

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Desert **WARRIOR**



March 29, 2012
Volume 11, Number 11

WTI

2.8 million acres of
land, one explosive
exercise



LANCE CPL. MOM

MAGGIE AND HER NOT-SO-TYPICAL MARINE CORPS FAMILY

DDRP MAKING A BETTER TOMORROW

NEW DRUG DEMAND REDUCTION PROGRAM PREPARES LEADERS

VMA-214: YUMA'S EMERALD WARRIORS

YUMA SQUADRON PARTICIPATE IN JOINT SERVICE EXERCISE



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yumapao@usmc.mil

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PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“I know you didn’t just make a face...”

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



Erin Pacheco:
“Aaaaaaacchhh-hoooo!”

Donna Diane:
“Sizzlin’ hot and singin’!”

Jay Beckman:
“Siren Auditions will be held outside Base Ops beginning at 0800...”

HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



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

Marines go green with solar energy.



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xR-LWkmN78s>

Veterans revisit Iwo Jima.



Front Page Photo Credit

Cpl. Richard A. Tetreau



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

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 necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. The sources of drinking water include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals, in some cases radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activities. Contaminants that may be present in source water include: microbial contaminants, inorganic contaminants, pesticides and herbicides, organic chemical contaminants and radioactive contaminants. 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.

ANNOUNCING CITI FRAUD EARLY WARNING ALERTS

CitiR Commercial Card recently announced the roll out of a new Fraud Early Warning (FEW) Alerts capability which will allow clients to receive early warnings via short-messaging service and/or e-mail notices when potentially fraudulent activity is detected on your account. U.S. Cardholders are eligible to receive SMS and/or E-mail alerts, provided they have a valid mobile number and/or e-mail address on file.

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.

VOTING MADE EASY

Remember, voting assistance representatives are available on station to provide help with registering to vote, submitting absentee ballots if voting outside of Arizona or while deployed. Contact the Installation Voting Officer, Capt. Staci Reidinger at (928)-269-3609, or visit www.fvap.gov to get started today.

MESS HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday:

Breakfast: 5:30-7:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.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



Little Bit

Little Bit is a Pomeranian/Chihuahua mix about a year old. He is neutered, vaccinated and has a microchip. He is always looking to meet new friends and find adventures. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions for the MCCS Director

Dave Koopman

Now that the air show is over, what do normal MCCS operations look like?

MCCS operates all of the quality of life programs and services aboard the base. Operations such as recreation, family services and retail areas all fall within the MCCS umbrella. Whether it's working out at the station gym, dropping your child off at the CDC, filling up your gas tank at the Marine Mart or purchasing a new pair of running shoes at the MCX, MCCS is here to serve!

How is MCCS able to pull projects/events together?

MCCS plans a multitude of events throughout the year to educate, inform, entertain, and show appreciation for the military personnel and their families aboard this installation. One-time special events are different from core programming and activities offered on a continuing basis. Every event held supports the mission of MCCS: Taking Care of Marines, Sailors and their Families. To present a professional and polished event, MCCS relies on its team of exceptional employees from all departments to make an event happen. An event may be sponsored by one area within MCCS, such as the Semper Fit Single Marine Program Pimp My Ride or the Marine Corps Family Team Building for the Operation Ball Gown Giveaway event, but there is a flurry of activity going on behind the scenes from the Operations Branch, Marketing, MCCS Coordinators, Accounting, and Procurement and Contracting just to name a few, to bring these events to everyone.

How long does it take to pull something together?

For larger events planning can start a year prior to the actual event. For some of the smaller events, months of planning is still needed to pull all of the logistical, funding and marketing aspects together.

What is the next big event for MCCS?

Friday, April 20, the Month of the Military Child Carnival will take place. The goal of this event is to underscore the important role children play in the Armed Forces community. MCCS is continually offering a variety of educational, entertaining, and informational classes, briefings, workshops and overall experiences for military members, both married and non-married, stationed here at MCAS Yuma.

Is there anything MCCS is trying to improve on for future events?

Recently we implemented a system that has the MCCS Coordinators assigned as the Special Event Liaisons for MCCS. Their responsibilities are to support MCCS and other base departments in an advisory, logistical and operational capacity. The Event Liaisons will also provide guidance and assistance with marketing and publicizing special events.

Yuma squadron supports NATO forces in CONUS

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

Approximately 60 Marines returned from supporting a joint-service international exercise at Mountain Home Air Force Base in Idaho, March 20.

Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 513 integrated with service members from around the world during Exercise Mountain Roundup.

The exercise saw various NATO forces training with their American counterparts, focusing mainly on training up components of the German Air Force as per their pre-deployment workups.

