

Desert **WARRIOR**



Lift me up, Scotty

April 12, 2012
Volume 11, Number 12

MAWTS-1 students bear weight in external lifts

MOCK ASSAULTS, EH?

MARINES INTEGRATE WITH CANADIAN FORCES

HOME IS WHENEVER I'M WITH YOU

MWSS-371, EOD MARINES BACK FROM DEPLOYMENT

SIN IS IN

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS STAYS IN THE SMP



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



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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“It’s ok, I guess I never wanted kids anyway”

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



Melissa Gendron:
“I want the peanut butter pack from the MRE! NOOOO IIIII want the peanut butter from the MRE!!!”

Manny Felix:
“OK...so this is the secret handshake.”

Rylan’s Corner:
“Its about that time to open up a can of Oorah!”

DISCLAIMER

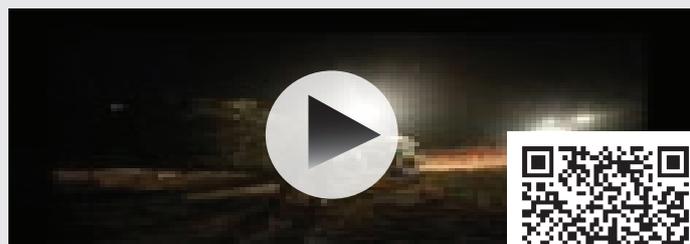
The Desert Warrior is printed Thursday each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc., at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. It is for informational 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



http://youtu.be/Uf7_b3Izo8g

Combat Engineers support Special Operations Task Force West.



<http://youtu.be/xY5U0PEPVR4>

Marine trains Georgian soldiers.



Front Page Photo Credit

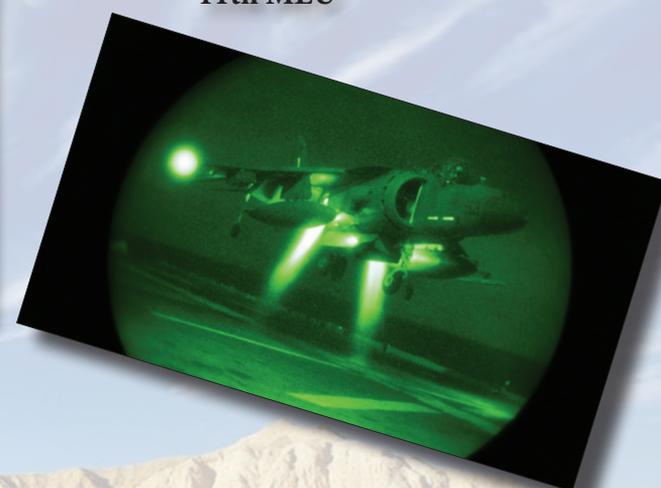
Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Welcome Home!

Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU



News to Use

MILITARY ACADEMY AND ROTC SCHOLARSHIP CAREER NIGHT

It's time for the 3rd Annual Career Night, for all Yuma County and Eastern Imperial County high schools. The event will be held at Kofa High School in the auditorium April 18 from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

TESTING OPPORTUNITY

College Level Examination Program and DANTES Subject Standardized Test opportunity available April 13 from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Education Center. CLEP and DSSTs are used to grant exemption from and credit for specific college courses. Active duty military only. Please bring your Military ID Card. Registration is required 5 days prior to testing and seating is limited. For more information please contact Melissa Dickerson at 928-269-5614.

THE WATER WE DRINK

The water treatment professionals at MCAS Yuma are very proud to provide you with the 2011 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report. We want to keep you informed about the water and services we delivered to you over the past year.

Our primary commitment is, and always will be, to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of tap water to our customers, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This report is a summary of MCAS Yuma's drinking water quality last year between January and December 2011.

The full report is posted on the station's Website, www.yuma.usmc.mil. Copies will also be available in pamphlets at the station housing office, water plant and barracks throughout the station. For more information or to directly receive a water report, contact Shepherd at 928-269-3116.

FAMILY CARE PLAN ORDER UPDATE

Per Marine Corps Order 1740.13B, all Marines, with the exception of those with no dependent(s), shall have a validated Family Care Plan initiated as part of the check-in process for their first duty station or within one year from the date the order is signed. For more information and family care plan forms contact your family readiness officer.

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.

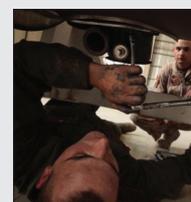


Tailspotter



Axis

A small Shelti mix, under 2 yrs. Axis is vaccinated, fixed and chipped. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions for a Powerline Mechanic

**Gunnery Sgt.
Kendra M. Kane**

What are Marine mechanics in charge of, why is it important?

Marine mechanics are responsible for a wide variety of tasks which is based on their MOS. For example, Powerline mechanics are responsible for the engine, lubrication, and fuel systems, as well as ensuring the safe execution of the flight schedule. Their job in particular is incredibly important because they ensure the aircraft is safe for the pilot during launches and recovery.

What type of training do Marines go through?

Powerline Marines go through several schools. The first is a 5-week course called the Aviation Machinists Mate Turbojet Fundamentals covering the fundamentals of turbojet and turboprop engines. After graduating this course, Marines are assigned specific MOS's designating which type/model/series they will work on. This means in a class of 12 students, 3 may become UH-1Y Venom mechanics, 3 may become V-22 Osprey mechanics, 3 may become FA-18 Hornet mechanics and 3 may become AV8-B Harrier mechanics. Following this school, powerline mechanics report to AV8-B Aircraft Mechanic Organizational Level School at MCAS Cherry Point, NC, where they spend 8 weeks learning the engine, lubrication, and fuel systems of the Harrier. Once this school is complete.

How often do Marines perform maintenance on aircraft?

