

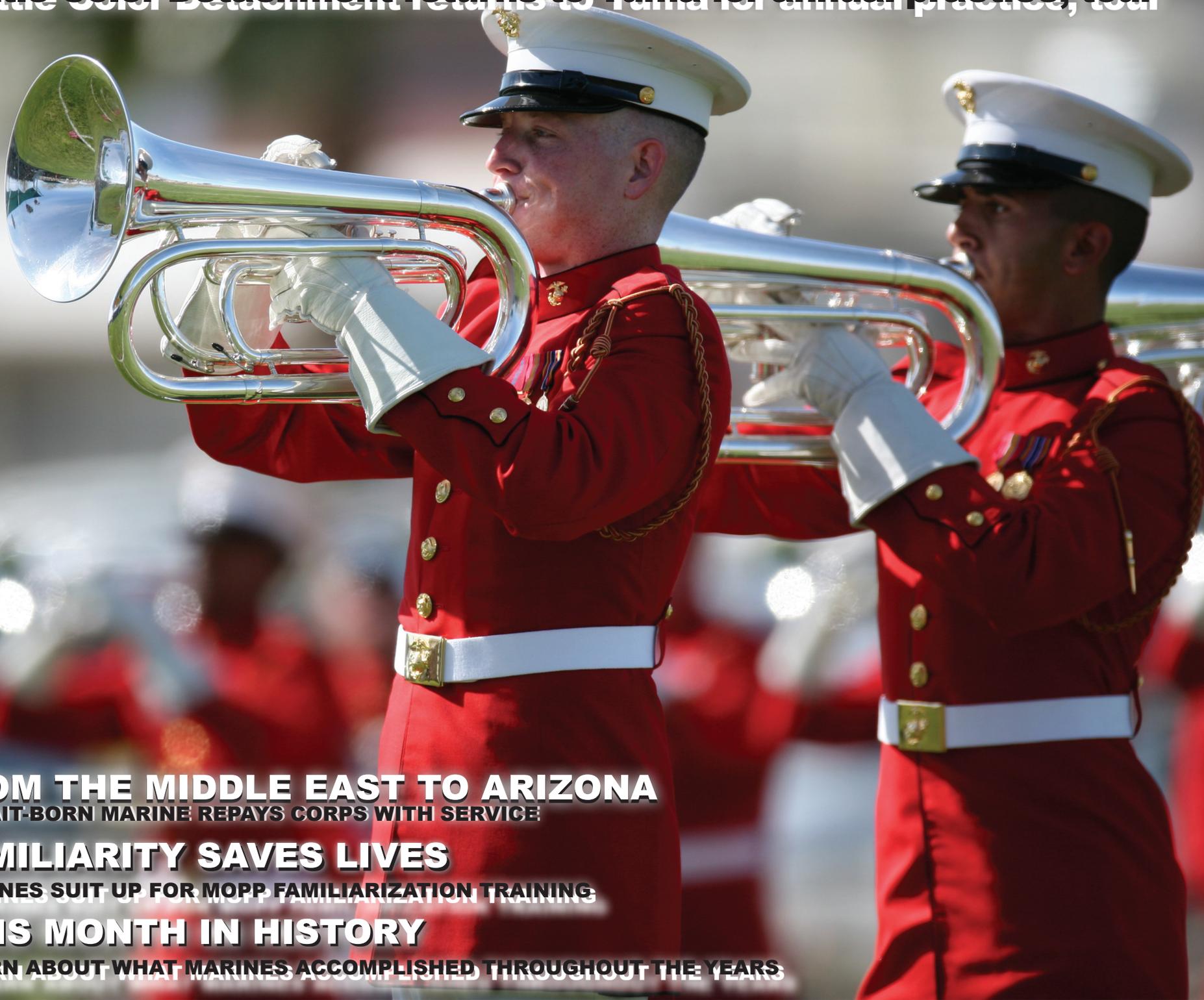
Desert **WARRIOR**



LET THE TRUMPET SOUND

February 23, 2012
Volume 11, Number 6

Battle Color Detachment returns to Yuma for annual practice, tour



FROM THE MIDDLE EAST TO ARIZONA
KUWAIT-BORN MARINE REPAYS CORPS WITH SERVICE

FAMILIARITY SAVES LIVES
MARINES SUIT UP FOR MOPP FAMILIARIZATION TRAINING

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY
LEARN ABOUT WHAT MARINES ACCOMPLISHED THROUGHOUT THE YEARS



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

PHOTO OF THE WEEK



I flippin hate yellow

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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Commanding Officer

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino
Station Sergeant Major

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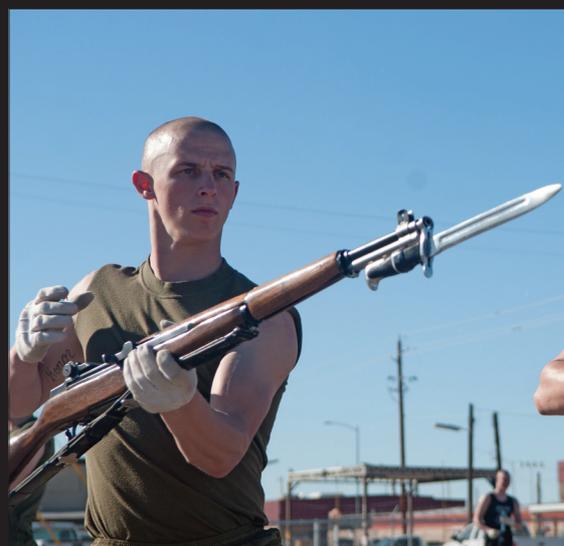
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LAST WEEK'S TOP CAPTIONS



Joe Copalman:
"Is that a dust spot above my front sight post?"

Marie Minner:
"I'm sharpening my marksmanship expertise while I distract you with my twirling."

Roy Jasso:
"No, it's one, and two, and three then cha cha cha. From the top everyone."

HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



player.theplatform.com/ps/player/pds/PVZ32iOKjb?pid=

Marine Recon train with Thai and Korean Special Forces.



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

Wounded warriors stay on track.



Front Page Photo Credit

Lance Cpl. Jeremiah Handeland



Marine Wing Support Squadron 371
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

Marine Attack Squadron 311
31st MEU



Marine Attack Squadron 214
11th MEU

News to Use

DISTANCE EDUCATION FOR CORPORALS

The College of Distance Education and Training is pleased to announce the first online Corporals Course Distance Education Program (DEP). This course is now available on MarineNet course code EPME4000AA. The Corporals Course DEP is based upon the Marine Corps University approved curriculum used in command-sponsored Corporals Courses.

THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN (TSP) WORKSHOP

Come and learn about the TSP the new ROTH TSP and a number of different things that could benefit your financial future. A representative from the federal retirement thrift investment board will be speaking. Dates run Mar. 6 and 7 from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m. at the Sonoran Pueblo.

FREE ADMISSION TO BASEBALL GAME

On Feb. 25th at 6 p.m. the Arizona Winter League (Minor League Baseball) is offering a Military Appreciation Night at the Desert Sun Stadium, Ray Kroc Baseball Complex. H&HS has free tickets for all active duty service members and their families. If interested in attending, please stop by Bldg. 722 to pick up tickets. Tickets will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis.

MCAS YUMA YOUTHS SPORTS UPDATE

Youth Sports Baseball season will be cancelled due to Myer's park field being under construction and non-availability of fields. Youth Basketball will be moved up in to its place: Registration runs Feb 22nd – March 21st, season will run April 7th – June 16. For questions, please contact William at 928-269-2324.

NCIS PRESENTS COUNTER-INTEL MOVIES

NCIS will be presenting several Insider Threat and Counterintelligence Awareness presentations and movies aboard MCAS Yuma at the Base Theater Feb. 28. NCIS will conduct the presentations in the morning from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., and repeat the presentations from 1 - 4 p.m. These NCIS briefings are open to all military, civilian and contracted personnel. NCIS will provide sign-in rosters for participants by command and/or department in the foyer of the Base Theater for annual training credit. Doors open early at 8:15 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. for sign in. Max seating for the Base Theater is 270.

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.



5 Questions

for the assistant chaplain

RP2 Tiara Spearman

Q What programs does the station chapel offer?

Currently the Station Chapel offers a number of programs designed to meet the spiritual, morale, and ethical needs of service members and their families. The Chaplains offer personal, marital, and faith-based counseling and sponsor programs such as PREP and CREDO for marriage enrichment. We also sponsor MCCS's New Parent Support Monday Play Mornings for new parents and children. As far as religious services, we offer Catholic and Protestant services, Catholic and Protestant CCD and Sunday Schools, Ladies' and Lunchtime Bible Studies on Tuesday's and Thursday's respectively, as well as our annual summer Vacation Bible School for ages 4-12 which will commence 11-15 June 2012.

Q. To whom do these programs pertain to?

While the Chapel's primary mission is to develop programs which promote spiritual fitness and development, we also provide support and services such as PREP, CREDO, and counseling for all active and retired service members, dependents, and other authorized persons.

Q. Why is it important to have these programs available?

We have a wonderful network of military member support systems here at MCAS Yuma. The Station Chapel often teams with our Unit FRO's and MCCS program coordinators to help meet the immediate needs of our service members and families to the greatest extent possible.

Q. Why are Chaplains and RP's qualified?

Chaplains are qualified to teach PREP, CREDO and do counseling because each of these programs/responsibilities fit into their area of expertise and training. The US Navy Chaplain Corps requires each chaplain to have a minimum of a Master of Divinity degree or equivalent from a recognized academic institution and three years experience in ministry within the local church or equivalent. Chaplain school is eleven weeks in length during which time chaplains receive: training in PREP, CREDO and other valuable tools found helpful in providing counseling and pastoral care to military members and families.

Q. Where can someone get more information?

The Chapel regularly posts upcoming events and services in the Desert Warriors' "News to Use" section as well as MCAS Yuma Webpage Events Calendar and Chapel Tab listed under MCAS Yuma Services. You may also find flyers posted around base common areas and an occasional advertisement posted on the MCCS Digital Marquis while driving around base. We have an open door policy here at the Station Chapel so feel free to stop by or give us a call at 269-2371 for any questions you may have.



Tailspotter



Darling

She is just over a year old and has a silky medium black and white coat of fur. Darling is lovable, playful, sassy, sweet and looking for a home. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.

Familiarity saves lives: Marines MOPPFT

Sgt. Daniel Malta
Desert Warrior

In the event of a biological attack, the mission of the Marine Corps will continue, so it is imperative that Marines can still function and carry out orders in full, mission-oriented protective posture gear.

For this to be possible, Marine Aircraft Group 13 suited up for MOPP familiarization training, which is aimed at getting Marines comfortable performing their day-to-day tasks in MOPP gear.

"If it's their job to sit down and type or answer phones, that's what they will be doing," said Sgt. Thomas R. Mango, chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense assistant platoon sergeant with MAG-13 and a native of Concord, New Hampshire. "Life isn't going to stop if there's a chemical threat."

The equipment may be cumbersome, but the Marine Corps is constantly looking to improve and has recently replaced the old M40 field protective masks for the M50 joint service general purpose mask, which has a better field of vision, a voice emitter and a number of other features that make it easier to function according to Mango.

"Using this equipment, your senses and dexterity are going to be worse, but you need to learn to work around it," said Mango.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

Cpl James Canon, fiscal clerk with Marine Aircraft Group 13 and a native of Boston, Mass., is suiting up in mission oriented protective posture gear during familiarization training. The training ensures that these Marines are familiar with the MOPP gear, and can continue their day to day operations effectively in the event of a biological attack.

This semi-annual training is important to keeping the individual Marine frosty and ready for anything.

"These things are fun and bring everybody back to that Marine Corps mode we might turn off from time to time working at a desk," said Mango. "It's cool, but it also familiarizes everybody with the equipment and could very well save lives."

The exercise lasted most of the day and brought the Marines through all four MOPP levels. While working, they would receive notifications of the current threat level and be forced to quickly change. The Marines went up and down through the MOPP levels throughout the day.

The Marines also did a MOPP gear exchange, showing them how to change out of old or contaminated gear, decontaminate themselves and change into new gear without further contamination.

"The most important thing to keep in mind during this process is contamination avoidance, ensuring each step is performed properly to minimize that threat," said Mango.

With much of the world in turmoil and the limitless capabilities of human kind, good and bad, there's no telling what can happen the day after tomorrow.

"In this day and age with WMD's, we need the confidence to continue to do our job regardless of what happens. We need to support and defend our country and continue the mission," said Sgt. Joel Flores, Marine Air Ground Task Force planner with MAG-13.