"It's like their deployment version of the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course," said Capt. Paul Truog, a VMA-513 AV-8B Harrier pilot and a native of Yorkville, Ill., referring to Yuma's biannual large-scale event that inte-



Photos by Airman 1st Class Heather Hayward

grates air and ground forces within the Marine Corps and without.

VMA-513 provided a myriad of aviation support, including strike coordinated aerial reconnaissance, where pilots seek out a target, aerial interdiction, where the pilots already know what they're going to hit.

The exercise also served as cold weather training.

"There was ice on the deck, and we had to deice the canopies," said Sgt. Angel Cenicerros, a VMA-513 powerline mechanic and a native of San Jose, Calif."

The detachment is notable as it marked the first time the squadron supported NATO forces since their deployment to Afghanistan in 2011. For some of the newer Marines, this was their first time seeing how aviation combat factors into international training.

"I wanted to serve my country," said Lance Cpl. Kevin Taff, a VMA-513 airframe mechanic and a native of Bellingham, Wash. "It was motivating knowing we were helping another country with their training efforts."

"The experience of flying with Marines who have previously supported NATO operations was extremely rewarding," added Capt. Zachary Hartnett, one of the newer pilots in the squadron's roster and a native of San Diego, Calif. "Flying with these veteran pilots translated all that I've learned into real world application. These Marines have the experience of dealing with international relations in a way that can only be learned through experience, an experience that I was very lucky to begin to be a part of."

It's testament to the abilities of the Marines who supported their allies while the station celebrated the centennial of Marine Corps aviation during the 50th annual air

show, March 17.

"This training allowed us to not only see how NATO forces operate but also allowed us to coordinate aviation support with a large force employment to prepare against future threats," said Truog.

"Air combat has evolved to the point where multi-nation integration is the standard," added Hartnett. "With this multi-force projection comes detailed multi-force integration. This detailed integration requires an abundance of planning and practice. By performing large force exercises with international allies we are afforded the opportunity to develop our integration skills."

Mountain Roundup first kicked off in 2005. Since then, it has been a mainstay in the Germans' aviation training curriculum, as well as an integral component in the U.S. Armed Force's operational capabilities.



H&HS Marines medal in shooting competition

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

Two station Marines took home medals after participating in the Marine Corps West Division shooting matches at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Capt. Alexander Vanston, the Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron adjutant and a native of West Nyack, N.Y., and Sgt. Johnny Paredez, a H&HS combat marksmanship trainer and a native of Phoenix, Ariz., both placed high enough marks to return to Yuma with bronze medals.

The Marines comprised a third of the team that represented the air station during the competition.

The competition itself saw 250 shooters competing, with more than 20 teams representing the Corps and its myriad of occupations, from infantrymen to cooks. Marines used the M-9 Baretta and the M16A4 service rifle.

Yuma's team placed fourth in the team competitions for both pistol and rifle.

"Overall our team did very well," said Vanston, who is expected to compete in the Corps-wide shooting matches in Quantico, Va. "It was the first time any of us went to division. We had no level of experience at the division level before."



Courtesy photo

Trading the warm winds of Yuma for more erratic weather, the competition still seemed to favor the two.

"I was pleasantly surprised by my rifle score," said Paredez. "Didn't do as well on my pistol score, but I still medaled. I didn't think I was going to medal at all."

"We had a storm system come through that made, what they said, the range very atypical," added Vanston.

The progression through the matches is markedly different than the annual rifle qualification, such as 20 shots while standing at the 200-yard line and firing 20 shots at the 500-yard line in the prone.

During the competition, Marines use data books, the bibles during such events, to track their shots and accurately judge their shooting ability.

"We're representing the air station, we did a good showing to the Marine Corps," said Vanston.

"I think everyone should get involved," said Paredez of the competition.

Both Marines agree the competition, as an experience and an event, is conducive to improving a Marine's marksmanship ability. They also agreed on one piece of advice.

"Data books," said Paredez.

"Data books," added Vanston.

K-9 communities from fare and wide come together for upcoming summer heat

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

More than 20 K-9 organizations gathered at the Sonoran Pueblo Friday for the first ever joint training seminar hosted by the Marine Corps Air Station K-9 unit.

Units came from all across the Southwest region ranging from California to Tucson, including local K-9 organizations, to share and learn important heat prevention techniques.

"The training was opened up so that we could provide hands on heat training and injury prevention to all K-9 handlers and trainers abroad," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Worely, station kennel master. "Since we we're hitting 80 degree temperatures in early March we started working on a large scale conference with Ma. Jolene North, our Veterinarian at Yuma Proving Grounds. Knowing what we know now, I

am excited to be a part of the larger picture."

