

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

# Desert **WARRIOR**



January 26, 2012

Volume 10, Number 48

## **NCO SPLATTER HOUSE**

Corporal's Course culminating event



**NURSING ON THE GO**

*NO WOUNDED WARRIOR OUT OF REACH*

**A HEART OF BRONZE**

*YUMA PILOT EARNS HIGH MILITARY AWARD*

**WINTER VISITOR TOUR 2012**

*STATION DISPLAYS MILITARY ASSETS, BUILDS COMMUNITY TIE*



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# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



Photo by Cpl. Bryan Nygaard

Sgt. Cody Palfreyman, a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 9th Engineer Support Battalion, and a native of West Valley, Utah, guides a bulldozer as it moves the berm surrounding a guard post at Firebase Saenz, Helmand province, Dec. 14. FB Saenz is the first of several patrol bases being demilitarized by the Marines of 9th ESB throughout the month of December.

## Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

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

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[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WPAviGqGbI&feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2WPAviGqGbI&feature=player_embedded)

VMA-214 departs for the Pacific.



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

Afghan Women's Center opens.

## HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



Front Page Photo Credit

*Sgt. Daniel Malta  
Desert Warrior Staff*

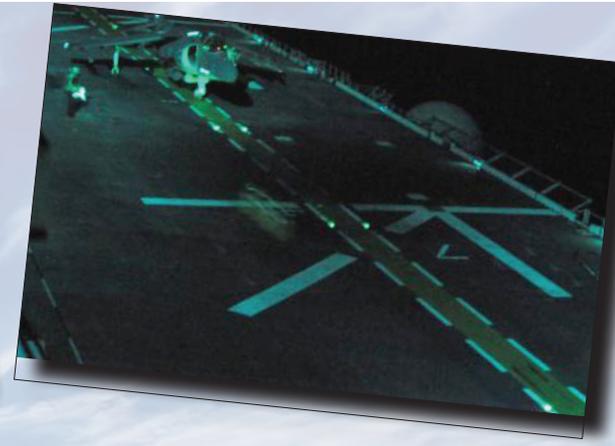
# EVERY CLIME AND PLACE



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



**Marine Attack Squadron 311**  
31st MEU



**Marine Attack Squadron 214**  
11th MEU

## News to Use

### FREE WARRIOR SPA NIGHT, FEB. 7

On Feb. 7, MCAS Yuma in coordination with MCCS will provide FREE massages, mini facials, hair consultation and makeup application to active duty Marines and Sailors (both males and females). These services will be offered by Lotus Day Spa. Registration for the event is required so please call (928)269-6544 for more information or to register today!

### MCAS YUMA DOG PARK OPENED JAN. 20, BOW-WOW!

MCAS Yuma now has a pet-friendly dog park at the end of Keith Avenue. Lincoln Military Housing is proud to announce its opening and would like to remind all dog park users to help them maintain a safe, clean and positive environment for the pets. For a full list of dog park do's and don'ts or if you have any questions or concerns about the park, please contact Lincoln Military Housing at (928)344-1240.

### VOTING MADE EASY

As we prepare for the 2012 Presidential elections, remember voting assistance representatives are available on station to provide help with registering to vote, submitting absentee ballots if voting outside of Arizona or while deployed and answering any other questions about the voting process. Contact the Installation Voting Officer, Capt. Staci Reidinger at 928-269-3609, or visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to get started today.

### MCAS YUMA WINTER VISITOR TOUR

On Tues, Feb. 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., MCAS Yuma will host a guided bus tour that includes a stop at the flight line to meet local Marines and view the station's aviation and support capabilities. Open to the public, both young and young at heart, the tour will also feature the K-9 dogs in action and Marines performing martial arts. All guests are asked to bring a picture I.D. and will use the main gate of the air station for entry. Please call the station Public Affairs Office for more details at (928)269-2275.

### COMEDY TOUR FOR ACTIVE DUTY

The "For the Leathernecks Comedy and Entertainment Tour" will be hosting a free show for active duty service members only. The show will take place at the Sonoran Pueblo Jan. 27, at 3 p.m. Doors open at 2:30 p.m.

