

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Desert **WARRIOR**



March 22, 2012

Volume 11, Number 10

50TH ANNUAL YUMA AIR SHOW

Planes, planes and yes, more planes
Planes, planes and yes, more planes



WHILE MY UKULELE WARMLY LAUGHS

MARINE BRINGS SOUNDS OF PACIFIC TO YUMA

COUPLES WITHOUT BORDERS

STATION LOVEBIRDS HELP THOSE IN AFRICA

VMA-214 YUMA'S EMERALD WARRIORS

YUMA SQUADRON PARTICIPATE IN JOINT SERVICE EXERCISE



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Have an opinion? We want to hear it:

yumapao@usmc.mil

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facebook.com/mcasyuma



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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“Girrri no you di’nt...”

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



Laura Cardoso:
“This is a darn good chicken strip.”

Marie Minner:
“Damn, that’s got some hang time on it.”

Sean Dennison:
“Maybe if I keep smiling nobody will notice I got stood up.”

HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



www.youtube.com/watch?v=u3urBiZ1i8g&feature=relmfu

Serna family visit MCAS Yuma for 2012 Air Show.



www.youtube.com/watch?v=_gfBkXFbODQ&feature=relmfu

MCAS Yuma celebrate their 50th annual Air Show.



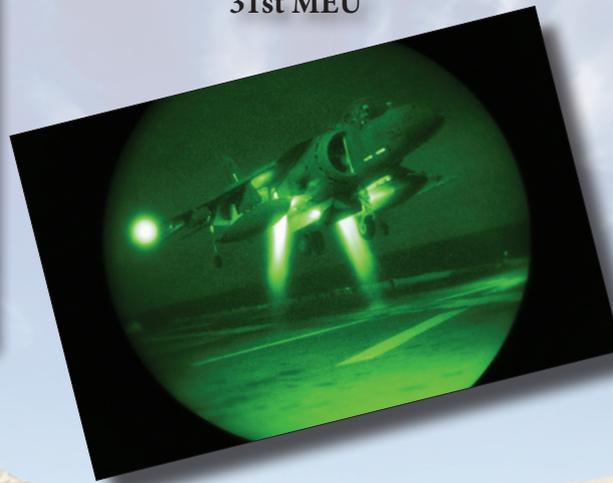
Front Page Photo Credit

GySgt. Dustin Dunk



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

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.

KOHL'S CHILD SAFETY FAIR

The Second Annual Kohl's Child Safety Fair will be held on Saturday, March 24, 2012 from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Yuma Quartermaster Depot. The Kohl's Child Safety Fair is a partnership between the Foundation of Yuma Regional Medical Center and Kohl's Department Stores. The Fair is free and designed to educate children and parents about injury prevention in a fun and effective atmosphere. Come on down and enjoy fun activities, free goodies, and great raffles.

CAMBRIDGE CURRICULUM PARENT MEETING

A Cambridge Curriculum Parent Meeting will be held for military parents of middle school and high school students who are attending or planning to attend schools in Yuma Union High School District. Come learn all about this new curriculum by the District subject matter experts on Thursday, April 26 from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Please contact School Liaison Elena McShane at 928-269-5373 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



Spirit

Spirit is a young friendly female labrador retriever mix. She is up to date with all her vaccines and spayed. She is ready to go home with you today. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions

for the Sonoran Pueblo Assistant Director

Annibal Aguirre

Do you see an increase in business during WTI and how does that effect the Sonoran Pueblo?

Business has picked up a great deal during WTI. The importance of WTI on this base is that the following weeks this base is going to see a lot of businesses picking up and it shows the public that we play a very important part in the Marines' education in regards to training. The Sonoran Pueblo Club will benefit from the WTI patronage immensely. We, the staff of the Sonoran Pueblo Club, will try to accommodate our schedule according to the WTI schedule so that we can support the morale and recreation for the Marines best regards.

Are there any special events held during WTI?

We are having Wednesdays 50 cent Wings specials and Mongolian BBQ. We have the Pub menu from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. every night.
March 22 we have a Steak Night.
March 31 we have a Wild West Country Night.
The month of April we will be having the 70's and 80's Retro Party.
April 7 Yuma's Got Talent
April 14 Glow Party
April 21 Naughty Girls & Nerds Night
April 28 we will have a Farewell Party
We will have a Cigar night, 1st Flight Thursdays and a "Rack'em, Shoot'em and Shuffle night"

How do things change during WTI?

The Club gets busier during WTI, we hire more labor during this period.

