

Desert **WARRIOR**



Homecoming

MWSS-371 Marines receive warm welcome

April 05, 2012

Volume 11, Number 12



TELEPHONE BUDDIES

STATION TELEPHONE BRINGS TOGETHER TWO FRIENDS

NEW ELECTRONIC WARFARE SYSTEM

YUMA HOSTS FIRST FLIGHT FOR NEW SYSTEM

NEW AND IMPROVED BMC

STATION BRANCH MEDICAL CLINIC GETS A FACE LIFT



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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



“Can’t... Open...Jar...Of Jelly!”

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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LAST WEEK’S TOP CAPTIONS



Jose San Martin:
“Do you see my
loose tooth waaay
back in there?”

Cynthia Gorham:
“Yes I had onions
for lunch!!! You
got a problem with
onions??”

April Mccoy:
“You eyeballin me? I
will eat your face.”

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HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VImtLeEYNS0>

Corps approves new weapons for rifle range.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Brv21fEObtE>

Female Engagement Team bids farewell to family, friends.



Front Page Photo Credit

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE UPDATE

Catholic

Holy Thursday and Mass of the Lord's Supper at 5 p.m.
Holy Thursday ADORATION (small chapel) at 6 p.m.
Good Friday Celebration of the Lord's Passion at 2 p.m.
Easter Sunday Easter Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

Protestant

Good Friday Service at 4 p.m.
Sunrise Easter Service at 6 a.m.
Easter Service 11 a.m.

ALL FEMALE SPORTS LEAGUE

Are you interested in playing sports but prefer playing on an all female team? If so, please contact Beverly McMenomy at BevMcMenomy@gmail.com or (252)649-9828 for more information.

NMCRS UPDATES

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society adjusted office hours:

Thrift Shop:

April 14:
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

April 23-27:

Monday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Tuesday thru Thursday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Emergency financial assistance, interest-free loans/grants, office hours:

Monday thru Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Budget For Baby Classes:

April 11, 26, May 9,23

9:30 -11:30 a.m.

Visiting Nurse Services:

Tuesday thru Thursday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Look for updates and notifications on Yuma's NMCRS Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/NMCRSYuma>.

SUBSTANCES THAT CAN BE IN YOUR WATER

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the U.S. EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by the public water systems. U.S. Food and Drug Administration establish limits for contaminants in bottled water. Drinking water, including bottle, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessary indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about all contaminants of concern and their potential health effects can be obtained by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800) 429-4791.

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



Fritz

Fritz is a poodle mix, about 2 years old. He gets super excited about walks and attention, he is truly a gem. He has been neutered, vaccinated and has a microchip. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions for the Substance Abuse Counseling Center Director

William E. Cady

How did you find yourself managing the SACC?

I was initially hired at the on 15 Feb 2012 as a SACC Counselor. As of 11 Mar 2012 I was promoted to SACC Director. My prior experience has been in Civilian Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment. I have been a Substance Abuse and Mental Health Counselor and Supervisor in the Yuma area for approximately 16 years. My family and I lived in North Carolina for 18 months prior to returning to Yuma, which we consider our Home Town.

What are your plans for the SACC?

My primary plan is to continue to support their efforts with program development and implementation. This spring we will be introducing the Prime for Life program which is a universal prevention course, that also lends itself very well to encouraging Marines and Sailors who make high risk choices to re-evaluate those decisions and make low-risk choices. The class is very interactive and engaging and participants will walk away feeling empowered and educated on what it means to live a healthy, active, and incident free lifestyle. Not only is this program available to help units reduce substance abuse; the program is also available to those who are currently participating in treatment for substance abuse.

How does Yuma compare, in regards to substance abuse incidents, to the rest of the Corps?

We currently have statistics for Yuma that indicate less than one percent of the population assigned to this instillation have been involved in substance abuse related incidents. We are currently waiting for the most up to date statistics on the rest of the Marine Corps to be calculated for 2011. Our focus remains on prevention activities; given any amount of drug related incidences are not compatible with the mission of the Marine Corps and compromises readiness.

Why should we be mindful of substance abuse awareness?

Street Chemists are always trying to figure out ways to pad their pocket books, and society is always looking for ways to decompress or reduce stress. We have seen the progressive development of Spice and other synthetic drugs. Unfortunately sometimes this becomes an addiction before it even becomes illegal. Being healthy means living life free from addiction and substance abuse. Parents need to know what is available to their children, Marines and Sailors need to know what to be mindful of; prevention is everyone's job.

Are classes and programs available to families?

Our primary mission is to serve active duty personnel, but we also provide support and treatment to military families. For more information, please contact the SACC office at 269-5634.

Yuma hosts first flight for new electronic warfare system

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

MCAS Yuma witnessed another milestone in Corps aviation history when Marine Attack Squadron 214 flew a new electronic warfare system, March 27.

Intrepid Tiger II, a government-built system whose ground work began in 2008, is meant to expand the circumference of electronic warfare capabilities.

The pod will provide AV-8B Harriers with an electronic attack capability, expanding their utility on the modern battlefield and paving the way for the Marine Air-Ground Task Force electronic warfare concept that will replace the Prowlers.

The Prowler is the Corps' primary weapon in aviation electronic warfare.

"The Marine Corps needed another electronic asset to take pressure of the VMAQ assets," said John Johnson, an operational advisor for the joint electronic attack compatibility office, Naval Air Warfare Center, Point Mugu, Calif.

The new pod's strength lies in its versatility, being controlled by either airborne pilots or ground radio operators. First Radio Battalion, based in Camp Pendleton, Calif., is the first ground-based unit trained to use Intrepid Tiger II.

Johnson, a former chief warrant officer three in the signals and intelligence electronic warfare field, and other Point Mugu personnel worked with Marines from 1st Radio Battalion in their first training operation controlling the pod at Auxiliary Airfield II, March 29.

"This is the first in a series of paradigm shifts from pilot-platform control capabilities to ground-based control," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dean Calhoun, Marine Aviation

Detachment, Point Mugu, ground signals intelligence electronic warfare liaison officer and a native of Lincoln, Neb. "It's the first time the Marine Corps will use a ground unit to real-time task an airborne sensor on an air platform."