### 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).



## Tailspotter



**Brewster**

Brewster is a fun-loving, milk chocolate, 1 1/2 year old American Red Nose Pit Bull Terrier. He knows some tricks and loves everyone! For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.

## 5 Questions

for the Station Tax Center Coordinator



**Jamie Williamson**

**Q. What are your hours of operation, where are you located and what are your busiest times?**

A. We are open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and are located in building 852 in the Joint Legal Office. Our busiest time is the afternoons. We operate on a walk-in basis.

**Q. What do people need to bring with them?**

A. Marines and their spouses will need to bring their ID cards, Social Security Cards for spouses and dependents, all tax forms including W-2, 1098 and 1099, information for other income including interest and dividends, information on child care expenses, information for deductions/credits, proof of account for direct deposit refund and a copy of last year's tax return if it was done outside of this tax center.

**Q. What are some of the benefits of using the station tax center?**

A. First of all, our services are completely free of charge. All of the Marines doing the tax returns are certified by the IRS and we also understand military returns, plus, we're close by. We can also review past tax returns prepared somewhere else or here to make sure they were done correctly.

**Q. What are some of the things Marines can claim on their tax return?**

A. Marines can claim any out-of-pocket expenses for moving or education, as well as their spouses, children, daycare expenses and more.

**Q. Is it better to file jointly or separately if you are married?**

A. In most cases, it is better to file jointly, however, if you don't have children, it might be alright to file separately. We are happy to determine which option is best for you.

In this world nothing is certain but death and taxes.

- Benjamin Franklin

# Nursing on the go : No Wounded Warrior is too far

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**  
Desert Warrior Staff

The human body is far from indestructible, and our brains are incapable of knowing everything, which is why healthcare professionals like Paula Snook are in such high demand.

One of twelve traveling nurses working for the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, Snook travels through a total of eight states to help those in need of assistance.

Part of her job and the reason for traveling such great distances, is the work she does with wounded warriors.

“What I do is meet with the wounded warriors and their families, find out what their needs are, teach the warriors and families how to care and cope with



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

**Paula Snook, visiting nurse with the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, serves Marine Corps Air Station Yuma as well as several wounded warriors throughout 8 states. Working with the Wounded Warrior Program, Snook travels at least once a month to meet with the injured service members and their families. These visits help families understand how to properly care for their injured service member and understand what they might be going through.**

the situation, and then later on, see how they are progressing,” said Snook.

Most families, according to Snook, aren’t familiar with the injury, much less the accompanying mental conditions, most prevalent which is post traumatic stress disorder.

“The families didn’t experience what their wounded warrior did. I focus on educating them so they ‘Get It,’” said Snook.

Most of the time Snook takes the wounded warrior out to eat upon meeting with them, keeping in mind their situation, anxiety and feelings toward crowds.

“This is exactly what the families need ‘To Get’. Crowds could make them nervous, having their back to a door or group of people could give them anxiety and the wrong choice of words could upset them.”

Snook continues to help these families as long as they want, regardless of discharge status.

“We don’t force anything onto people. If they want our help, we’ll be there,” said Snook.

The Wounded Warrior Program is helping service members all over the world and changing lives, ensuring these men and women can live as normal and productive lives as possible, according to Snook.

“I know men who have become reclusive due to their injuries and then pull a 180 after something as simple as receiving a service dog. I’ve heard of hospitals making special prosthetic limbs just so a they can feel beautiful and wear high heels or run and feel confident,” said Snook.

Snook travels at least once a month, but the rest of the time she’s helping the local community. Free of charge, service members can visit her office or have her come by for a visit. Not to be confused as an emergency nurse, Snook is more of an advisor or advocate that can give people the tools needed to either help themselves or go in the right direction to receive proper care.

She is also a trained lactation specialist with a lot of experience with children. If you’ve constantly been brushed off by doctors and need to find someone who will listen, her doors are always open. If you need help educating yourself on a condition or affliction you or a loved might have, she has a wealth of knowledge to aid you.