Many of the K-9 units never receive this kind of specialized training during school; however, with temperatures quickly approaching record highs many groups felt this was a much needed get together.

"It's not something you typically think about," said Justin Keeling with the Cocopah K-9 unit. "It's not something we're taught in the academy and having the correct tools and knowledge can make all the difference."

Even though the seminar largely focused on heat injury prevention and training, it served as a great opportunity to foster relationships with outside entities.



Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil

Maggie and her not so typical Marine Corps family

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

Usually, when you think of your stereotypical Marine Corps family you have dad, the hard working, hard-charging Marine, the backbone and support system, his wife,



Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

and often times one if not multiple little bundles of joy.

For Lance Cpl. Maggie Chase, legal service specialist at the station legal office, things at home are a little reversed.

She has taken on the role of not only a full-time Marine, but equally, if not more important a mom and wife as well, with a husband and son who support her all along the way.

"I like being a working mom because I get interaction with people I normally wouldn't get by being at home," Chase said. "The worst part about it is being away from my son."

Chase has made the decision to stay in for the job security and, "because I love the Marine Corps," she added jovially.

It has been quite an adjustment for the Chase family over the last few months with her husband very recently saying farewell to the Corps, the most obvious being money.

He helps take care of their son, the home, plans on attending school full-time and recently applied for a position with the local sheriff's department.

"The biggest misconception is that it's easy, my husband does so much at home," said Chase. "He's amazing and takes care of everything, I'm more of a messy person and he's the complete opposite, I couldn't do this without him."

Wishing the roles were reversed is not a thought Chase often finds crossing her mind.

"I don't feel one way or the other about it," she stated with confidence. "I love what I do and all I want is for my husband to be happy and enjoy what he does."

Not all families have to fit a certain mold and in today's society most often don't. The Chase's are a perfect example of how breaking the stereotypes can lead to a happily ever after.

Substance Abuse Center creates own, original curriculum

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

The station Drug Demand Reduction Program created a new curriculum to supplement Marine leadership with information regarding drug abuse and safety.

Uppers, Downers and All-Arounders is modeled after the battalion alcohol skill intervention curriculum. Yuma is the first, and so far only, installation to have a drug program equivalent to BASIC.

"Education is key to prevention," said Virgil Tapispisan, the DDRP coordinator who designed the curriculum.

The program covers the well-known grounds of stimulants, depressants and hallucinogens while also educating Marines on outliers such as the synthetic cannabis known as Spice and bath salts.

The curriculum also touches upon kratom, a natural herb imported from Asia and used as a dual opiate and stimu-

lant. Six cases of poisoning from the plant were reported in Pehonix.

Drug tests are also now being used to stifle prescription abuse, in particular the painkillers hydrocodone and hydromorphone.

"Prescription drug abuse issues are mostly what we have to contend with," said Bill Cady, the substance abuse counseling center director.

Uppers, Downers and All-Arounders comes on the heels of the center's 2011 award of being the top program in the Marine Corps.

"MCAS Yuma is has .1 percent of the drug problem compared to the Marine Corps," said Tapispisan.

"We're lower than the Marine Corps in general," said Cady.

While the curriculum is designed for those in leadership positions, Tapispisan noted that everyone is invited to look into receiving information about substance abuse.



Photo by wallpaper.com

Vertical Horizon



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Lance Cpl. Dane Linder, a Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron radar technician, scales the climbing tower during the H&HS Barracks Bash on station, March 22. Such events are used to boost Marines' morale.

MARADMINS OFF BASE CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE PROCEDURE UPDATE

MarAdmin Number: 140/12

In March 2012, Headquarters Marine Corps completed a review of off base child care fee assistance procedures. Established procedures were found to be effective and efficient except for guidance associated with cases of extreme hardship. Guidance regarding off base child care fee assistance eligibility and authorization shall be sustained. Waivers, however, shall be authorized for cases of extreme hardship whereby the work readiness of the marine sponsor or safety of children are negatively impacted. Examples of extreme hardship include: (a) urban traffic patterns extending the daily travel commute of marine sponsors beyond anticipated time and distance ratios; (b) environmental circumstances impacting safety of children such as sustained hazardous weather conditions. Hardship waivers will generally apply to marines living inside the 30 mile radius from a military installation (based on home address verified through deers). Waiver requests shall be submitted to Headquarters via the chain of command and contain hardship justification.