What events/services does the Sonoran Pueblo offer all year round?

We offer wedding packages, Quinceañeras, Anniversaries, wetdowns, hails & farewells, and retirement ceremonies.

Are your hours extended during WTI or meal times changed?

Our hours are extended during WTI. We have the bars open every night and a pub menu from 1700-2200 every night except on Wednesdays when we have a Mongolian BBQ.

While my ukulele warmly laughs: Marine brings sounds of Pacific to Yuma

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

The ukulele originated in Hawaii in the 19th century, based on Portuguese guitar-like instruments. The instrument spread in popularity in the 20th century, and even today austere com-



munities such as Yuma are treated to the sounds of the Pacific.

Lance Cpl. Eric Olopai, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron correctional officer and a native of Hollywood, Fla., is the Marine producing the music.

Born in the Pacific Islands, the 24-year-old said much of his musicianship stems from his family.

"My dad's a musician," Olopai said. "Growing up I had a lot

of cousins, aunts, uncles and we'd go to parties and just jam out. From Grandma's house to barbecues, there were always family members singing. I always grew up around music."

The ukulelist first touched the instrument in fifth grade, though it wouldn't be until later he would focus his energy on playing.

"I wasn't too serious about it," Olopai said. "I had some cousins that would play some songs, and I would be like, 'teach me that song.'"

"I got my biggest inspiration from my dad," he added. "It was always seeing him stick to his passion and always seeing him do what he loves."

Olopai dabbled in bass, but enjoyed the resonance of the ukulele more.

"The fact that everyone around me in my life played the ukulele was a factor," he said.

Humans are associative beings, whatever the medium, as Olopai pointed out.

"Songs in general take you back to that point in time when you learned them," he said. "I've learned songs in Seattle, in Hawaii, in Florida . . . I see it like a time machine for the soul that brings you back to when."

Olopai went through five elementary schools, three middle schools and one high school. Music was the one thing consistent throughout his travels.

One of his biggest transitions saw him becoming a Marine from a civilian.

"I was doing a lot of nothing, and I wanted to do something," said Olopai, who's path toward earning the title Marine set after he met a friend on recruiter's assistance.

"I ran into an old friend who in high school used to be really, a big partygoer," said Olopai, who invited her to a party. "She was standing tall, she was mature, she wasn't her old crazy high school self."

"She told me she was in the Marine Corps," he added. "You could see so much change in a person. Everyone took her seriously. Look how much she can change, why can't I? She partied just as much as I did, if not more so. It was literally an overnight decision. I was going to be a Marine."

He shipped out in August 2010. Marine Corps boot camp is often a shock to the system, with the recruit deprived of any semblance of normalcy and the amenities of their previous life. Olopai and music, however, did not remain separated for long.

"I was nicknamed Radio, because the only time I got slayed was when I got caught singing," he said, laughing. "Our theme song for boot camp was 'Don't Worry, Be Happy', because I'd always start humming it. Then another person would join in.

Then another. Then our drill instructor would come in."

It's not uncommon for Marines to take up an instrument as a way of breaking up monotony or destressing. For Olopai, being in the Marine Corps strengthens his bond to his instrument.

"I missed my uke (in boot camp)," he said. "I liked playing it, but (I wasn't) as close to it as I am now. I think this is the one thing that keeps me strong, because it's the one thing my loved ones play, I'm still keeping to it, even though I'm so far away."

Olopai sometimes calls his relatives to have them listen to a new song he's been working on. Or he'll fill the barracks with the instrument's exotic sound.

"It's definitely an icebreaker or a conversation starter," Olopai said, whose favorite question about his instrument is, "is that a guitar?"

"People come over and start singing with you," he added. "You start talking about life goals and all that. In a way it connects everyone."

The stress of being a member of the Armed Forces can be a burden for some, but, as Olopai knows, that burden can be lifted with sounds bringing to mind images of warm breezes on white beaches.

"People ask me why I'm always so chill," he said, pointing to his uke. "This is my tylenol, my aspirin, my vicodin."

There are times being a Marine is just a bummer, something any Marine can empathize with. And yet . . .

"I still manage to wake up every day with a smile, because I have Bliss," said Olopai, bliss being the name of his ukulele, as well as his general state of mind.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Lance Cpl. Eric Olopai, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron correctional officer and a native of Hollywood, Fla., plays his ukulele on the station, March 19.

