

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Desert **WARRIOR**



March 1, 2012
Volume 11, Number 7

THE WOMAN **MARINE**

The Fewer, The Prouder
The Fewer, The Prouder



TOMCATS PROWL IN LAND OF RISING SUN

VMA-311 HONES ITS SKILLS

TWO BROTHERS, THEIR FIGHT AGAINST HEART DISEASE

PALMCROFT ELEMENTARY JUMP ROPE FOR HOPE

MWSS-373 SCORPION FIRE

MWSS-373 ASSUMES DUTIES IN AFGHANISTAN



Visit us online with
your smartphone
[scan this QR code](#)

Have an opinion? We want to hear it:

yumapao@usmc.mil

Find us on facebook
[facebook.com/mcasyuma](https://www.facebook.com/mcasyuma)



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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



You could have just used Febreze...

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

Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk
Commanding Officer

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino
Station Sergeant Major

STAFF

Capt. Staci Reidinger
Public Affairs Director

Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk
Public Affairs Chief

Patricia Zoskey
Community Relations Chief

Sgt. Daniel Malta
News Production Chief

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Combat Correspondent

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Combat Correspondent

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Community Relations NCO

Cpl. Jolene Bopp
Media Relations Chief

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Layout & Design Editor / Webmaster

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Layout & Design / Combat Correspondent

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Combat Correspondent

DISCLAIMER

The Desert Warrior is printed Thursday each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc., at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to: **Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 99113, Yuma, AZ 85369-9113 or 928-269-3612/3410.**

Everything advertised, including inserts, in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, creed, color, national origin, religion, age or sex of the purchaser, the user or the patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy will result in refusal to print advertising from that source. All queries concerning business matters or display ads should be directed to **Aerotech News and Review, Inc. at 623-487-7321.**

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma or Aerotech News and Review, Inc., of the products and services advertised.

The views and comments expressed in the opinion articles of the Desert Warrior are the author's individual opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. If you have an opinion that you would like to see published, submit your article or letter to dunk@usmc.mil or bring it to the Public Affairs Office in building 852. Submissions must be handed into the Public Affairs Office no later than the Friday prior to the next issue's publish date. All submissions are subject to editing and space availability, and they are not guaranteed to be published.

LAST WEEK'S TOP CAPTIONS



Jenn Allen:
"Dude, I think you have something on your chin?"

Kristen Sholl:
"Please don't let this hurt, please don't let this hurt."

Shelly Levi:
"I told you the hot cheetos were mine. It's on now!!!!"



<http://www.marines.mil/news/pages/marinestv.aspx>

Marine and Thai forces train to save lives.



HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



Front Page Photo Credit

Official U.S. Marine Corps Photo



[watch?v=2JpvviaMqVw&list=UUB-chvJi2SP3y-a-KoMb3bg&index=1&feature=plcp](http://www.marines.mil/news/pages/marinestv.aspx?watch?v=2JpvviaMqVw&list=UUB-chvJi2SP3y-a-KoMb3bg&index=1&feature=plcp)

Battle Color Detachment rehearsal performance





Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

USMC BATTLE COLOR DETACHMENT

The U.S. Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment is scheduled to perform at MCAS Yuma on Thurs. at 11 a.m. on the parade deck. They will also perform at Kofa High School the same day at 7 p.m. Their final performance in Yuma will be held at 7 p.m., Fri. at the Gila Ridge High School.

MARINES.COM GETS MAKEOVER

The United States Marine Corps recently redesigned www.Marines.com in order to more dynamically illustrate the history, impact and journey of America's elite warriors. With more than 150 creative video depictions of real-life Marine training and missions, the site offers an authentic glimpse into what makes a Marine. New features include more than 500 photos and videos, an ability to personalize content and improved navigational storytelling. The storytelling approach shows Marines in a way previously only known to the few men and women who serve in the Corps. The site reflects how Marines have continued to evolve and grow, like today's diverse society they protect, to fight a wider array of battles and a greater spectrum of threats. Additionally, this resource is one of the first introductions to Marine Corps career opportunities and works to meet today's growing social culture and highlight alignment with the generational youth aspirations for public service and education.

MAG-13 CELEBRATES 70 YEARS OF AVIATION EXCELLENCE

Marine Aircraft Group-13 will celebrate its 70th anniversary at MCAS Yuma Thurs, Mar. 1 to include a command motivation run, a 10 a.m. rededication ceremony of the MAG-13 Conference to commemorate Col. Fred J. Cone (USMC ret.) as well as an unveiling of MAG-13's historical timeline. The rededication ceremony will be held at in the MAG-13 Courtyard. Please call (928)-269-3386 for more information.

VOLUNTEER AT THIS YEARS 50TH ANNUAL MCAS YUMA AIRSHOW

The 2012 MCAS Yuma Airshow, scheduled for Sat, Mar. 17, is looking for military and civilian volunteers to assist with the air station and Yuma's largest public event of the year. For more details about volunteer opportunities or to find out how you can help, please visit www.yumaairshow.com or call (928)-269-2275.

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: 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



Ms. Maddie

She is an 8-year-old gentle, loving girl. She is extremely well mannered and just needs a place to retire. You can adopt her for only \$50. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



5 Questions

for the Director of region four
MCJROTC Programs

Mark Newbold

Q. What is the time commitment/requirements for a student interested in participating in MJROTC?

Cadets go to JROTC class just like any other class on their schedule. One period a day. Those cadets interested in the JROTC extra-curricular activities (Marksmanship Team, Physical Fitness Team, Drill Team, or the unit Color Guard) usually participate after school, just as they would for other school activities. Marksmanship, drill, and PT are part of the curriculum, as so are taught during class periods, along with the other course work in JROTC. Students can enroll anytime during their four years of high school, but it is a four year program, meaning they can be in JROTC for four years if they enter as a Freshman.

Q. How can students benefit from MJROTC?

The program is designed to instill within the cadets the value of good citizenship, personal responsibility, their leadership and an understanding of the value of good moral character. They will develop a sense of pride and personal discipline and responsibility.

Q. How does the school benefit?

The school benefits in that it offers a course like no others. As cadets progress through the program and assume increasing responsibilities as they gain rank, they take an active role in supervising junior cadets, teaching basic classes, mentoring younger cadets, and setting a positive example for other students on campus. Cadets also begin to take more active roles in other activities on campus. They are rarely involved in misconduct on campus.