ICE.com

Use your voice and tell us how you are doing

All of our customers, Marines, Family Members, Retirees, Civilians, are encouraged to submit feedback about MCAS Yuma facilities, services and programs by visiting, https://ice.disa.mil/index.cfm?fa=site&site_id=250. You can search for a service provider by entering the name in the search box in the top right-hand corner of the page, or by clicking on a service category. If you cannot locate the service or program you are looking for, just click the "Site Suggestions, Questions, Comments" link at the bottom of the web page to submit your feedback.

When you post a comment about your experience, try to be specific and provide a few details, which will assist and provide a service provider manager with viable information they can use to take action. You can be an anonymous customer; however, if you would like a personal response back on your comment, provide your contact information and our managers will get back with you within five working days.

Use your voice and tell us how we're doing!

If you have any questions or comments about the ICE program, please call 269-6787.

Warrior Spa Night



Photo by Capt. Staci Reidinger

Marine Corps Family Team Building, normally associated with the children and spouses of Marines is now working on getting more in-touch with all Yuma Marines, not just the ones with families. They did so by holding the Warrior Spa Night on Feb 7. The spa night was for active duty Marines and offered massages, facials and other therapeutic services by Lotus Day Spa.



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Christine Summers, right, station fire department emergency service support assistant, receives a certificate of commendation from Col. Robert Kuckuk, station commanding officer, at the station fire department Feb. 16. Summers received the award for her consistent willingness to go beyond the scope of her duties in support of the fire department's mission, while still maintaining the highest level of performance in her normal duties.

KUWAIT-BORN MARINE REPAYS CORPS WITH SERVICE

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Desert Warrior

Marines bring to the Corps a multitude of anecdotes, like hunting with Dad out in the woods or the usual fodder of drill instructor scares from boot camp. But how many can attest to watching Marines parade down the streets after Kuwait's liberation in the Persian Gulf War?

Lance Cpl. Abdullatif Alghanem, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 maintenance administration clerk and a native of Kuwait City, Kuwait, can.

"During the war, I remember the parade," said Alghanem, 24. "There was a big parade after the liberation. Marines drove by with tanks, and we were waving at them."

That sealed the deal for Alghanem's career trajectory.

Born in Kuwait City in 1987, to Korean-American and Kuwaiti parents, Alghanem's defining moment came less than four years later in 1991, the end of the war.

"I've always wanted to be a Marine," he said. Alghanem's decision can be considering far more personal than many Marines' reasoning to join.

"That's why I joined the Marines, so I could give back what they gave to me," he said.

Other factors contributed to his decision to immigrate to the United States.

Alghanem encountered problems as young child due to his heritage. He recalled other people would single him out for his mixed ethnicity.

"There's a lot of racism there (in Kuwait)," he said. "I was bullied as a kid. I wanted to be stronger, or test myself."

In 2005, the time period that many consider the height of the Iraq War, Alghanem took the first step that would lead him to Marine recruit training.

He moved to Tacoma, Wash., for the purpose of attending school and because he had family there. Originally intending to become an officer, he enrolled in college. However, he walked the path of enlisted Marine once he finished school.

Being bilingual, Alghanem selected linguistics as his occupational field. Due to security issues, this never came to fruition.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Lance Cpl. Abdullatif Alghanem, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 maintenance administration clerk and a native of Kuwait City, Kuwait, was inspired to become a Marine after seeing them parade down the streets of his birthplace after the end of the Gulf War in 1991.

At that point, Alghanem had to make a tough decision.

"It was less than 30 days from the recruiter to ship out or wait two years," he said. "I wasn't going to wait two years, I wanted to do this now."

It's a mark of Alghanem's devotion to his career choice that he passed up a \$35,000 signing bonus with the Army to stand on the yellow footprints at the Marine Corps Recruiting Depot in San Diego, Calif.

It's been almost seven years since Alghanem has seen his im-

mediate family, and barely three months since he came aboard the station. Despite this, the Corps has already made an impression on Alghanem.

"I didn't see any racism," he said. "It's not like in the movies. Marines are very accepting, even though we were at war with people in that region."

It's early in Alghanem's enlistment, but he looks forward to the future and what it will bring. Until then, he runs as a hobby, another result of joining the Corps.

YUMA TEST-BED FOR NEW SECURITY ACCESS SYSTEM

Cpl. Aaron Diamant
Desert Warrior

Anyone who has accessed the flight line is familiar with the process of swiping their identification card through the reader to unlock the turnstiles.

With Yuma's dusty, desert environment, the magnetic strips on the cards often get worn out, meaning Marines and contractors who work on the flight line have to get new ID cards, go to the provost marshal's office to have the access put on their card, and get back to work. The process takes time away from the worker, and costs the Corps money to replace the cards.

However, Yuma Marines who work in the air traffic control compound and areas of the Canon

Air Defense Complex won't have to swipe and possibly damage their cards for long.

The station is serving as the test site for a newer system of security access, one which will save the ID cards from damage, and is actually more secure.

The new system requires the card to only be placed on a sensor, not swiped through a reader, and requires the additional use of a finger print to verify the card-bearers identity, said Michael Gibbs, station physical security inspector.

With the arrival of the Joint Strike Fighter this fall, the security measures already in place on the flight line will be increased. The new access system is just one of the likely myriad security improvements and enhancements planned to happen here.

Another measure will be to further restrict who can access the flight line and where they can do it.

MARADMINS

DOD observance of 2012 women's history month

MarAdmin Number: 074/12

The month of March will commemorate the beginning of a month dedicated to celebrating women's history and the contributions of women to our great nation. This year's theme is "Women's education-women's empowerment." March 8 marks the 101st anniversary of international women's day. Originating in Europe, America has turned one day of observance into an entire month celebrating the accomplishments of women. The purpose of women's history month is to increase consciousness and knowledge of women's contributions to society and our corps. During the 1970's, schools began hosting "women's week" to coincide with international women's day. The response was overwhelmingly positive and it soon gained enough momentum to obtain national recognition from Congress, which passed a resolution to annually

observe women's history month. Education is paramount because it aids in the professional development of all and it is a key component for success. By educating our Marines we empower them and arm them with advantages both on and off the battlefield. Today, over 13,000 female Marines serve on active duty and more than 5,000 female Marines serve in the Marine Corps reserve. They are deployed around the globe and continue to make history in female engagement teams in Afghanistan. Women in the corps have continued to answer the call to serve and protect our nation. As opportunities to serve have increased, each subsequent generation of female Marines has stepped up to the challenge and paved new roads for future generations. Since the first woman donned a Marine Corps uniform, female Marines have enriched our Corps' history and enhanced our combat capability.