The AV-8B Harrier requires daily maintenance to keep it flying. The airframe is aging and the replacement for the Harrier, F-35 Lightning II does not have a solid deliver date. This means the Harrier requires more scheduled specialized inspections to check for cracks, fatigue and failures in order to keep her flying for many years to come. The mechanics are scrupulous about cleanliness and maintaining accountability of any loose articles such as tools, parts, and gear. One unaccounted for nut could cause catastrophic engine failure resulting in pilot death, civilian casualties, and a loss of the aircraft.

What is the best part about being a Marine mechanic and why?

Powerline mechanics are afforded plenty of opportunities to work on a variety of maintenance issues. Solving problems and working on new things gives them a sense of accomplishment. The greatest part about being a Marine mechanic is launching a Harrier in combat, loaded with hundreds of pounds of bombs, and recovering that same aircraft with no bombs.

What are the benefits of being a mechanic in the Marines?

It can be a tough decision when Powerline Marines consider re-enlisting or entering the civilian sector. The jobs that are available to them pay very well, have a fraction of the hours, and many offer tempting benefits.

Canadian Army, Marines join forces, assault mock village

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior

In a scene reminiscent of *Apocalypse Now*, five Marine UH-1Y Hueys carrying Oscar Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, landed at the Yuma Proving Ground's K-9 village searching for a high value target in a mock training scenario.

Oscar Company, part of Canada's only air-mobile infantry battalion, is providing the ground combat element for the current Weapons and Tactics Instructor course. Approximately 160 soldiers from the regiment, which is based in Petawawa, near Ontario, are taking part in the exercise.

"The goal is to train Marine aviators, and we provide the ground forces for them," said Maj. David Hill, Oscar Company's commanding officer. "But, it also provides an opportunity for us to practice the urban combat skills we've been training in."

The battalion is Canada's high readiness unit, ready to deploy wherever they are needed at a moment's notice. The training they receive here prepares them for the event of a deployment to a desert environment, training their homeland's high latitude doesn't afford them.

In this scenario, three of the Hueys landed on the outskirts of the village, allowing the soldiers to set up a perimeter. While two other Hueys hovered above the village, soldiers aboard them fast-roped to the ground.

As the soldiers swiftly exited their winged chariots and assaulted the mock Afghan village, they engaged in brief firefights with role players, before locating and extracting their target.

"We had blanks in our rifles, but they had paintballs," said Master Cpl. Tyler Stephanich, a rifleman with the company.

"As we flew in over the village, we could see roughly where they were positioned," said Stephanich said of the high-value target and her bad guy insurgents. "We grabbed her within the first three to four minutes from what I heard on the comms."

As the soldiers whisked the target out of the village, the Marine pilots returned to the village and picked them all up for the return flight to the air station.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

A Canadian with Oscar Company, 3rd Battalion, Royal Canadian Regiment, waits orders during a mock assault in a village at the Yuma Proving Grounds, April 9.

Inventor, entrepreneur, Marine, all-around good time

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior

Democritus, an Ancient Greek philosopher, once said, "Happiness resides not in possessions, and not in gold. Happiness dwells in the soul."

Anyone who doubts the truth of these words need only meet Cpl. Michael "Mikey" Raymundo.

"I just like to have fun and not worry about what's going to happen tomorrow," said Mikey, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron comptroller and an El Paso, Texas native. "Just live in the moment. I like to make other people laugh, and I don't care what anybody else has to say. As long as I'm happy with myself, I'm good, and I know I'm always doing the right things."

Mikey is at the center of every social interaction, and he is always wearing a smile. He brings energy and laughter to a room.

"When he's not there, everyone keeps asking, 'Where's Mikey? Where's Mikey,'" said Cpl. Maxmillion Page, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron legal chief, a Thousand Oaks, Calif. native and long-time friend of Mikey's. "He has a very vibrant and unique personality, and everyone loves to have someone like that around. He's loyal. He's my brother."

"I'm no different from anyone else," added Mikey. "I'm just outgoing. I want to be sociable. I want to get out there and help out my friends. Oh, and I'm sexy."

Mikey, who has brown skin and brown eyes and comes from a Mexican-American family, is always easy to spot due to his styled black hair and dapper wardrobe.

While growing up in Texas he tried to branch out and try new things.

"Growing up, I always tried to take on new challenges," said Mikey, now 24. "I always like to try new things, and if I have an opportunity, I'm going to take it. I don't care about money, materials, cars or possessions. None of that matters to me. As long as I'm healthy, my family's good and we have what we need

to survive, that's all we really need."

Mikey became active in wrestling and football, playing as a starting linebacker. He would spend summers with his grandmother across the border in Juarez, Mexico.

He attended El Paso Community College after high school and earned his associate's degree in criminal justice. While going to class as a fulltime student, Mikey also worked as a corporate trainer for Famous Dave's, traveling across the Southwest and opening stores.

After earning his degree in 2008, he decided it was time to enlist in the Marine Corps.

"I wanted to join before it was too late," added Mikey. "I wanted to do something different, and since I was little, I wanted to join the Marines. It was now or never."

At the end of his active service, Mikey plans to join the reserve unit in his hometown and continue with the Corps until retirement.

However, he also has goals outside the Corps. Mikey plans to become an entrepreneur. He is already working on a couple of inventions. One, a stationary workout machine, already has a patent pending.

"I couldn't do the workout I wanted to do one day because it was raining," explained Mikey. "So I started drawing things up and talking to people."

Regardless of what happens, Mikey is determined to stay positive.

"I don't know if it's going to be a great invention," said Mikey. "I'm just going with the flow and doing what my instinct tells me. I've got nothing to lose other than money, and money comes and goes."

Mikey is determined to see his dreams come true, and his views on life have the clarity to see his goals through.