Q. What is the MJROTC instructor's main purpose when working with ROTC students?

Instructors are teachers, hired by the school district. They teach our classes, but their first role is to serve as role models for leadership and sound moral character. Effective instructors live by our Leadership Traits and Principles. Each trait and principle has daily meaning in JROTC.

Q. What prompted the addition of MJROTC to the Yuma schools?

The Yuma School district applied for our program, and our Headquarters decided that it would be another good place for one of our units. Yuma has no other JROTC units, so Kofa HS will have the only JROTC in the district. Having the JROTC unit near the MCAS will be a positive influence on the program.

Tomcats prowl through Land of Rising Sun

Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark
Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION IWAKUNI, Japan — Flying through the Land of the Rising Sun, Marine Attack Squadron 311, a 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit aviation combat element harrier squadron, continues to hone its skills in the air-to-air arena at MCAS Iwakuni Feb. 7.

“While the 31st MEU has its own mission in the Western Pacific, we support it as the air combat element, but MAG-12 has provided us an opportunity to perform some training here,” said Lt. Col. Peter S. Blake, VMA-311 commanding officer. “We are able to get in a lot of training which deals directly with supporting the MEU in WESTPA C.”

Six AV-8B Harriers, along with approximately 150 VMA-311 Marines, flew into WESTPA C as part of the Unit Deployment Program to further the squadron’s training and maintain a high level of mission readiness.

“I’m a firm believer in the motto ‘Leaders are made between wars and tested in battle,’” said Sgt. Maj. William R. Shaw, VMA-311 sergeant major. “In my opinion, if you constantly train for a real world scenario then you will be as ready as you can be for war.”

Maintaining the high level of preparedness for unexpected changes during deployment holds true to the expeditionary nature which has made the Marine Corps the tip of the spear for America.

“We’re trying to make sure we are able to move the squadron anywhere in 24 hours and perform,” said Shaw. “In this dynamic environment, Marines know that’s what we do.”

Marine Aircraft Group 12 and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 12 have ensured the maintenance Marines are well equipped to keep the aircraft flying.

“Both MAG-12 and MALS-12 have given us as much support as we could ask for,” said Blake. “We have about 35 MALS-12 Marines supporting our maintenance Marines with the aircraft.”

VMA-311 operates as a dual deployment squadron. Half of its aircraft and Marines are here while the rest continue their training at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz.

“It’s difficult being on deployment when half of your squadron is back home,” said Blake. “The leadership there will ensure the Marines are maintaining mission readiness and hit the ground running when it’s their turn to go on deployment.”

VMA-311 shares some history with the station. Retired Col. Speed F. Shea, former station commanding officer from May 1979 to July 1983, was a VMA-311 pilot and the first pilot to land in Chu Lai, Vietnam in 1965.

VMA-311 has a rich history of heroes and role models for our Marines, stated Shaw. Capt. Ted Williams, a former Boston Red Sox player, flew in VMA-311. Williams was a wingman for Retired Col. John Glenn, a VMA-311 pilot during the late 1940’s.

In 1962 Glenn was the first American to orbit the Earth in spacecraft Friendship 7 and later became an Ohio state senator.

With a storied past and bright future VMA-311 continues to soar.



Lance Cpl. Charlie Clark

Lance Cpl. Christopher S. Williams, a Marine Attack Squadron 311 avionics technician, cleans parts in a AV-8 Harrier wing here Feb. 8.

Two brothers and their fight against heart disease

Sgt. Daniel Malta
Desert Warrior

At least nine of every 1,000 infants born each year have a heart defect according to the American Heart Association, and because the causes of congenital heart disease are still unknown, raising money for research is important.

During a recent fund raising event at Palmcroft Elementary, Jump Rope for Heart, students raised approximately \$5,000. One student who raised \$600 alone for the event,

Brady Keith, son of Maj. Eric Keith, Marine Aviation Weapons Tactics Squadron 1 Osprey instructor, was extremely passionate about the fundraiser because his brother has suffered from congenital heart disease his whole life.

“I wanted to help kids like my brother,” said Brady. “I don’t want other kids to have to go through what Colby had to.”

Colby Keith, which has multiple heart defects, has already been through 5 surgeries in the three years since his

birth.

In order to raise the money Brady and his mother, Randi Keith, started a website that people could donate from. After the two weeks they had to raise the money, Brady’s website brought in \$600, which will go to the Phoenix Children’s Hospital to further research.

For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil



Cpl. Laura Cardoso

Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma Commanding Officer, shakes Gunnery Sgt. Lyle McIntyre, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron bulk fuel farm SNCOIC and 33 year-old-native of Pensacola, Fla., after awarding him with the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal Feb. 24, for his perseverance and total dedication to duty during a stressful time. “You saved us a lot of heartache,” said Kuckuk. “We wanted you to be recognized for what you did. Because of you, we had the information we needed when questions were asked about the missing fuel. This is an excellent example to the young Marines of how with tact and grace and patience and all the rest, despite having the Colonel telling you that you can’t be right and all my experts are telling me something else, if you stick with your guns you are able to accomplish so much.”



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Cpl. Pedro V. Conceicao, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 aviation supply specialist, and a native of Fairfax, Va., is honored at his memorial service at the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Chapel, Feb. 23, 2012. He died in a car accident on Feb. 12 in San Diego while on terminal leave for his final days in the Marine Corps. Conceicao is survived by his parents and three sisters. He is remembered fondly by his fellow Marines for his dynamic personality and larger-than-life attitude. “He will be remembered for his loyalty, willingness to put others before himself, artistic abilities, strong family values and beliefs, and, above all, unselfishness,” said Master Sgt. Marquis Moore, a MALS-13 aviation supply specialist. “Cpl. Conceicao was a great influence to his fellow Marines, and he will be missed,” said Lt. Col. Patrick Waugh, the MALS-13 commanding officer.

Station working dog retires after a lifetime of service

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior

Her faded grey hair doesn't seem to do justice to her charming and energetic personality, but for one military working dog, the working days are done.

Bernie, an 11-year-old Belgian Malinois, retired after a long and distinguished career, serving her country and her handlers loyally, both on station and during two deployments to Iraq. Now, she'll spend her days at home with her former handler, Cpl. Bret Reynolds, a native of Northwood, Ohio.

