

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

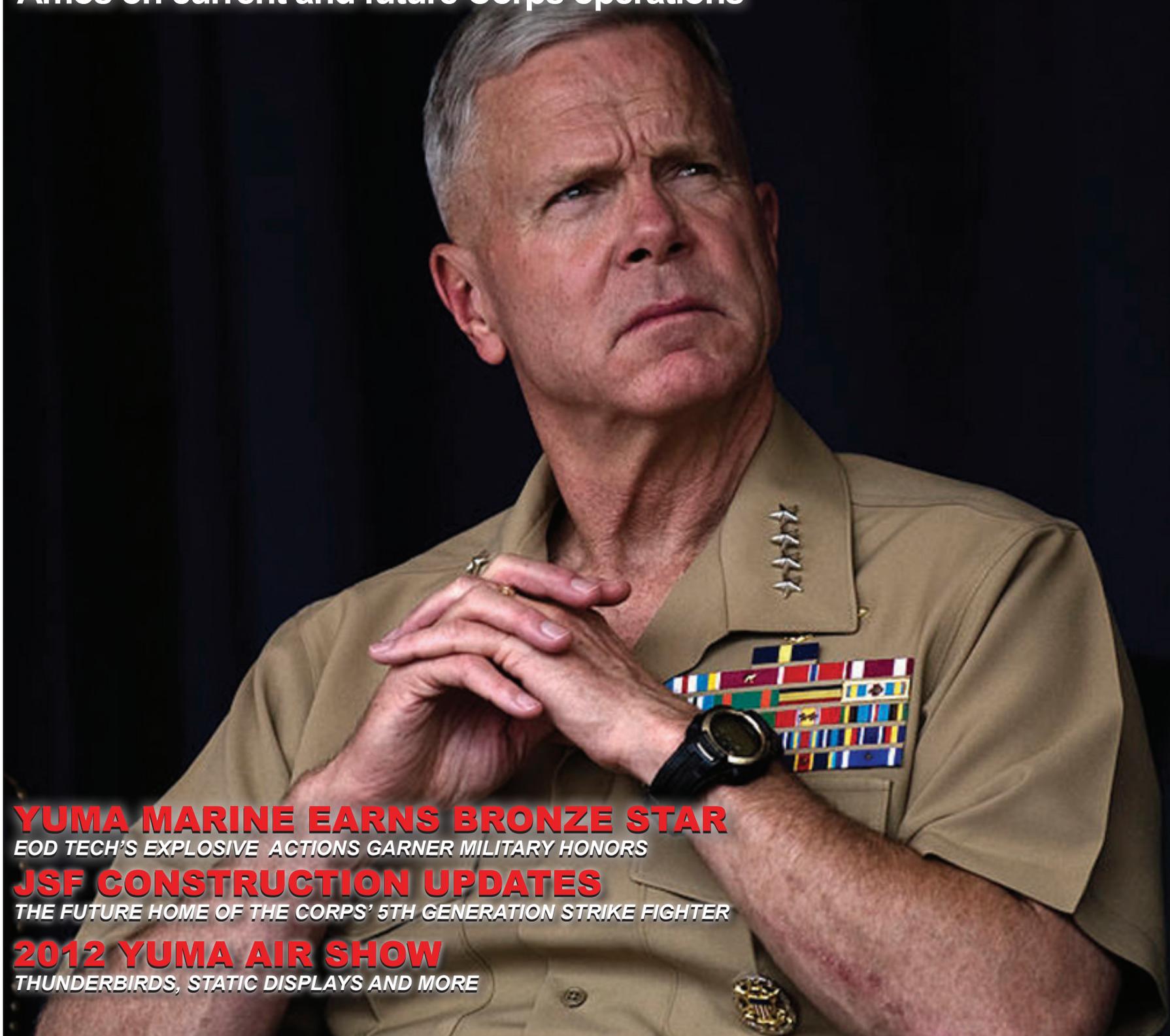
# Desert **WARRIOR**



## **Q&A WITH THE COMMANDANT**

Amos on current and future Corps operations

February 9, 2012  
Volume 11, Number 4



### **YUMA MARINE EARNS BRONZE STAR**

*EOD TECH'S EXPLOSIVE ACTIONS GARNER MILITARY HONORS*

### **JSF CONSTRUCTION UPDATES**

*THE FUTURE HOME OF THE CORPS' 5TH GENERATION STRIKE FIGHTER*

### **2012 YUMA AIR SHOW**

*THUNDERBIRDS, STATIC DISPLAYS AND MORE*



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# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



## Taking a bite out of lemon-flavored crime!

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



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWLpMT14hyA&list=UUB](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PWLpMT14hyA&list=UUB)

2011 MCAS Yuma Air show is a hit.



[http://www.marines.mil/news/pages/marinestv.aspx?pid=w11NaQC9MzbLx1vivSJCUC\\_bIV0hrLfe](http://www.marines.mil/news/pages/marinestv.aspx?pid=w11NaQC9MzbLx1vivSJCUC_bIV0hrLfe)

Marines build bridge in Afghanistan to help keep them mobile.

## HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



Front Page Photo Credit

US Navy MC1  
Kevin O'Brien

## Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

**Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino**  
Station Sergeant Major

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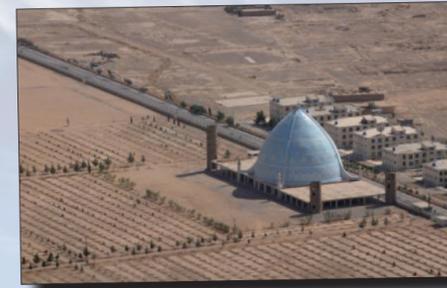
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**Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13**  
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

**Marine Attack Squadron 311**  
31st MEU



**Marine Attack Squadron 214**  
11th MEU

## News to Use

### STATION EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE

MCAS Yuma will conduct an emergency response exercise on Tues, Feb. 14 to test the capabilities of station and partner agencies and strengthen their ability to provide prompt assistance during a natural disaster situation. Please be aware that law enforcement and medical response personnel, along with volunteers and role players will be participating the exercise throughout the day. The exercise is scheduled to take place from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. For more questions about the upcoming exercise, please contact the Station PAO at 928-269-2275.

### MCAS YUMA EXERCISE COORDINATOR SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Open to military dependents, MCAS Yuma is seeking volunteers to support an upcoming emergency response exercise - Desert Impact 2012 scheduled for Feb. 14. The scenario for the exercise includes a natural disaster that negatively impacts on-station family housing and several work buildings, causing mass casualties. Volunteers will be assigned roles, would be asked to support the event all day long and would be provided food and beverages. Contact Bill Tait, Exercise Design Lead, at (928)269-6754 if you are interested in volunteering your time.

### YUMA COUNTY TO CELEBRATE 100 YEARS OF ARIZONA'S STATEHOOD

On Frid, Feb. 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Yuma Heritage Park between the Yuma Library and Yuma Catholic H.S., MCAS Yuma's Commanding Officer will join Yuma County officials and other partner organizations in celebrating the centennial of Arizona's Statehood. MCAS Yuma has accepted the opportunity to fill a time capsule with memorabilia representing the air station and the Marine Corps. This capsule will be buried during the event. A list of items placed in the capsule is available through the MCAS Yuma PAO. Please contact Kevin Tunell at 938-580-3042 for more details.