"Live life," said Mikey. "Smile. Don't be so grumpy. Don't act so cool. Don't act so tough. Be a humble person and love everyone around you. Respect your family and friends. Do good things and good things will happen to you. Go out and get it. Don't be shy, and don't be scared."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Cpl. Michael "Mikey" Raymundo, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron comptroller and an El Paso, Texas native.

SMP takes Marines to 'Sin City'

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior

Twelve station Marines traveled to Las Vegas for a weekend getaway, April 5 - 8.

The trip was organized and sponsored by the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Single Marine Program and cost participants \$98 for transportation and three nights stay at one of the resorts.

"Events like this are designed to increase morale, get Marines to go out for a weekend, go have some fun and experience new things," said Lance Cpl. Cody A. Nichols, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air traffic controller, and an Arlington, Texas native.

"It was an experience," added Cpl. Maxmillion Page, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron legal chief and a Thousand Oaks, Calif. native. "It was something memorable, and it was good to have different people around, not just the same guys you hang out with all the time. Going to Vegas with Marines is a completely different experience than if I went with some friends back home. Everyone's different, and

it becomes a melting pot of personality. It's great for building camaraderie."

The SMP hosts numerous vacations and travel opportunities throughout the year, Las Vegas sometimes more than once. These occasions are open to all station Marines who can find time to go away for a weekend.

"A lot of Marines are hesitant because it's an SMP event, but I wish other Marines would come out and experience it," said Page.

Though Las Vegas is infamous in its reputation as "Sin City", the SMP can host events like this because Marines are wise enough to avoid problems.

"I think Marines are responsible," said Nichols, one of the trip's planners. "We are going to go to Vegas to have a good time, without trouble."

The Yuma SMP works hard to try to provide these kinds of once-in-a-lifetime opportunities for Marines, added Nichols. Chances like this are rare, and Marines should take advantage of them.

For more information on upcoming events, visit the SMP recreation center or call (928)-269-5794.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

EOD welcomed home



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Left: The Easter bunny may have been a little late on April 8, but for the children of five explosive ordnance disposal technicians, he brought their fathers home just after 9 p.m. Sgt. Dane Schielke hugs his two daughters after surprising them with his return. The young children of all the technicians were left in the dark about their fathers' return, thinking they were merely at a shop party. The returning Marines snuck into the building, donned their bunny ears and surprised their children. The Marines returned from a seven month deployment supporting the 2nd EOD Company in Afghanistan's Kajaki Sofla region.

Bottom: Warrant Officer Jeff Jones II, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 explosive ordnance disposal officer, reacts to his office, specially decorated for his arrival, April 8. Upon returning home from a seven-month tour in Afghanistan's Kajaki Sofla region, Jones was not-so-delighted to find his office decorated with pink lights, decorations including flowers, rainbows and a life-sized cardboard cutout of his least favorite singer, Justin Bieber.

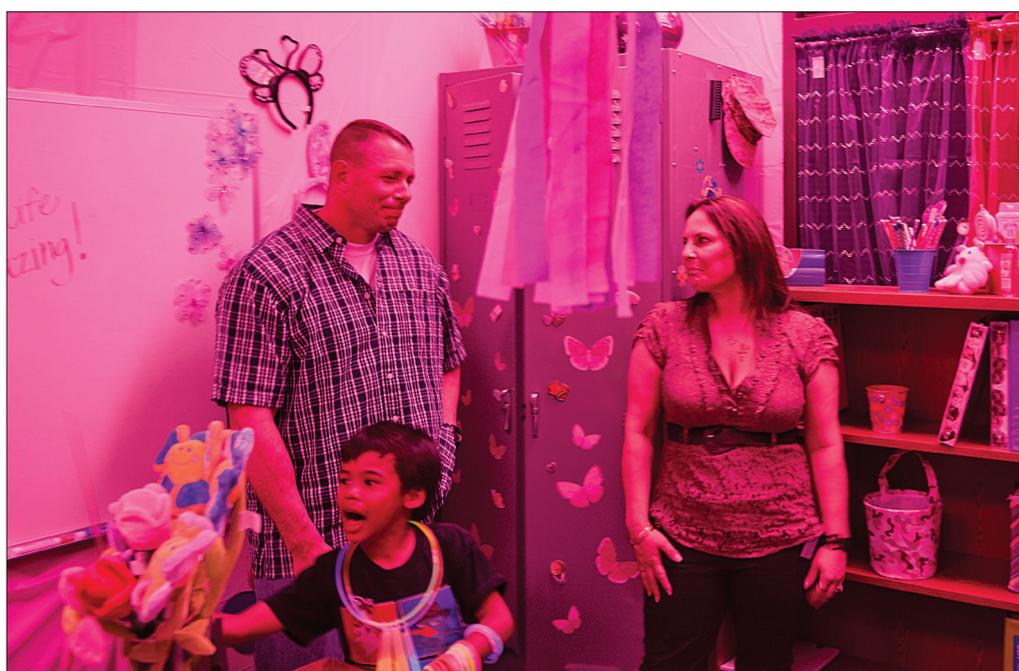


Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

From left to right, Cpl. Maxmillion Page, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron legal chief, Lance Cpl. Cody A. Nichols, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air-traffic controller, Sgt. Eric J. Manning, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air-traffic controller, Sgt. Justin M. Perry, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air-traffic controller, and Sgt. Christopher Moore, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron air-traffic controller, enjoy an afternoon in the pool at Bally's Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, April 7. The Single Marine Program sponsored vacation from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma lasted four days and three nights in Las Vegas.

MARADMINS

CRITICAL SKILLS RETENTION BONUS UPDATE

MARADMIN 202/12

MarAdmin 202/12 is a memorandum approving the continued use of Critical Skills Retention Bonuses. This will continue the authorized use of CSRB until Sept. 30, 2012. CSRB is used as a retention incentive to meet Manpower requirements in critical skills and is not applicable to the Marine Corps Reserve. For more information contact your unit Career Retention Specialist.