There's more to Bernie than meets the eye. She's not all teeth and sensitive nose, she is indeed a special girl. Unlike most military working dogs who have had a variety of handlers during their career, Bernie has only had a handful. Instead of switching to a younger dog, the vast majority of her handlers chose to stay with her for several years at a time.

"She's the only girl I'm allowed to love other than my wife," Reynolds said. "Some people get a going away gift like a plaque or ka-bar when they leave a command or the Corps, but this by far takes the cake. Every handler dreams of this; to be able to adopt a dog, especially one they've handled."

The bond between handlers and their dogs is always a strong one. They spend countless hours together training and working, and often, the handlers spend more time with their dog

than their families. In essence, the dog becomes a part of their family.

"She was my first explosives dog," said Reynolds, who was Bernie's handler for two and a half years. "Trusting her with my life is one of the biggest commitments I've ever made. Trusting someone who doesn't speak, who can't tell you what she feels, trusting her with my life on bomb threat calls has been huge and something I'll always take with me."

While Bernie's spent her entire life training to apprehend suspects with her teeth and find explosives, anyone who's spent any amount of time with her knows she absolutely loves people and attention, and has about as sweet a disposition as they come.

When she leaves her kennel, it's usually with a rush of energy and excitement, but lately, after a few moments, the discerning eye can see the arthritis in her joints kick in and her movements become more labored. But you can tell that if a dog could smile, she would be grinning from ear to ear, happy to be in the sunlight interacting with people.

The change in lifestyle will undoubtedly be a drastic one for Bernie, who's literally spent her entire life in service to the military. Unlike her human counterparts who started off as civilians and became Marines through choosing to undergo recruit training, Bernie was literally destined to become a military working dog from birth, beginning a stringent selection and training process a few months after she was born.

Her training was put to use in more ways than just protecting Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, which was her only permanent duty station.

When many people think of a combat veteran, they envision a solemn, muscular man with a thousand yard stare, not a sixty pound dog with warm eyes and a wagging tail. During one of her deployments, Bernie became a veteran of the Battle of Fallujah, the Iraqi city that saw some of the bloodiest battles between Marines and insurgents in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

But her days of combat, training and searching are now over. She'll be enjoying the comforts of home, playing with her new canine siblings, and undoubtedly sleeping on the couch when no one's looking.

"She's still got a lot of spunk left in her, she's always wanting to play," said Reynolds.

There's been a fight over this special dog for years. Everyone who's called her their partner at any given time has wanted to be the one who gets to keep her at the end of her career. Being her most recent handler, Reynolds won.

"I've been waiting for this moment since last summer," said Reynolds. "I literally jumped for joy when I found out I could finally bring her home."

The average life-expectancy for a retired working dog isn't long, but her final days will be spent receiving the love, attention and care she has without a doubt earned after a lifetime of service.

Reynolds will also be leaving the Corps soon, heading home to Ohio in mid-March to attend college, with Bernie by his side.

"She's already started sneaking onto my bed to sleep," said Reynolds. "She thinks she's quite the princess."

Author's note: Bernie will always be a special dog to me. She was the first MWD I ever came in contact with, and she greatly impressed me, not only with her skill and professionalism when it came to doing her duty, but also with her loyalty, kindness and affection. After doing some bite work training, she ran up to me wanting me to pet her, and give me a nice slobbery kiss in return. To me, Bernie is the epitome of what "Man's best friend" really means. She's served her handlers and her country well, and based on the affection of everyone who's met her, she's touched many hearts throughout her career. Good job Bernie!

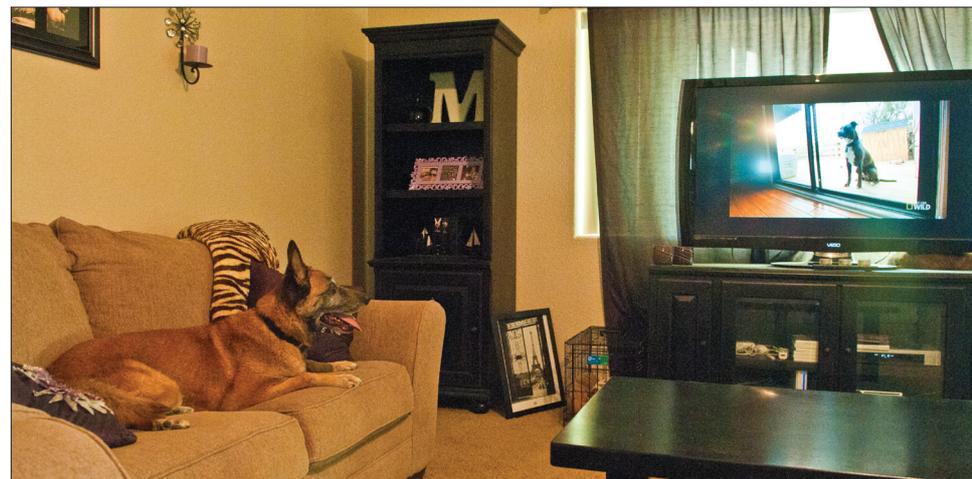
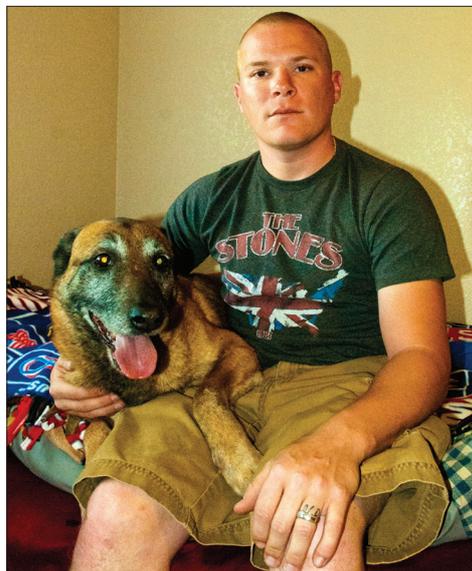


Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant



Bernie, a newly retired military working dog, shows her favorite photo pose. Lifting her paw for pictures has become her trademark, she's never even been told to do it, she just seems to like it.

Top: Bernie, a newly retired military working dog, shows her stuff while in her prime with her handler, now adoptive owner, Cpl. Bret Reynolds, station military working dog handler. The pair were training other Marines in some of the capabilities the working dogs bring to the battlefield.