### FINANCIAL FITNESS FOR LIFE

The Financial education office is offering basic budgeting, TSP and car buying classes as well as a free credit score Feb. 14, from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Margy Pracchia at 928-269-2425.

### MCAS YUMA YOUTH SPORTS UPDATE

Youth Sports Baseball season will be cancelled dates of: 20 Feb - 2 June 2012 due to Myer's park field under construction and non-availability of fields. Youth Basketball will be moved up in to its place: Registration

starting Feb 22nd to Mar. 21st, season will start April 7th - June 16th. Any questions, please contact William at 928-269-2324.

### STATION GYM CLOSURE AND HOT WATER OUTAGE

The MCAS Yuma Fitness Center (Gym) will be closed on Sat., Feb. 18 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. to install new equipment and arrange the floor plan. Additionally, the Gym currently does not have any hot water but repairs are underway to repair the system as quickly as possible.

### 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](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil).



**Corky**

Corky is about 1 1/2 - 2 years old, she is a Chihuahua mix and weighs just a bit over 13 pounds. Corky is quiet, lovable and loves other small dog's. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.

## 5 Questions

for the Station Emergency Manager

Mr. William Tait



**Q. What is the purpose of Exercise Desert Impact?**

**A. This exercise is intended to test the stations command and control capability during a large scale incident that impacts station infrastructure, station Marines and family members.**

**Q. What factors will be present during the exercise?**

**A. The exercise will impose a scenario of mass casualties and significant loss of infrastructure on the station command and response staff due to a microburst (destructive winds).**

**Q. Which civilian sectors will be involved, and why?**

**A. External partners involved in the exercise will include: Marine Corps Installations West, MCAS Miramar, Yuma Regional Medical Center, Yuma County Public Health, Yuma County Emergency Management, Rural Metro Fire, Yuma Fire Department, Yuma Police Department, Border Patrol, Arizona Department of Public Safety, Red Cross, Salvation Army and the Yuma Auxiliary Communications Services.**

**Q. How is this expected to bolster the station's preparedness in case of disaster?**

**A. The exercise will tighten the stations command and control processes and will reinforce the importance of family preparedness.**

**Q. Why is the focus of this year's DI weather-related?**

**A. Weather was selected to provide a somewhat single, one time threat entity. With this threat there is little intelligence preparation and the threat passes shortly after impact. This event allows our command staff to work on immediate family assistance, casualty identification, casualty notification, long term family assistance and infrastructure recovery outside of a terrorism or CBRNE threat environment.**

# From Honduras to the USA: Marine becomes American

Story by Sgt. Daniel Malta  
Desert Warrior

Within the Marine Corps there are a few Marines that have been afforded the opportunity to serve our great nation without actually being citizens.

For Lance Cpl. Jose Avila, air conditioning mechanic with Marine Air Control Squadron-1 and native of Chaluteca, Honduras, becoming an American citizen was the next step towards his future after joining the Marine Corps.

In Honduras, Avila lived a very humble life, which forced him to mature quite quickly. According to Avila he was never much of a troublemaker and spent most of his time focusing on either school or watching after his three younger brothers.

"I wasn't the smartest kid ever, but I was always trying my best in school," he said.

Avila came from a very strong, close Hispanic family and attributes any successes he's had to their unyielding support.

In 1993 his mother departed Honduras to make a better life in America. In her absence, Avila and his brothers were watched after by their grandfather. One year later, tragically, their grandfather passed away.

"After he died it was just me taking care of my brothers. My mom was supporting us financially from the states but it was difficult. It really forced me to mature and become the man I am today," said Avila.

In 2005 his brothers moved to America to live with their mother. Due to Avila's age, the immigration process was a little more complicated and didn't allow him to leave with his brothers.

After finishing his Bachelor's degree in business and administration in 2007, he finally received a call from the embassy stating that his paper work finally went through.

"It was really hard at first, mainly because of my poor English, but I wanted to get past that and do something important with my life," Avila said.

Once settled in Stanton Island, NY with his family, Avila decided to take the next step and join the Marine Corps. "The military always looked cool to me," he said. "I was 28 at the time and still young enough to enlist, so after everything got cleared I joined."

At this time, Avila's English was still poor, but he shipped off to recruit training anyway after being reassured that it wasn't a problem.

"Oh my gosh, the drill instructors would scream at me and I would be completely clueless to what they were talking about," said Avila. "Luckily one of them pulled me aside and told me to just 'see and do'."

Avila made it through recruit training with those words. "Let's just say if the recruit in front of me messed up, I soon followed his example," he said.

Even though he had a degree, his military occupation choices were limited because he was not an American citizen. Avila wanted to be an engineer, though settling for his occupation didn't bring his spirits down.

He had made it through recruit training and completed MOS school all without actually being an American.

"I wasn't worried about getting my citizenship until I found out I couldn't be deployed," he said.

Soon after learning this truth, Avila requested help from one of his Staff Non-Commissioned Officers for help in becoming an American citizen. Then three months ago he re-



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

ceived a call from an immigration officer informing him that he was accepted for citizenship.

"Next thing you know I did an interview, a few tests and then before I knew it I'm at the House of Representatives at the state capitol," said Avila.

The naturalization ceremony held was not what you'd typically find according to Avila and was attended by a number of VIPs, press and important political figures.

"It was really nice," said Avila. "They all shook our hands, telling us we're doing good things and that made me feel really good."

Now that Avila is an American citizen, he plans on seeing what else the Marine Corps has to offer and one day hopefully putting his degree to use as either an officer or as a civilian.



Photo by Cpl. Jakob Schulz

The ongoing construction of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter hangars, designed to accommodate more than 300 Marines on the air station, as seen from the base's highest elevated point, Feb. 7.

## JSF construction progresses, to feature updated design

Story by Cpl. Jakob Schulz  
Desert Warrior

Work on the new F-35B Joint Strike Fighter hangars is progressing; these hangars are slated to feature many improvements over the AV-8B Harrier hangars currently in use on station.

The hangars are designed to facilitate 16 aircraft and 320 Marines.

The new hangars will have upgraded electrical and cooling systems required for the JSF. These systems are embedded in the parking shelters and hangar bays for each aircraft, so maintenance can be

conducted more efficiently. Additionally, the environmental control systems are more efficient than in the old hangars.

Furthermore, maintenance work centers and operating, briefing and debriefing spaces for flight operations, are scheduled to be wired for electronic media.

With the JSF, there will also be increased security and clearances measures.

"The F-35 aircraft requires a higher security system than the legacy aircraft on the flight line and thus the hangars are outfitted with Special Access Program Facilities imbedded in the hangar," said Lt.

Col. Dwight De Jong, SATAF Director. "A higher percentage of Marines working on the aircraft will require security clearances which are required for the F-35."

The station also needed to undergo construction in order to accommodate the new hangars.

"Improvements to the station's infrastructure were required due to the age and demands on our current systems and the future increase of Marines and civilians the base will eventually see to accommodate the F-35," said De Jong. "Additionally, improvements to the base communi-

cations systems were needed to bring us up to 21st century standards, so both utilities and communications improvements are being completed simultaneously."

These projects, in addition to future projects are paving the way for the Corps and the station.

"After all the construction is finished, MCAS Yuma is going to be the optimal air station in regards to facilities and access to ranges for the fifth-generation aircraft the Corps has purchased," said De Jong.