Full Ads

First Lady, Panetta Unveil Effort to Aid Spouse Employment

Elaine Sanchez

Armed Forces Press Services

Speaking alongside Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the first lady and Biden described the magnitude of spouses' licensing challenges and the commitment this report represents in helping to quickly resolve them.

The report, produced by the Defense and Treasury departments, offers a roadmap states can use to streamline or expedite licensing procedures.

"We are all here today ... to say this to America's military families: We are incredibly grateful for your service," the first lady told a packed audience of leaders and military families in the Pentagon Auditorium. "We understand the unique challenges that you face, and we are going to do everything that we can to make sure that you can pursue your careers and provide for your families."

Throughout this decade of war, military spouses have kept moving forward despite the challenges of frequent moves and deployments -- all while juggling children and a household. But when it comes to moving forward in their own careers, "far too often, you can't just keep moving, because you've run into a brick wall," the first lady said. Much of this is due to issues with licensing and certifications, she noted.

Obama said she and Biden have heard of these issues at every stop they've made to speak with military families. "It is the No. 1 issue that military spouses tell us about," she said.

Military spouses in careers that require licenses must confront varying requirements from state to state, she explained. A lack of license portability -- the ability to transfer an existing license to a new state with minimal application requirements -- can cause spouses to bear high administrative and financial burdens as they attempt to obtain a license.

Obama noted the magnitude of this issue. More than one in



DOD photo by Glenn Fawcett

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta applauds First Lady Michelle Obama at the Pentagon, Feb. 15, 2012, as they announce a new report focusing on ways to streamline licensing regulations across state lines for military spouses seeking employment

every three military spouses in the workforce has a job that requires a professional license or certification, she said, citing the report. "This licensing issue affects more than 100,000 individuals -- 100,000 individuals. And the vast majority of you are clearly ready to work when you get to your new state."

The first lady cited teachers, the most common career among spouses, as an example. In some states, they're required to take an entry-level course in state history or another subject before the licensing board will grant them a license. Teachers with years of experience may end up having to take extra classes before they can even apply for a job, she noted.

"And that's just what happens in one profession," she said.

"When you're talking about dozens of careers, the web of requirements and standards can get pretty thick."

Army spouse Ann Wells, who sat alongside the leaders on the stage, explained the difficulties she had in maintaining her nursing career throughout her husband's 32-year Army career.

Wells said her family moved 10 times and she's long since lost track of how much time she's spent waiting for licensing paperwork to process. In one state, she said, the process was so difficult she decided to forgo her efforts during that assignment.

"We are not looking for a handout, or to change a state's standards," Wells said. "We are simply looking to be able to provide for our families and continue the career that we love."

Spouses like Wells are "why our efforts here today are so important," Biden said. "They are another way we can show our support for those who serve this country."

The first lady lauded the efforts of state officials who have stepped forward to address this issue. In Tennessee, she noted, officials are granting temporary licenses in many professions, which enable spouses to get a job as they work to complete state licensing requirements. In Colorado, the director of their state licensing agency now has the power to waive cumbersome requirements for military spouses who clearly demonstrate their competence. And in Arizona, officials passed legislation to grant licenses, in most professions, to military spouses who have at least one year of experience, she said.

These are different solutions, she noted, but all enable military spouses to get to work quicker, and all enable states to maintain their professional standards and requirements. Eight other states have followed in their footsteps to create laws of their own, and 15 others have legislation pending or waiting to be introduced.

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

Underneath the Search and Rescue story

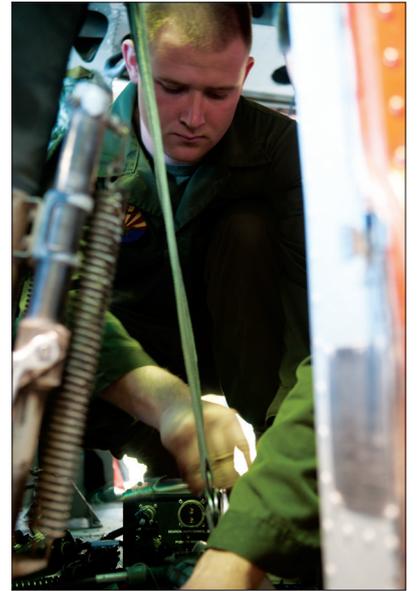
Lance Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Desert Warrior

Search and Rescue is known throughout the world for their heroic deeds and selfless acts, but not many know the story of the ones who make those missions possible.

MCAS Yuma houses approximately 20 SAR mechanics, who maintain and ensure the UH-1N Huey is at its best.

“Being a helicopter mechanic is not only fun but rewarding,” said Sgt. Sean Allen, Headquarters and Headquarters SAR UH-1N Huey mechanic. “You get a real sense of pride when you’re watching flights and you know that aircraft is flying because of your work.”

For full story, visit
yuma.usmc.mil



Photos by Lance Cpl. Laura Cardoso



Lance Cpl. Myles Davis, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Search and Rescue aircrew mechanic and 20-year-old native of Pilot Hill, Calif. works on a UH-1N Huey Feb. 13 during a routine inspection.



Lance Cpl. Shane Helton, Headquarters Squadron Search and Rescue airframes mechanic and 21-year-old native of Atlanta, performs an operations inspection Feb. 13.

Lance Cpl. Tyler Payne, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Search and Rescue flightline mechanic and 23-year-old native of St. Louis inspects a UH-1N Huey Feb. 13 during a routine inspection.

1/2 Ads

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"The Right Road Ahead"

LCDR Jim Bradshaw, Command Chaplain

"Hold fast to the Bible as the sheet anchor of your liberties; write its precepts on your heart and practice them in your lives. To the influence of this Book we are indebted for the progress made, and to this we must look as our guide in the future." --- Gen. Ulysses S. Grant

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

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

Today it seems every vehicle is equipped with GPS, either factory installed in the dash

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

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

But there is hope, there is an answer and you can have direction in your life! Interested? Great, we have a new Bible Fellowship that begins Thursday, 23 February at the chapel complex, Bldg. 1178 at 1130. Free lunch will be provided and we will find together the direction God has provided for all of us. The Bible Fellowship is open to military and civilian alike.

It's Your Country, Exercise Your Right to Vote!