Radio operators can assume control of the pod depending on ground activity if the situation does not cover pilots'



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

mission preplanning.

"This is our first foray into a network centric system of systems with electronic warfare capabilities," said Maj. William Maples, the Headquarters Marine Corps Harrier weapons system requirement officer and a native of Murfreesboro, Tenn. "We're excited to see the effect it will have to unify combatant commanders in Operation Enduring Freedom."

Those involved in Intrepid Tiger II's test run noted the

main impetus was supply and demand.

Johnson described Prowlers as low density, high demand assets: there are not enough of them to comfortably field requests for electronic warfare.

"There are more requests for electronic warfare than Prowlers can fulfill today," added Maples.

Calhoun also explained though Prowlers do fall under MAGTF assets, they are more called upon to fulfill joint-service requests, creating a hole in Corps resources where Intrepid Tiger II is meant to fill.

As Harriers are used primarily for providing close-air support to ground troops, the Harrier community already has an established rapport with their land-based brethren.

"Radio never had a solid doctrine based with the VMAQ," said Johnson, noting much of Intrepid Tiger II's future comes from past lessons learned during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Harriers also already deploy with Marine Expeditionary Units, making them ideal for the first platform to use the pod. Plans are in the works to bestow Intrepid Tiger II on other platforms, including F/A-18 Hornets, rotary-wing aircraft and unmanned aerial vehicles.

The variety of platforms is important, as the Prowlers, Hornets and Harriers slowly make way for the Joint Strike Fighter program.

"We need to ability to operate in the electromagnetic spectrum when Prowlers sundown," said Maples.

For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil

Firefighters visit station with piece of Twin Towers

Sgt. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior

Three firefighters from the Monterey Firefighters Association in California visited MCAS Yuma, March 28, bringing with them a piece of the Twin Towers to remind people of the tragedy of 9/11.



Photos by Sgt. Jakob Schulz

After receiving the piece of steel in New York, March 19, the firefighters began making their way across country in what's expected to be the longest trek a piece from the towers has taken to date.

"In total, we're going to be making 26 stops," said Bob Wilking, a member of the MFA and spokesperson for the travels. "This trip is us trying to remind people of what happened almost 10

and a half years ago. It's nice stopping and letting people touch the piece and remember all the men and women who gave their lives that day and the days following."

At the end of their journey the piece will reside at a memorial in Carmel, Calif.

"This was a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Ken Hutchinson, MFA member. "It's an honor to be able to do this and honor the memory of all the people we lost. I just hope that the memorial and this trip reminds people of the sacrifice that so many made."

While on station, the firefighters visited the Marines at Marine Attack Squadron 311 as well as Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting.

"It's really nice being able to visit here," said Wilking. "Seeing all the brave men and women who fight for our country was a treat. The aircraft are something else as well."



STATION BRANCH MEDICAL CLINIC GETS A FACE LIFT

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

Over the last few months the station medical clinic has been undergoing multiple changes and upgrades to help increase patient satisfaction.

There have been some much needed cosmetic improvements," said Lt. Cmdr. Ronald Fancher, Branch Medical Clinic Yuma Senior Medical Officer. "We gave the building a face lift."

Some of the most noticeable changes are the fresh coats of paint throughout the clinic, new exam tables and furniture and of course the new look of the pharmacy, which was executed in record time.

"It was a fantastic team effort," said Cmd. Andrew Archila, Branch Medical Clinic Yuma Officer in Charge. "It took only 10 days and we never stopped patient care."

In addition to the changes inside the pharmacy walls, a

new automated queue system, similar to the number system seen in motor vehicle divisions, is set to make an appearance before the year is up.



Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

"These renovations allow for space to move medicines in larger quantity, quicker service and shorter wait times," said Archila.

Another major change, not cosmetic, the pharmacy saw is the addition of another pharmacist.

"Before, with only one pharmacist, if he was sick or on leave, we couldn't fill paper scripts," said Archila. "Now we should be able to process them any time."

All of the recent changes to the station clinic, both cosmetic and internal, have been made in hopes of making the Branch Medical Clinic Yuma the preferred choice of health care in Yuma.

"I think the changes made in the clinic and pharmacy definitely helps push us toward that goal," Archila added.

The clinic officer in charge also added, without the dedication of his staff to mission accomplishment many of these upgrades would not be possible.

Telephone buddies: An ever growing friendship

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

Some people notice boot prints on the linoleum of station workplaces. At the telephone office, there're track marks.

James Verness, a station telecommunications assistant, must use a wheelchair to get around.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Verness, a Yuma native, lost the use of his legs following a diving accident in 1979.

Two factors helped Verness in adjusting to the event that changed his life.

"In high school, I worked for teams reaching out to help out in town," he said. "We worked with physically and mentally disabled kids and young adults. And I had a good family, they gave me a lot of support," he said.

Verness also has something of tremendous importance in his life.

"We're best friends. Have been since I've been here," said Michael Harrison, a telecommunications specialist and a native of Cleveland, Ohio, who came aboard the station after Verness. That was the first time I ever saw anybody

in a wheelchair."

"He doesn't let anyone ride it," Harrison added with a straight face.

"I'm very selfish," said Verness in confirmation.

Both men are prior service and both men share the same wicked sense of humor, the latter which both say solidified their friendship.

"I think it's more to do because we have that good sense of humor," said Harrison.

"When I'm out sick he works at my desk because it's easier for him to do (my job) than the Marines," said Verness.

"And I get accused of messing everything up when he returns," added Harrison. "I think we work as a team in this building."

Like the telephone office as a whole, both men are responsible for ultimately ensuring a constant means of communication among the station and the more distant Canon Air Defense Complex.

"Nobody would place any phone calls with the exception of (the Air Traffic Control tower)," said Harrison when asked what would happen if anything went wrong.

Sometimes, to relieve stress, the pair will kid with each other because comedy comes to the pair as naturally as breathing.