Full Ads

Officials Discuss Troop Numbers, Partnership With Afghanistan

Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Services

WASHINGTON, March 22, 2012 – Troop numbers -- both Afghan and coalition -- were among the questions posed to senior officials during testimony before the Senate Armed Services Committee today.

Marine Corps Gen. John R. Allen, the commander of the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force, and James N. Miller, acting undersecretary of defense for policy, told senators that training Afghan soldiers and police is going well, but it will require patience to ensure the job is done correctly.

The Afghan national security forces will surge to 352,000 later this year. But the Afghan government cannot afford to keep that many people in the security forces long-term, so that number will come down in the future, Allen said.

One study, the general said, points to a long-term force in the vicinity of 230,000.

“But there are a number of different options,” he added, “and we’re continuing to evaluate what those options might be, all the way from the current force, ... which will continue to exist for several years once we have fielded it, down to a force that was smaller than [230,000], which probably doesn’t have the right ... combination of capabilities.”

Any decision on the size of the force will be made in the future by Afghan leaders working with coalition personnel, Allen said. What’s more, any reduction must be made only after a careful study of conditions on the ground. “That security environment will be ultimately the key indicator of whether that drawdown should ultimately occur, so it’ll be

conditions-based,” the general said.

Allen submits the metrics involved with these studies every six months. The next set of statistics will include an evalua-



Photo by Sgt. Scott Whittington

tion of scenarios after December 2014.

The United States has 89,000 troops in Afghanistan today. That number will go down by 23,000 by the end of the summer fighting season. Allen told the Senate panel that once that is done he will examine the size of the force and the likely threat it will face in 2013. “My opinion is that we will need significant combat power in 2013,” he said.

Allen said 68,000 U.S. troops “is a good going-in number,” but he told the senators he owes the president further analysis

on that issue.

Miller stressed the need for a strategic partnership with Afghanistan that will last long after Afghans take full security control of their nation by the end of 2014.

“The president has stated clearly that we have an enduring commitment to Afghanistan, and the strategic partnership will be a concrete instantiation of that,” he said. “There will be a lot of work to do after that, but it’s a critical milestone.”

Despite the past tumultuous months, Miller said, he is encouraged by progress made in negotiating the strategic partnership.

Senators also asked the men about corruption and Pakistan. A number of programs aimed at curbing government corruption appear to be making progress, Allen said. He praised Afghan President Hamid Karzai for his “good work” on the issue.

“He has appointed a presidential executive commission, headed by Minister of Finance [Omar] Zakhilwal, to partner with ISAF and with the international community on the issues of reclaiming borders, inland customs depots, and airports,” he said. “That’s an important move.”

The general told the senators he has not seen any change in the relationship between Pakistan’s Inter-Services Intelligence agency and the Haqqani network, an issue that has contributed to strained relations between the United States and Pakistan.

Iran also is a neighbor of Afghanistan, and Iranian influence has to be taken into account as Afghan national security forces take control, the general said.

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

VMA-214 Blacksheep honor historic Marine

In Remembrance

Captain Ken "Lindy" Linder, USMC

(Jan 20, 1922 - Sept 22, 2011)



A Memorial Service

Approximately 150 Marines and eight aircraft with Marine Attack Squadron 214 return to station after a two-week exercise near Eglin Air Force Base on the Gulf Coast of Florida for Exercise Emerald Warrior.

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior

Marine Attack Squadron 214 honored the accomplishments of a former squadron pilot Feb. 9 at a memorial service in Carpinteria, Calif.

The service honored Capt. Kenneth Newton Linder, a pilot in the squadron when it was still Marine Fighting Squadron 214 during WWII.

Linder served aboard the USS Franklin from Feb. 4, 1945, until the ship was put out of commission during an attack on March 19, 1945. However, Linder and another squadron pilot shot down the attacker and regrouped at Naval Air Station Alameda and was then relocated to Marine Corp Air Station El Centro.

He was later granted a transfer to Santa Barbara where he remained in the Marine Corps Reserve. He later left the Corps in 1951.

"It's important that we honor our past and the Marines who helped make it," said Lt. Col. Troy Pehrson, squadron commanding officer. "It's always good to reach out to Marines who have served with the squadron, whether it is through a service such as this one or simply inviting them to come visit the hanger and see the aircraft. It makes their day, sometimes their year to know that we still remember and care about them."

Even with the looming arrival of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter the squadron remains proud of its heritage and future in the Corps.

"No matter what platform we fly the legacy will continue," said Sgt. Maj. Leonard Maldonado, squadron sergeant major. "Everything that

the squadron has done and will continue to do has grown upon what's already there. The Marines are going to continue to put forward their best work because they know they're part of something special."