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

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

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

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

If you'd like more information on the Federal Voting Assistance Program or need help with the absentee voting process please go to the www.fvap.gov web portal or contact the MCAS Yuma Installation Voting Assistance Officer at (928)269-3609.

Upcoming State and Presidential Preference primary elections:

Arizona, Michigan- Feb.

Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Mississippi, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia: March

Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Wisconsin - April

Arkansas, Idaho, Indiana, Kentucky, Nebraska, North Carolina, Oregon, West Virginia- May

1/2 Ads

Battle Color Detachment returns to Yuma



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

The United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment featuring the Silent Drill Platoon and “Commandant’s Own” Drum and Bugle Corps have returned to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and preparing for their 2012 performances.

The D&B and SDP are known for prowess in their performances. Both strive year-round to live up to their standards of excellence.

“We strive to have a flawless performance,” said Cpl. Austin Williams, a percussionist in the D&B and a native of Knoxville, Tenn. “We try to make as few mistakes as possible, but there’s always something else to learn and something to get better at.”

The D&B was officially formed in 1934 and are not to be confused with the “President’s Own” United States Marine Band. The SDP held its first performance in 1948, and was so popular it became a permanent unit in the Corps. Since their inception, these units have been central in shaping the image of the Corps.

“SDP is one of the largest recruitment tools available to the Marine Corps,” said Lance Cpl. Carlton Williams, the rifle inspector with SDP and native of Phoenix. “I hear a lot of people say they joined the Marine Corps because they saw a picture or a video of SDP.”

“Marine music is necessary for boosting moral, recruitment purposes and the pomp and circumstance the Marine Corps warrants,” added Cpl. Williams. “What would we be without art? What would we be without music to move us?”

SDP has taken part of the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Barracks parking lot as their own to use for drill practice, and the band has made the softball field near the gym home for their music.

These Marines from Marine Barracks, Washington D.C. are here to train in Yuma because of the cold and inclement weather in the capitol. MCAS Yuma provides the perfect atmosphere for training and practice day in and day out.

“This takes numerous hours of practice,” said Lance Cpl. Williams. “We formed our teams back in September and have been practicing since then. The platoon practices 10-12 hours per day.”

They then move on to perform upwards of 500 times each year. These exhibitions include stand-alone concerts, parades and funerals for service members in addition to standard performances.

These units have been iconic symbols of the Marine Corps for many years. They strive tirelessly to live up to their history, and the time they spend here in Yuma is another example of their steadfast dedication to their art and to their mission.

The performance season for both the D&B and SDP starts with a performance for active-duty and retired military and their families on March 1 at 11 a.m. In addition, there will be performances at Kofa High School and Gila Ridge High School on March 1 and 2, respectively, both at 7 p.m.

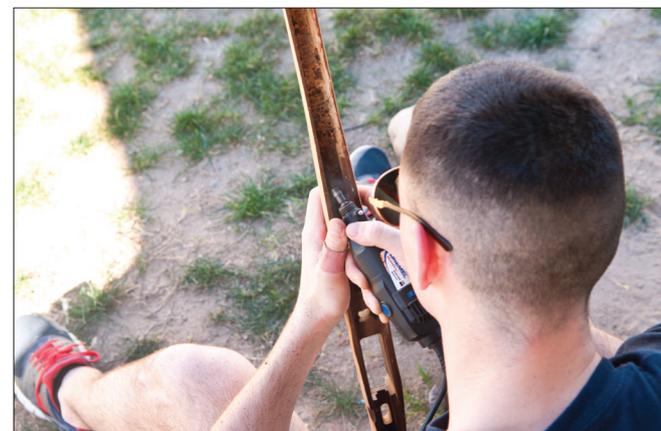


Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

The United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment’s Silent Drill Platoon is inspected while practicing one of the formations they will use in the coming year’s performances. The SDP comes to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma to practice during the winter months every year.



Lance Cpl. Jacob Mouch, rifleman with the Marine Corps Color Guard, United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, and native of Prairieville, La., prepares the stock of his rifle for future performances. The Color Guard performs with displays the national colors and the Marine Corps colors during ceremonies. Members from the Color Guard make visits to high schools to educate students about the music programs the Marine Corps offers.



Master Gunnery Sgt. Kevin Buckles, drum major of "The Commandant's Own" Marine Corps Drum and Bugle Corps, United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, and native of New Orleans, speaks to high school students at Gila Ridge High School about the D&B. Members from the D&B make visits to high schools to educate students about the music programs the Marine Corps offers.



From left to right: Pfc. Frank Gonzales, native of Fresno, Calif., Lance Cpl. Mason Cleveland, native of Thomaston, Conn., and Lance Cpl. Tyler Dutton, native of Fantana, Calif., all riflemen in the Silent Drill Platoon, United States Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment, practice the drill movements they use in their performances. The SDP is scheduled to perform three times in the Yuma area.



Full Ads

5 Financial Tips for Veterans' Bonus Recipients

Steven Grossman

Treasurer and Receiver General of Massachusetts

1. Debt Reduction:

If you are already saving, whether for retirement or another goal, keep going! You know that saving is a rewarding habit. If you're not saving, it's time to get started. Start small if you have to and try to increase the amount you save each month. The sooner you start saving, the more time your money has to grow (see the chart below). Make saving for retirement a priority. Devise a plan, stick to it, and set goals. Remember, it's never too early or too late to start saving.

2. Plan for the Long-Term:

Retirement is expensive. Experts estimate that you will need about 70 percent of your pre-retirement income – lower earners, 90 percent or more – to maintain your standard of living when you stop working. Take charge of your financial future. The key to a secure retirement is to plan ahead. Start by requesting Savings Fitness: A Guide to Your Financial Future and, for those near retirement, Taking the Mystery Out of Retirement Planning.

3. Plan for the Unknown:

How you save can be as important as how much you save. Inflation and the type of investments you make play important roles in how much you'll have saved at retirement. Know how your savings or pension plan is invested. Learn about your plan's investment options and ask questions. Put your savings in different types of investments. By diversifying this way, you are more likely to reduce risk and improve return. Your investment mix may change over time depending on a number of factors such as your age, goals, and financial circumstances. Financial security and knowledge go hand in hand.

4. Enhance Your Education:

The GI Bill waves tuition, fees, a monthly housing allowance, books and supplies for military servicemen and women at Massachusetts state colleges and universities. Be aware that if you are on active duty you will not receive books & supplies stipend and if you are enrolled exclusively in online training you will not receive the housing allowance. Books, supplies, or housing are some of the best ways to allocate your Veteran's Bonus.