Top: Bernie now spends her days getting some well-deserved relaxation. One of her favorite activities is watching Animal Planet on the couch, but she also enjoys playing with other dogs.

Left: Cpl. Bret Reynolds and Bernie sit on what Bernie has now made their bed, whether Reynolds likes it or not. Fortunately for Bernie, he's ok with it for now, but when they reunite with Reynolds' wife next month, things might have to change.

Full Ads

Changes Will Strengthen Military Health System, Top Doc Says

Cheryl Pellerin

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24, 2012 – A proposed new governance structure will make the military health system more effective and produce savings, and the system's 9.8 million beneficiaries worldwide will never miss an appointment, the Pentagon's top health affairs official said today.

In an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press service, Dr. Jonathan Woodson, assistant secretary of defense for health affairs and director of the TRICARE Management Activity, discussed three governance reforms under way for the military health system.

Woodson, a vascular surgeon, said it's been a transformative decade for the nation and the Defense Department.

"Our defense health program budget was about \$19 billion in 2001, [and] this year's budget is about \$53 billion," he said. "So we clearly need to not only focus on accessing quality care, but [also on] producing value for the amount of money we're spending on health care."

As the health care budget grows and the Defense Department's top-line budget shrinks, Woodson added, "a natural tension is created in terms of being able to train, man and equip the force, yet provide for quality health care." He said everything possible must be done to reduce costs in the military health care system before adjusting fees for medical services.

The effort began in June, Woodson said, when then-Deputy Defense Secretary William J. Lynn III established an internal task force to review the military health system's governance. The task force reported back in September, evaluating health system governance options as well as options for the governance of multiservice medical markets and of the national capital region's health system.

Based on the report and on consultations with the services' top civilian and military leaders, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other senior Defense Department officials, the current deputy defense secretary, Ashton B. Carter, now has directed that three reforms be instituted in the military health system.

One involves creating a defense health agency to take on the functions of the TRICARE Management Activity and assume responsibility for implementing shared services across the system. TRICARE is the civilian care component of the military health system.

"One of the things we looked at is whether new MHS governance could produce greater efficiencies and savings," Woodson said. The main structure being proposed, called the Defense Health Agency, "looks to do a better job administering what we call shared services," he added.

"Right now we have essentially three administrative structures -- the Army, Navy and Air Force -- that run health services," the Defense Department's top doctor explained. "The thought is that we would combine functions that are common to the services, and thereby produce savings."

He cited health information technology as an example, noting that it is extraordinarily costly and is common to all of the services. "There [is] no reason why the services should develop their own products," Woodson said. "This can be done in a shared fashion and produce savings." Other common areas, he added, are medical education for physicians, nurses, medics and pharmacists, and medical logistics.

Another proposed reform will establish market managers for multiservice medical markets, except for the national capital region. The managers' enhanced authorities will allow them to create and sustain a cost-effective, coordinated and high-quality health care system, Woodson said.

The third reform involves transferring responsibility for running military treatment facilities in and around Washington, D.C. -- including Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Maryland and Fort Belvoir Community Hospital in Virginia -- to a national capital region directorate within the new Defense Health Agency.

Carter also is establishing a planning team, Woodson said, with leadership nominated by the undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness and Joint Chiefs Chairman Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, to ensure timely implementation of the governance plan after it's reviewed -- first by the Government Accountability Office and then by Congress.

Each organization has more than 100 days to review the proposal, so changes in the medical system's governance, if approved, probably would not be instituted until early next year, Woodson said.

"The whole idea is to look forward," he said, "understanding that we need to bend the curve of the health care budget to look at a governance structure that makes us more effective, more agile and adds value to the services and their ability to deliver high-quality care."



The story of Stevie Beatz: Marines record album while deployed

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

There're different ways Marines can combat boredom on deployment. They can go to the gym, study up on their job, write letters home, the list goes on.

In the case of Cpls. Jose Moreira, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 administration clerk and a native of West palm Beach, Fla., and Christopher Dominguez, a Marine Aircraft Group 13 armorer and a native of Phoenix, they recorded an album.

Both Marines deployed with VMA-513 during their six-month tour in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, from May to November in 2011. Despite never having met each other, they shared an interested in music.

"I overheard him (Moreira) talking about music and I was like "You're a rapper?" said Dominguez.

Dominguez had a guitar and Moreira freestyled. They'd create songs on the spot to pass some of the slower moments of deployment. When the base got hit by rockets and the Marines were ordered to take shelter in the bunkers, they'd simply practice there until the all-clear signal had been given.

"We realized during our freestyles we had good rhythm and good chemistry," said Moriera. "The whole idea was to record an album, like 'oh yah, we should.' Like a bucket list sort of thing."

What began as something of a joke snowballed into a serious musical effort, due in part to Dominguez' guitar.

"We had an instrument," said Moreira. "It gave me the motivation to bring this to life."

The Marines christened the project Stevie Beatz, a play on the name of rock musician Stevie Nicks.

Moreira started shipping in recording equipment while Dominguez helped turn their room in a makeshift recording studio. Working with limited equipment, the two began fashioning a musical style they call "acoustic hip-hop."

"We didn't have the ability to go through a professional studio, so we just used what we had," said Dominguez. "We were spending more time worrying about the instruments and I said, 'let's just make it acoustic'."

The two began practicing afterhours midway through deployment, sometimes ending sessions only a few hours before they had to return to work.

However, it would be a month before the deployment ended before they began recording in earnest, partly because of issues getting a microphone.

"It was always the microphone," said Moreira, laughing. "It almost didn't get done out there."

"It would've sucked because it just would've been that much cooler to complete it out there," added Dominguez.

The album was successfully recorded days before Moreira redeployed with the squadron's advance party. The album, titled Survivor's Guilt, is currently in the processed of being mastered.

Both Marines have musical backgrounds. Dominguez began playing the guitar in high school, as well as being able to play the piano, drums and bass guitar.

"I was influenced by a lot of acoustic artists," he said. "So my style is relaxed, chill."

Moreira began taking music seriously since he was a kid, and released his first record when he was 15.

"At first it was just me, then I got my friends into it, and we tried expanding our fanbase," he said.

The album covers topics such as love, hate and the struggles that go with everyday life. Moriera's even flow is backed up by Dominguez' fluid guitar playing, creating a sound that's apt for the oncoming summer.

Marines and artistry don't always go hand in hand, but Moreira and Dominguez join the ranks of Marines who have contributed to the musical world.

