the recent increase in identity theft. With people stealing credit and debit card numbers, it's clear that steps need to be taken to protect our identity. Here are a few ways to help prevent identity theft.

1. Review credit reports periodically. A free credit report can be pulled annually from all three bureaus at www.annualcreditreport.com. If they're spaced out, one can be pulled every four months for free. Keep track of when they were pulled. Additionally, an Experian credit report can be pulled from www.quizzle.com twice a year for free.

2. Place a credit freeze. This prevents creditors from issuing credit altogether and blocks others, including potential creditors, landlords and employers from viewing credit reports. Freezes are free for identity theft victims, but for others, it costs approximately ten dollars for each credit bureau. An "Active Duty Alert" can also be placed to prevent identity theft while you are deployed. Call 888-766-0008 to set up a free "Active Duty Alert" or check out <https://www.alerts.equifax.com>. Visit http://www.defendyourdollars.org/money_topics.html for state specific information, including costs.

3. Secure and protect computers and mobile phones. If financial data is kept on a computer, set up a password to make sure only one person can access the files. Never use a computer to store a list of the passwords used for online banking or other financial websites. Set up a pin to access a phone and remember to put a security app on the phone to scan for viruses, malware, spyware and Trojans. There are free applications for this.

4. Read the mail. Lately banks and credit card companies are sending cards and statements that resemble junk mail. Take the time to read all the mail, even if it looks like junk.

5. Review monthly bills. Make sure charges from utilities, credit card companies, the bank and phone companies can be recognized.

6. Shred or rip up financial records before disposing of them. Cross-cut shredders are recommended for home use.

7. Be cautious with social security numbers and personal information. Store original social security card some place safe, such as a lock box, safe or safety deposit box. Resist giving out social security number when asked, different forms of identification can work just as well. Give a social security number when asking for credit or applying for a job. Be cautious about putting too much information on social networking sites as Facebook. Do not put full date of birth, phone number or physical address.

8. Use bill pay and opt for online statements. By paying with a financial institution's bill pay, additional costs of postage and late fees can be avoided. Also, transactions are more secure. Online statements prevent information from getting into the wrong hands and are easily accessible anytime.

9. Cancel inactive credit cards. Without regular statements, it's hard to tell if the card is being misused.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Special Hiring Authorities for Veterans

fedshirevets.gov

Special Hiring Authorities for Veterans is designed for veterans. Knowing about these authorities and identifying your eligibility will enhance your job search. These special authorities represent a few of many appointing authorities that agencies can use entirely at their discretion. Veterans are not entitled to appointment under any of these authorities.

Veterans' Recruitment Appointment (VRA)

VRA is an excepted authority that allows agencies to appoint eligible veterans without competition. If you:

- Are in receipt of a campaign badge for service during a war or in a campaign or expedition.
- Are a disabled veteran.
- Are in receipt of an Armed forces Service Medal for participation in a military operation.
- Are a recently separated veteran (within the last 3 years) and separated under honorable conditions (this means an honorable or general discharge).

You can be appointed under this authority at any grade level up to and including a GS-11 or equivalent. This is an excepted service appointment. After successfully completing 2 years, you will be converted to the competitive service. Veterans' preference applies when using the VRA authority.

Agencies can also use VRA to fill temporary (not to exceed 1 year) or term (more than 1 year but not to exceed 4 years) positions. If you are employed in a temporary or term position under VRA, you will not be converted to the competitive service after 2 years.

There is no limit to the number of times you can apply under VRA.

You must provide acceptable documentation of your preference or appointment eligibility. The member 4 copy of your DD214, "Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty," is preferable. If claiming 10 point preference, you will need to submit a Standard Form (SF-15 [152 KB]), "Application for 10-point Veterans' Preference."

Marine Corps Community Services

BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Naughty Girls and Nerds Night

When: Sat, April 21, 5pm – 10pm

Where: Pulse Nightclub

Costume Contest

Live DJ. There are 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: Sat, April 21, 12am – Mon, April 23, 12am

Where: Picacho Peak

Enjoy quad riding and overnight camping at Picacho Peak. Patrons will also enjoy hiking and sight-seeing. Trip includes transportation, camping gear, meals, quads, and safety riding gear. Cost is \$80 per person. Patrons must be at least 16 years old to participate in quad riding activities.

269-2848 to sign up. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP Basketball Tournament

When: Wed, April 25, 7pm – 9pm

Where: SMP Rec Center

Show off your skills at the Rec Center's Basketball Tourney. Free food and prizes for the winning team. The teams consist of 3 on 3. For more information or to register call the Rec Center at 269-5794.