"I'll be on the phone," said Harrison. "I'd ask him to stand by and he'd say, 'you know I can't stand'."

"I won't take a walk with you, I'll roll," said Verness.

For the two, their relationship has become as thick as blood.

"My family has more or less adopted him as a brother," said Verness.

The laughter, the ribbing, the closeness, all help the two go about their business.

"If I didn't laugh about it, I'd be depressed," said Verness, as he gloved up and rolled out the door.

There is an "I" in WTI: MAWTS-1 brings forth shining stars during WTI

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 is best known for the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course evolutions put on each year.

Despite the camaraderie and teamwork it takes to make WTI happen, it is the individual participant who brings something important and unique to the table, helping build and shape the WTI course into what it is today.

"There are so many moving pieces and such a wide area of operation. Every MOS (military occupational specialty) is represented," said Capt. Nick Charais, MAWTS-1 logistics officer.

Regardless of rank, each and every Marine involved

has the opportunity to influence the course in one way or another.

"When Marines first check in it's with lance corporals and PFCs (private first class)," said Charais. "They are the initial face of WTI and are expected to be the resident experts."

With approximately 3,000 different participants some may feel as though their presence is insignificant.

"From the top down no one is expendable, to complete our mission without one of the pieces would be taxing to say the least," added Charais. "All though MAWTS-1 seems top heavy we use everyone and all are important."

The first WTI evolution of 2012 kicked off mid-March and is so far running smoothly.



Photo by Marine Wing Support Squadron 371

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS LEADERSHIP

Equal Opportunity is a combination of three leadership principles: Know your Marines and look out for their welfare, set the example, and train your Marines as a team. These leadership principles are embedded in our core values of honor, courage and commitment. As leaders, we are tasked with providing EO for all members without regard to age, color, gender, race, religion, or national origin. Leaders must exercise EO when carrying out the primary and secondary objectives of leadership; mission accomplishment and troop welfare.

Unlawful discriminatory practices by leaders are counterproductive and unacceptable. Discrimination undermines moral, reduces combat readiness, and prevents maximum utilization and development of a leader's most valuable asset, those under their charge. Leaders must know their Marines and provide equal treatment and the opportunity to achieve their full potential based solely upon individual merit, fitness, and ability. Promoting working environments for subordinates free of discrimination is a hallmark of a leader's ability in looking out for their welfare.

Sound leadership is the key to eliminating any form of discrimination. Leaders must set the example by fostering an environment free of inappropriate behavior. Setting this example starts with treating each individual fairly and with mutual respect. Whenever discrimination surfaces, leaders must address and correct inappropriate behavior immediately. Leaders must set the example by not tolerating unprofessional conduct and demand subordinates follow their lead. Leaders are entrusted to uphold the high standards of the Marine Corps and adhere to EO policies and procedures, and expect nothing less from individuals under their charge.

The Marine Corps is built on the trust and teamwork shared between subordinates and their leaders. Inherent in this trust is the understanding that fair, scrupulous, and unbiased treatment is the Corps leadership standard. The motto of the Great Seal of the United States reads, "E Pluribus Unum," (Out of Many, One). Leadership is the art of taking many individuals, providing equal training, and forming them into one team. Leaders should stress the importance of individual uniqueness and the profound impact this has on unit cohesion.

Leadership principles serve as the basic foundation of the Corps' leadership embedded within the core values. In addition, leaders must incorporate EO into every aspect of their own personal leadership philosophy. EO is not only a right, but most importantly the law. EO is leadership; leadership is knowing your Marines and looking out for their welfare, setting the example, and training your Marines as a team.

MARADMINS

GTCC ATM WITHDRAWAL FEE INCREASE

MARADMIN 160/12

Government travel charge card holder fees associated with the GTCC for withdrawing cash from an atm will increase from the current rate of 2 percent of the total atm transaction to 2.2 percent following the June 6 billing cycle. The total atm transaction is the sum of the cash withdrawn and any atm terminal charges incurred. Citi will be communicating this change to card holders in the may billing statement. Card holders must verify the amount charged for cash withdrawal fees to ensure the correct amount is claimed for reimbursement. Card holders are able to view the exact amount charged through their citidirect account as soon as the transaction processes or by reviewing the monthly billing statement after the billing cycle occurs. Cardholders can create a citidirect account at <https://home.cards.citidirect.com/commercialcard/cards.html> then follow the self-registration for cardholders link. Card holders are reminded that they should only use the GTCC at atms to obtain cash needed to pay for "out-of-pocket" travel-related expenses. Valid "out-of-pocket" travel-related expenses are those that cannot be charged directly on the GTCC.

Full Ads

Dempsey: Military Must Keep 'Bond of Trust' With Troops, Families

Elaine Sanchez

American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2012 – The military is defined by a bond of trust -- between service members, their families and their communities -- that must remain unbroken, the military's top officer said here today.

"If we do that one thing, think about our profession as united with a common bond of trust, and commit ... to earning it every day. I don't care what happens to the budget ... I don't care what happens to the other countries in the world that might want ill to come to us, we'll be fine," Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said.

Taking care of troops is a matter of trust, he added. "If we lose that [trust], it won't matter how much money we throw at ourselves. That's a fact."

After months of discussing budgetary and equipment concerns and fresh off a trip to South America, Dempsey turned his attention to what he called the military's "human dimension" at the Defense Centers of Excellence for Psychological Health and Traumatic Brain Injury's Warrior Resilience Conference. This conference, in its fourth year, is intended to equip service members, units, families and communities with resilience-building techniques and tools.

As he spoke to an audience of nearly 750 behavioral health experts and military leaders, the chairman referred to an image of a squad leader in Afghanistan on the screen behind him. The soldier, his face contorted in a mix of fear and courage, was speaking on his radio with an evident sense of urgency.

Whatever it is the soldier is asking for, he'll get, the chairman said. "That's what sets us apart [as a nation]. He's going to get it -- whether it's kinetic ordnance, whether it's supplies,

or whether it's what you're here to talk about today.

"We're going to get them the life skills, the confidence, the hope, which equals on some level ... the resilience you're here



Photo by U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael R. Holzworth

to talk about in our force, in our families," he pledged.