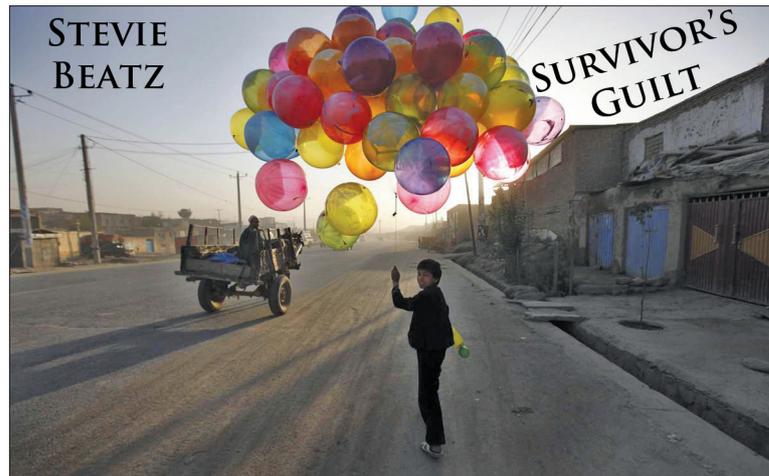


Photo illustration by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"An Unwelcome Intruder"

Lt. Greg Woodard, Station Chaplain

Last week there was a tragic mid-air collision between two helicopters in the Chocolate Mountain Gunnery Range. The accident resulted in the death of some of our finest. This sudden death was an unwelcome intruder. Young people in the prime of life were robbed of their future. Family members lost someone dear, and there are children who will grow up without a parent. In light of these tragic deaths, I would like to ask you to consider two points.

First is the briefness and uncertainty of life. We all have goals for our lives, and if we are married, we plan to grow old with our spouse. Unexpected death reminds us of how fleeting life can be. We dare not presume on the future. We need to ensure that our lives are right now. We have only the present moment to serve God

and our neighbors. We have only now to ensure that we make every moment count. We have only now to maximize the opportunities that are laid before us.

Second, we must be prepared to die. It is my conviction that death is not the end. Rather it is only the beginning of our life in eternity. We must be prepared to stand before a righteous God who will either be our Savior, or our Judge. When your death comes, how will God respond to you? If you are not ready to die, I pray that the deaths of our fellow Marines will be an instrument that God will use to turn your heart toward him.

As an MCAS community, we offer our support to those at Camp Pendleton and those here who have lost Marines that they love.

Leader's Forum

"Respect"

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer

I had the opportunity a while back to attend a funeral for a long time Yuma resident that owned a tire store. Some may wonder why on earth the Air Station CO would go to something like that...after all...he was just the owner of a tire store. No big deal.

Well, it was a big deal. Turns out in another life, this man was an ace with seven victories over the skies of Europe to his credit. After the Second World War he stayed in the Air Force and opened the base here in Yuma...then called Vincent AFB. Later he was on the crew that turned it over to the Marines. Then he got out and owned a tire store.

I think there are many people we see everyday just like Mr. Franklin (the tire store guy... the decorated Ace). People, to see them today, you wouldn't think are anything really special. But you just never know. If you met Mr. Franklin you would never have guessed he shot down 7 enemy planes. You just never know if that "snow bird" in front of you at the commissary was at Chosin, or Khe San, or the barracks at Beirut. You don't know if the guy fixing your air conditioner was in the Corps, or the Army, during the push to Baghdad almost 10 years ago or at Fallujah in 2004. Maybe the old lady driving so slow in front of you with the Marine Corps bumper sticker did 30 years as a spouse (back then we called them "dependants") and got out...and now just enjoys being around Marines every now and again.

Respect...we all want it yet give it grudgingly. You show it to me with a crisp salute and a cheerful greeting...but that's easy, most of you know who I am. This week think about working on the respect you show for those you don't know. Even those picking lettuce in Yuma's fields deserve our respect for a hard and honest day's work.

We like to think that respect has to be earned...Maybe we should look at it as something freely given until proven unworthy.

1/2 Ads



Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 secure a fuel hose after refueling an AH-1W Super Cobra aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14. MWSS-373 visited Landing Zone Star, MCAS Yuma, for training operations by setting up Forward Arming Refueling Points in support of Scorpion Fire Phase II.

Scorpion Fire: MWSS- 373 provides refueling

Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. – Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 visited Landing Zone Star, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., for training operations by setting up Forward Arming Refueling Points in support of Scorpion Fire Phase II.

In combat, FARP provides support any time of the day or night to ensure aircraft do not have to return all the way to base to refuel, but can reenter the fight more quickly.

“We’re actually not conducting training,” said Sgt. Jason Bacha, a bulk-fuel specialist with MWSS-373 and a Pittsburgh native. “We’re in support of training pilots who are going to be deploying sometime soon.”

Even though the training is not specifically for MWSS-373, they still benefit from the exercise.

“It’s good training for us, especially me since I’m coming straight out of the school house,” said Pfc. Adam Farley, a bulk-fuel specialist with MWSS-373 and a Burt, N.Y., native.

FARPs are the only time bulk-fuel Marines actually conduct hands-on refuel training. At military occupational specialty school, bulk-fuel specialists mostly do in-classroom work, and the only hands-on training they receive is setting up the equipment, explained Gunnery Sgt. Erick Lee, the FARP officer in charge with MWSS-373 and a Fairfax, Va., native.

“There is no aircraft refueling at the school house,” said Lee. “As far as the young Marines, this is pretty much where they’ll learn all the safety precautions, and they’ll learn all the procedures for refueling.”

Safety is the most important part during the training evolution. Bulk-fuel Marines must ground the aircraft before beginning fueling operations due to static electricity produced from the rotor blades.

“Anything can go wrong during training, especially with hot

refueling points, which means the birds don’t shut down,” said Farley.

Bulk-fuel specialist also conduct cold refueling, during which the aircraft is shut down.

“There’s a lot of dangers when the aircraft is still on,” said Lee. “You have the rotor blades still running, and when dealing with small aircraft like the cobras or hueys, their tail rotors sit really low. If you’re not paying attention, you could run into the tail rotors.”

MWSS-373 not only provides fuel for the aircraft, but they are there to provide safe support for the pilots to return to their mission.