The first JSF squadron is slated to be stood up later this year.

# EOD Marine awarded bronze star

Cpl. Jakob Schulz  
Desert Warrior

A Yuma Marine was awarded the Bronze Star with a Combat 'V' on the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Feb. 3.

Just by looking at Staff Sgt. Cassell Wiggins, a station Explosive Ordnance Disposal technician, you would never know what he's been through. The same could be said for many Marines in the Corps. However, earning a Bronze Star stands out among even the most hardened of combat veterans.



Photo by Cpl. Jakob Schulz

Staff Sgt. Cassell Wiggins, right, station Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician, receives the Bronze Star with a Combat 'V' from Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force deputy commanding general, during an awards ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Feb. 3.

During Wiggins' deployment to Sangin Providence, Afghanistan, from October, 2010, to February, 2011, he went on 85 combat missions as an ordnance disposal team leader with Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regimental Combat Team 8, 1st Marine Division.

It was during these missions that Wiggins faced some of his toughest choices and situations.

"I did what was expected of me as a Marine," said Wiggins, a San Francisco native. "I did what I thought was right at the time."

Twice, while attempting to disable improvised explosive devices, Wiggins' team leader was harmed. Both these times Wiggins rendered life-saving first aid, swept the area and cleared a safe path for the transportation of the wounded to medical evacuation sites. He then assisted in loading the casualties on the medical evacuation helicopter.

During another patrol, he again showed great valor.

"When it happened I was in the second vehicle in our convoy when the lead vehicle got hit," said Wiggins. "We thought it was an (improvised explosive device,) so I got out. The dust was just settling around the truck, so we moved up, and I saw the (rocket propelled grenade) sticking out of the truck. The next thing I know machine guns are going and another RPG goes over our head."

During the ambush, Wiggins exposed himself to enemy fire to clear a path to attend to the wounded Marines so they could be evacuated.

For these courageous acts, he was nominated for the Bronze Star.

"I really didn't think I was going to get it," said Wiggins. "I didn't understand why. I didn't feel I did anything noteworthy. I tried to think back to what I did. Everyone was doing things that were noteworthy day to day."

Helping Wiggins keep track and make sure everything went smoothly with the award were his superiors, Master Sgt. Thomas Manor, EOD staff non-commissioned officer in charge, and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Simon Wade, EOD officer.

"They really helped me with the whole process," said Wiggins.

Maj. Gen. Melvin Spiese, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force deputy commanding general, presented Wiggins with the award, the fourth-highest combat award for bravery, heroism or meritorious service in the U.S. Armed Forces.

"It's a real privilege for me to have this honor of presenting this award and recognizing Staff Sgt. Wiggins' extraordinary performance of duty," said Spiese. "His actions saved lives. You can't make a finer statement for a Marine. EOD Marines are pretty unique creatures. They are willing to expose themselves to save their fellow Marines."

However, Wiggins wasn't always an EOD technician. He began his career in the Corps as a Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical specialist and decided to volunteer for EOD during his first reenlistment.

Wiggins' wife, Gladys Wiggins, and their three children, C.J., 8, Koa, 5, and Nohea, 3, witnessed the ceremony, along with his mother, Zoe Henderson of San Francisco, sister Daria Lewis of Long Beach, Calif., and two longtime friends, Chance Gilford and Darryl Smith, both of San Francisco.

"It's a commitment I made to myself. It might not be the right choice as a father, but it was the right choice as a Marine," said Wiggins. "I really enjoy being in EOD, it's a challenging (military occupational specialty) it always requires you to think outside the box in order to be successful and constantly remain aware of everything that's changing. It's always challenging and there's always something to learn."

## Station readies for 50th annual air show

Sgt. Daniel Malta  
Desert Warrior

This year will be the 50th Annual Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Air show and Open House, celebrating the centennial of Marine Corps aviation with more action, excitement and entertainment than ever before according to Greg McShane, airfield operation officer.

Keeping focused on the heritage and tradition of Marine Corps aviation, the air show will have a number of different historical performances. Tora Tora Tora, which usually does Pearl Harbor reenactments, designed a Marine Corps-centric performance of the battle of Wake Island, highlighting Marine Attack Squadron 211. John Collver's performance uses his WWII-era AT-6/SNJ aircraft to showcase aerial maneuvers taught to pilots more than 60 years ago. There will also be a commemorative Air Force performance with the F-4, F-6, F-7 and F-8.

After seeing the aircraft of the past, the demonstrations of the modern aircraft will begin soaring through the sky, demonstrating their capabilities. Notably, the United States Air Force Thunderbirds will be performing.

"We are very excited the Thunderbirds are coming back for the first time since 1997," said McShane. "Air show industry wide jet

teams are always the biggest attractions."

Currently, there are only three sanctioned jet teams, according to McShane; The Thunderbirds, Blue Angels and the Canadian Snowbirds.

"Because of that alone, we are expecting the largest turnout ever," said McShane.

During the second half of the day, there will be the first ever MV-22 Osprey single aircraft demo, a first for air shows.

If at any point during the event patrons want to sit down and observe the show up close, there will be preferred seating bleachers that will offer a spectacular view.

Besides the ariel performances, the flight line will have various static displays from Marine Corps and Army tactical equipment and weapons to civilian and military aircraft. Every branch of service will be represented, and showing off.

"The Air Force will even have UFC fighter Brian Stann signing autographs," said McShane.

The flightline will be filled with an assortment of different vendors offering all kinds of different foods and more.

With everything the MCAS Yuma air



Photo by Pfc. Sean Dennison

An air show spectator waves at a passing B-17 Flying Fortress flying over on the flight line of the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Ariz., during the 49th Yuma Air Show, March 26, 2011. The event attracted more than 45,000 visitors and showcased more than 30 aircraft with static displays from both military units and civilians.

show offers and the expected turnout, parking will still not be a problem.

All parking will be expanded. VIP and handicap will enter through the North Gate and everyone else can park off of County 14, 13 and at the Yuma County Fair Grounds,

where continuous shuttles will be taking people to and from, according to McShane.

The air show is open to the public and gates open at 8 a.m. March 17.

## Obama Announces Program to Hire Vets as First Responders

**Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone Marshall, Jr.**  
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va., Feb. 3, 2012 – President Barack Obama today continued his commitment to improving employment among veterans by introducing an initiative to hire them as the country's first responders.

"In my State of the Union address, I proposed a new initiative called the Veterans Jobs Corps to put veterans back to work protecting and rebuilding America," he said. "And today, we're laying out the details of this proposal."

Speaking to veterans, firefighters, police officers and national park employees, Obama shared the venue's significance before his remarks.

"This is a fire station that holds some special significance for our country," he explained. "On September 11th, the firefighters of this house were among the first to respond to the attack on the Pentagon.

"You guys answered this nation's call during its hour of need," Obama added. "And in the years that followed, as Americans went to war, some of you answered that call, as well."

The president encouraged the hiring of veterans to replenish the ranks of the nation's first responders.

"First, we want to help communities hire more veterans as cops and firefighters," he said. "Over the past few years, tight budgets have forced a lot of states, a lot of local communities, to lay off a lot of first responders."

The country already has made progress in veterans' employment, Obama said.