5. Contact Your Local Veteran's Administration Office to learn more:

Do you receive the veteran benefits and opportunities that apply to you? Make sure you fully understand your benefits and take advantage of them. Don't be afraid to ask questions and think outside of the box when it comes to utilizing benefits - and even access the benefit estimator.

Eating Mediterranean

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Eating a Mediterranean-style diet appears to reduce damage to small blood vessels in the brain, a new study says.

Researchers tracked the brain health of almost a thousand people who completed a questionnaire that scored how closely they followed a Mediterranean-type regimen. This diet emphasizes plant-based foods like fruits, vegetables, whole grains, legumes and nuts, and using olive oil rather than fats like butter, according to the American Heart Association. The diet discourages eating red meat more than a few times a month, if at all, and advises taking in moderate amounts of fish and poultry. Red wine, in moderation, is optional.

The researchers found that about 27 percent of the participants scored relatively low (ranging from 0-3 on a 10-point scale) in terms of keeping to this type of diet, while about 26 percent scored relatively high, from 6 to 9 points.

The people enrolled in the study also underwent brain MRI scans to measure "white matter hyperintensity" volume, which is a marker of small vessel damage in the brain.

The brain scans revealed a lower burden of white matter hyperintensities in people with higher Mediterranean-diet scores, even after researchers took other risk factors like smoking, high blood pressure and blood cholesterol levels into account.

"The current study suggests a possible protective association between increased consumption of a [Mediterranean diet] and small vessel damage," wrote the researchers, who were led by Hannah Gardener, of the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine.

The new research appears in the February issue of the journal Archives of Neurology.

One expert said the study supports the notion that a healthy diet helps the brain.

"The study supports recommending the Mediterranean diet to help reduce cerebrovascular disease as measured by small vessel changes seen on brain MRI scans," said Dr. Keith Siller, an assistant professor in the departments of neurology and psychiatry and medical director of the Comprehensive Stroke Care Center at NYU Langone Medical Center, in New York City.

He also noted that "the benefits of the diet appear to be separate from previously assumed secondary effects on lowering blood pressure, cholesterol or glucose levels, although there was a possible connection with emphasis on monounsaturated fats in the Mediterranean diet in the form of olive oil versus consumption of saturated fats in other diet types."

They concluded it was likelier that the overall diet -- rather than any specific nutrients -- might somehow affect the brain.

Previous research has suggested that eating a Mediterranean diet is associated with a reduced risk of metabolic syndrome, coronary heart disease, stroke and thought and memory disorders.

LEAVING THE CORPS

Federal Employment

usa.gov

Requirements for Federal jobs

Like any other employer, the Federal Government expects its employees to be well qualified for the jobs they hold. The U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publishes qualification standards to help ensure Federal employees can successfully and safely perform the work of the position. Whatever your background has been, it is likely that you are basically qualified for many different jobs, and highly qualified for some.

A few Federal occupations require a college degree with a certain major field of study or completion of specific academic courses at the baccalaureate or graduate level. Such occupations tend to involve research; scientific or professional work (such as contract specialist; medical; engineering; biology; psychology, or accounting).

Also, there are many occupations where a baccalaureate degree in any field is acceptable. Job applicants usually enter such occupations at the entry grade levels (typically GS-05 or GS-07 grade levels (or equivalent)) and acquire on-the-job training and work experience before advancing to higher grade levels. Such occupations are sometimes advertised as "trainee", "intern", or "student program" positions.

You may qualify for a GS-9 grade (or equivalent) level position on the basis of a master's degree, and for the GS-11 grade (or equivalent) level on the basis of a doctoral degree. At these levels, however, the advanced degree must be directly related to the work of the job to be filled.

To be acceptable, all college level courses must have been completed at a college or university that has obtained accreditation or pre-accreditation status from an accrediting body recognized by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education.

Generally, for jobs at the GS-7 grade (or equivalent) level and higher, your background must have included specialized experience. That experience must be closely related to the work to be performed in the job for which you are applying. At least 1 year of the specialized experience must have been equivalent to the level of the next lower grade in the Federal service. This means, for example, to qualify for a GS-12 grade (or equivalent) level, you must have had a minimum of 1 year of specialized experience equivalent to a GS-11 grade (or equivalent) level.

Emergencies and Disasters

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Parts of the United States are at risk for certain types of natural disasters that can cause injuries and deaths. These disasters include heat waves, winter storms, tornados, hurricanes, earthquakes, volcano eruptions, floods, and wildfires. People can take steps to reduce their risk of harm.

Take action before disasters occur. Planning is important. Learn ways to cope with the emotional and physical effects of disasters before they occur. Good planning can help protect the health and safety of people with special needs. Plan for the safety of pets.

Homes can be designed and built with materials that can minimize damages from a disaster. Homes built and remodeled according to modern building codes can suffer less damage due to disasters.

Safety Tips

• Prepare a survival kit with an adequate supply of water and necessary prescription drugs, as well as:

- Water—one gallon per person, per day (3day supply for evacuation, 2week supply for home)
- Food—nonperishable, easytoprepare items (3day supply for evacuation, 2week supply for home)
- Flashlight
- Batterypowered or handcrank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Extra batteries
- Knife
- Compass
- First aid kit
- Lighter and/or matches
- Warm blanket
- Cooler

• Create a family disaster plan, including a communication plan, disaster supplies kit, and an evacuation plan.

• Make plans to ensure the safety of your pets before, during, and after an emergency.

Full Ads

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY

6 February 1968 — Two reduced Marine battalions, the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines with two companies, and 2d Battalion, 5th Marines with three, recaptured Hue's hospital, jail, and provincial headquarters. It would take three more weeks of intense house to house fighting, and nearly a thousand Marines killed and wounded, before the imperial city was secured.

BGen John H. Russell was appointed U.S. High Commissioner and personal representative of the President to the government of Haiti. This nine-year assignment placed this future Commandant in supreme command of both the occupying American force and the Haitian Gendarmerie. — **11 February 1922**

15 February 1998 — One hundred years ago this date, 28 Marines and 232 seamen lost their lives when the battleship Maine was mysteriously sunk by an explosion in the harbor of Havana, Cuba.