Full Ads

Panetta Credits Peleliu for Helping to Reach Turning Point in War

Donna Miles

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 31, 2012 – The United States has reached a turning point after a decade of conflict, but must stay the course to continue to face down terrorism and other threats -- including a debt Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta said also threatens U.S. national security.

Panetta visited USS Peleliu off the coast of Camp Pendleton, Calif., yesterday, thanking the crew for its service, particularly supporting critical activities in Afghanistan.

“As a result of the sacrifice of men and women in uniform,” he told the crewmembers, “we’ve reached a turning point after 10 years of war.” He noted the end of the mission in Iraq, where “we gave them the opportunity to establish a democracy in that region of the world, ... because of the sacrifice we made.”

“In Afghanistan, we’ve also made a turning point” during 2011, he said, extending credit to Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, the top military commander there, and the men and women who put their lives on the line.

Violence is down for the first time in five years and the Taliban weakened and unable to organize to regain territory lost, Panetta said. Meanwhile, he noted that the Afghan national security forces are making progress, fighting alongside coalition forces and securing new areas.

“Ultimately, it’s going to be up to them to secure their country. That’s what this is all about,” the secretary said, transitioning areas to Afghan control and Afghan security.

“The bottom line is, it’s working,” Panetta said. “Over 50 percent of the population in Afghanistan is now under Afghanistan security and under Afghanistan governance. And we’re going to continue that process. That’s the plan that General Allen has laid out, and we can’t let anything -- anything -- undermine that strategy. We’ve got to be dedicated to the mission that this was all about, and we are.”

Panetta pointed to successes in tracking down Osama bin Laden and the al-Qaida organization he led. “We’ve gone after others throughout their leadership,” he said, but emphasized,



DOD photo by Erin Kirk-Cuomo

“they still remain a threat” that needs to be confronted wherever they operate.

“We can’t give up in terms of the pressure we need to continue to put on terrorists,” he said. “But we have made this country safer by virtue of what we’ve been able to do.”

As the war continues in Afghanistan, Panetta noted other threats around the world: North Korea, Iran and other rogue nations that destabilize the world and spread terrorism; unrest in the Middle East; rising powers in Asia; and cyber threats capable of crippling the country.

“So we’re facing a lot of threats that we have to confront if we want to keep America safe and if we want to give our children a better life,” he said.

These threats are converging, he said, as the nation faces a huge debt and deficits that pose a national security threat.

“If we don’t have the resources we need to maintain a strong defense, if we don’t have the resources we need in order to maintain the quality of life that our people deserve, then we are going to weaken our national security,” he said.

That, Panetta explained, is why the Defense Department must reduce its budget by \$487 billion over the next 10 years.

A new strategy developed in close coordination with the service chiefs, combatant commanders and Pentagon officials will ensure that as this belt-tightening occurs, the United States maintains a strong defense for the nation, he said.

“We’re not going to let budgets drive defense strategy,” he emphasized. “We’re going to develop a strategy and then base our budget decisions on that.”

Panetta vowed to maintain the world’s strongest military and not to hollow out the force as it draws down in numbers. He also promised to use a balanced approach to national defense, keeping faith with the men and women in uniform while shaping a force that’s smaller and leaner, but also more flexible and technologically advanced.

Meanwhile, the Defense Department will continue to advance in the future to ensure its force maintains the cutting edge.

“Let me tell you something: the Peleliu and what you do is what we need for the future,” he told the crew. “This is about agility. This is about being able to move quickly. This is about doing the things that you do right here from this ship.”

“That is the future,” he continued. “And that’s why I wanted to come here, because it’s important for me to tell you how important you are to our strategy now and in the future.”

During a question-and-answer session following his address, the secretary offered assurance that the Defense Department plans to maintain 11 aircraft carriers and a fleet of ships like the Peleliu LHA-5, the last Tarawa-class amphibious assault ship in the Navy inventory.

The Peleliu was slated for decommissioning in 2014, but is now expected to remain in service for at least another year.

Welcome home MWSS-371

Smiling faces of loved ones filled the Sonoran Pueblo April 6 as the main body of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 returned home from a seven-month deployment on April 6. Families flew in from across the United States to greet their Marine as they stepped off the bus.



Photo by Cpl. Shelby R. Shields

Top: Eva Negron waits patiently to see her daddy, Sgt. Jorge Negron who completed a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan, at the Sonoran Pueblo, April 6,



Right: Sgt. Jorge Negron is reunited with his two and a half year-old daughter Eva at the Sonoran Pueblo April 6, after a long seven month deployment to Afghanistan.



Photo by Cpl. Shelby R. Shields



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

Marines and their families with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 eagerly race to get home after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan, April 6.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Seasons of Preparation"

CDR Timothy Power, MAG-13 Chaplain

Religious expression is so important to me that I have made it my life's work. So you can imagine that I would enjoy advertising and being a part of various religious observances in the Passover/Easter season. For my personal observance I, in a way, chose to be involved in a pilgrimage of Holy Week Christian activities that was similar to the ones recorded in early Christianity in the 4th Century C.E. by Egeria in Jerusalem.

Egeria recorded in her diary going to commemorations of Holy Week Christianity in the actual historical settings by walking to, praying at, and worshipping at various sites in Jerusalem. In a similar way in Yuma, my family and I had the opportunity to see and participate in the Palm Sunday, Washing of the Disciples Feet, Last Supper, Passion of the Lamb of God, and Sunrise Resurrection Service at worship sites around Yuma from the foothills to the city of Yuma.

How powerful it was for Egeria to go to physical sites that encouraged her faith. For my family too we went to these events and stirred up our sacred memories from Scripture to renew our faith. One week's commitment to experiencing the voices of choirs, praise teams, congregational singing, and ministry team and worshipper interactions will aid our faith throughout the seasons of the year during more ordinary worship times.