"Already, we've helped 600,000 veterans and their family members go back to school on the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill," he said. "We've hired over 120,000 veterans to serve in the federal government [and] we've made it easier for veterans to access all sorts of employment services."

When he first became president, Obama said, one of his first actions was to ensure state and local governments received assistance through the Recovery Act to avoid laying off first responders.

"Thousands of firefighter jobs were saved because of the actions we took," he noted. "But budgets are still tight, and that's a problem we need to fix. Jobs that protect our families and our communities shouldn't be the first

on the chopping block. They should be one of our highest priorities as a nation."

Obama emphasized he wants to restore local communities and national parks, noting Interior Secretary Ken Salazar's presence. The Department of the Interior manages and sustains the country's lands, water, wildlife, and energy resources, among its other responsibilities.

"He needs some help," Obama said of Salazar. "And our veterans are highly qualified to help him. They've already risked their lives defending America. They should have the opportunity to rebuild America. We've got roads and bridges in and around our national parks in need of repair. Let's fix them."

Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki said in a conference call with reporters yesterday that the new three-part Veterans Job Corps initiative "will ensure our veterans don't have to fight for jobs once they come home."

Shinseki called on employers to "enlist veterans in the work of rebuilding our nation."

The nation owes those who volunteered to serve in uniform after 9/11 "a debt of gratitude," Shinseki said, "and we must ensure that veterans who come home from Afghanistan and Iraq get the opportunities they deserve."

"They've saved lives in some of the toughest conditions imaginable," he said. "They've managed convoys and moved tons of equipment over dangerous terrain. They've tracked millions of dollars of military assets.

"They've handled pieces of equipment that are worth tens of millions of dollars," he added. "They do incredible work. Nobody is more skilled, more precise, more diligent, more disciplined."

Obama noted these are "challenging" times for America, but "we've faced challenging times before."

"On the grounds here you've got a stone from the Pentagon and a beam from the World Trade Center," he said. "And that reminds us of our resolve as a people.

"They remind us that when we come together as one people and as one community, one nation, then we prevail," Obama continued. "That's who we are."

"This is a nation where, out of many, we come together as one," Obama said. "Those are the values that every veteran understands."



DOD photo by Sgt. 1st Class Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

**President Barack Obama, flanked by firefighters, national park employees and police men and women, talks about his new Veteran Job Corps initiative to replenish the nation's first responders at Fire Station #5 in Arlington, Va., Feb 3, 2012.**

# Full Ads

# Within the World of MAG-13 Supply

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison  
Desert Warrior Staff

There is approximately \$9.5 million worth of gear at the Marine Aircraft Group 13 supply warehouse.

A dozen Marines work at the warehouse to ensure that worth's accountability and that Marines receive the proper items before deploying.

Each Marine, when he or she arrives on station, receives a basic issuance of gear, but the warehouse is the pivotal stopping point for Marines about to embark on long training exercises or deployments.

"We act as liaison for this command and other commands in support of their mission," said Staff Sgt. Jonathan Mehrmann, the MAG-13 supply chief and a native of New Berlin, N.Y.

Being part of the aircraft group, the warehouse caters to five squadrons. With a steady flow of deployment rotations to both Afghanistan and Marine Expeditionary Units, the supply Marines must always be ready to provide brethren with the proper gear needed for survival and comfort.

"When it comes to deployment support, we're the liaison between commands and the unit issue facility," he added. "We're signing gear that those Marines need to carry out the mission."

Each piece of gear in the warehouse was temporarily owned by a Marine. Because of this constant changing of owners, the supply Marines must remain vigilant of their wares.

"We're responsible for recording accurate numbers and sending them to Headquarters Marine Corps, and what condition the gear is in," said Mehrmann, who added they need authorization to get rid of any gear deemed unfit for use.

Known as box-kickers within the Corps fraternity, sometimes affectionately, sometimes disparagingly, the warehouse Marines nonetheless have a role to play in keeping station, and Corps, operations fluid.

"The most rewarding part of the job is knowing that, without us, Marines won't get supplies," said Lance Cpl. Melanie Fillion, a MAG-13 warehouse clerk and a native of Miami, Fla. "It may not seem important, but without us, Marines don't get gear they need to complete the mission."



Pfc. Jace Willets, a Marine Aircraft Group 13 warehouse clerk and a native of Fullerton, Neb., moves supplies around the MAG-13 supply warehouse, Feb. 6.

## 1/2 Ads

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### "On Reading"

Lt. Greg Woodard, Station Chaplain

Do you read books? If not, why not? Do you want to lead well? It is a well-known fact that effective leaders are readers. I'd like to share some thoughts by Tony Reinke, the author of a book called *Lit!* in which he argues for the value of reading books.

There are always interruptions and other things that we can do. We can all find excuses for why we cannot read: We're too \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank). The problem is not that we don't have the time to read, the problem is that we don't have the desire to read. Learn to love to read. We make time to do what we love to do.

If you are like most people, you know reading is important, but, "I just don't have time." The problem is that while our spirit may be eager to read a book, our flesh would rather indulge on passive entertainment. We'd rather avoid discipline and be occupied with checking email, surfing the web or watching TV. Book reading is not just a matter of time management; it's a matter of warfare. Whatever self-indulgence dominates our free time will divide and conquer our time.

In order to read more, we need to make time

not excuses. At the average reading speed of around 250 words per minute, reading for an hour per day (15 minutes in the morning, 15 minutes at lunch, 30 minutes in the evening) you can complete a book of about 200 pages in one week and multiple books per month.

For most us, lack of reading is more a lack of desire than a lack of free time. C. S. Lewis wrote, "The only people who achieve much are those who want knowledge so badly that they seek it while conditions are still unfavorable. Favorable conditions never come."

Here are some tips to cultivate a love for reading: 1) Read a great book. Great books will nurture a love of literature 2) Figure out what your reading priorities need to be and why you need to read. 3) Stop something – what do you need to give up to clear out more space for reading? The average American invests only 10 minutes each day to reading, yet watches 116 minutes of television. Most of us have time that we can invest more wisely.

Reading is important. New worlds will be open to you as you open your mind to a great book. Will you join me?

## Leader's Forum

### "The MCAS Yuma Obstacle Course"

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk, MCAS Commanding Officer

Well, You can't say we didn't warn you! I mentioned in a previous Commander's Corner that the construction on the air station would involve tearing up nearly all of the streets on the base to make way for improvements to water, sewer, electric, phone and data service.

Turns out I wasn't kidding. And it's going to get a little worse before it gets better.

I know it's a pain in the neck, and I know it's causing an increase in flat tires (My wife had one herself). Most importantly I'm concerned about motorcycle accidents on the loose gravel at intersections and other turn points. We have had one already, thankfully that Marine wasn't hurt.

All I can say is: it's worth it. The short term inconvenience is worth the long term gain for everyone on the air station. In the end we'll have far and away better data transfer capability station-wide. Our electric service will have some redundancy built in. All underground services will be modernized from those laid in the 1950's.

Lastly, if you would like the latest on road closures and construction, please see the updates posted at: [www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil) under the Yuma News link.