Please mention you saw it on the SMP Rec Center

Full Ads

THE ORIGINS OF THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

TECOM.usmc.mil

Immediately after the outbreak of the American Revolution, the colonies went about organizing individual armies and navies. In several of the state navies, provisions were made for the use of Marines. It was not until 26 August 1775, however, that the Rhode Island legislature instructed its representatives to the Continental Congress to propose the establishment of a Navy "at the Continental expense." The project languished until 3 October 1775, when the Rhode Island delegation managed to present their instructions to the Continental Congress. At the same time, intelligence was presented to the Continental Congress which indicated that two unarmed brigs were enroute from England to Canada with cargoes of munitions which would provide extremely useful to the embattled colonies. Two days later the Continental Congress appointed a committee consisting of John Adams, John Langdon, and Silas Deane to "prepare a plan for intercepting the two brigs." On 13 October 1775, the Continental Congress directed that two vessels be fitted out, one of which was to include Marines in her crew, and to oversee these activities, a Naval Committee was appointed. The three original committee members were Silas Deane, John Langdon, and Christopher Gadsden, but these were shortly augmented by Stephen Hopkins, Joseph Hews, R.H. Lee, and John Adams. It was this group of American legislators which laid the foundations for the United States Naval Service.

It is worthy of note that at much the same time, 2 November 1775, John Adams, Silas Deane, John Langdon, and Stephen Hopkins were appointed to the Committee on Nova Scotia which was to investigate the possibilities of a campaign against that Canadian province with annexation as a goal. Although the Committee left no record of its proceedings, it is obvious that the projected attack on Nova Scotia would have required some sort of amphibious force. In the early days of November 1775 the Naval Committee, which included those on the Nova Scotia Committee, introduced a motion to create a Marine force composed of two battalions organized along regimental lines,

the men to be obtained from Washington's army then besieging Boston. On 10 November this resolution was adopted by the Congress, marking the founding of the Continental Marines. Because of manpower difficulties, the Marine force envisioned



Courtesy Photo by Tecom

by the resolution of 10 November never materialized, nor did the proposed attack on Nova Scotia. Marines assigned to Commodore Esek Hopkins' squadron, however, carried out the first American landing on foreign soil on 3 March 1776, when 200 Marines spearheaded the assault on New Providence Island in the Bahamas.

Throughout the American Revolution, the Marines served with distinction aboard the Continental vessels, but with the ending of that conflict, the entire Naval Service was so neglected through lack of appropriations and necessary legislation that by 1785 it actually ceased to exist.

The newly created United States of America remained without a Naval Service until 1794, when the U.S. Congress produced

the first naval legislation since the end of the American Revolution. The depredations of the Barbary Corsairs were largely responsible for the Naval Act of 1794, which was strongly supported by American shippers who suffered heavily from pirate attacks on their trade with Mediterranean ports. Moreover, the Franco-British sea war found the American merchant ships harassed by both belligerents. The Naval Act of 1794 provided for the construction of six frigates, which were to include on their rolls a force of Marines. However, a temporary lull in the Barbary conflict resulted in the delay of implementation of the Naval Act. During the period of construction, Marines were provided to guard the new vessels but the initial date of such guard duty is unknown. By 1797, the Franco-British naval war had increased in intensity and the interference with American merchant shipping grew more and more frequent, particularly on the part of the French. In view of this activity, Congress enacted the Naval Bill of 1797 which provided \$310,000 for the completion and equipping of the previously authorized frigates and for the pay and subsistence of their officers and men.

By the spring of 1798, Marines were well established aboard the ships which had been completed, and the naval appropriation measures of the period made provision for their pay and allowances. At this time the Marines, as a part of the Navy, were administered by the Secretary of War, but on 30 April 1798, President John Adams signed into law an act for the establishment of a separate Navy Department. This law made no mention of Marines but apparently took for granted their existence as a function of the Navy. The House Naval Committee, under the chairmanship of Samuel Sewall, introduced a bill on 22 May 1798 calling for the establishment of a Marine Corps which would have the advantage of better discipline and economy. On 11 July 1798, President Adams signed the resulting legislation and the United States Marine Corps became an individual service within the Navy Department.

1/2 Ads

Castle Dome

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Desert Warrior Staff

Although a bit of a ways out of town, Castle Dome is definitely worth the drive. The displays of the artifacts were very well done and the nicely written placards telling the specific history of the buildings, people and area were very educational.

Don't forget to walk through the mining area after going through the buildings. It took about three to four hours to take it all in. You will want to take food with you if you want more than snacks and definitely a water source.