We enjoyed topping it all off by attending a bilingual Christian service reminding us of the effects of our faith throughout the world spoken in different languages. To think of God's care concern for the whole world and Armed Forces loved ones separated from us throughout the world is such a comforting thought during this season and until they return. May God strengthen your faith as you carry your family and faith memories from this season with you throughout the year.

Exercise Your Right to Vote!

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.

If you are on active duty stationed in the United States, you can vote in the state in which you reside or choose to vote absentee in your home of record state. It's your choice where your vote.

Elections are managed individually by all 55 states and territories but the basic steps to vote are simple:

1. Register to vote at www.fvap.gov and this site will walk you through the process of choosing the appropriate state and completing the appropriate registration paperwork.
2. If voting absentee, the state-level election official approves/disapproves the Federal Postcard Application or requests additional information. If the application is approved, the election official sends you an absentee ballot in the mail and often an email reminder.
3. If voting absentee, you vote on the ballot and return it to your state-level election official via mail by the state's deadline.

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

1/2 Ads

Marines familiarize themselves with external lift operations

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1's Weapons and Tactics Instructor course covers an impressive range of military exercises meant to school Marines on how to best execute operations as if they were in theater.

One operation is the external lift, which involves aircraft transporting a variety of things from one site to another.

April 5 saw Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 27, landing support company, helicopter support team, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., hook up supplies to MV-22 Ospreys at Landing Zone Bull, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California.

Pilots practiced lifting objects such as beams and Humvees while Marines on the ground fine-tuned their technique of gearing up the aircraft with a load.

"We're building a standardized union on how everything is lifted," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Fassnacht, the helicopter support team officer in charge for CLR-27, landing support company, and a native of Port Clinton, Ohio. "This is some of the most dangerous training you can get right here."

Getting beneath any aircraft with the purpose of attaching a mission-essential item to it is brazen enough. With Ospreys, winds reaching up to 200 miles per hour buffeted the ground Marines, who also dealt with engine exhaust heat able to burn skin and a blinding maelstrom of dust and debris.

"It's a blast," said Lance Cpl. Chase Stubblefield, a CLR-27, landing support company, landing support specialist and a native of Tulsa, Okla.

Normally, the CH-53E Super Stallions are used for external lifts.

"We don't do (external lifts) a lot," said Capt. Justin Sing, a MAWTS-1 student and Osprey pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266, based in MCAS New River, N.C. "We're trained to provide that lift asset."

"Assault support is still our primary role," added the Apple Valley, Minn., native.

External lifts are used to transport items such as food, water and supplies across theater. Lifts are also used to recover downed aircraft.

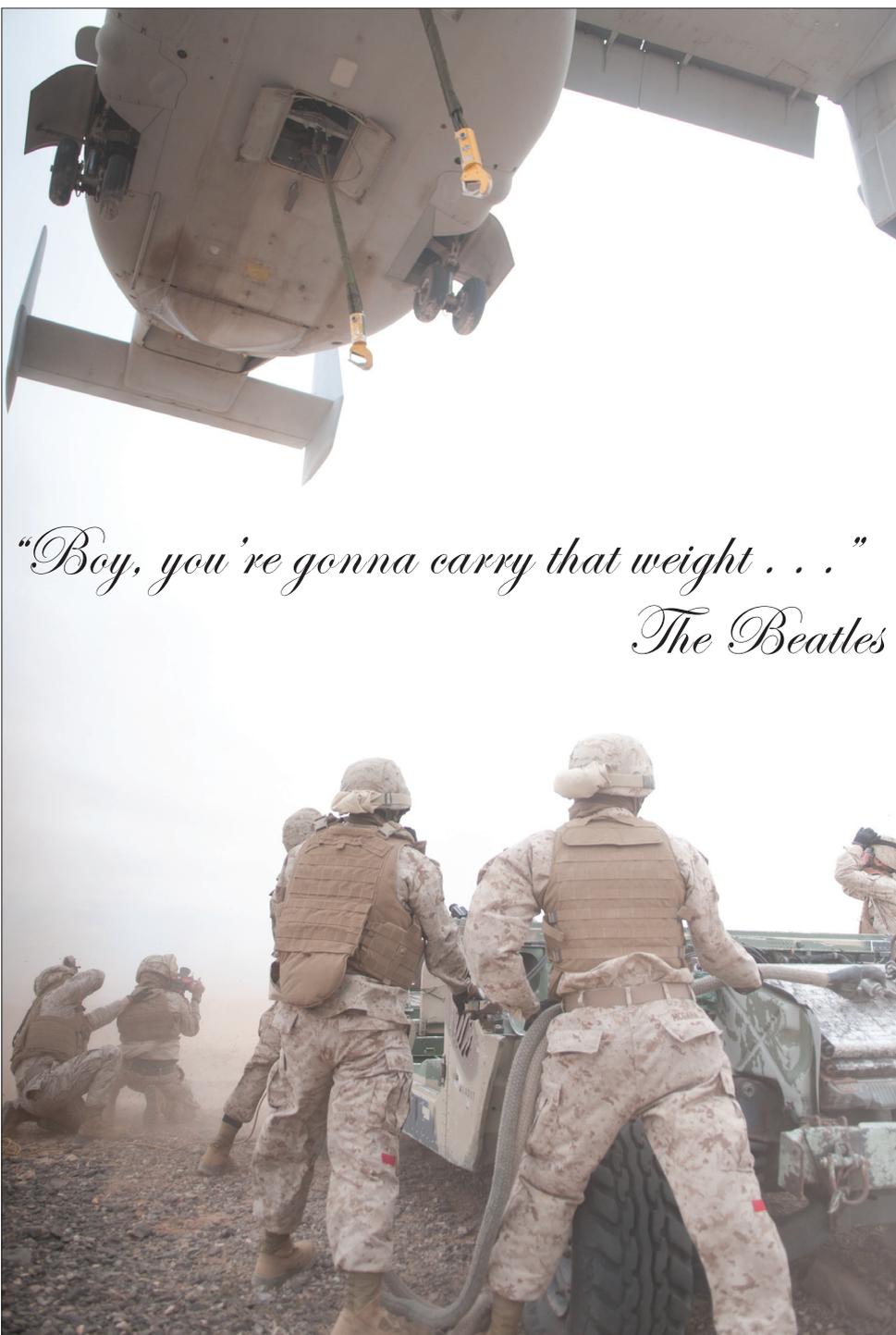
The Osprey has a max load capacity of 12,000 pounds, with the equipment lifted April 5 weighing in between 6-8,000 pounds.