1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Seasons of Preparation"

Lt. Greg Woodard, Station Chaplain

During a time of reflection earlier this week, I was listening to some music. The artist happened to be beginning her career when I first moved to Minnesota after spending several years on active duty in the Marine Corps. I remember those early years in Minnesota as strangely formative and very difficult. I encountered this same artist in Manhattan a few years later while I was attending the 50th anniversary celebration of National Teen Challenge in which I was then ministering. My ministry there was very difficult and again, very formative. I am convinced that I would not be a Navy Chaplain were it not for my fruitful ministry at Teen Challenge.

As I reflected earlier this week, it is interesting how life takes its turns, how different people and experiences trigger different memories and how our different seasons of life prepare us for the next

season of life. My thoughts as I reflect on transition times of life are that we should always be seeking to grow and learn, and be seeking occasions to increase our skills because we never know what opportunity in the present might be preparing us for future opportunities.

I would not have chosen my previous workplace as a place of ministry formation. The organization was a substance abuse recovery program. I did not have a history of addiction, nor did I have formal training in addiction recovery. But now, looking back, I can see how that season prepared me in unique ways and gave me the requisite experience to pursue the chaplaincy ministry.

No matter the difficulties of the present, we need to be thankful for the formation of our present circumstances, trusting that God is preparing us for the journey that is ahead of us.

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

WEAPONS & TACTICS



Compiled by
Desert Warrior Staff



Helicopters will take to the skies and Marines will train in parks around Yuma and Brawley during biannual Weapons and Tactics Instructors course.

WTI is a time when Marine Corps aviators conduct world class training.

The history of WTI can be traced back to the 1950's when the Marine Corps introduced special weapons training.

Over the course of 7 weeks WTI teaches Marine Corps aviators how to deploy their aircraft weapons systems in a total threat environment.

In addition, it involves all aspects of Marine Corps aviation and air assets of various other branches of service.

"MAWTS-1 is the crown of aviation," said Col. Bradford Gering, MAWTS-1 Commanding Officer.

There are several aspects to WTI, including air to air

combat exercises, helicopter air to air refueling, the noncombatant evacuation operation and much more.

The Weapons and Tactics Instructors train aviation personnel in the weapons system for operations in total threat environment in coordination with ground and other aviation units.



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

The Marine Corps commissioned Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 to take the reins over WTI.

MAWTS-1 is a unique squadron in that Marine aviators are asked to join based upon their interpersonal skills, high level of knowledge, experience and instructing Marine Corps aviation tactics.

This allows MAWTS-1 to pass a high level of aviation excellence on to the

300 or so graduates the squadron produces each year.

These members are what make up WTI and what continue Yuma's legacy of excellence.



Photo by Benjamin R. Reynolds



Photo by Cpl. Richard A. Tetreau

INSTRUCTOR COURSE



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp



Courtesy photo

Bottom: U.S. Marine Air Officer instructor Maj. Jason T. Erbecker (right) with Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) relays information to Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course 1-12 student, U.S. sailor Lt. Cmdr. Stephen Oraker during Assault Support Tactics Two (AST-2), at East Pass Airfield, near Yuma, Ariz., Oct. 19, 2011. AST-2 was in support of WTI 1-12, hosted by MAWTS-1.



Photo by Cpl. Richard A. Tetreau

Left: U.S. Marines with Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27 (CLR-27) connect a M-777 Howitzer to a CH-53 Super Stallion during an external lift with a Marine Corps CH-53 Super Stallion at Landing Zone Bull, Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., Oct. 1, 2011. CLR-27 was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.

Bottom: U.S. Marines with Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27 (CLR-27) conduct an external lift with a Marine Corps MV-22 Osprey at Landing Zone Bull, Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., Oct. 6, 2011. CLR-27 was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



Photo by Cpl. Patrick P. Evenson



Photo by Cpl. Patrick P. Evenson

Full Ads

Financial Workshops

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

The station education center offers a Federal and State Financial Aid Workshop Tuesdays at 11 a.m., Thursdays at 3 p.m. and by individual appointment for anyone planning to apply for financial aid while applying for school.

“We encourage everyone to apply,” said Missy Dickerson, station education service specialist. “It’s free money from the federal government so there’s nothing to lose.”

In the workshop attendees create both fastweb.com and scholarship.com accounts to assist in determining what scholarships and grants students are qualified for.

“These accounts give students access to huge databases of scholarships and helps find the ones each individual student may be eligible for,” said Dickerson.

Each individual student can qualify for up to \$5500 renewable every school year for undergraduates.

For more information on the workshop and scholarship opportunities contact Missy Dickerson at 928-269-5614.