“The most important thing is these pilots are getting the experience they need to go into a combat zone, and have the confidence they need to fly out and carry on with whatever their mission is,” said Bacha.

Scorpion Fire is a two-week training evolution to provide support for pilots’ pre-deployment training. Though the mission is not necessarily conducted for MWSS-373, they are benefitting from the training by sustaining individual proficiency.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Pfc. Bradley Hinsley, a bulk-fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Bakersfield, Calif., native, secures the fuel hose after refueling an AH-1W Super Cobra aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Staff Sgt. Anthony Welch, a Forward Arming Refueling Point assistant team leader with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and an Alexandria, La., native, checks the amount of gallons being pumped into an aircraft aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14. MWSS-373 set up a FARP in support of Scorpion Fire Phase II. Scorpion Fire is a two-week training evolution to provide support for pilots' pre-deployment training.



Pfc. Bradley Hinsley, a bulk-fuel specialist with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and a Bakersfield, Calif., native, signals to shut off the fuel flow aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14. MWSS-373 visited Landing Zone Star, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, for training operations by setting up Forward Arming Refueling Points in support of Scorpion Fire Phase II.

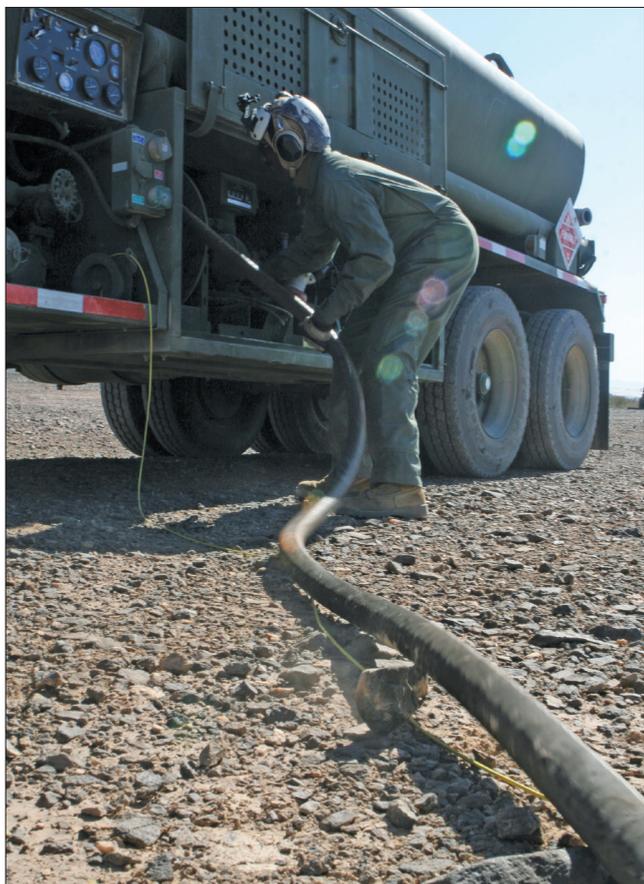


Photo by Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller

Staff Sgt. Anthony Welch, a staff noncommissioned officer in charge with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 and an Alexandria, La., native, reels in a fuel hose aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14. Bulk-fuel Marines with MWSS-373 fuel aircraft to make them fully functional, allowing the air station to run smoothly. Bulk-fuel specialists test fuel, set up fuel systems and fuel the aircraft.



A Marine inserts the fuel nozzle into an AH-1W Super Cobra to pump fuel aboard Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Feb. 14. Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 bulk-fuel Marines ensure aircraft are functional, allowing the air station to run smoothly.

Full Ads

20 Ways to Save at the Grocery Store

Stephanie K. Swinerton

R.D. FNP Graduate Assistant, Virginia Tech

Learn how to save money. If you shop smart, you can live on a tight budget and still have a healthy diet. Get the most out of your food dollar by adopting the following practices:

1. Don't shop when you are hungry!
2. Make a grocery list before you go the store.
3. Choose the grocery store that will give you the most for your money.
4. Compare prices by using cost per unit of various foods.
5. Buy store brands instead of highly advertised brands to save money.
6. Instant nonfat dry milk usually costs less per serving than fresh milk and can save you a great deal of money if you use it for cooking or drinking.
7. Buy milk in gallon or half-gallon containers because they are usually less expensive per cup than quarts or pints.
8. Buy bulk or store-brand cheese instead of the pre-sliced, individually wrapped cheese.
9. Compare the cost per serving and NOT cost per pound when you are comparing the cost of meat.
10. Buy chicken and turkey instead of red meat because it is usually less expensive.
11. Save money by purchasing a whole chicken and cutting it into parts yourself.
12. The less tender cuts of beef such as round, chuck, and shoulder are less expensive, but are as nutritious as the more tender cuts.
13. Ground beef (hamburger) is usually a good buy, if it is fairly lean.
14. Buy a pork loin roast and cut it into pork chops.
15. Compare the cost of medium and large eggs.
16. Fresh fruits and vegetables are low-priced when they are in season, but buy only what you can use before they spoil.
17. Make your own cakes, pies, cookies, muffins, etc. from scratch at home.
18. Eat hot cereals instead of ready-to-eat cereals.
19. Buy regular enriched rice and other cereals instead of the instant or precooked form.
20. Pasta (macaroni, spaghetti, noodles) is a good buy for price and good nutrition.

Choosing the Right Jogging Stroller

Kristen Horler
ACE Fitness

- **Say no to four-wheelers.** Whether you're jogging or even just walking briskly, the small wheels on traditional all-in-one strollers can create too much friction and create a dangerous situation for you and your baby.
- **Inflatable and big is best.** When it comes to wheels, go with inflatable rubber ones of 16-inch diameter or larger.
- **Get adjustable.** Adjustable handlebars can also increase your performance and comfort.
- **Brake down.** Choose models with a rear-wheel foot brake. Also make sure the stroller comes with a run-away leash.
- **Go for a test drive.** Before you buy, try as many different strollers as you can.
- **What you'll spend.** Expect to pay \$300 to \$350 for a new lightweight aluminum jogging stroller of good quality.
- **Extras that count.** Look for thoughtful features like key clips, water-bottle holders and an under-seat storage bin.
- **Remember your co-pilot.** Insist on a padded five-point safety harness for your child, and a reclining seat, which is a necessity for babies six months or younger who can't hold up their heads on their own.