It took about a decade for the force to regain its sense of pride and clarity after the Vietnam War. That time lapse can't occur again, the chairman said.

"The world is changing so fast around us," Dempsey said. "If we wait until 2020 to build the kind of strength you're working to build into our formation, it will be too late.

"I fear if we wait and don't address this now, we not only won't be doing ourselves any favors, we won't be doing our nation any favors," he added.

The people gathered for this conference are taking steps on this front, Dempsey noted, "by seeking a deeper, richer understanding of what has happened to us as a force over the last 10 years.

"More importantly," he added, "what are you going to do about that? What are you going to do about the fact that 10 years of war has put enormous pressure on the force?"

They will be tackling these issues in an environment of challenged resources, the chairman acknowledged, and while ensuring they build and earn trust with their subordinates and coworkers each day. "Keeping faith with ourselves, our communities, our families ... that's what it's all about," he said.

Dempsey again referred to the squad leader's picture, this time pointing out the soldier's wedding ring. "If you think about this bond of trust, it doesn't stop in the forward edge or the rear edge of the battle area," he said. "It's got to run all the way back to hometown USA where he has a family."

Dempsey stressed the importance of turning to others for help when needed, calling resilience a "team sport." The chairman drove this point home with a story about a prior bout with throat cancer. It hit him hard, he said, since he'd always tackled obstacles on his own.

Instead, he said, he relied on his medical team, his family and his friends for help. "I realized for the first time in my life, I can't do this alone," he said. "It took cancer for me to figure that out. We can't let our young men and women figure that out the hard way."

Dempsey thanked the audience for their unwavering commitment to troop and family wellness. "What you're doing here has an absolute direct correlation with who we are today, but more importantly, has an even greater correlation to who we will be in the future," he said.

MWSS-371 main body one comes home



Top: A Marine with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 returns home to his loved ones after a seven month deployment to Afghanistan.

Bottom: More than 100 Marines returned home from a seven month deployment in Afghanistan.



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior

More than 100 Marines from Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, comprising main body one, returned from their deployment to Afghanistan, reuniting with their families on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, March 31.

MWSS-371 deployed to Afghanistan in September to support aviation operations across the theater. They took the place of MWSS-272 when they arrived, and are now being relieved by MWSS-273.

The Marines returned with high spirits and a strong sense they accomplished their mission.

"I feel it went great, and we accomplished a lot," said Gunnery Sgt. Francisco Torres, the MWSS-371 wire chief, and an El Paso, Texas native. "There was a great performance by the whole team. We couldn't have asked for anything better. The Marines were outstanding overall."

"The deployment was successful," added Petty Officer 3rd Class Timothy Champagne, a Branch Health Clinic Atsugi corpsman attached to MWSS-371, and a Columbia, S.C. native. "It was a learning experience, and reinforced how we work together as a unit. It went about as well as it could have gone for us."

With the mission complete, everyone is happy to be home.

"It's great, I finally get to see the kids," said Torres.

"It's surreal to be back," added Champagne. "I've been looking forward to getting back and seeing all the friends and family for pretty much the whole deployment. I'm going to take it slow and relax, get used to all these things that I've been missing out on for the past seven months. It's good to be home, that's it."



Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

A Marine stands by the U.S. flag as he awaits the return of his fellow Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 Marines at the station's Sonoran Pueblo March 31.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Seasons of Preparation"

LCDR Jim Bradshaw, Command Chaplain

What do you hold to today, as Marine or Sailor, to guide you through the uncharted waters of the future? A future that holds more questions than answers, an uncertainty that demands clarity and an offering of hope - but in response to whom is deafening silence.

There was a time when road maps were a means to find our way along the many roadways of America. They could be purchased at the local service station for less than a dollar and opened the family vehicle and its occupants to adventures such as the Grand Canyon, Niagara Falls and the wonders of America. Route 66 was known to all as the "Mother Road" that led millions of travelers from the east coast to the west coast providing direction to a new and exciting freedom.

Today it seems every vehicle is equipped with GPS, either factory installed in the dash or "aftermarket" attached to the windshield of the vehicle in some form or fashion. Either way we use these instruments to guide us to new destinations, locations we have never been to before. We put our trust in them to get us there on time without the confusion and chaos of "being lost" and escaping those hallowed words from our mate, "I told you to stop back there and get directions."

What about you? How are you being guided through the rigors of life, a life we have all found ourselves embarked on, like it or not. Some seem to have NO guidance at all and are moving along like the ball in a pinball machine bouncing off obstacle after obstacle with no hope, no goals and no escape in the foreseeable future.

Leader's Forum

"Cyber war and Yuma's Red Team Assessment"

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer

The DOD has a number of Red Teams who perform the job of scouring the country's military bases to find ways onto the base and into offices to gain access to the computers and then the computer networks. Typically, they fly into a town at the request of a command and, following a brief to the commander, begin their operation.

MCAS Yuma had such a visit recently...and we didn't do so hot. The inspection began the weekend of the air show and continued for the following week. The team easily gained access to buildings, hangars, the flightline, server rooms, etc. Once inside, they were able to gain access to computers and get onto some of the networks.

The point is this: we have a valuable learning experience in this visit. What we should all take away from this inspection is that security is everyone's problem.

The team Picked no locks and didn't force their way into anything. They used unlocked doors, doors with the jam taped or blocked open by the user. They sat at desks that had the passwords and usernames on a post-it note next to the computer. They found keys and badges in unlocked drawers. They talked their way past duty officers and gained access to spaces without their names on an access roster...and nobody called to double check their identity. The team used a lot of "tricks"...but in hindsight the tricks were just gutsy behavior that a real enemy could use if they were bold enough.

Security for the base starts at the front gate and ends at the airplanes, our computers and our spaces. PMO has the front gate. We all need to be active with the rest. Lock your spaces. Logout when you go to PT. Secure keys and badges at all times. Be accountable and account for things (cell phones, CAC cards). Change your passwords. Think about security. Question people you don't know. Be polite...but be suspicious.