Kids explore military life at MCAS' 2012 Children's Expo

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

MCAS Yuma opened up its flight line to special needs youth for them to get a taste of the annual Yuma Air Show during the Children's Expo, March 16.

Approximately 60 children from four local schools were all smiles as they got to interact with Marines and view aerial demonstrations and many of the air show's static displays.

"This is something we try to do every year," said Col. Robert Kuckuk, station commanding officer. "We are lucky to be able to do this."

The expo, like the air show itself, is an annual mainstay of station events in the week leading up to the air show. This year's expo was especially important as the Marines were able to give the kids a chance to do things they might never have done.

"This provided them a more comfortable environment to interact with civilian performers, Marines, learn a bit about aviation and enjoy what MCAS Yuma has to offer," added Elena McShane, station school liaison.

Several Marines from around station also let the kids glimpse some of the more exciting aspects of military life by having weapons and tactical gear on display.

Station Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting dressed up the kids in their heat-resistant suits and let them in on the fire trucks. The Air Force Thunderbirds pilots even came out to say hello to the kids, passing out stickers and pamphlets.

Students also partook in activities such as face painting and coloring in pictures of military aircraft.

"The kids are having a lot of fun," said Jyetta McCoy, a first-grade and kindergarten teacher at Gwyneth Ham Elementary School in an interview with the Yuma Sun, of the activities. "It will be a good memory for them later.

It was toward the end of the event that the smiles grew widest.

Members of the Military Freefall School team floated gracefully toward the crowd of children, previewing what would be happening on Saturday's air show.

"Every year we invite different schools to enjoy the children's expo and next year we look forward to inviting more schools who have not had the opportunity to come out to MCAS Yuma to enjoy the event," said McShane.

Public displays of affection in uniform aren't becoming of a Marine, but many made an exception for the hugs of gratitude given to them by the kids before they boarded the bus.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

A Yuma elementary student handles an M240B machine gun during the 2012 Children's Expo at MCAS Yuma, March 16.

Station couple travels to Africa to help refugees, gains new insight



Photos by Mike and Bekah DiFelice



Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior

Some couples go to great lengths to better understand one another. One station couple went all the way to Africa.

Mike and Bekah DiFelice volunteered with Light Gives Heat for three weeks, February 11- March 4.

The Light Gives Heat organization was founded by Dave and Morgan Hansow, sister and brother-in-law of 1st Lt. Graham Daub, who is a Yuma Marine currently deployed with Marine Air Control Squadron 1.

“While in Jinja, Uganda, we helped with several projects that supported SUUBI, which is the Ugandan word for hope,” said Bekah, station readiness and deployment support trainer. “SUUBI is a group of 90 women who are mostly war refugees and survivors of the Lord’s Resistance Army.”

The LRA is a militant group that was formed in 1987 in Northern Uganda, led by Joseph Kony, who proclaims himself the spokesperson of God and a spirit medium. The LRA is accused of widespread human rights violations, including murder, abduction, mutilation, and forcing children to participate in hostilities. There have also been reports of cannibalism and child-sex slavery within the group. It is one of foreign organizations designated as terrorist by the United States, and LRA leadership is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

SUUBI makes jewelry and apparel which is sold back in the states by Light Gives Heat to create a sustainable income for the displaced refugees.

“When we arrived, Light Gives Heat was also implementing some new solar cooking and urban agriculture projects,” said Bekah. “We supported these projects and also began a census of the SUUBI women by doing individual interviews through a translator. The census information will help Light Gives Heat be eligible for grant money and also direct their outreach programming.”

The couple also helped in a rebuilding project of a village that burned down during their last week in Uganda.

The trip had many similarities to 1st Lt. Mike DeFelice’s deployment with a transition team in Afghanistan.

“Because of his work as a mentor to the Afghan border police, he had an advantage knowing how to relate and work with Ugandans,” said Bekah. “He used many of the same skills he used on deployment to mentor a young Ugandan business manager on how to use Excel to organize employee pay sheets.”

The trip helped the couple connect on a new level, one many military families don’t get to experience.

“Being in Africa together helped us dialogue about his deployment in a way we hadn’t been able to before,” said Bekah. “It gave me, as a spouse, a better understanding of his challenges and frustrations over the deployment, one that I wouldn’t have had otherwise. It also broadened and complicated our view of the world.”

Leaving the comforts of home to travel to the developing world may seem extreme to some, and indeed it is. The foods are unfamiliar, the water isn’t always clean and sanitation can be nonexistent, but the difference in the lives of everyone involved becomes clear.