## 1/2 Ads

# An Interview with General James F. Amos

William T. Eliason  
Joint Forces Quarterly

**JFQ: On a number of occasions, you have remarked that you were surprised to have been selected as Commandant. How has your perspective changed now that you are sitting as the Commandant?**

**General Amos:** I was surprised because we've got 235 years of doing business one way in the Marine Corps. Until General [Alfred M.] Gray [29th Commandant of the Marine Corps], all of the previous Commandants had been infantry officers—and General Gray was an artillery officer. So I certainly had no expectations of becoming Commandant. When I tell people that, it's usually couched with, "I wasn't out seeking this job; I wasn't politicking for this job; and I wasn't looking for this job." I was busy being the Assistant Commandant. I was surprised when I was asked because we've never before had a Commandant from a community other than ground combat arms. I have a lot of love for the Marine Corps and I had no desire to try to be a "glass ceiling breaker."

Fast-forward: I've been in this job now for 8 months, and I think I've settled in. I feel really good about the Marine Corps and what we do for our nation as its crisis response force. When I look at the last 12 months at all the things the Nation has asked us to do, I feel a great sense of pride at the accomplishments of our Marines and Sailors. Many people don't realize how many other missions we've accomplished outside of Afghanistan in that timeframe.

A little more than a year ago, we had the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit [MEU] off the coast of Pakistan assisting flood victims ashore. We sent the 26th MEU 30 days ahead of schedule to relieve the 15th MEU of their flood relief duties. On September 9, 2010, elements of the 15th MEU embarked on the amphibious warship USS Dubuque, recaptured the MV Magellan Star from Somali pirates, and rescued the 11-man crew. Later in January, we took 1,400 Marines off the 26th MEU and put them ashore in Afghanistan to reinforce the success of the previous fighting season—all the time the rest of the MEU was still flying combat operations off of amphibious ships into Afghanistan and continuing Pakistani flood relief operations.

As trouble brewed in North Africa, the 26th MEU left their 1,400-Marine ground combat element in Afghanistan, sailed to the Mediterranean Sea, and linked up with the majority of 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, in Souda Bay, Crete—who had deployed there with less than 20-hours notice from Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. With a full complement of Marines, the 26th MEU took station off the coast of Libya and began flying combat missions in support of Operation Odyssey Dawn. A few days later, these same Marines from aboard the USS Kearsarge rescued a downed F-15 pilot. This mission of two STOVL [short takeoff and vertical landing] AV-8B Harriers, two CH-53Es, and two MV-22 Ospreys briefed, launched, and recovered that pilot in less than 90 minutes.

That same month, the Japanese experienced a terrible earthquake and tsunami that devastated one of their nuclear reactors, and we sent Marines from Okinawa to help with



Photo by Lance Cpl. Mondo Lacaud

**Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, raises his cup of hot spiced rum to Col. Michael J. Colburn, U.S. Marine Band commanding officer, after he gives his speech during his New Year's Day serenade in front of the Home of the Commandants at Marine Barracks Washington Jan. 1.**

that emergency response and recovery.

From the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, to Hurricane Katrina in 2005, to the 2006 NEO [noncombatant evacuation operation] in Lebanon, and Haitian earthquake in 2010, we've demonstrated that we are America's expeditionary crisis response force, and I'm very pleased with that. I think our stock is high. The Marine Corps is a wonderful institution with great young men and women who are almost always held in high regard. It's a true honor to sit at the top of this organization.

**JFQ: You just returned from a rather intense visit to Afghanistan. Seeing firsthand the many pressures of the mission for the Marines there, what surprised you about your visit?**

**General Amos:** It wasn't a surprise, but I came away feeling better and better about what's going on. Most of my experience on the ground in combat has been in Iraq, and so I've passed in and out of Afghanistan for the last 3 years. I've watched Helmand Province in Regional Command Southwest steadily improve over time. At the end of the day, Helmand is not going to look like an American city or county, but I've seen areas that were once very, very dangerous change into much safer villages with open marketplaces and schools. Marjah is a classic example.

On February 15, 2010, Operation Moshtarak started in Marjah, and the whole world watched it because it was the first major operation as a result of the plus-up of 30,000 U.S.

forces. It was a tough fight from February to June, and there was nothing easy about it. Marjah's not so much of a city as it's a big agricultural county, and it was just loaded with IEDs [improvised explosive devices] and Taliban. People began to doubt if it was going to turn.

I tell the Marines, think about what the press was saying in June and July, and even in August 2010—they were saying it can't be done. But it started turning in September and October. Just last Christmas [2010], Sergeant Major Carlton Kent [16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps] and I were there, walking through the streets of Marjah in camouflage utilities wearing no body armor at all. Marjah is almost turning out to be a model for how it can be done in Afghanistan. They actually paved a road in Marjah about a month ago—paved a road. Markets are open. They have about 2,700 kids going to school now, including girls. None of that was there in February 2010.

So I look at that and I'm optimistic. I agree with what Dave Petraeus has said—that it's fragile and reversible. I think that's accurate. But it's reversible only if we haven't trained the Afghan army, if we haven't set standards and respect for rule of law and given them a sense of confidence that one day we're going to be gone, and they can do this on their own. But what I was seeing in the leadership of the police and the Afghan army was pretty impressive. They've got a corps commander down there who is for-

mer mujahideen, and he is a tough guy. He's got three brigades, and there is no doubt in their mind that they do their mission—none. We just need to make sure all that we've done is sustainable. I think it is.

I've even seen progress in Sangin, which has been a tough battle. We lost more Marines in Sangin than we have anywhere else in Afghanistan. And yet things have settled down significantly there. Others like Nawa, Lashkar Gah, Delaram, and even Now Zad, which had been under complete Taliban control for about 4 ½ years, have improved. About a year and a half ago, we cleaned Now Zad out, and the district governor and army came in. Now kids there go to school. So now even Now Zad is one of the proof-of-concept areas.

Does the Afghan system need to model America? No, it can't. There is a tribal system. A short vignette: there was a tribal chief from northern Sangin near the Kajaki Dam area who told our two-star commander on the ground that he didn't care about electricity—he just wanted a road. He said it doesn't have to be a paved road, but that he'd just like to have a road where the people from his tribe could transport their vegetables and sell their goods. He just wanted to have some fresh water and some security so that his tribe could be free to move around. That's all he wanted. So we're not Westernizing Afghanistan.

At the end of the day, I'm optimistic. I know it can be done. I really feel good about what the joint force is doing all across Af-



Photo by 1st Lt. Alex Lim

Commandant of the Marine Corps, General James Amos addresses the Marines at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, Dec. 24. General James Amos and Sergeant Major Carlton Kent spent Christmas eve with Marines at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan.

ghanistan—it really probably is the best joint team I've ever seen in my life.

**JFQ: Given those impressions and what you have learned as one of the Joint Chiefs, how will the experiences of these wars—first Iraq, and now Afghanistan—impact the Marine Corps' role in a post-Iraq, post-Afghanistan security environment?**

**General Amos:** When the Marine Corps comes out of Afghanistan, we're going to reset the force and get back to our role as America's crisis response force. Even with our commitments in Iraq and Afghanistan over the past 10 years, we've shown that we can do anything. We did crisis response in Japan during their tsunami/nuclear crisis and also off of Libya during Operation Odyssey Dawn. Now, we didn't put forces on the ground in Libya, but we wanted to send a very strong signal with our NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] partners to the rest of the world that the United States is a leader. So we sent amphibious warships off their coast, and then we flew airplanes out of Aviano and other places when the no-fly zone began to be enforced. That's what we do.