Welcome to the Cyber War

1/2 Ads

NAVAJO CODE TALKERS



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet Desert Warrior Staff

The story of the Navajo code talker fighting in the World War II Pacific Theater in some of the most historic campaigns the Marine Corps fought is one of the most inspiring tales in the Corps. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma was honored to have one of the surviving code talkers, a living legend, tell his story here.

Peter MacDonald Sr., recently elected President of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, former four-term Chairman of the Navajo Nation, and a Navajo code talker with Headquarters and Service Battalion, 22nd Marine Regiment, 6th Marine Division, visited MCAS Yuma March 26 – 27.

MacDonald is a man who speaks with the certainty and knowledge of his years and brings the wisdom of his experience into any conversation he is a part of. A man with gray hair and a genuine smile, he has a captivating way of speaking, enhanced by his animated hand gestures.

The purpose of his visit, in addition to telling the code talker's story, was to help raise money for the construction of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center. This \$50 million project will preserve the story of the Navajo Code Talkers and an unforgettable chapter of Marine Corps history.

"We are looking for some help," said Macdonald, now 83, the youngest living code talker. "This is not just Navajo code talker legacy. It is Native American legacy, Marine Corps legacy, America's legacy. We want to preserve this for the future. We want to do this before we all go."

The code talkers began in early 1942, when Philip Johnston, a white protestant missionary's son, presented the idea of using the Navajo language to create a code the Japanese couldn't break. Johnston recruited 29 young Navajos to become Marines, not informing them about the plan for the code. Once the Navajo Marines had passed boot camp and combat training, they were instructed to create a code based on their native language.

"The code was first tested on Guadalcanal, by six Marine code talkers who landed with the 1st Marine Division," said MacDonald. "Four weeks after the landing, the division commander sent back to the Pentagon that the code works. He said, 'The enemy doesn't know what they're saying. We don't know what they're saying, but it works.'"

The Navajo code then began to grow larger and more widespread, taking part in every major offensive of the war in the Pacific. Throughout the course of the war, there were 420 Navajos who served as code talkers. Thirteen didn't return.

The code talkers' story was immortalized in the 2002 film "Windtalkers".

"The film was good enough, but it was only 10 percent Navajo and 90 percent Nicholas Cage," said MacDonald about the picture. "We didn't know until then that the blonde-haired, blue-eyed American assigned to guard us had the duty to kill us if they thought we would be captured. We thought he was there to make sure Americans wouldn't capture us thinking we were Japanese infiltrators. No code talkers were killed like this, though."

MacDonald became part of this illustrious group in 1944 at the age of 15. Due to the lack of birth documentation on the reservation, many Navajos joined the Marines when they were

too young or too old.

After initial training, it took MacDonald and his fellow code talkers eight weeks to learn the code before they were sent to communications school to learn how to use the radio.

"It wasn't all that difficult to learn the code," added MacDonald. "All of the code was based on things that we were familiar with on the reservation."

His training completed, MacDonald was sent to Guam, and later to Northern China, where he stayed until his end of active service on October 19, 1946. He was asked if he wanted to stay for another four years, but with the war over he decided to come back home.

"When I came back I was 17," said MacDonald. "I dropped out of school to join the Marines, so when I returned they told me I could go back to school in 9th grade. I had already

been to war and seen the world, so I told them no."

After the war, MacDonald proceeded to pass the General Educational Development Test. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from the University of Oklahoma, choosing OU because, "they had a good football team."

He then used his new education to work for the Hughes Aircraft Company as a project manager for the production of guidance systems for the Polaris Missile.

Following this, he became the Chairman of the Navajo Nation, the leader of the Navajo people, for an unprecedented 16 years.

"That was an interesting job, running a sovereign nation the size of West Virginia," said MacDonald. "Now, I have the job of raising \$50 million for the code talkers' museum. When I was Chairman, I was used to spending close to that much every month."

Since his time as chairman, he has been very involved with the Navajo Code Talkers Association, which has led to his current position.

Among his many awards are: the Congressional Silver Medal, University of Oklahoma Engineering Hall of Fame, a special commendation by President Richard M. Nixon, the Distinguished Service Award by the U.S. Marine Corps League, TIME magazine's 1974 one of 200 "Rising Leaders of America", the Distinguished Service Citation from the University of Oklahoma and honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Southern Utah and the College of Ganado.

MacDonald also had a few words about his time in the military as well as those who serve now.

"I want to commend anyone who joins the military," he said. "We all talk about heroes. Somebody comes home from war and they are called a hero. Once someone takes an oath and joins the service, they are a hero, because they are saying, 'I forgo my future. If I have to die for my country or my people, so be it.' That's a big step. That's just like jumping out of the landing craft. You are going there to protect. They may shoot you down, but you did it. The minute you take an oath, to me, you are a hero. For all the military out there defending the country, you are heroes, and you are doing the right thing. The freedom and the liberty we have in America are very precious, and it's because of those who put their lives on the line that we are able to continue to enjoy the freedom that we have."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Peter MacDonald, president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, speaks about the life and history of the Navajo code talker to a group of Marines.



Courtesy photo by Navajo Code Talkers



Courtesy photo by Navajo Code Talkers



Courtesy photo by Navajo Code Talkers



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Top: Peter MacDonald, president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, and a Tuba City, Ariz. native, speaks with Capt. Derek Mills, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 AV-8B Harrier pilot, and a Yuma, Ariz. native, at the VMA-513 hanger. This was part of MacDonald's tour of the station before he spoke to Marines about his experiences as a code talker.

Bottom: Peter MacDonald, president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, and a Tuba City, Ariz. native, inspects one of the suits Aircraft Rescue Fire-Fighting uses when battling intense fires. MacDonald, 83, is the youngest surviving code talker.