LEAVING THE CORPS

Vocational Rehabilitation & Employment
Va.gov

What is VR&E VetSuccess program?

- The VetSuccess program assists veterans with service-connected disabilities to prepare for, find, and keep suitable jobs. For veterans with service-connected disabilities so severe that they cannot immediately consider work, VetSuccess offers services to improve their ability to live as independently as possible.

Services that may be provided by the VR&E VetSuccess Program include:

- Comprehensive rehabilitation evaluation to determine abilities, skills, and interests for employment
- Vocational counseling and rehabilitation planning for employment services
- Employment services such as job-training, job-seeking skills, resume development, and other work readiness assistance
- Assistance finding and keeping a job, including the use of special employer incentives and job accommodations
- On the Job Training (OJT), apprenticeships, and non-paid work experiences
- Post-secondary training at a college, vocational, technical or business school
- Supportive rehabilitation services including case management, counseling, and medical referrals
- Independent living services for veterans unable to work due to the severity of their disabilities.

Who is Eligible for VR&E VetSuccess Services?

- Active Duty Service Members are eligible if they:
 - Expect to receive an honorable discharge upon separation from active duty
 - Obtain a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the VA
 - Apply for Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment VetSuccess services
- Veterans are eligible if they:
 - Have received, or will receive, a discharge that is other than dishonorable
 - Have a service-connected disability rating of at least 10%, or a memorandum rating of 20% or more from the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA)
 - Apply for VR&E VetSuccess services

Basic period of Eligibility

- The basic period of eligibility in which VR&E VetSuccess services may be used is 12 years from the latter of the following:
 - Date of separation from active military service, or
 - Date the veteran was first notified by VA of a service-connected disability rating.

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Business Operations:

Wild West Country Night

When	Sat, March 31, 4pm – 9pm
Where	Pulse the Nightclub (map)
Description	Line Dance instruction, horseshoes, roping and hay bale tossing contest. Prizes for the hottest cowgirl and coolest cowboy 50 cent drink specials for the ladies. 269-2711 or more information

Semper-Fit:

Friday Fit Club

When	Fri, March 30, 9am – 10am
Where	Group Fitness Center and 598 (map)
Description	Introduction to the benefits of fitness and exercise, nutrition and healthy techniques as well as two fitness classes in the final two weeks of the program. Experience the fun of fitness in a friendly, non-competitive environment. For more information call 269-6547. Don't forget to mention you saw it on the MCCS Events Calendar

Family Services:

Resume Writing

When	Tue, April 3, 9am – 11am
Where	Building 852 (map)
Description	A 2 hour class offered the Tuesday following TAP class that teaches separating and retiring military how to speak “civilian” again, proper formatting of resumes, cover letters, and reference sheets. This class goes in depth to show how the military “lingo” is perceived by the civilian population and how to communicate their knowledge, skills, and abilities in an effective manner that gets results. During the class a resume is created, with class participation, from scratch with explanations on the “why” and “how” of the individual sections. Military experience is translated into civilian terms. The resumes are intended for private companies. Advanced sign-up is required. Call 269-5181 to register.



Full Ads

Marine Aviators: A Century of Service

2nd MAW Public Affairs
2nd Marine Aircraft Wing

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION CHERRY POINT,



Courtesy of Defense Department, Marine Corps

N.C. More than one hundred years ago, Orville and Wilbur Wright took turns guiding their wood and fabric Flyer over the dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C. Just over five years later, the Navy had made the decision to acquire flying machines, and by 1912 had four aviators on its rolls. Aviation pioneer Glenn H. Curtiss began training these pilots who would later learn to drop bombs on ships and trenches, and to make daring carrier landings and take-offs. The operation of aircraft from Navy ships was a revolutionary step in U.S. military history which set the stage for the eventual inclusion of aviation in the combined-arms concept, the utilization of the helicopter for troop transport, and the development of an all-Short Takeoff/Vertical Landing aviation force.

Marine aviation officially began on May 22, 1912, when First Lieutenant Alfred A. Cunningham reported to Naval Aviation Camp in Annapolis, Maryland, "for duty in connection with aviation." He soloed after only two hours and 40 minutes of instruction (in a Wright Bros. Model B-1), and became Naval Aviator No. 5.

As the number of Marine aviators grew, so did the desire to separate from Naval Aviation, a dream realized on January 6, 1914, when First Lieutenant Bernard L. Smith was directed to Culebra, Puerto Rico, to establish the Marine Section of the Navy Flying School.

Two factors have continuously set Marine Aviation apart in the history of military flight. The first is the close relationship between Marine and Naval Aviation, and the second is the unchanging objective of Marine Aviation to provide direct support to Marine ground forces in combat.