"This is tactical lift for real life equipment," said Fassnacht. "We're here to train the pilots in their weapons and tactical training."

While the Osprey is an unusual choice to fulfill the aircraft role in an external lift exercise, it is exemplary of the progressive nature of WTI.

"The intent for us to come here is to be tacticians in our platforms and integrate our tactics with other platforms," said Sing.

Seamless integration of air and ground assets is key in Marine Air/Ground Task Force planning. Successful exercises like these show Marines are able to adapt and work together in situations with unfamiliar variables.



"Boy, you're gonna carry that weight . . ."
The Beatles

Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Top: An MV-22 Osprey carries a Humvee during an external lift exercise at Landing Zone Bull, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, April 5.

Top left, bottom left: Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, landing support company, helicopter support team, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., hook up supplies to an MV-22 Osprey at Landing Zone Bull, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, as part of an external lift exercise, April 5.





Left: Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, landing support company, helicopter support team, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., prepare to board an MV-22 Osprey at Landing Zone Bull, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, during an external lift exercise April 5. External lifts involve aircraft carrying supplies and objects to other destination. Transportation can range from food to downed aircraft.

Below: A CH-53E Super Stallion prepares to haul a load away during an external lift exercise in the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, March 31. Super Stallions are used mostly for external lifts, although the MV-22 Ospreys can be used as well. "We don't do (external lifts) a lot," said Capt. Justin Sing, a MAWTS-1 student and Osprey pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 266, based in MCAS New River, N.C. "We're trained to provide that lift asset."

Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Top, bottom: Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, landing support company, helicopter support team, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C., hook up supplies to an MV-22 Osprey at Landing Zone Bull, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, as part of an external lift exercise, April 5.



Photo by Sgt. Richard A. Tetreau



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley Santy

Right: Staff Sgt. Robert Brown, the Marine Aviation Tactics and Weapons Squadron 1 combat camera chief and a native of Fayetteville, N.C., holds onto Pfc. Brandon Ponyah, a MAWTS-1 videographer and native of Flagstaff, Ariz., as he documents an MV-22 Osprey external lift at Bull Landing Zone, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, April 5.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Full Ads

9 tips for better credit

MSN Money

1. Get a credit card if you don't have one: Don't fall for the myth that you have to carry a balance to have good scores. You don't, and you shouldn't. But having and using a credit card or two can really build your scores.

2. Add an installment loan to the mix: You'll get the fastest improvement in your scores if you show you're responsible with both major kinds of credit: revolving and installment.

3. Pay down your credit cards: Paying off your installment loans can help your scores but typically not as dramatically as paying down -- or paying off -- revolving accounts such as credit cards.

4. Use your cards lightly: Racking up big balances can hurt your scores, regardless of whether you pay your bills in full each month. What's typically reported to the credit bureaus, and thus calculated into your scores, are the balances reported on your last statements.

5. Check your limits: Your scores might be artificially depressed if your lender is showing a lower limit than you actually have. Most credit card issuers will quickly update this information if you ask.

6. Dust off an old card: The older your credit history, the better. But if you stop using your oldest cards, the issuers may decide to close the accounts or stop updating them to the credit bureaus. The accounts may still appear, but they won't be given as much weight in the credit-scoring formula as your active accounts, said Craig Watts, an executive at Fair Isaac, the company that created the FICO score.

7. Get some goodwill: If you've been a good customer, a lender might agree to simply erase that one late payment from your credit history. You usually have to make the request in writing, and your chances for a "goodwill adjustment" improve the better your record with the company (and the better your credit in general). But it can't hurt to ask.

8. Dispute old negatives: Say that fight with your phone company over an unfair bill a few years ago resulted in a collections account. You can continue protesting that the charge was unjust, or you can try disputing the account with the credit bureaus as "not mine." The older and smaller a collection account, the more likely the collection agency won't bother to verify it when the credit bureau investigates your dispute.

9. Blitz significant errors: Your credit scores are calculated based on the information in your credit reports, so certain errors there can really cost you. But not everything that's reported in your files matters to your scores.

LEAVING THE CORPS

TAP your way into TAMP

Cpl. Jolene Bopp, Desert Warrior Staff

Newly-improved Transition Assistance Management Program focuses on individual needs of each Marine and sailor. As most know, TAMP is a program designed to help Marines and their families transition from military to civilian life.

"The student now has options to help them along their selected pathway," said Richard Welch, the station career resource center manager. "Not everyone is looking for employment immediately upon separation, to the new TRS takes that into account and provides optional training for those intending on going to college, university or vocational or technical schools. There is also an optional path for those who may be interested in starting their own business or franchising."

MCAS Yuma was chosen as a test site for the changes and began conducting pilot seminars in January. The new Transition Readiness Seminar was implemented throughout the Marine Corps on March 26.

Currently, service members are required to attend the Pre-separation Counseling Brief where they learn about veteran benefits, education, relocation and financial management to name a few. Following the brief attendees are required to take at least one assessment to help them determine or confirm which path is best suited for them. According to Welch, Marines will be required to attend the week long course then choose dates to attend extra classes for their selected pathways.