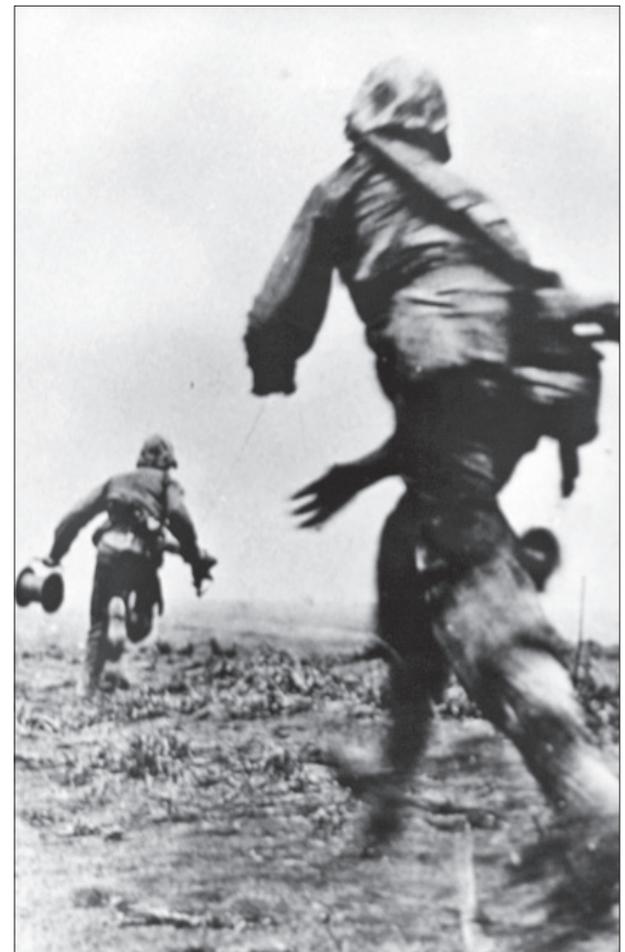
Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet



Courtesy photo by Navajo Code Talkers

Marines fought their way to the top of Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945 and raised a small flag. Later that same day, five Marines and a naval medicine corpsman raised this second, larger flag at the summit and were recorded by Rosenthal. At Iwo Jima, Major Howard Connor, 5th Marine Division signal officer, declared, "Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would never have taken Iwo Jima." Connor had six Navajo code talkers working around the clock during the first two days of the battle. Those six sent and received over 800 messages, all without error.

Top: Recruiting stations were hastily set up throughout the Navajo reservation during the days following the attack on Pearl Harbor. Here, a number of Navajos, some with their shotguns or rifles, sign up to go to war.



Courtesy photo by Navajo Code Talkers

Full Ads

Federal Student Aid

Military.com

The federal government offers several Financial Student Aid Programs. These programs offer you extremely low interest loans and grants (free money). Unlike the GI Bill, these programs are paid by the Dept. of Education through the school; however, like the GI Bill, Federal Student Aid is designed to assist you in meeting the cost of tuition, books, fees, and living expenses while you go to school. That means that once the school has taken its share, the remaining loan or grant balance goes to you.

Financial Student Aid Eligibility

It doesn't matter whether you are active duty, reserve, veteran, retiree, on GI Bill, or not -- you should be taking advantage of these programs. There are numerous examples of even senior active duty members receiving federal loans and large grants. Remember: Grants are gifts that you don't repay!

Eligibility for most federal student aid is based on financial need and on several other factors. The most basic eligibility requirements to receive federal student aid are as follows:

You must be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen,

You must have a valid Social Security number,

You must register (if you haven't already) with the Selective Service, if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25,

You must maintain satisfactory academic progress (defined as having at least a 2.0 GPA and being on track to graduate within 150% of the normal timeframe) in college or career school, and

You must show you're qualified to obtain a postsecondary education by:

having a high school diploma or General Educational Development (GED) certificate;

meeting other federally approved standards your state establishes; or

completing a high school education in a home school setting approved under state law.

Readmission Requirements:

Was your college enrollment interrupted when you were called to active duty? For information on returning to the college you previously attended, see the Dept. of Education Q & A website for guidance on approaching your school when you're ready to reenroll.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Veterans On-Line Application (VONAPP)

Va.gov

What is VONAPP?

The VONAPP website is an official U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website that enables service members, veterans and their beneficiaries, and other designated individuals to apply for benefits using the Internet.

U.S. military veterans and some service members within six months of separation or retirement can apply for compensation benefits and/or pension benefits using VA Form 21-526, and Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment benefits can be applied for using VA Form 28-1900.

U.S. military veterans, service members, members of the selected reserve, and dependents can apply for education benefits.

How is using this site different from visiting a VA office?

When you use this site to complete and send an application to the VA, your application will be sent directly to the VA office with jurisdiction over your application. Processing will begin and you will receive an automated e-mail response from the VA office letting you know that your application has been received.

It can be important for you to submit your claim as soon as you can if it is near the end of a month, whether by regular mail or using VONAPP, to ensure we receive it before the first of the next month. In some cases, your entitlement is based on the date we receive your claim in the VA. You might lose a month of benefits if we find you eligible, but you wait until the following month to submit your claim.

When you successfully submit your electronic application using VONAPP, the time and date is stamped on your application. The time and date is the Eastern Standard Time (EST) at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where it is electronically received by the VA regardless of your geographic location around the world.

What "Helps" are on this site?

We have designed this site so you can have help features and background information at all times. The VONAPP Home Page has links to provide in-depth information for specific topics

To begin completing an application using VONAPP, click on the Start VONAPP button on the VONAPP Home Page. We recommend that you read the information in Instructions for Filling Out Applications before you start.

Help Functions. Once you begin working on your application, the left margin of most pages will have specific information related to the current block your cursor is in. The right margin of many of your screens will have help links. These links provide information that will help you understand what we need or will give you special information about the section of the application you are completing.

Marine Corps Community Services

BUSINESS OPERATIONS



Easter Brunch

When: Sun, April 8, 10am – 1pm

Where: Sonoran Pueblo

Sunday Brunch Buffet. \$13 per person. Kids 7-12 half price, 6 and under free. For more information call 269-2711. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Event Calendar.