For full article, visit <http://www.acefitness.org/getfit/studies/WellnessOnWheels.pdf>.



Courtesy of BOB Sport Utility Stroller

LEAVING THE CORPS

Top 50 Fastest-Growing Occupations

Career OneStop

www.careeronestop.org

- 1 Biomedical engineers
- 2 Financial examiners
- 3 Medical scientists, except epidemiologists
- 4 Physician assistants
- 5 Biochemists and biophysicists
- 6 Athletic trainers
- 7 Computer software engineers, applications
- 8 Veterinarians
- 9 Environmental engineers
- 10 Computer software engineers, systems software

For full list, visit <http://www.careeronestop.org>.

Spring and Summer Outdoor Safety

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Springtime is on the way and that means it's time to go outside and enjoy the weather.

The return of warmer temperatures brings the opportunity for freedom, relaxation, exploration, and being closer to nature. Whether you're relaxing in the backyard, turning up your garden, hitting the pool, or exploring the great outdoors, here are some ways to help keep you and your family healthy this spring and summer.

Beware of Bugs

• Warmer temperatures aren't just attractive to people, but to mosquitoes, ticks, and fleas. Mosquitoes can transmit West Nile virus; ticks can transmit Lyme disease and other serious infections; and fleas can transmit plague.

Healthy Pets, Healthy People

• While you're outside enjoying the weather, remember to protect your pets too. Keeping healthy pets will help keep you and your family healthy. an emergency.

Dining Al Fresco

• Nothing says summer like the smoky flavor of foods cooked out on the grill. When grilling, use a meat thermometer to ensure that you cook meat and poultry thoroughly.

Around the Yard

• In the yard, remove any items that may collect standing water, such as buckets, old tires, and toys.

• Gardening is a great outdoor activity for people of all ages. Stay safe and healthy as you grab your tools and head outside. Wear gloves, use safety gear when handling

• Pollens and air pollutants can be triggers for allergic reactions and asthma. Some experiences include nasal and sinus allergies and hives.

• Wearing a protective nose and mouth mask, or even sunglasses or protective eyewear, while doing yard work could help to avoid the triggers that cause allergy and asthma complications.

Fun in the Sun

• Protect yourself and your family from recreational water illnesses (illnesses caused by germs or chemicals in recreational water) by doing your part to keep germs out of the pool.

• While you're outside enjoying the weather, remember to protect your pets too. Keeping healthy pets will help keep you and your family healthy.

Prevent skin cancer. Avoid being outdoors during the midday if the sun is intense, use sunscreen with at least SPF 15, cover up with clothing, wear a brimmed hat, and wear sunglasses that block UVA and UVB rays. Be aware of the signs of heat stress.

Enjoy the great outdoors. Have a safe and healthy spring and summer!

For the full article visit, <http://www.cdc.gov/features/movingoutdoors>.

Full Ads

Molly Marine: embodying Corps values

Lance Cpl. Rebecca Eller
Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, PARRIS ISLAND, S.C. - Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island is the only place in the world where females are trained to be enlisted U.S. Marines. As such, it is a fitting place to erect a monument in honor of women Marines.

The Molly Marine statue stands at the intersection of Boulevard De France and Santo Domingo Street, adjacent to the Iron Mike Statue. It is a replica of the original statue of Molly located in New Orleans.

A mold was made of the original statue in 1999, and two replicas were cast in bronze. The first replica came here and the second went to Quantico, Va., where female Marine officers are trained. A dedication ceremony for the Parris Island replica was held Oct. 23, 1999.

“A statue is much more than just bronze, it is a permanent reminder of people and events that are worth remembering. In the absence of the statue, people may forget the instance or the people,” said Dave Smoot, Parris Island Museum technician.



“The Molly Marine statue commemorates women Marines and their deeds throughout history.” In 1943, in the middle of World War II, Marine Technical Sgt. Charles Gresham, a recruiter, needed a way to promote the enlistment of females into the Marine Corps. He decided on a statue of a woman in uniform.

Gresham enlisted the help of French Quarter artist Enrique Alferez to sculpt the statue. Alferez used marble chips and granite instead of the usual bronze to cast the statue due to limitations imposed on materials because of the war. The statue would have to be restored twice during its lifetime due to the construction materials.

The original statue was dedicated Nov. 10, 1943, the year the women’s reserve was activated and also the day of the Marine Corps’ 168th birthday. “The Molly Marine statue in New Orleans was the first statue of a woman in uniform to be erected,” said Linda Priest, president of the Women Marines Association in Beaufort, S.C.

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

1/2 Ads

Yuma Art Center

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior Staff

Yuma isn't exactly touted as being a key destination for artists, but that does not mean man-made beauty cannot be found here. The Yuma Art Center is the nexus of human creativity in the city.

Galleries are frequently updated, with enough variety in mediums to keep the patrons coming back. Everything from photographic exhibits to sculptures have been displayed by the gallerists. While most of the artists are local, every now and then they feature budding artists from Los Angeles or Phoenix.

Often the center hosts question and answer sessions with the artists, providing an educational social forum as well as an artistic one.

Don't worry if passively observing art isn't your thing. Why not create your own? The center features classes on how to create your own art, with mediums ranging from charcoal to pastels and everything in between. They even have a photography darkroom and pottery studio available. In this way the center works as a destination for recreation, suitable for both individuals and families.

There is no fee, though if you're in the mood for some spending, the gift shop is right near the entrance. Some of the prices can fetch up to \$500, but there are smaller, quaint trinkets available for far more reasonable prices.

I've enjoyed myself every time I've visited the center. It's free, interesting and perhaps it can be inspirational.



Matthew Jennings



Matthew Jennings



Book Review: With the Old Breed

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

Currently on the Commandant's Reading list, *With the Old Breed*, written by Eugene B. Sledge, is an account of the day-to-day horrors endured by the infantry Marine in the island hopping campaigns of WWII.

Sledge, or Sledgehammer as his buddies called him, dropped out of his officer training program so he could get into the fight faster. He enlisted in the Marine Corps and became a mortarman with Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines.

His account of the war describes the hellish combat the men of K/3/5 faced on the islands of Peleliu and Okinawa.

With the Old Breed tells the story of the war how it really was. It spares none of the gory details of the brutality with which the war was fought. Sledge does not glamorize the war nor romanticize the actions of the men in it.

The story of Sledge and his comrades is savage, and Sledge's straightforward writing puts the reader in their shoes.