“The trip was challenging, but so meaningful because it stretched us out of our comfort zone” said Bekah.



The couple returned to their home with no regrets. “People tell us they’ve always wanted to do something like this,” said Bekah. “I tell them they can, just save up your vacation time and go.”

The Light Gives Hope organization recently released a documentary called MOVING ON, available for free full viewing at www.lightgivesheat.org, as well as more information on the organization.



The young couple spent countless hours providing humanitarian efforts for the people of Africa. “Being in Africa together helped us dialogue about his deployment in a way we hadn’t been able to before,” said Bekah. “It gave me, as a spouse, a better understanding of his challenges and frustrations over the deployment, one that I wouldn’t have had otherwise.”

Full Ads

President Proclaims 'National Day of Honor'

**Compiled by American Forces
Press Services**

WASHINGTON, March 19, 2012 – On the ninth anniversary of U.S. forces moving into Iraq, President Barack Obama has proclaimed March 19 to be "A National Day of Honor."

Here's is the text of the president's proclamation:

"Nine years ago, members of the United States Armed Forces crossed the sands of the Iraq-Kuwait border and began one of the most challenging missions our military has ever known. They left the comforts of home and family, volunteering in service to a cause greater than themselves. They braved insurgency and sectarian strife, knowing too well the danger of combat and the cost of conflict. Yet, through the dust and din and the fog of war, they never lost their resolve. Demonstrating unshakable fortitude and unwavering commitment to duty, our men and women in uniform served tour after tour, fighting block by block to help the Iraqi people seize the chance for a better future. And on December 18, 2011, their mission came to an end.

Today, we honor their success, their service, and their sacrifice. In one of our Nation's longest wars, veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn wrote one of the most extraordinary chapters in American military history. When highways became mine fields and uncertainty waited behind every corner, service members rose to meet the task at hand with unmatched courage and determination. They learned languages and cultures, taking on new roles as diplomats and development experts to improve the communities where they served. Their strength toppled a tyrant,

and their valor helped build opportunity in oppression's place. Across nearly 9 years of conflict, the glory of their service -- as well as the contributions of other members of the U.S. Gov-



DoD Courtesy photo

ernment and our coalition partners -- always shone through.

The war left wounds not always seen, but forever felt. The burden of distance and the pain of loss weighed heavily on the hearts of millions at home and overseas. Behind every member of our military stood a parent, a spouse, or a son or daughter who proudly served their community and prayed for their loved one's safe return. For wounded warriors, coming home marked the end of one battle and the beginning of another -- to stand, to walk, to recover, and to serve again.

And, in war's most profound cost, there were those who never came home. Separated by time and space but united by their love of country, nearly 4,500 men and women are eternally bound; though we have laid them to rest, they will live on in the soul of our Nation now and forever. To them, to their families, and to all who served, we owe a debt that can never be fully repaid.

When we returned the colors of United States Forces-Iraq and the last of our troops set foot on American soil, we reflected on the extraordinary service and sacrifice of those who answered our country's call. Their example embodied that fundamental American faith that tells us no mission is too hard, no challenge is too great, and that through tests and through trials, we will always emerge stronger than before. Now, our Nation reaffirms our commitment to serve veterans of Iraq as well as they served us -- to uphold the sacred trust we share with all who have worn the uniform. Our future is brighter for their service, and today, we express our gratitude by saying once more: Welcome home.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby

proclaim March 19, 2012, as a National Day of Honor. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities that commemorate the return of the United States Armed Forces from Iraq.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this nineteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-sixth."

VMA-214 return from Emerald Warrior 2012



Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

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. Shelby Shields Desert Warrior

Approximately 150 Marines and eight aircraft from Marine Attack Squadron 214 returned to the station from the annual joint service exercise Emerald Warrior 2012 March 10.

Emerald Warrior 2012, held in the vicinity of Eglin Air Force Base on the Gulf Coast of Florida was designed to improve the interoperability between the services and between the units on the ground and in the air.

"It was conducted as a simulated theater of operations and each day was a new part of the scenario which both air and ground units had to respond to accordingly, affording us different and unique situations to deal with every day," said Capt. Stuart Wheeler, VMA-214 pilot.

The two-week exercise showcased representatives from all branches of service, but was primarily run by the Air Force. Additional Marine Corps representation came from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. with VMA-542.

Unfavorable weather conditions at the start of training nearly kept VMA-214 out of the exercise.