FAMILY SERVICES

Anger Management

When: Tue, April 10, 1:00pm – 3:30pm

Where: Building 598

Learn alternative methods for managing anger. Call 269-2561 for more information. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Event Calendar.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

SMP Free Movie & Popcorn

When: Wed, April 11, 6pm – 8pm

Where: SMP Rec Center

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

Full Ads

This month in history: April

TECOM.usmc.mil

3 April 1945: On Okinawa, Marines of the III Amphibious Corps continued to make good progress all along their front, clearing Zampa Misaki and seizing the Katchin Peninsula, thus effectively cutting the island in two. By this date (D+2), III AC elements had reached objectives thought originally to require 11 days to take.



Photo by 7thfighter.com

5 April 1947: Five Marine guards were killed and eight wounded when attacked by Communist Chinese raiders near the Hsin Ho ammunition depot in Northern China. This last major clash between Marines of the 1st Marine Division and Communist forces occurred shortly after withdrawal and redeployment plans from China were issued for the 1st Division and 1st Marine Aircraft Wing on 1 April.



Photo by NASA

10 April 1959: Lt. Colonel John H. Glenn, Jr. was named as one of the original seven Project Mercury astronauts selected for space training. The seven astronauts, all volunteers, were selected by NASA from an initial group of 110 leading military test pilots. Three years later, on 20 February 1962, Col Glenn would become the first American to orbit the Earth.

12-13 April 1918: Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.

15 April 1962: Marine Corps operational involvement in the Vietnam War began on Palm Sunday when HMM-362 with its Sikorsky UH-34s arrived at Soc Trang in the Delta south of Saigon. The task unit was called "Shuffly" and its first operational employment involved lifting Vietnamese troops into battle.

21 April 1951: Marine carrier-based airplanes made their first aerial contact with enemy planes over the Korean front lines. Cpt. Philip C. DeLong shot down two YAK fighters and 1st Lieutenant Harold D. Daigh destroyed one more and damaged another in the heavily defended Pyongyang-Chinnampo area. Both pilots were with VMF-312 flying from the USS Bataan.

27 April 1805: First Lt. Presley N. O'Bannon, who with seven other Marines was part of a force of Greeks and Arabs led by American Consul William Eaton, raised the United States flag for the first time over a conquered fortress of the Old World at Derne, a stronghold of the Tripolitan pirates. Two Marines were killed and one wounded in the assault on the walled city.



Photo by freerepublic.com

1/2 Ads

Yuma County Fair

Compiled by
Desert Warrior Staff

The Yuma County Fair is a great break from your every day routine.

It offers great food prizes and rides. Although not one of the biggest fairs I've been too, it definitely had everything I wanted. Including, ventriloquists, rockabilly music, magicians, a Pacific Animal Productions Show, a funnel cake eating contest, a wild about monkeys show and so much more.

There was a reptile and plant sanctuary to look at and several games and attractions such as hand waxing and face painting that is great for the little ones.

Although a little packed, I found the night to have a good flow and found no issues with lines. Granted the place isn't the cleanest in the world, it is all part of the experience.

Prices were cheap and food was plentiful. The fair is only open for a week so make sure you get your fun in the sun at the Yuma County Fair.

Admission is \$5.00 for Adults and \$3.00 for children ages 6 - 12. Children ages 5 and under are always free.



Book Review: *Ender's Shadow*

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

"The history of the world is but the biography of great men."

So wrote 19th century writer Thomas Carlyle and what Orson Scott Card exemplified in *Ender's Shadow*, a parallel novel to his seminal hit *Ender's Game* and book five of the *Ender Saga*.

Ender's shadow is Bean, the short, sarcastic but unquestionably brilliant soldier introduced in *Ender's Game* as part of *Ender's Dragon Army*. *Shadow* reveals that Bean was not only part of *Dragon Army*, he was *Dragon Army*.

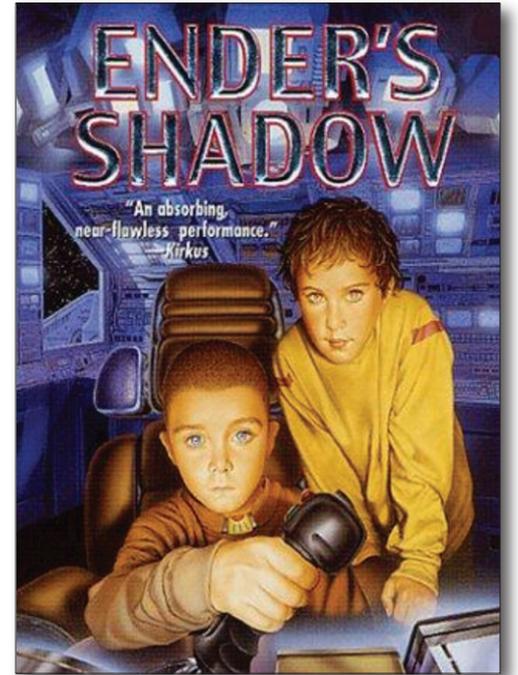
I was already intrigued by the mythos of *Battle School*, the space training program used for preparing children to become officers against a vaguely explained alien invasion. In this novel, Orson expands the layout of *Battle School*, how students are selected, indoctrinated and how they fight, as well as the *Enderverse* as whole.

Bean is first seen as a struggling orphan in the streets of Rotterdam, before being begrudgingly assimilated into a gang of street urchins due to his intelligence. Cue Achilles and Sr. Carlotta, the former a crippled orphan with angelic actions hiding serpentine intention, the latter an unorthodox nun responsible for screening the two for *Battle School*. Bean is hesitant until he witnesses Achilles kill a fellow orphan, at which point he decides that, for his own survival, he must surrender himself to the *International Fleet*.

The novel parallels the trials and tribulations of Bean to *Ender* for a good portion of the novel, until a turn of events propels Bean and *Ender* into their respective destinies.

One of the most pivotal scenes in the novel involves Bean creating the roster for *Dragon Army*, until the end of a novel, a platoon that has been laughed out of existence due to its cursed luck. Bean debates, argues and decides who will be in the army with only his own inner tactician as a reference point. This is by far one of the most telling chapters in the series, as far as the *Battle School* goes: Card answers questions readers have regarding what goes into an army, and how a group of children from different corners of the world file together in one cohesive unit.