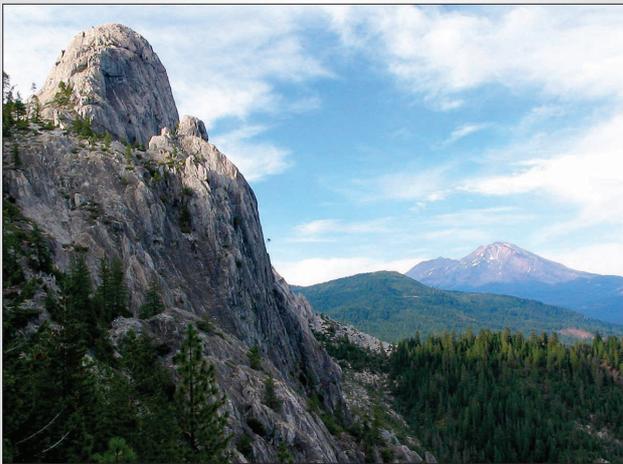
Castle Dome was loaded with obscure memorabilia. It was a neat driving experience around the area too. The neighborhood people were nice, it was inexpensive and just an utterly offbeat adventure.

Aside from the historical aspect of it the hikes were amazing.

Castle Dome Peak is an off trail trek in the Kofa Wildlife Refuge north and slightly east of Yuma. It's not a technical peak but you had better have good route finding skills, endurance for endless bouldering and bushwhacking, and there is some exposure on the route.

It is one of the best low elevation desert scrambles around. The views from the top are outstanding! The color and contour of the Castle Domes is out of this world and the harsh surrounding ranges and desert are awesome.

For those who like to be outdoors and have some fun in the sun, this place the where it's at.



Photos courtesy of pbase.com

Movie Review: *Battle Royale*

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

Battle Royale is the OG Hunger Games.

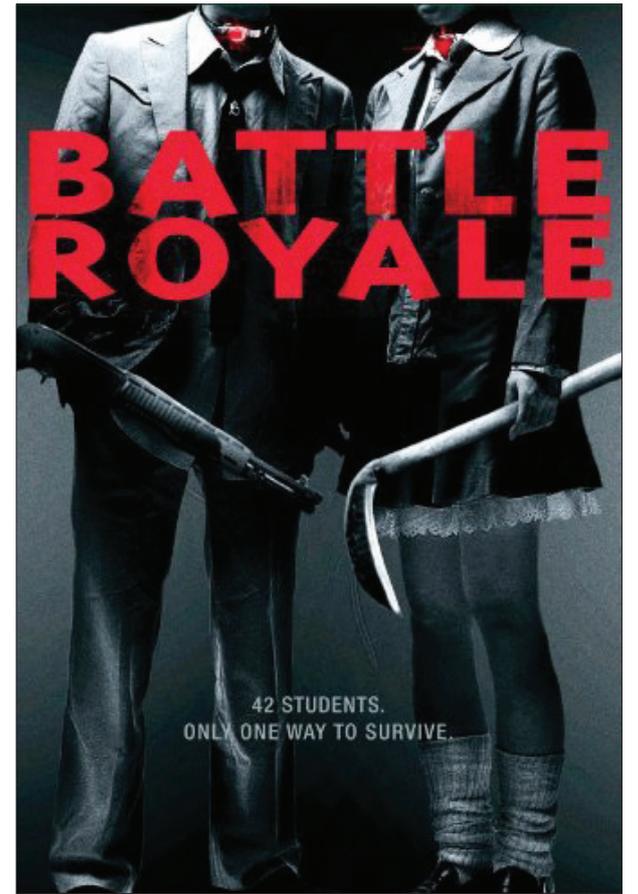
Beginning as a novel in 1999, with a movie adaptation following shortly afterwards, the novel tells of a dystopian future where high school students are randomly selected to partake in a Darwinistic bloodbath called The Program. Officially touted as a military research program, it is also used to muscle the population into the government's complete and unwavering control. Handed weapons and given maps and explosive tracking devices, the students choose their battles, with themselves, against each other and against their captors.

That's the easy part of this summary.

More difficult to peg down are the complex relationships of the characters, predominately at ages just cussing on adulthood. They're kids thrown into a violently surreal world where adult situations confront them. The reactions range from complete mental breakdowns, wanton rage, and, in one of the movie's more bleakly humorous scenes, food poisoning.

While *The Hunger Games* devotes its energies exploring its own world, *Battle Royale* merely uses its setting as medium for the exploration of the human psyche when face-to-face with death. Critics deride this method as a form of navel-gazing or a thin excuse to shock audiences, and in many ways they're right. However, there is something deeper brewing in the film, something people rarely willingly confront: the evil within themselves.