Four days after the initial landings on Iwo Jima, 1stLt Harold G. Schrier led 40 men from Company E, 2d Battalion, 28th Marines, up Mt. Suribachi to secure the crest and raise the small American flag that battalion commander LtCol Chandler Johnson had given Schrier.

— **23 February 1945**

24 February 1991 — The I Marine Expeditionary Force and coalition forces began a ground assault on Iraqi defenses in the final chapter of Operation Desert Storm. The 1st and 2d Marine Divisions stormed into the teeth of Iraqi defenses while heavily armored allied forces attacked the Iraqi defenses in Iraq from behind. In 100 hours, U.S. and allied forces defeated the Iraqi Army.

Operation Desert Storm ended when the cease-fire declared by President George Bush went into effect. I Marine Expeditionary Force has a strength of more than 92,000 making Operation Desert Storm the largest Marine Corps operation in history.

— **28 February 1991**

1/2 Ads

Museum of the History in Granite

Cpl. Jakob Schulz
Desert Warrior Staff

Located approximately 13 miles from Yuma in Felicity, Calif., the Museum of History in Granite offers a different and exciting way for Marines and their families in Yuma to spend time not so far from home.

For as long as I've been here my curiosity about the museum has only grown. Ever since my first trip to San Diego and seeing the staircase to nowhere, the strangely placed pyramid and a random church on a hill, I've wanted to visit and see what the mystery was all about.

Nestled off the beaten path of I-8, Felicity stands as an enigma to Marines and most of the denizens of Yuma. When I asked anyone about it they would simply acknowledge that it was there and that they've never visited. So, building my courage and having some free time during the weekend I ventured out to satiate my curiosity.

Paying just \$3 to go into the open area with over 100 feet of granite featuring etchings of a number of different topics, from the history of the French Foreign Legion to the history of mankind; the pillars were masterfully done.

In addition, for just \$2 dollars more, you can stand inside a pyramid that is the official center of the world. The money also buys you a nice certificate that proves you visited the center of the world.

In all, the museum and all its exhibits were a welcome distraction to a day that would have otherwise been spent in my barracks room playing videogames. Furthermore, I would recommend anyone visit the museum and enjoy a different but rewarding piece of culture in easy driving distance.



Cpl. Jakob Schulz

Act of Valor: Review

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

Act of Valor, directed by Scott Waugh and Mike McCoy, tells the story of SEAL Team 7's mission to stop a terrorist's plan to bring disaster on America. The storyline behind the terrorist plot lacks in originality, but the true strength of the picture lies not in this plot but in the authenticity of its action and characters.

The premise of a movie starring active-duty U.S. Navy SEALs as themselves is an original and ingenious idea. It's so simply brilliant it's a wonder it wasn't done sooner.

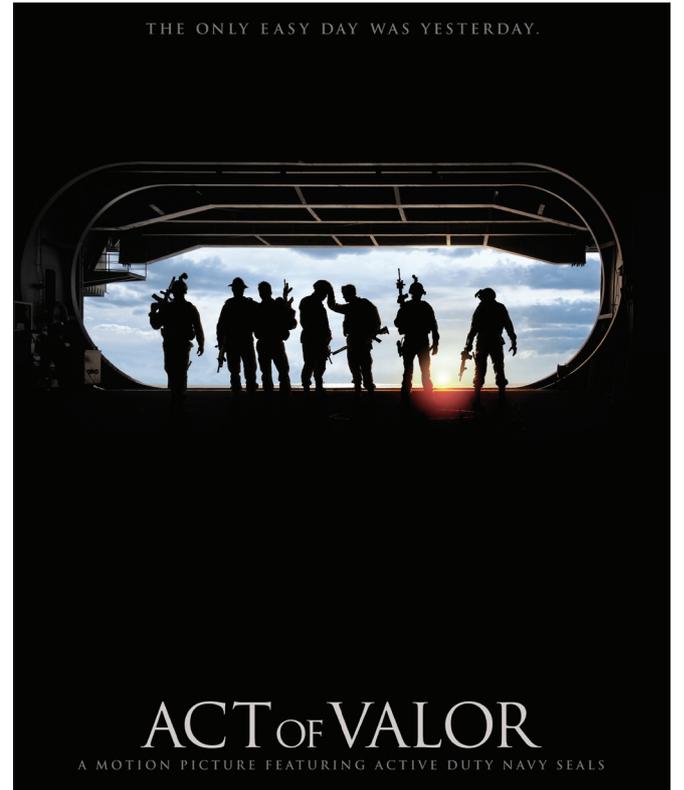
The real beauty of this film is how it realistically portrays the lives and trials of Navy SEALs. Often, when Hollywood tries for realism, they completely miss the mark. This is not the case here. The movements of the SEALs are fluid, practiced and there's a real sense that they know what they are doing.

Many of the holes that exist in other military movies, such as no reloading, M-4s firing on full auto and men taking 10 bullets and still moving, are absent in Act of Valor. The attention to detail is superb. The SEALs and the directors crossed every T and dotted every I. This focus on realism, in addition to the stark violence and first person camera angles, gives a sense of being on the ground with the team during a special ops mission.

However, with reality comes blood, gore and violence. There is no shying away from the hell of combat. This movie deserves its R rating, but it could not be made any other way.

While putting the viewer in the fight and depicting combat as close as can be managed are both strong achievements this film has to its credit, that would amount to nothing without the interactions and personalities of the SEALs themselves. This movie is the life of the Navy SEAL rather than the story of a terrorist plot.

Naturally, the sailors are not as experienced as Hollywood stars, but this is made up for by the SEALs acting with their own personalities. This helps to bring the characters closer to the audience as people. The interactions between the SEALs are captivating and vividly portray the brotherhood and camaraderie that exists between them. These men deeply care for one another and will do anything to make sure their brothers come home.



Greek Tyrant.com

The deployed service member's story is also told through the interactions of the SEALs and their families, who are also playing themselves. The longing and love the sailors have for their families back home shows distinctly, and their heartfelt interactions with their loved ones helps establish a strong connection with the characters. The depiction of the families left back home tells the side of the story often left out in special-ops centric movies.

I expected much from this movie walking into the theater, and it did not disappoint in any capacity. I recommend everyone, military service member or not, see Act of Valor. This film is a sincere and wonderful experience and should not be missed.

Are we all just animals?

Sgt. Daniel Malta
Desert Warrior Staff

Time and time again I've heard the, "we're all just animals," argument while people try to defend some idiotic or immoral action they find themselves participating in.