"The first week had terrible weather which made it difficult for the Harriers to launch on our assigned missions," said Wheeler. "By the end, the weather cleared up and we were able to participate in the exercise and gain a valuable understanding of what it takes to work with other non-Marine units on the ground and in the air."

Overall, the exercise was successful and the Marines gained a greater appreciation for working cohe-

sively with other services.

"More than anything, the main benefit of attending this exercise was to improve our joint operations capabilities, working through the difficulties of operating with other services," Wheeler added.

More than likely, VMA-214 will not be able to attend exercise Emerald Warrior next year due to pre-deployment training; however, Wheeler stated anything is possible.



Approximately 150 Marines and eight aircraft with Marine Attack Squadron 214 return to station after Exercise Emerald Warrior 2012, which was designed to improve the interoperability between the services and between the units on the ground and in the air.

1/2 Ads

Archbishop visits station, God in tow

Story by Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior



Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, center, both photos, Archbishop of Military Services, visited MCAS Yuma March 17-19 to speak to Catholics aboard station.

Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop of military services, visited MCAS Yuma March 17 through 19 to speak to Catholic Marines.

The visit was part of Broglio's many scheduled visits to military bases throughout the U.S.

"I always try to visit myself or have one of my three bishops visit each base every year," said Broglio, 60, and native of Cleveland. "I really like visiting Marine bases because you're good to work with and seem to have a special bond with the chaplains."

While here, Broglio gave the Sacrament of Confirmation for those who were ready to receive it.

Over the course of his visits, Broglio will visit all five military branches.



Photos by LCpl. Bill Waterstreet

1/2 Ads



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

The following photos depict this year's Marine Corps Air Station Yuma air show, March 17 on the station flightline, attracting more than 60,000 spectators, surpassing the 2011 estimate of 45,000. Demonstrations from aviation specialists like the Military Free Fall School, Tora, Tora, Tora, Search and Rescue and the Commemorative Air Force F-4, F-6, F-7 and F-8 and this year's main event the United States Air Force Thunderbirds provided spectators a day to remember.

MCAS Yuma 2012 Air Show: Another successful show



Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior



Marine Corps Air Station Yuma welcomed approximately 60,000 patrons to the 2012 Air Show Saturday, surpassing last year's estimate of 45,000.

"We expected about 50,000 and I think we are going to bump right up against that or maybe more," said Colonel Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma commanding officer, in an interview with the Yuma Sun.

Overcast skies and a slight chill kept viewers cool and offered optimum flying conditions for the performers.

"The airshow gods are smiling upon us," said Kuckuk. "We are very lucky. It has been great. We don't have the

temperatures that we thought and we've had a little break from the sun with the overcast, so it has been just perfect airshow watching and airplane watching weather."

Demonstrations from aviation specialists like the Military Free Fall School, Tora, Tora, Tora, Search and Rescue and the Commemorative Air Force F-4, F-6, F-7 and F-8.

"This is the first show of the season," said Frank Kingston

Smith, MCAS Yuma Air Show announcer for all but one year since 1993. "It is great fun, it's a great place to be, and it has the most appreciative spectators I have ever seen in my life."

Headlining this year's show was the US Air Force Thunderbirds. The Thunderbirds perform in approximately 70 air shows per year.

"The United States Air Force Thunderbirds travel around throughout the United States and the world to take the Air Force message public and showcase the pride, the precision, the professionalism of the airmen of the United States Air Force," said Thunderbird pilot Michael Fisher.

In addition to the 50th anniversary of the MCAS Yuma air show, this year also marks the centennial for Marine Corps aviation, an important milestone for the Corps.

"From the Marines' earliest aviator, Maj. Alfred Cunningham flying the Curtiss B-1, to the current Marine aviators serving around

the globe to defend the United States of America flying fixed, rotary and now unmanned aerial vehicles, each year since 1912 marks a turning point in the legacy of how we protect and serve our country on land, in the air and now, at sea," said Capt. Staci Reidinger, director of public affairs for MCAS Yuma.

"After two previous tours here in Yuma, having the opportunity to watch both my staff and the City of Yuma work together

to put on the largest free public event of the year for the city was superb," said Kuckuk. "By far, these men and women have proven to me that air shows are more than planes flying overhead; air shows breed a culture of strong community relationships and gives us a chance to allow the public to see how their tax dollars are being spent."

All in all, the event was an astounding success and MCAS Yuma leaders look forward to next year.





Full Ads

Thinking about a loan?

usa.gov

Home-Equity Loans

• A home equity loan could be a smart way to pay off high-interest debt or pay for home repairs. But consider carefully before taking out a home equity loan. If you are unable to make payments on time, you could lose your home.