In 1915, the Commandant of the Marine Corps autho-

rized the creation of a Marine Corps aviation company consisting of 10 officers and 40 enlisted men. The first official Marine flying unit arrived with the February 17, 1917, commissioning of the Marine Aviation Company for duty with the Advanced Base Force at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.

When the United States joined World War I in 1917, the Marines Corps had just five aviators and 30 enlisted men, including Cunningham. At war's end, Marine aviation included 282 officers and 2,180 enlisted men, with two Marine aviators having been awarded the Medal of Honor.

During the twenties and thirties, Marine Aviation units supported brigades in Haiti, the Dominican Republic, China and Nicaragua. The guerrilla-type warfare of the 1927 Nicaraguan deployment gave Marine aviation its first opportunity to provide a form of close air support to Marines in combat, precursors of what was to become the Marine air-ground team standard of future decades.

The sudden immersion of the United States in World War II found the Marines on the front lines, defending Wake Island against a better-equipped, more-experienced Japanese force. Marine aviators led the attack in the famous Battle of Midway, an American victory despite high losses to pilots and aircraft. Marines ended World War II with 125 aces and eight Medals of Honor. The Marines' F4-U Corsair became famous as a symbol of Marine Corps ground support and air superiority in the Pacific.

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

1/2 Ads

Mr. Mango

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

I've only been to Mr. Mango once, but oh what a once it was.

It's a colorful place, outside and in, staffed by socially friendly girls with bored looks on their faces and occupied by every customer conceivable in a place like Yuma.

Charming but gaudy regalia lines the walls, visual throwbacks to both American and Mexican culture from the past century, sometimes beyond.

The food and treats are delicious, and I can only expect the feeling of contentedness as I drank my Bishop, a scoop of ice cream over an icee, to turn into outright happiness when those dreaded summer months roll around.

They also have shrimp, if you're into that sort of thing.

The place seems like a hip little corner store to cavort at after school, and the fact they mostly played Disney channel programs reinforces that. It's friendly enough for the family and laid back enough for a group of friends. If you prefer to go it alone, that's fine too. I think my reason for enjoying this place so much is it because it's one of those shops that defines the psyche of Yuma.

Overall, a lovely outing for those lazy Sundays with no goal in mind.



Book Review: *Battle Cry*

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior Staff

In the novel *Battle Cry* by Leon Uris, the reader gets taken on an epic journey through the life of Marines during WWII in the Pacific theater of war, focusing mainly on the invasion of Tarawa and Guadalcanal Islands, which were under the control of Japan.

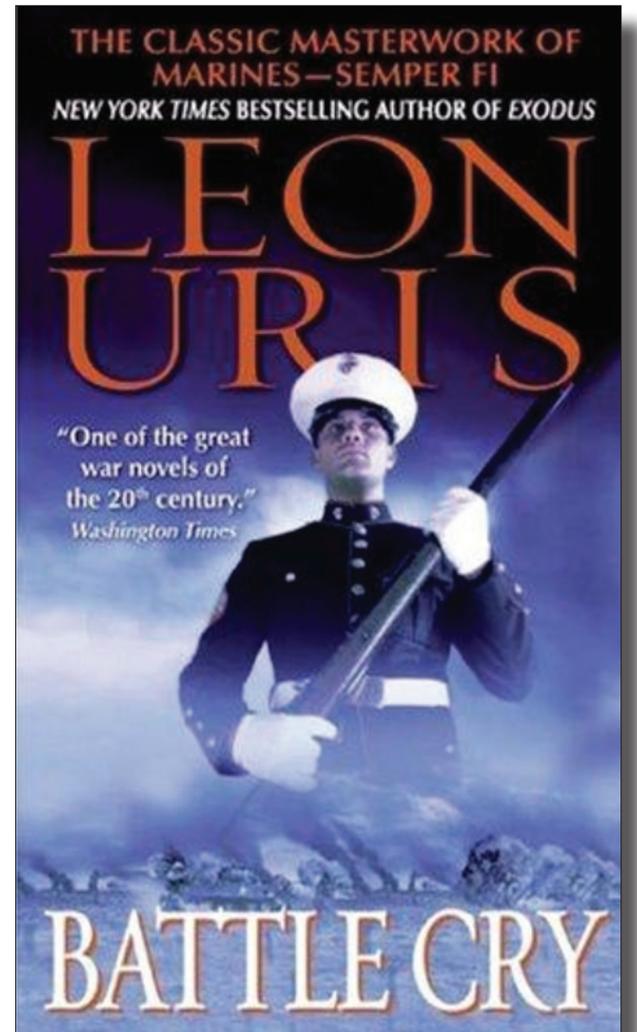
The book focuses more on the human side of the story. The character details are impressive and have a personal touch, most likely because Uris was a Marine during WWII and had operated in the same places. There are all types of people in the story, tough men, sissy boys, lovers and loners.