In short, this is way better and more meaningful than *The Hunger Games*



Photos courtesy of amazon.com

Opinion: The power of friendship

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

Anyone who's actually read any of my editorial pieces knows I'm a fan of ranting, raving and complaining. Let's face it; Marines complain, a lot. Some of us are even quite good at it. I myself almost have it down to a science.

In a strange change up for me, I'm not going to be doing any of that this week. In fact, I'm going to say some rather nice and encouraging things! Brace yourselves; I'm not sick, I haven't fallen off the deep end, I'm just in a strangely good mood, and here's why:

I was recently reminded how important it is to have good friends, and in the simplest of ways; a bunch of us simply went and hung out together.

It's amazing how a few hours of good company and good food can make everything else disappear. Any bad things going on in life, heck, even the good stuff, all fade away and you focus on having fun with the people around you.

Being somewhat of the old man in the office, I don't really go out much anymore, I usually park my butt on the couch and watch TV. And before anybody tries to say I'm not old, I'm an almost 27-year-old corporal. Comparatively, I'm old. But, spending a few hours having fun with my good friends was refreshing. It had been way too long, and I work with most of them every day!

Having good friends can turn a good day into a great one, and a not-so-good day into a decent one.

I think an important part of having good friends is being one in return. If you have a good friend that's just as willing to listen to the hardships and trials in your life as they are to hear about the triumphs and greatness, consider yourself lucky, and be willing to do the same in return.

As humans, we have an internal instinct to foster relationships with other human beings. It is important for us to pick who we have these relationships wisely, because our friends influence our actions and behavior.

If you choose to associate with bad people, that would be where the term, "guilty by association" comes into play, and you should probably find some new friends.

On the other hand, if you surround yourself with good people, as I am fortunate enough to have done, you improve yourself and those around you.

The fact that most of us work together, or at least in the same industry, helps us to have a common ground. Our likes and dislikes of the job are similar, both military and civilian. Whether we are sharing in a joyous moment, or commiserating a common grudge, we are all having a good time and laughing about our situations.

In short, thanks friends! You guys and gals are great, and make being stationed here much more tolerable, even after three years of blood, sweat and beers! (Men don't cry)

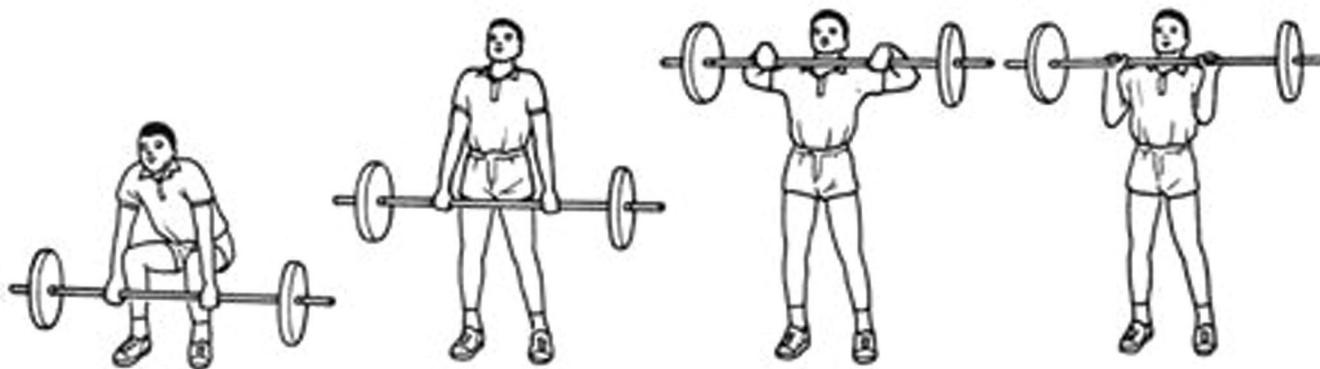
WORKOUT OF THE WEEK

Armando Pena
Station Gym Performance Coach

FULL BODY, STRENGTH TRAINING

<u>Exercise:</u>	<u>Sets:</u>	<u>Repetitions:</u>	<u>Rest:</u> (Between sets)
Power Clean	4-5 sets	3-5 reps	2-4 minutes
Back Squat	5 sets	3-5 reps	2-4 minutes
Bench Press	5 sets	3-5 reps	2-4 minutes
Pull Up (negatives)	5 sets	3-5 reps	2-4 minutes

TO GET IN TOUCH WITH A STATION TRAINER FOR QUESTIONS OR TO SET UP A CUSTOMER WORKOUT FOR YOU, JUST CONTACT THE STATION GYM AT 928-269-2727.



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