• Home equity loans can either be a revolving line of credit or a lump sum. Revolving credit lets you withdraw funds when you need them. A lump sum is a one-time closed-end loan, for a particular purpose, such as remodeling or tuition. Apply for a home equity loan through a bank or credit union first. These loans are likely to cost less than those offered by finance companies.

Installment Loans

• Before you sign an agreement for a loan to buy a house, a car or other large purchase, make sure you fully understand all the lender's terms and conditions, including:

- The dollar amount you are borrowing.
- The payment amounts and when they are due.
- The total finance charge, the total of all the interest and fees you must pay to get the loan.
- The Annual Percentage Rate (APR), the rate of interest you will pay over the full term of the loan.
- Penalties for late payments.
- What the lender will do if you can't pay back the loan.
- Penalties if you pay the loan back early
- The Truth in Lending Act requires lenders to give you this information so you can compare different offers.

Payday and Tax Refund Loans

• Payday loans are illegal in some states. Recent changes in the law for payday lenders have also made payday loans illegal for members of the military. With a typical payday loan, you might write a personal check for \$115 to borrow \$100 for two weeks, until payday. The annual percentage rate (APR) in this example is 390 percent! If you can repay the loan quickly, it may not appear such a bad deal. But if you can't pay off the loan quickly, that relatively small loan can grow into a large amount of debt. At 390 percent, a \$100 loan will become \$490 in a year and \$2,401 in two years.

• Another high cost way to borrow money is a tax refund loan. This type of credit lets you get an advance on a tax refund for a fee. APRs as high as 774% have been reported. If you are short of cash, avoid both of these loans by asking for more time to pay a bill or seeking a traditional loan. Even a cash advance on your credit card may cost less.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Veterans' Group Life Insurance

Va.gov

What is VGLI?

• VGLI is a program of post-separation insurance which allows service members to convert their service member group life insurance coverage to renewable term insurance. Members with full-time SGLI coverage are eligible for VGLI upon release from service.

How Much Coverage is Available?

• VGLI coverage is issued in multiples of \$10,000 up to a maximum of \$400,000. However, a service member's initial VGLI coverage amount cannot exceed the amount of SGLI they had in force at the time of separation from service.

• Effective April 11, 2011, VGLI insureds who are under age 60 and have less than \$400,000 in coverage can purchase up to \$25,000 of additional coverage on each five-year anniversary of their coverage, up to the maximum \$400,000. No medical underwriting is required for the additional coverage.

Other features include:

- The VGLI's premium rates are based on age only.
- No physical or background health check is required. Members with PTSD are not excluded.
- One can choose how often to pay premiums, including discounts if premiums are paid early.
- No enrollment or membership fees.
- Special benefits for the terminally ill, such as requesting a payment of up to 50% of your VGLI coverage if you are diagnosed with an illness that results in a life expectancy of 9 months or less.

To find out if the VGLI is right for you, visit <http://www.insurance.va.gov/vgliSite/VGLI/vgliFaq.htm>.

MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES

Semper Fit

Friday Fit Club

When: Fri, March 23, 10am – 11am

Weekly on Friday, until Dec 28, 2012

Where: Group Fitness Center and Bldg.598

Details: Friday Fit Club provides an 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 (928) 269-6547.

For more events, visit the MCCS Events Calendar at <http://www.yuma.usmc-mccs.org>.

SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM

This weeks SMP Tournament

Ping Pong & Pool

When: Thurs, March 22, 7pm – 9pm

Where: SMP Rec Center

Details: Tournaments start at 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday. Tournaments include XBox, Wii, PS3, Texas Hold 'Em, Ping Pong and Pool.

Marine Corps Family Team Building

MCAS Yuma Easter Egg Hunt

When: Fri, March 23, 7:00pm – 9:30pm

Where: Field Behind the Community Center

Details: Bring the kids out for the biggest Easter Egg hunt on base! Call your squadron or unit FRO for more information.



Full Ads

MAWTS-1 history in MCAS Yuma

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Desert Warrior

With the Weapons and Tactics Instructor course right around the corner, many Marines may wonder why Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 is so important. Who are they? Where did they come from? Why should we care?

The MAWTS-1 Mission Statement says, "The mission of MAWTS-1 is to provide standardized advanced tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications that support Marine Aviation training and readiness. MAWTS-1 also provides assistance



Courtesy of U.S. Navy

Top: This photo was taken during birthday ceremonies at the Marine Corps Monument in Washington, D.C., on November 10, 2008. Semper Fidelis to those who began it, to those who have done it, to those who do it today, now and forever.

in the development and employment of aviation weapons and tactics."