The detail in which Uris goes into while describing the people, their past lives, ambitions, fears and goals as well as the description of the conditions during training as well as combat, is the book's strongest points.

For a Leon Uris novel I would say the book appears to be lacking the class of his other better works like *Armageddon* and *Exodus*, sometimes it even feels amateurish. One could attribute this to the fact that *Battle Cry* was his first book.

A definite must read for any Leon Uris fan and also for those interested in knowing what the life of a Marine was like during WWII.

However, overall I found the book moving, shocking, tense, and glorious.



Courtesy photo by docstoc.com

Opinion: Commend the deserving, encourage the wayward

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior Staff

All too often I see the line between noncommissioned officers and junior enlisted Marines blurring.

I see lance corporals and privates first class talking back to corporals and sergeants, and NCO's getting too friendly with the Marines they're supposed to be leading and setting the standard for.

When I picked up corporal I told myself nothing was going to change, that I didn't want to become the NCO who always yelled and looked for reasons to put other Marines in their place.

However, in order to be an NCO you have to act and think like an NCO, you have to be the Marine who stops others and doesn't let them slack off when no one else is watching. Also, I couldn't have the same mindset I did when I was a lance corporal or private first class.

To be an effective NCO I needed to realize this, I couldn't see a messed up Marine and not correct him, thinking he wasn't my problem. As a corporal he was my problem, he was the problem of every single NCO on base and in the Corps.

I also realized with rank it's the duty of every Marine to shape the future of the Corps and try to motivate every Marine to

develop goals and strive to achieve them.



DoD photo by Cpl. Reece Lodder

As corporals and sergeants we do need to set the example and balance what we want to do and what we need to do. I used to be lazy and did what I had to in order to get by and

go home. But somewhere along the line I forgot that being a Marine isn't a 9-5 job; It's 24/7.

This is something NCOs need to remember the most, if you're in front of lower enlisted and drunkenly stumbling around the barracks or can't keep up in a run you're personally undermining the authority of every NCO that Marine comes into contact with.

Setting the example and upholding standards is paramount. Without any guidance many Marines, as is our nature, fall into a state of disorder and laziness, and it's the job of NCOs to set Marines back on track.

It doesn't matter if you see widespread results, because if it does have an impact on even one person, one senior, one junior or even a fellow NCO it's going to have been worth it.

That's what being an NCO means to me, always striving to be better and attempting to motivate others to better themselves as well.

Children and parents celebrate a successful soccer season

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior

Station children and their parents celebrated the end of the 2012 youth soccer season with pizza, Gatorade, awards and a waterslide at the Ramada Field on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Saturday, March 24.

With children ages three to six attending in the morning and children ages seven to 12 coming in the afternoon, the players received trophies for their activity in the league as well as medals for teams that placed well in the tournament.

“This event is to recognize the kids from the season and all the hard work and everything they put into their soccer season,” said William Tracy, the MCAS Yuma youth sports coordinator. “Receiving a trophy at the end of the season is an acknowledgment of furthering their social skills and their gaining new abilities like

dribbling or passing. It gives us a chance to show them they accomplished a job well done out there on the soccer field.”

The program aims to assist children with social and emotional growth and provide an enjoyable

experience for all involved.

“What we try to do is teach the younger kids social skills and how to get along with other people,” added Tracy. “Our main concern is that the kids are happy. If the kids are happy and achieving what we want them to do, then we are happy.”

This season, which ran from Jan. 28 to March 10, consisted of seven games and a tournament played by 287 children on 32 teams. The teams were led by 50 coaches, who are mostly active duty Marines volunteering during their time off. Each team practices twice per week and plays games on Sat. Games are played by teams from MCAS Yuma against each other as well as against teams from Yuma Proving Grounds. The fee for the season is \$35.

The youth soccer program is open to the children of Department of Defense employees and active duty military living on base. The basketball season will be starting soon, with its first game on April 14. Flag football, cheerleading and track and field are scheduled to follow.

For more information, contact William Tracy at (928)-269-2324.



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Master Sgt. Ken Wertman, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Installation and Logistics Chief, presents trophies to his youth soccer team, the seven-nine Rapids, on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, March 24. This was part of the end of season celebration that included the 32 teams of the MCAS Yuma youth soccer league.

1/2 Ads