This depiction of the war is unrivaled in its realism. From graphic depictions of death on the battlefield, to the thoughts Sledge has as he kills a man for the first time, no detail is spared.

The picture that is painted is vastly different from the commonly accepted view of the war: men who fought the glorious struggle against oppression. We are shown that these men were in fact just boys, barely out of high school, clinging to each other as their only hope to make it through the hellfire of war.

Through his life experiences, Sledge shows the price of war. He reminds us what battle against a foreign nation truly costs the young men of America.

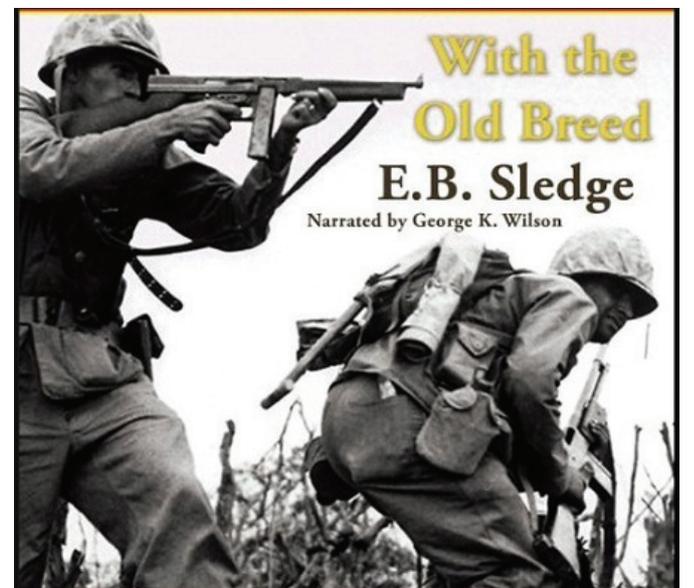
Upon his return home, he states that he and brothers returning from the war wished the American public would understand what they had been through and because of that, would appreciate the lives they lived.

While much of his account describes the pointless atrocities of war, he concludes as a Marine who is still willing to stand up for the home he believes in.

This book was a wonder to read, and I couldn't put it down. This is the best personal account of war that I have had the pleasure of reading, and I will forever feel for the Marines of WWII.

The novel was originally penned as Sledge's memoirs, a history of his experiences to be documented for his family. Sledge based the work on notes he wrote during combat and kept in his bible. Once he had completed his work, his wife convinced him to have his memoirs published as a book.

The story of Sledge served as one of the two accounts of the war that were the driving inspiration behind the HBO series *The Pacific*.



Personal financial responsibility: A myth in the Marine Corps

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior Staff

All too often I hear Marines talking about how broke they are and how they live paycheck to paycheck, like it's some kind of badge of honor. During these times I can only think of one thing; completely unacceptable.

The Corps gives you all the tools necessary to always see money in your bank account. I say this because the Marine Corps gives you everything.

From free housing, or money to pay for your housing, free food at the chow hall or a basic allowance for subsistence.

Yet there are still Marines living in fear that they won't be able to pay their bills or will only be able to eat ramen noodles and bologna. I simply don't understand it. How much money can you spend on liquor, tobacco and other recreational activities before you start to realize that you're not being responsible.

My thoughts are that there isn't enough education showing Marines that they can in fact save money and still live comfortably. Another thought that I have is that most Marines come straight from living with their parents and don't understand the

importance of saving and setting a budget.

Thankfully for Marines on station and across the Corps there are many services offered to Marines looking to make a budget and save money or get themselves on the right track after falling into debt.

For instance, the Personal Finance Management Office on station offers a variety of classes, such as, money management, budgeting/cash, use of credit, major purchase planning, investment planning, goal setting and a plethora of others. They also offer a free accredited financial counselor for any questions or assistance you might need.

With all the tools available, no Marines, no matter the rank, should have to worry about money, except what they're going to do with all they've saved just being in the Corps. If there's one thing I'd like to see changed in the Corps as we draw down and restructure is that financial education improves and sets Marines up for success when they do eventually go back into a world where the individual is responsible for everything.

For station Marines looking for financial advice or anything money related, an appointment can be scheduled with the Station Financial Management Office by calling 928-269-2425.

Wounded Warriors strive for glory at 2012 Marine Corps Trials

Lance Cpl. Daniel Wetzel
Headquarters Marine Corps

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Injured Marines, veterans and allies joined together to commence the 2012 Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Practices for the Trials kicked off Feb. 16 and competitions are being held Feb. 17-22. The top 50 performing Marines will earn the opportunity to compete in the Wounded Warrior Games in Colorado Springs, Colo., in May.

“There’s more to life than the injury, said Lance Cpl. Samantha Gaona. “A lot of people think they can’t do it anymore, the trials help us know we still have a lot in us.”

Gaona, a cancer survivor and first-time Trials participant from San Antonio, is competing in wheelchair basketball and air rifle shooting.

Gaona said her goal is to make it to the Warrior Games.

“I was told this was going to be tough,” Gaona said. “The practices are getting more difficult, but it’s not that hard.”

The Warrior Games isn’t the last stop for some Marines.

Cpl. Anthony McDaniel’s goal is to be on the All Marine Team and then the Paralympic



Photo by Sgt. Mark Fayloga

Sgt. Cogen Nelson, Wounded Warrior Battalion West, talks with Coach Sheila Taormina following practice for the 2012 Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 14. Wounded Warrior Marines, veterans and allies are competing in the second annual trials, which include swimming, wheelchair basketball, sitting volleyball, track and field, archery and shooting.

Team for wheelchair basketball.

“Just because you got injured, your life doesn’t have to stop,” McDaniel said. “You may not be able to do the exact things you used to, but you can do similar things, and have a lot of fun doing it. As long as you don’t want to stop yourself, you can do whatever you want to

do.”

McDaniel was hit by an improvised explosive device and suffered a bilateral above-knee amputation and below-elbow amputation. He plays wheelchair basketball and participates in the 100-meter and 200-meter wheelchair race.

The Trials are part of the Wounded Warrior Regiments’ Warrior Athlete Reconditioning Program, which provides opportunities for Marines to engage in both physical and cognitive activities outside the traditional therapy setting.

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



Photo by Sgt. Mark Fayloga

Cyclists race down the road during practice at the 2012 Marine Corps Trials at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 16.

1/2 Ads