All goes well for a while, Bean's brilliance going unnoticed because no one knows it was him who brought



Courtesy photo by barnes and noble

Dragon together.

And then Achilles shows up.

The tone for *Shadow* is far darker than *Ender's Game*. Like the original novel, almost every character antagonizes the protagonist. In this novel, the antagonist is terrifyingly fleshed out (Achilles sociopathy, already well-defined in this novel, is taken further and further with the subsequent *Shadow* series). The adults, shady presences in the first novel, are shown to cover a spectrum of human nature, making them even more troublesome to define as friend or foe.

Ender's Shadow should be recommended in tandem with *Ender's Game*. The novel is important, if anything, in that it shows a maturation of Card's writing style and hints at the geopolitics for which the *Shadow* saga would be known for.

Opinion: Maintaining a combat mindset in the face of complacency

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

As I return to the office from a week honing my skills with a rifle, I am reminded of how much of a desk jockey I have become, wasting away, staring at a computer and worst of all, complacent.

I sit with my back to the door, staring at a computer screen, listening to whatever music my coworkers are playing, and generally not aware of, or caring about what is going on around me.

In what I like to consider my previous life before the Corps, I worked as a cop. The mantra, "complacency kills" was drilled into my head to a point of almost hyper-awareness of my surroundings. I kept an eye on everyone and everything around me, both on and off duty, because for all I knew, one of them was trying to kill me.

I assumed they were out to get me, because I prepped for the worst and hoped for the best. I ran through scenarios in my head just in case things went sideways, that way I couldn't use the excuse, "Things didn't go as planned." I had a plan for every situation I could think of, and if something came up I hadn't thought of, I had a well-established base of contingency plans to pull from and adjust to any situation.

In short, I used my brain a whole lot more effectively then.

I was always out on the road, writing tickets, hooking and booking. In a sense, I was always in harm's way, in face we used to joke that it wasn't a badge on the door of our patrol car, it was a bull's-eye.

But now, I sit in the relative safety of an office, worried more about upsetting the leadership than the possibility of defending my life.

It was nice to get a reminder of what it's like to be in a combat mindset again during the classes for the Table 2 course of fire during annual qualification.

As a Marine, I may be called upon to deploy at any time. As a combat correspondent, I could be serving with the wing, or going out on humps with a line unit, carrying all of the gear the grunts are carrying plus all of my camera gear. I could very well end up in a combat situation, fighting for my life and those of the Marines around me, not sitting behind a desk.

It is up to us to maintain a combat mindset, even though the vast majority of us here sit behind desks or work on jets. You never know what kind of situation you may find yourself in. You could be fighting for your life, or you could be the first one to an accident scene, fighting to save someone else's life.

While I feel I must be honest and say some of the

training we receive in the Corps isn't exactly useful, the combat and medical training we get could definitely come in handy, at the most unexpected of times. There have been Marines that have used their combat training to stop shootings, and some that have used their combat lifesaver training to save victims of car accidents.

Take any opportunity you have to advance your level of training. Run scenarios in your head, using a "When this happens, I'm going to do this," not an "If this happens to me" mentality. Be prepared for any situation.

I'm not saying forget about the job you do every day, it's important too, but honing our skills as warriors is just as, if not even more important.

Marines train to fight and thrive. We do not rise to the occasion, we fall to our level of training.



Courtesy photo Sgt. Elyssa Quesada

Three tips for shaping a new exercise program

Ace Fitness

Three Things Every Exercise Program Should Have:

A complete, safe and effective fitness program must include aerobic exercise, muscular strength and endurance conditioning, and flexibility exercise.

Aerobic exercise does good things for your cardiovascular system and is an important part of weight management. Muscular conditioning can improve strength and posture, reduce the risk of low-back injury and is an important component of a weight-management program. Flexibility exercise is needed to maintain joint range of motion and reduce the risk of injury and muscle soreness.

1. Aerobic Exercise

Aerobic exercise can be as simple as walking. Walking, jogging, jumping rope and dance-exercise are good forms of weightbearing aerobic exercise, which is activity that uses large muscle groups in a continuous, rhythmic fashion for sustained periods of time and during which the individual's body is not supported in some fashion.

There are also non-weightbearing aerobic exercises, such as bicycling, stationary cycling, swimming and rowing.

Keep the pace comfortable. A very important aspect of your exercise program is the intensity. You should exercise at a comfortable pace. You can measure your



Courtesy photo by ace fitness

exercise heart rate to check the intensity of your exercising, or you can take the "talk test."

To measure your heart rate, take your pulse as soon as you stop exercising. Count your heartbeat for 10 seconds, then multiply by six to convert it to a one-minute heart rate. If you keep your exercise heart rate within a range of 55 to 90% of an estimated maximum heart rate (220 minus your age), you're doing well.

How often should you exercise? Three to five days of aerobic activity is fine for general health maintenance. If you're trying to lose weight, aim for five to six days a week, being sure you take off at least one day a week.

How long should you exercise? Work up to 30 or more minutes per session (or three 10-minute sessions per day) for general health maintenance. For weight loss, gradually work up to 45 minutes or longer at low to moderate intensities in a low- or non-impact activity.

2. Strength Conditioning

Pick calisthenics, free weights or machines. Just be sure that your strength training includes exercises for every major muscle group, including the muscles of the arms, chest, back, stomach, hips and legs.

Start with a weight that's comfortable to handle and perform eight repetitions. Gradually add more repetitions until you can complete 12 repetitions. For greater strength conditioning, add more weight and/or more repetitions, in sets of eight to 12, when the exercise becomes easy.

3. Stretching for Flexibility

Proper stretching involves holding a mild stretch for 15 to 30 seconds while you breathe normally. Always warm up before you stretch. Like strength conditioning, flexibility exercises should include stretching for all of the major muscle groups.

One Last Thing to Remember . . . Always check with your doctor before beginning any exercise program, especially if you're a man over 45, a woman over 55, or have cardiovascular risk factors.

1/2 Ads