"MAWTS-1 is the principle institution for Marine Aviation training and tactical development. This command, though officially a Squadron, is more like a composite group in that each aviation asset is represented here," added Kevin Reece, MAWTS-1 historian. "Those officers and Marines are all graduates of the WTI course. There are members of the Command and Control, Aviation Ground Support, and Ground Combat communities also on staff. Through the semi-annual WTI course and the multiple 'fleet support' visits the staff of MAWTS-1 provides training, instruction, flight evaluation, and subject matter expertise to the Fleet Marine Forces."

According to the official MAWTS-1 Historical Narrative, the origin of MAWTS-1 may be traced to the aftermath of World War II when Marine pilots were first assigned to Navy Composite Squadrons.

These squadrons, operating from shore bases and carriers, were assigned the special weapons delivery mission.

Over the course of a decade, from 1952 to the 1960's, with the introduction of improved weapons and aircraft, the Marines were reassigned to Marine Special Weapons Delivery Units whose mission was quickly handed over to the attack squadrons. Special Weapons Training Units were then formed to provide necessary training to the attack squadrons, and were finally redesignated as Marine Air Weapons Training Units.

In 1975, a study group was formed at Headquarters Marine Corps to determine requirements for the enhancement and standardization of aviation training. A series of recommendations were made to the head of Marine Aviation and to the Commandant of the Marine Corps in early 1976. Project 19 recommended establishment of the Weapons and Tactics Training Program for all of Marine Aviation.

The cornerstone of the WTTP was the development of a graduate level Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course and the placement of WTI graduates in training billets in every tactical unit in Marine Corps.

For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil

1/2 Ads

From the Farm

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior Staff

After spending nearly three years in Yuma, I'm sometimes still amazed at the things I haven't done.

I managed to cross one more item off my list when I recently traveled to From the Farm on Highway 95, east of Yuma.

I finally managed to try a date shake, a milk shake with one of Yuma's treasured agricultural products blended into it.

The store offers two varieties of shakes, chocolate and vanilla. Naturally, I felt obligated to try both, so I got one of each to share with my family.

The date is a fleshy, sweet fruit harvested from date palm trees. Yes, the palm tree does more than just provide a tropical look, it also provides a fruit with an almost dessert-like sweetness.

With the right amount of dates mixed into the shake, it provides a different flavor than the normal shake. I'm personally a bigger fan of the vanilla date shake, as it provides more of the distinct date flavor that gets drowned out when chocolate is added to the mix.

The store also offers a variety of locally-grown products, including honey and other desserts, making it a worthwhile destination for local delicacies.

If you're looking for gaudy interior decorations, antiques and other assorted items, this might also be the place for you.



Book Review: *The Soldier's Load and the Mobility of a Nation*

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior Staff

In this extended essay, *The Soldier's Load and the Mobility of a Nation*, Samuel Lyman Atwood Marshall attacks the tendency of the U.S. Army to overload its infantry soldiers with gear, typically far more than they need for immediate use in combat.

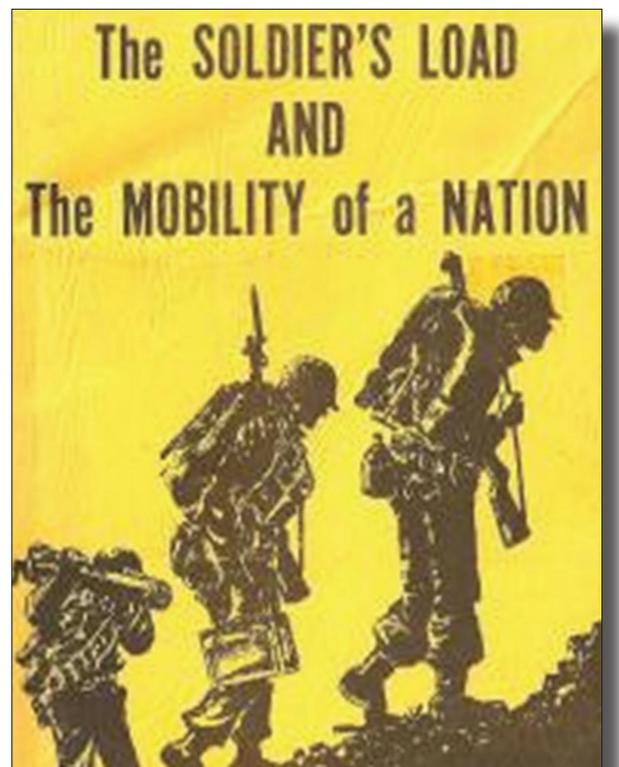
Marshall ties this complaint to the observation that even fit troops are quickly exhausted by the nervous strain of combat. In simple terms, the less gear soldiers carry, the more energy they have for combat. This would seem to be a simple lesson, but one we keep relearning. Marshall cites examples from World War II, but they could just as easily be plucked from our more recent experiences in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The lessons it contains, learned the hard way by men who fought and led troops through the first two World Wars, are just as valuable today as they were then. It examines what some might consider a mundane subject, what a soldier carries, and should and should not be expected to carry into battle, in a way that says a lot about our culture and the American way of war.