We can also go ashore for a protracted period of time, just like we did in Iraq and Afghanistan, and I make no apologies for that because we were directed to do that by the President of the United States—as we've done throughout our 236-year history. But America funds a Marine Corps in order to have an immediate crisis response force—what I call

a hedge force. When we start thinking about where the world's going over the next two decades, America may want to try to influence things so that we do more war prevention instead of war intervention. I think America buys a Marine Corps to be out there on ships, forward deployed and forward engaged, to be its insurance policy.

When you take a look at where we're headed fiscally—within the Federal Government, the Department of Defense, and the Service budgets—you naturally start thinking about areas where you can take risk as a nation. We can't afford to have everything. So we need to ask what it is we can afford. Everything else becomes a function of risk. So the question is, how much risk is acceptable, and is there a way we can mitigate that risk. The Marines provide our national hedge for risk.

We maintain a high state of readiness, and we fight very hard every year to avoid pressure to bring the Marine Corps' readiness down to what is becoming tiered readiness in other Services—where units return home and their readiness is reduced to 50 percent of what it should be only to be rebuilt with people, training, and equipment for future deployments. That works, I think, for probably most forces, if you're on some kind of systematic deployment cycle. But for us, when a Sendai happens or a Libya happens, you can't look around and say, "Okay, we'd like to send in the Marines," and then have the Commandant say, "You know, that's great, I'm really happy to hear that. It's going to take me about 60 days to build a force and cobble that to-

gether, and then get a quick training package put together, and then we'll be ready to go." No, we want to be able to do it today. We respond to today's crisis with today's force, today. I just talked to the [National] War College and told them that in real-world crises, as opposed to academic wargames, it's not always immediately clear what the National Command Authority should do. So we first establish our presence and then begin to figure it out. That's why America has a Marine Corps. We are a hedge against risk. We buy time for the national leadership to determine what the next step is.

I'd like to go down that path a little bit because I think it's an important point. As we start getting into budgets and roles and missions, it's important to understand that I don't want the Marine Corps to do the roles of the other Services. For instance, the Air Force's domain is in the air, space, cyber, and it's the greatest air force in the world, second to none. The Army's domain is the land, half a million strong, and they're pretty damn good. The Navy's domain is the sea, both on it and below it. Those three domains all overlap like a Venn diagram. So then you ask, how does the Marine Corps fit into that. We Marines don't really have a domain—we have a lane, and that lane is crisis response. I told my fellow Service chiefs, I'm not interested in poaching on your domain at all. But ours is a lane that cuts across all of these domains. If there is some duplication, I think it's not only affordable, it's necessary.

If a nation is going to have flexibility in war planning and in engagement, some duplication is what we want. What we don't want to have is just in-time delivery capability. It works well if you're Federal Express or WalMart, but for a commander on the ground or the National Command Authority, it doesn't solve their problem.

Also, I am more than happy to be the enabler for some type of coalition force or some other type of joint force or interagency capability. I don't have to be the lead dog. But because we're forward deployed at a high state of readiness, and have all our logistics with us, and we're trained and willing to live pretty austere, we're ideally suited for crisis response and enabling future operations and follow-on forces.

**JFQ: You have spoken publicly of the recent force structure review you directed and how you view the Corps in the immediate and near future as building a "middleweight force." Can you tell us what this means in support of national security policy?**

**General Amos:** It's interesting, because unless you put it in context, people will come away with whatever their interpretation is. When we sat down to define this expeditionary force in readiness, we had to start with what we thought the world was going to look like in the next few decades, post-Afghanistan. When I was down at Quantico as a three-star, I worked combat development issues and wrote General [James] Conway's strategy and vision for 2025. We spent almost a year trying to predict what the future security environment would look like. Strategically, you've got to have some sense of what the world is going to look like before you make decisions. You're not going to get it right, but you can't afford to get it completely wrong. So based on that, we said, "What should the Nation, the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps do in that kind of environment? What

is our contribution?" And that's where we began to develop a mission statement for the Marine Corps as an expeditionary force in readiness, forward deployed and forward engaged, ready to respond to today's crisis with today's force. We're a middleweight force able to get there quickly, but with enough punch to be able to carry the day upon arrival.

When I talked with Secretary [Robert] Gates about this early on, he said, "Jim, I see the Marine Corps' value to the Nation as the force that's kind of in the middle of the range of military operations." He said, "As you build a Marine Corps in a post-Afghanistan environment, focus your efforts primarily in the center, where everything kind of comes together." It's the most likely environment we're going to operate in—hybrid warfare, fourth-generation warfare—it's almost a nexus of different types of things that are going on. Some are more dangerous than others and some are more humanitarian. He said, "I want you to build a force that takes some risk on the high end of the range of military operations. Let's build a force that's going to be flexible for our nation for the most likely kinds of things we're going to do."

And so we did. In the force structure review, we examined the future security environment, and our mission statement, and built a middleweight force—one that found the sweet spot between special operations and heavy conventional forces and complements the capabilities of both. So when you look at it in that context, that middleweight force still has the capability to work at the low end, and also still has the capability to work at the high end. In many ways, we will be even more capable than the force today, but smaller—from 202,000 down to 186,800.

**JFQ: You and the other chiefs have been given guidance to cut an additional \$400 billion from the Defense Department budget in the coming years. What can you tell us about how this will impact the Marine Corps?**

**General Amos:** I'm not sure yet because we're working our way through this thing, and I suspect that by the time this article is published, we'll have a lot of history on it. I've got my staff focused on looking at how these predicted budget cuts will impact us in personnel, operations and maintenance, and procurement.

I think the really good news is that Secretary Gates has begun this effort with a strategy review and now Secretary [Leon] Panetta and my fellow Service chiefs are attacking it head-on. It's important that people understand that this isn't a math problem. You have to begin with strategy, and then introduce-math and reality into the strategy, and that gets back to the risk we talked about earlier. The whole concept of risk and how you hedge against it is so critically important. If you understand that, then you can make good decisions down the road. But we need to begin with strategy. My sense is that we're going to get into the issue of how much is enough, and what is it that our nation absolutely has to deliver. That is, if we ever fail at being able to do these things around the world that our nation absolutely has to be able to do, we will have failed at our mission, and our nation may fail at being a superpower.

For full story, visit  
[yuma.usmc.mil](http://yuma.usmc.mil)

## Filing Your Taxes

USA.gov

Over 100 million people filed their taxes electronically last year. Electronic filing (e-file) makes filing your taxes easier, reduces the risk of error, and you'll receive your refund faster.

You can also file your federal tax return by mail. You can print forms from the IRS website or find them at your local library. Before mailing them in, make sure to double check your math for errors. Visit the IRS for a list of the most common forms and instruction booklets for each form. The IRS has information about which form to use: the 1040-EZ, 1040A, or 1040.

April 15 of each year is the due date for filing your federal individual income tax return for the previous calendar year. If you cannot file by April 15, you need to request an extension. There are electronic and paper options available to file an extension.

If you pay more money than you owe, the government will issue you a tax refund.

You can check on the status of your refund 72 hours after you e-file. If you filed a paper return, please allow 3 weeks before checking on the status.

There are a number of ways to find free tax help. For detailed information on tax help, download the 2010 IRS Guide to Free Tax Services.