"If an individual feels that even though they plan on attending school upon separation, and will need to find employment while doing so, it would be to their advantage to pursue both the employment and the education pathways," said Welch.

Extra courses also include a detailed presentation on how to write a proper resume including the federal resume. Instructors are trained to educate service members on how to be competition in the civilian job market. Tools are also provided to translate Marine jargon into something an employer would understand.

Marines are required to attend TAMP 90 days prior to their separation date. It is highly encouraged to take it approximately a year prior due to the vast amount of information provided in these courses. Spouses are also encouraged to attend. To get signed up for the program Marines must go through their Unit Transition Counselor.

Marine Corps Community Services

BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Glow Party

When: Fri, April 14, 9pm – 2am

Where: Pulse Nightclub

Glow Sticks supplied professional make-up artist will be providing hand and body art. Come dressed to impress under the black light. 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 MCCA Event Calendar.

FAMILY SERVICES

Family Care Plan Workshop

When: Mon, April 16, 9am – 11am

Where: Building 598

Take care of your family by creating a plan in case of an emergency. This document ensures your children will be taken care of in the manner you choose. 269-6502 to register. Please mention you saw it on the MCCA Events Calendar.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

Birthday Shout-Outs

When: Thu, April 12, 12pm – 1pm

Where: SMP Rec Center

Come and party at the Rec Center with free Birthday Cake! Questions? Call 269-5794. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCA Event Calendar.

Full Ads

Child abuse prevention month: the history

Child Welfare Information Gateway

Increasing public awareness of the need to ensure the safety and welfare of children led to the passage of the first Federal child protection legislation, the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act, in 1974. While CAPTA has been amended many times over the years, most recently with the CAPTA Reauthorization Act of 2010, the purpose of the original legislation remains intact. Today, the Children's Bureau, within the Administration for Children and Families at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the Federal agency charged with supporting States, Tribes, and communities in providing programs and services to protect children and strengthen families.

In the early 1980s, Congress made a further commitment to identifying and implementing solutions to end child abuse. Recognizing the alarming rate at which children continued to be abused and neglected and the need for innovative programs to prevent child abuse and assist parents and families affected by maltreatment, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives resolved that the week of June 6-12, 1982, should be designated as the first National Child Abuse Prevention Week. Members of Congress requested the President issue a proclamation calling upon Government agencies and the public to observe the week with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities promoting the prevention of child abuse and neglect.

The following year, in 1983, April was proclaimed the first National Child Abuse Prevention Month. As a result, child abuse and neglect awareness activities are promoted across the country during April of each year. The Office on Child Abuse and Neglect within the Children's Bureau coordinates Child Abuse Prevention Month activities at the Federal level, providing information and releasing updated national statistics about child abuse and neglect. Many governors also issue proclamations to encourage

initiatives and events in their States.

In 1989, the Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse began as a Virginia grandmother's tribute to her grandson who died as a result of abuse. She tied a blue



ribbon to the antenna of her car as a way to remember him and to alert her community to the tragedy of child abuse. The Blue Ribbon Campaign has since expanded across the country; many people wear blue ribbons each April in memory of those who have died as a result of child

abuse and in support of efforts to prevent abuse. Based on Prevent Child Abuse America's inwheels for Prevention® campaign, some communities distribute pinwheels and coordinate outdoor pinwheel displays representing children affected by abuse or neglect. Regardless of the type of activity, the focus has shifted to a positive message of supporting families and strengthening communities to prevent child abuse and neglect.

In Title II of the CAPTA amendments of 1996, the Children's Bureau was charged with identifying a lead agency in each State for Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants. These grants support the development, operation, and expansion of initiatives to prevent child abuse and neglect, as well as the coordination of resources and activities to strengthen and support families to reduce the likelihood of child maltreatment. CBCAP grantees within each State often take leadership roles in coordinating special events and preparing materials to support Child Abuse Prevention Month, and they are required to report annually on their activities.

In 2003, as part of the 20th anniversary of the original Presidential Proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention Month, OCAN launched the National Child Abuse Prevention Initiative as a year-long effort.

For the full history of Child Abuse Prevention Month and more information on how you can help, visit

<http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/history.cfm>

1/2 Ads

Gateway Park

Cpl. Shelby R. Shields
Desert Warrior Staff

Gateway park located downtown right on the bank of the Colorado River is a fun-filled place for all ages.

It offers playgrounds, picnic areas, barbecues, grassy fields, plenty of shade and of course the river, perfect for birthday parties, office picnics and many other outdoor group events.

As the Yuma summer is fast approaching, this park becomes a hot spot for families or a group of friends to get in the water and cool off.

The park is relatively clean and the water is perfectly safe for a summer dip.

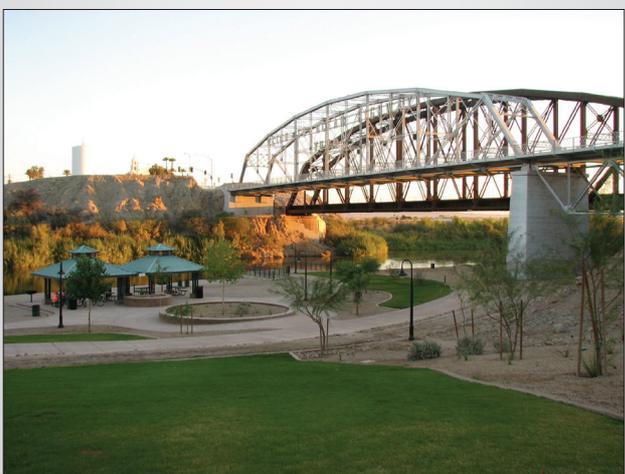
All of the park equipment is relatively new with the nearly \$4 million renovations it underwent back in 2007.