This book is an interesting study on what soldiers have carried into battle and why. It emphasizes the point of what the soldier has carried to war as war evolves. Often through the course of history, the soldiers' load has become heavier and not lighter. This is interesting considering the logistics mechanisms for the military have improved through each step of warfare evolution. The book also says one must remember that it is an officer who decides the soldier's load and often an officer who is not on the frontlines.

The second half of the essay speaks to the more general topic of increasing the Army's mobility by reducing its load. Marshall's point here is the U.S. Army overloads itself with non-essentials, wasting transport and energy needed for more important tasks.

This timeless essay continues to be relevant to infantry commanders and staff officers, whose discipline and common sense in lightening the load improves the life and effectiveness of the combat soldier. I would recommend this book to anyone going into combat as a quick reference to how much gear should be carried.



Courtesy photo by bookmine.com

Opinion: Is technology eating our children

Sgt. Daniel Malta
Desert Warrior Staff

This day and age, technology can be found aiding every part of our life from waking up to the sound of an alarm clock to popping back a chemically engineered sleeping pill while turning in for the night.

The entertainment industry for one has gotten so advanced that in the last 100 years, man can sit down while waging war, flying through space, playing football or just about anything else through video games and movies.

During this past airshow, I found myself thinking about how simply amazing it was seeing a giant piece of metal flying in the sky. Because of man's ingenuity and hard work, the once impossible is now possible.

While I was having this thought, I noticed in the corner of my eye a small boy of about eight with his head buried in a portable gaming system.

Here this amazing thing was happening in front of him with bombs exploding and planes doing barrel rolls through the sky but this child could care less.

I guess after catching Pokemon, fighting an intergalactic war against aliens and crashing the Millennium Falcon on Tatooine, it would take a lot more than an airshow to stimulate the mind.

It made me angry and sad at the same time. This child's parents couldn't care less that his mind was melting, just like I'm sure most other parents are willing the risk if it gets them a few extra quiet minutes to relive their youth and party like it's 1985.

Well it's not 1985 and it sure as hell isn't 1950, where most of the jobs in America were in America, where childhood obesity wasn't an issue and where Americans were among the

brightest in the world.

We've given into these luxuries for years and we're so used to having things done for us by technology we can't even go outside and throw a ball with our kid or throw him up on our shoulder so he can get a better look at the airshow.

There's no need to be interested in how planes fly or how the human body works, I'm sure having extensive knowledge on the Star Wars Universe timeline will be much more beneficial.

Us, along with our children, need to be properly stimulating our minds with new languages and well written books not video games and poorly written soap operas.

There's only one way to move forward, and it's by becoming better, stronger and smarter.

TOTAL

Courtesy of bodybuilding.com

Tuesday/Thursday

Exercises:	Sets:	Reps:
Lateral Raises	3	20/15/10
Posterior Deltoid Raises	3	20 reps
Dumbbell Presses	3	30 reps
Incline Presses	3	30 reps
Dumbbell Flys	3	40 reps
Tricep Pulldowns	3	40 reps
Seated Hammer Curls	3	12 reps
Cable Curls	3	15-20



Monday/Wednesday/Friday

Exercises:	Sets:	Reps:
Leg Extensions	3	20/15/10
Lying Leg Curls	3	20 reps
Standing Calves	3	30 reps
Seated Calves	3	30 reps
Dumbbell Squats	3	40 reps
Plié Squats	3	40 reps
Cable Abductors	3	12 reps
Abdominal Crunches	3	15-20



BODY

WORKOUT

Note: Some workouts require equipment

1/2 Ads