State and local taxes come from transaction taxes, such as sales tax; income taxes, the money withheld from your paycheck; and property taxes from homeowners. The type and amount of tax varies from state to state and between local communities.

Visit your state's website to learn more about filing requirements, options, forms, and deadlines. Some states allow you to e-file both your federal and state taxes at once.

## All-Terrain Vehicle Safety Tips

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Like other activities involving high speeds and heavy machinery, riding an ATV can be risky. To help stay safe, follow common sense safety tips. Take knowledge to the extreme and learn more about these important tips for safer riding:

- Get trained
  - Formal training teaches drivers how to control ATVs in typical situations. Drivers with formal, hands-on ATV training have a lower injury risk than drivers with no formal training.
- Wear a helmet
  - Many ATV injuries are head injuries. Wearing a helmet may reduce the severity of these injuries. Select a motorcycle or other motorized sports helmet and make sure the helmet is certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and/or the Snell Memorial Foundation.
- No children on adult ATVs
  - Simply because the inherent risk of the sport and the skill required to guide and control an ATV, it is strongly recommended children not ride them. Children are involved in about one-third of all ATV-related deaths and hospital emergency room injuries. Most of these deaths and injuries occur when a child is driving or riding on an adult ATV. Children under 16 on adult ATVs are twice as likely to be injured as those riding youth ATVs.
- Don't ride tandem
  - The majority of ATVs are designed to carry only one person. ATVs are designed for interactive riding – drivers must be able to shift their weight freely in all directions, depending on the situation and terrain.
- Don't ride on pavement
  - ATVs – because of how they're made – are difficult to control on paved roads. Collisions with cars and other vehicles also can be deadly. Many fatalities involving ATVs occur on paved roads.
- Don't ride under the influence.
  - Alcohol and drugs impair reaction time and judgment, two essential skills for safe ATV use.

# Full Ads

## LEAVING THE CORPS

### College credit earned though military experience

Lance Cpl. Rubin Tan

MCAS Beaufort, S.C., The Jet Stream Staff

Engineers, aircraft mechanics, data network specialists and other jobs in the Marine Corps can be turned into careers and with experience in the military, Marines may be qualified for college credit.

"We take a look at the content to determine if there is a similarity between the course syllabuses when deciding if the individual should be accredited for their efforts while serving in the military," said Les Brediger, University of South Carolina Beaufort military program director.

Individuals who are currently on active duty or have served in the Marine Corps or Navy are able to use the Sailor/Marine American Registry Transcript system.

"The SMART system takes all military learning courses and schooling then compiles all the information into a transcript to help schools understand where a service member stands with schooling," said Linda Beattie, Air Station education specialist.

The College Level Examination Program (CLEP) and DSST are programs which offer anyone exams who have gained substantial knowledge from the work force or independently to gain college credit and save money.

"College is important because you can not stay in the Marine Corps forever," said Brediger, a former master sergeant and Beaufort native. "College helps Marines with promotions while on a board and once separated, it helps them find a career or continue a degree."

## Why Walking Can Help Your Heart

Shari Lopatin

TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Regular walking can reduce your chances of heart problems by about 30 percent, according to Harvard Health Publications.

Those results came from the analysis of 18 studies between 1970 and 2007. Study participants who walked 5.5 miles each week began showing benefits to the heart. And the more they walked, the greater the benefits.

So, just how can walking help you live healthier this year?

Regular walking will:

- Lower your risk of heart disease
- Improve your blood pressure and blood sugar levels
- Lower your bad (LDL) cholesterol, while raising your good (HDL) cholesterol
- Help maintain your weight
- Lower the risk of obesity
- Reduce your risk of type 2 diabetes

In addition, did you know walking fast 35 minutes a day, five days

a week, will make you feel better if you're depressed?

A Harvard Health study published in 2005 proved such activity had a significant influence on mild to moderate depression. If walking five days a week is too often, you can substitute it for 60 minutes a day, just three times a week, for the same results.

If you're tired of walking alone, or need new motivation to get up and move, why not start your own walking club?

The American Heart Association will "walk" you through the steps at [www.mywalkingclub.org](http://www.mywalkingclub.org).

If you're not up for starting your own, you can also browse nearby clubs based on your zip code. Walking clubs aren't only a positive way to improve your health, but help those around you. They can also develop into a great social bonding experience with new or existing friends.



# MCAS Yuma Timeline: the history of our squadrons



## VMA-211: activated 1937

November 1941, VMF-211 flew 12 of its 24 Wildcats and 13 of its 29 pilots aboard the USS Enterprise for movement to Wake Island, the scene of the squadron's heroic battle.

On December 8, 1941 the Japanese attacked, destroying seven of the 12 aircraft on the ground.

VMF-211's Henry T. Elrod was the first Marine airman to be awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II.

## VMA-214: activated 1942

The squadron is best known as the Black Sheep of World War II fame and for one of its commanding officers, Colonel Gregory "Pappy" Boyington, whose memoirs also inspired the 1970s television show *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, which dramatized the squadron's exploits during the war.

Initially called the "Swashbucklers"

In August 1943, a group of twenty-seven young men under the leadership of Major Gregory "Pappy" Boyington (who was later awarded the Medal of Honor) were joined together to form the original "Blacksheep"

For their actions, the original Black Sheep were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for extraordinary heroism in action.

The Black Sheep ended their second combat tour on

January 8, 1944, five days after Major Boyington was shot down and captured by the Japanese.

## VMA-311: activated 1942

Arriving in Korea on December 7, 1950, VMF-311 was the first land-based Marine jet squadron to be used in combat providing close air support for the Marines and Soldiers on the ground.

In August 1965, VMA-311 supported the 7th Marine Regiment in Operation Starlite -- the first major American operation of the war.

Tomcats were the most forward deployed fixed-wing squadron.

Tomcat pilots flew 1,017 combat missions and delivered 840 tons of ordnance against enemy targets in Kuwait and Southern Iraq.

On November 3, 2001, VMA-311 Harriers attached to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit embarked aboard the USS Peleliu became the first Harriers to fly combat missions in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom.

## VMA-513: Activated 1944

The squadron nickname "Flying Nightmares" was coined by then Commanding Officer, LtCol James R. Anderson. At the time the squadron was perform-

ing were flying out of Pusan West and providing the sole night fighter air defense and interdiction support to all UN forces. In this month alone, the squadron flew 2,086 hours in 604 night combat sorties, inflicting severe damage on the Chinese Forces tactical and logistical units.

## MAG-13: activated 1942

1956, It gained the distinction of being the only composite Marine Aircraft Group, composed of fighter, attack and helicopter squadrons, supporting the ground arm of the brigade.

Since September 2001, MAG-13 has amassed over 15,000 combat flight hours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

## VMFT-401: activated 1986

They broke the 50,000 hour mark in early July 2010 having not had a mishap since October 1995. At an average of 45 minutes per flight, 50,000 hours equates to nearly 70,000 mishap free sorties

# Full Ads

# 1/2 Ads

## Brownie's Cafe Review

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

For anyone who has ever felt like they've been born in the wrong era, Brownie's Caf e is the eatery for you.

Exuding small town charm, with a 50s diner interior, Brownie's immediately welcomed me with its relaxed atmosphere the moment I stepped in. Granted, I was the youngest customer in there by a good 40 years, but in a way that added to the charm.