If you're looking for a secluded get away its probably better to visit gateway park in the fall, winter and early spring. It can get very crowded during the summer months and doesn't offer the same type of serenity as it does during the "cool" Yuma season.

Another interesting feature is the view of the train bridge. Even though it is no longer in use, it can still be a nice site for tourists.

I highly recommend this park for anyone looking for a fun way to beat the Yuma heat this summer.

Gateway Park is located at 259 South Gila Street.



Photos courtesy of <http://www.joanlansberry.com>

Book Review: *The Hunger Games*

Megan Whalen Turner
Publishers Weekly

If there really are only seven original plots in the world, it's odd that boy meets girl is always mentioned, and society goes bad and attacks the good guy never is.

Yet we have Fahrenheit 451, The Giver, The House of the Scorpion—and now, following a long tradition of Brave New Worlds, The Hunger Games. Collins hasn't tied her future to a specific date, or weighted it down with too much finger wagging. Rather less 1984 and rather more Death Race 2000, hers is a gripping story set in a postapocalyptic world where a replacement for the United States demands a tribute from each of its territories: two children to be used as gladiators in a televised fight to the death. Katniss, from what was once Appalachia, offers to take the place of her sister in the Hunger Games, but after this ultimate sacrifice, she is entirely focused on survival at any cost. It is her teammate, Peeta, who recognizes the importance of holding on to one's humanity in such inhuman circumstances.

It's a credit to Collins's skill at characterization that Katniss, like a new Theseus, is cold, calculating and still likable. She has the attributes to be a winner, where Peeta has the grace to be a good loser. It's no accident that these games are presented as pop culture.

Every generation projects its fear: runaway science, communism, overpopulation, nuclear wars and, now, reality TV.

The State of Panem—which needs to keep its tributaries subdued and its citizens complacent—may have created the Games, but mindless television is the real danger, the means by which society pacifies its citizens and punishes those who fail to conform.

Will its connection to reality TV, ubiquitous today, date the book? It might, but for now, it makes this the right book at the right time. What happens



Courtesy photo

if we choose entertainment over humanity? In Collins's world, we'll be obsessed with grooming, we'll talk funny, and all our sentences will end with the same rise as questions.

When Katniss is sent to stylists to be made more telegenic before she competes, she stands naked in front of them, strangely unembarrassed. They're so unlike people that I'm no more self-conscious than if a trio of oddly colored birds were pecking around my feet, she thinks.

In order not to hate these creatures who are sending her to her death, she imagines them as pets. It isn't just the contestants who risk the loss of their humanity.

It is all who watch. Katniss struggles to win not only the Games but the inherent contest for audience approval. Because this is the first book in a series, not everything is resolved, and what is left unanswered is the central question.

Has she sacrificed too much?

We know what she has given up to survive, but not whether the price was too high. Readers will wait eagerly to learn more.

Opinion: My cell phone: Digital Leash

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

Reach into your pocket. Go ahead and pull out everything in your front pockets.

What do you see in there? Keys, pocket knife, chap stick and a leash.

That's right. Not a cell phone, a digital leash, instantly connecting you to everyone. Your family, friends, coworkers and bosses are all a few short button presses from being all up in your business.

You can't escape it these days. Everyone has one, and they all expect you to be attached to your leash at all times. Heaven forbid you don't answer a phone call or reply to a text message within milliseconds.

Have you ever wanted to escape from the burden of that leash? I know I have quite often.

One of my favorite commercials shows a group of men travelling around in their pickup truck, constantly getting out checking their phones for reception. The plot twist in the end is that they're trying to find somewhere they don't get reception. They are looking for a place to escape, and the company making the commercial claims to have the truck to get you there.

Too bad I drive a small sedan, no off road, no cell service adventures for me.

This isn't the first time I've written about my loathsome attitude toward modern electronic devices. I'm not a conspiracy theorist who thinks the government is keeping track of me through them, but I wouldn't put it past them to do so.

It seems to me, the people with the "smartest" phones are usually some of the dumbest people.

I live off base, clear on the other side of town, and damn near every day, some asshole nearly hits me, drives too slow, swerves all over the road or runs a red light because they can't take off their leashes long enough to get from point A to point B.

Others can't even walk a straight line because they are glued to the small screen of the latest "smart" phone.

Often, I can't make it through a head call, let alone a lunch break without my phone going off. A man can't even pee in peace anymore. What is this world coming to!?

I think I'm going to leave my phone at home for a weekend, and get out and go camping. I think that thing is probably giving me testicular cancer from being in my pocket all the time anyway.

WORKOUT OF THE WEEK

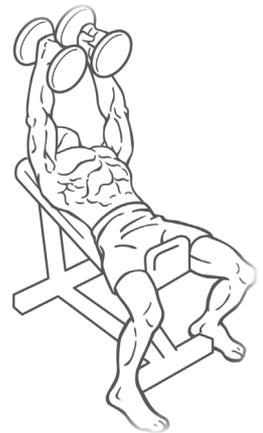
Armando Pena
Station Gym Performance Coach

FULL BODY, MUSCLE ENDURANCE

| <u>Exercise:</u> | <u>Sets:</u> | <u>Repetitions:</u> | <u>Rest:</u> (Between sets) |
|------------------------------|--------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Barbell Bench Press | 3 sets | 15-20 reps | 30 seconds |
| Dumbbell Shoulder Press | 3 sets | 15-20 reps | 30 seconds |
| Dumbbell Incline Bench Press | 3 sets | 15-20 reps | 30 seconds |
| Tricept Extension | 3 sets | 15-20 reps | 30 seconds |
| Close Arm Push-Up | 3 sets | Max Set | 60 seconds |



DUMBBELL
INCLINE
BENCH
PRESS



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

1/2 Ads