The saddest and lowest use of this argument is usually to justify urinating in a bush instead of using the restroom not 15 steps away. So in this instance, the "we're all just animals," argument is simply to justify laziness.

The use of this argument in defense of promiscuity is one of the most common. Even mainstream songwriters have interlaced this thought process into their music, such as the ever popular "Closer" by Nine Inch Nails.

First off, in the animal kingdom you can find monogamy, polygamy, promiscuity and even seasonality. To base ones beliefs and practices on the animal kingdom isn't a reasonable stance because there isn't one overarching sexual behavior that is common among all animals.

Every part of our human life is exponentially more complex than animals, and to even refer to one's self as being an animal is ridiculous. I have opposable thumbs, know right from wrong

and have a complex language that allows me to properly communicate emotions and experiences those same animals can't comprehend.

People need to start taking responsibility for the choices they make. Regardless of the religion or morals that govern their life, there are standards that exist in our society we must follow. We have to wear clothes in public, we can't attack someone for making eye contact and howling at the moon past midnight in a residential area can land you a visit from the police.

Newton's law of motion can also be said for our actions in a developed society. "For every action there is an equal or opposite reaction."

If people act on pure instinct, not exercising thought in the process, the consequence will almost always be negative. Attacking someone in some testosterone-fueled rage or urinating on the sidewalk will obviously land you in jail. As for letting sexual desires go unchecked, there can be medical complications, pregnancy and emotional fallout one might not even be aware of.

So keeping in mind we have nothing more than a few common physical characteristics with apes, we are in fact far from animals and should act like the intelligent human beings that God has made us.

Marines oust Army, take gold in 2012 Armed Forces Boxing Championship

MC2 Elliott Fabrizio

Headquarters Marine Corps

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Marine Corps team won the 2012 Armed Forces Boxing Championship Feb. 3, ending the Army's 20-year winning streak.

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. hosted the Armed Forces Sports event this year.

In the final bout of the night, Marine Sgt. DeJesus Gardner taking gold against Army Sgt. Marvin Carey became the crux between Marine Corps victory and a tie with Army.

Gardner's left eye swelled closed early in the fight, but the audience went wild when the ring-side doctor allowed the fight to continue.

The crowd's fervor escalated into a frenzy in the third round as Gardner and Carey smashed blows into each other, trading the point lead back and forth, but in the final 20 seconds of the fight, Gardner edged his way to a 14-13 win.

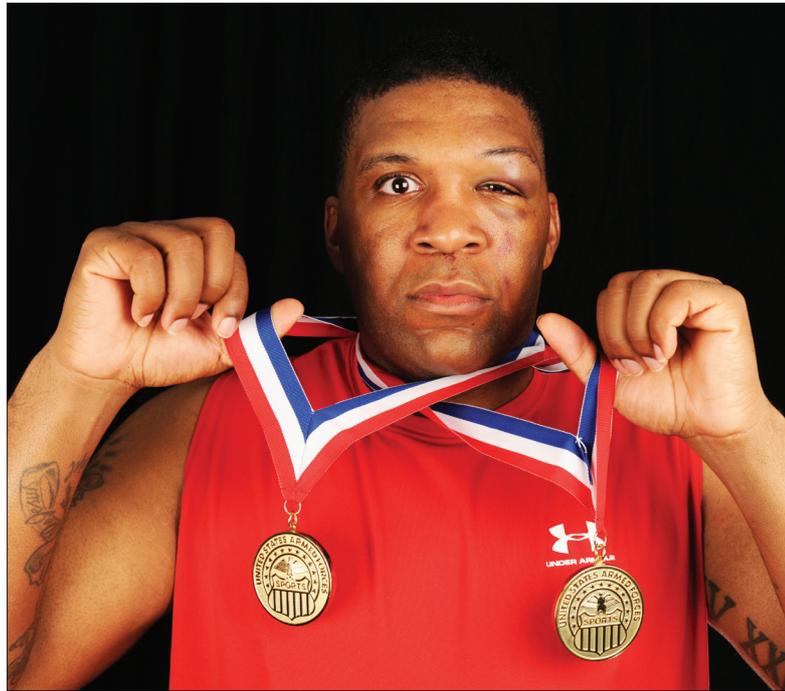
"I told my daughter that daddy would bring her a gold medal, and daddy don't break no promises," said Gardner.

Gardner won gold in the 201lb. plus weight class and secured the Marine's gold for the team award, but each Marine Corps victory was essential.

In a rematching from 2011's Championships, Marine Cpl. Tommy Roque redeemed himself against Army Sgt. Toribio Ramirez, pummeling his way to a win 35-19.

Roque represents the Marine Corps boxing team in the 132lb. weight class.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan Steele won by referee



Courtesy photo

Marine Sgt. DeJesus Gardner hold up his gold medal for the 201lb. weight class and the team award for the 2012 Armed Forces Boxing Championship at Camp Pendleton, Calif, Feb. 3. Gardner's eye swelled closed early in his fight, but he pushed through to win his fight, securing the Marine Corps first gold medal in the team award in more than 20 years.

stopped contest a minute into the second round, battering Navy Aviation Machinist's Mate Second Class Carlos Moore who lost his footing and rolled his ankle early in the fight.

Steele fights in the 152lb. weight class.

National Champion and 2011 Armed Forces Boxing Gold Medalist Marine Sgt. Jamel Herring defended his title against Senior Airman Adam Hassan, breezily banging his way to a 19-5 victory in the 141lb. weight class.

"The team medal means more to me than any individual medal," said Herring. "I'm just happy to be a part of the team that made history tonight."

Two marine boxers took silver medals.

Lance Cpl. Felix Magallanez lost by retirement when his coach ended the fight in the second round after he took a devastating body blow from Army Pvt. Marquis Moore and couldn't recover.

Magallanez fights for the Marine Corps in the 165lb. weight class, dropping down from last year's 178lb.

In this year's 178lb. weight class, Lance Cpl. James Morrow got crushed with punishing barrages from Army Spc. Steven Nelson, losing out 20-2.

Gold medalists in the Armed Forces Championship now prepare to fight in the USA Boxing Nationals, a critical qualifier for 2012 Olympic hopefuls and qualify to compete in the Conseil International du Sport Militaire's (CISM) World Military Games.

The Pentagon Channel captured the action from the Marines' historic victory, and the series will begin airing March 9., available on demand at www.pentagonchannel.mil/boxing.

1/2 Ads