Service was fast and friendly. My waitress' smile never left her face as she doted on myself and her other customers. In fact, if things were not as busy as usual, the waiters and waitresses made it a point to talk to customer, from small courtesies such as how does their food taste to long conversations about anything, from the weather to politics to people.

I was also impressed that most people seemed to be on a first name basis with each other. Brownie's menu totes itself as having served Yuma for 46 years, and you don't provide good food for four decades without making a few emotional connections.

Ah, the food. For less than \$15 I had one of the most satisfying lunches I've ever had in Yuma. You know the scene in Pulp Fiction where Uma Thurman and John Travolta discuss the merits of a \$5 milkshake? Brownie's milkshakes made me think of that conversation. A bit cheaper than \$5, it tasted far richer than I expected. The ice cream is homemade as well, adding to the air of familiarity with the place. My sandwich was a winner, with succulent turkey, crisp bacon and cheese melted just right. The onion rings were delicious as well.

As for dessert, those slices of pies are unnecessarily large. But proportion wise, you get more than what you pay for.

I'll definitely be returning to Brownie's. Few eateries I've been to in Yuma provide the pleasant, mellow atmosphere, delicious food and friendly service all at one location.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Serving Yuma patrons for 46 years, Brownie's Cafe still packs a punch after almost five decades with its friendly staff and house-made food. Chesty would delight in eating here.

## Brave New Book Review

**Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Everyone has different reasons as to why they read. For me, it's to learn from the words of others and make myself think. Recently, I found a book which helps me accomplish that beautifully. Originally published in 1932, Aldous Huxley's Brave New World is a thought-provoking story about the direction world culture is heading.

The book is considered a timeless classic and has been one of the most widely banned books in American history. The story is of a futuristic society where everyone is happy because personal responsibility has been mostly removed, and life exists only as a party for the enjoyment of tangible pleasures. Freedom, religion, books, marriage, having children, and passion in general are not allowed. No one wants them because humans are born in test tubes and conditioned before birth to be happy, productive members of society. Of course should anyone become unhappy there is soma, the harmless, euphoric drug the world is addicted to.

The story centers around Bernard Marx, a psychologist who doesn't fit into the mold of society. While he is at times hard to connect to because of his selfish and self-absorbed attitude, he provides a window into the world that worships Ford, because of his invention of the assembly line.

Later, the story shifts to focus on a man raised by Native Americans. He yearns for freedom, passion, and acceptance in the civilized world, but finds the world he dreamed of growing up not to be what he expected.

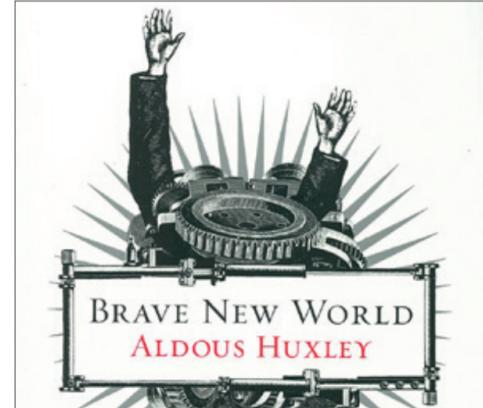
While some elements of the story, like the science fiction of births from lab vats, are a little too advanced to apply to modern-day society, others strike home magnificently. The fact that no one cares about education or self-denial strikes home with the problems that American culture faces. Huxley's world

draws parallels to some present-day, American thought by the way it revels in hedonism, or pursuing sensual pleasures as a way of life.

Huxley develops his characters superbly, but there are times when the story moves slowly. Despite this the entire book is enjoyable, and the message it conveys far outshines its flaws.

The book brings up issues not often reflected on, such as possessing the freedoms to be unhappy, lousy, to grow old and to be worried or anxious about what might happen tomorrow.

A world of peace and happiness is a wonderful thing, but not worth it if we humans must give up our passion and our dynamic nature. Or is it? If you like thoughtful and powerful reads, then I urge you to pick up the book and decide for yourself.



Courtesy photo by amazon.com

## Enlisted PME: building the Corps, one Marine at a time

**Cpl. Jakob Schulz**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Enlisted Professional Military Education is one of the most important aspects of a service member's career.

It's a hard statement to follow up on, but having just finished Corporal's Course, I believe the statement is more fact than opinion.

When one thinks about Enlisted PMEs, the mind instantly goes to Corporal's Course, Sergeant's Course, the Career Course, Advanced Course and the E-8/E-9 Symposiums. These courses build a better Marine Corps by building a better individual Marine.

However, not all courses are the same. What I experienced here at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is different from what a Marine who goes to a Corporal's Course in Quantico, Va., will go through.

During my course, we learned everything from how and when to mentor junior Marines to how to conduct patrols and fill out range cards.

While some may find the classes mainly combat oriented, it's important to remember that every Marine is a rifleman first and any of us could be called upon to go on deployment in a capacity that doesn't relate to our military occupational specialty.

Additionally, the course also broadened my look at the Corps. By going through the course with Marines I don't work with on a daily basis, I was able to see what it was like for Marines who work in bigger work sections and different MOSs.

Our shared hardships, much like boot camp,

brought us closer together and built camaraderie. This has transcended the course and I now know Marines all over station.

At first, I was apprehensive about going to the course because it was outside my comfort zone and what I was used to doing regularly. After the first week I was pleasantly surprised how much I was enjoying the education. The physical training was challenging. The instructors were engaging and my fellow classmates were as eager to learn as well.

What surprised me about the course however, was how most of my classmates were newly promoted corporals. I had thought, having only been promoted a year ago, that I would be the most junior NCO in my class. This was a good turn of events because it showed me what I looked like as a fresh corporal and how much I've grown.

I also believe that the course was great for these young corporals because it brought them out of the lance corporal mentality of being told what to do to the mentality of leading others.

While the course didn't tell us exactly how to be leaders, it did offer us a glimpse of the different kinds of leadership. The instructors also gave us the opportunity to practice being the leader of our fellow corporals, giving many of us the much needed crash course on how to direct and motivate a group of Marines.

In all, I had a great time at Corporal's Course and would recommend it to any corporal, newly promoted or otherwise. Go to the course and experience one of the most important aspects of military life.

# SUPERBOWL XLVI



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Left, Above: Viewers watch Super Bowl XLVI at Club Pulse, Feb. 5. Marine Corps Community Services with the station's Single Marine Program hosted a tailgate party for the superbowl. The New York Giants ultimately won against the New England Patriots with a score of 21-17.

Above: Madonna performs during the Super Bowl Half Time Show at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, Feb. 5, as seen through a television screen at the Super Bowl tailgate party at Club Pulse.

Marine Corps Community Services and the station's Single Marine Program hosted a tailgate party for Super Bowl XLVI at Club Pulse, Feb. 5. Though put on by SMP, civilians as well as retirees also showed up to support their team. The evening included drink specials, free food and raffle and prizes along with multiple screenings of the annual sporting event. "I think it was great," said Cpl. Michael Raymundo, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Defense Travel System clerk and a native of El Paso, Texas. "You can't beat free food and drink specials and World Peace," he said, referring to the Half Time show's message. The two teams vying for football fame were the New York Giants and the New England Patriots, with the Giants beating the Patriots 21-17.

## 1/2 Ads