With a Bachelors in Nursing and more than 20 years of experience working in hospitals, nursing homes, hospices, home care and in new parent support programs, she is sure to be able to help.

“They serve their country, they did what they did protecting my right of freedom, and all of them earned the right to receive this kind of care,” said Snook. “It’s an honor.”

## ATTENTION

### PET OWNERS IN LINCOLN MILITARY HOUSING NOTICE:

PMO Animal Control is spreading good news for the New Year! On-station pet owners, including those of you at 16th Street Housing, are no longer required to purchase annual licenses from the Humane Society of Yuma or the City of Yuma for your dogs or cats while you live in military housing. The only identification your pets are required to wear are the ID tags issued at PMO Animal Control. These government-issued ID tags allow your pets to accompany you in the city, county and state (on leash, of course) during your assignment at MCAS Yuma. If your pet does not have the required tag on its collar, contact the PMO Animal Control Officer at 928-269-6303 at your first opportunity to schedule a registration appointment. A reminder: Station Order 6400.1G requires dogs and cats of all ages to be registered at PMO Animal Control within 5 days of their arrival to your residence.

## CO’s story



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

**Col. Robert Kuckuk, commanding officer, MCAS Yuma, reads Night Catch, a book about family deployment, to station dependents at the community center, Jan. 20. The reading is part of the Hearts Apart program, which assists dependents in coping with their loved one being gone.**

# A HEART OF BRONZE: YUMA PILOT EARNS HIGH MILITARY AWARD

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

A Yuma Marine received the U.S. military's ninth-highest award here, Jan. 16.

Capt. Daniel Fiust, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 AV-8B pilot and a native of San Carlos, Calif., was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for his tactical ingenuity while serving as the air officer for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, in Afghanistan from Jan. 1, 2011, to Sept. 1, 2011.

"I just feel like I was doing my job," said Fiust. "The battalion had a lot of amazing Marines that did a lot more important stuff than I did. They were in a lot more dangerous situations than I was."

A battalion air officer acts as a liaison for aviation squadrons supporting ground Marines, directing and dispersing air assets across the battalion's area of operations. The air officer is the senior forward air controller in a battalion. His responsibilities range anywhere from air strikes to airborne medical evacuations.

Fiust supervised the battalion's forward air controllers and enlisted joint terminal attack controllers, who patrol with their squads and protect them by calling in air strikes. On a daily basis, Fiust heard the pilots of both rotary- and fixed-wing assets, including his own squadron.

"The main close air support we got was from 513 and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 267,"

said Fiust. "It was great to get fire support from the Nightmares."

Being the single air officer in the Upper Hereshk and Sangin Valleys, areas with notably high enemy activity, Fiust had his hands full throughout the deployment, though that didn't hamper his talent for improvisation.

One key example of Fiust's coordination skills showed when a company of infantrymen expended all machinegun ammunition attempting to defeat their still-firing adversaries. Fiust made the call of resupplying the company with attack helicopters, which resulted in their victory.

Another example highlighting the importance of an air officer is when Fiust, after processing surveillance information, made a call that resulted in the destruction of an enemy sniper team with a history of aggressing installations and patrols.

Fiust, for his part, regards his responsibilities more crucial than his victories.

"Training the tactical air control party in the battalion is probably the most important thing in preparing battalion joint terminal attack controllers and other forward air controllers for combat," he said of the men who patrol with their squads and protect them by calling in air strikes.

Soon enough, the F-35B Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter will be fulfilling its role of close air support, but the only thing changing in the game is the platform used.

"We still have Marine pilots," Fiust said. "They're still going to have the same attitude toward supporting the Marines on the ground."

After being on the ground for so long, the bronze star recipient has one thing on his mind.

"Right now I'm just focusing on getting back into flying and getting proficient again at being an attack pilot," Fiust said.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Above and left: Capt. Daniel Fiust, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 AV-8B Harrier pilot and a native of San Carlos, Calif., receives the Bronze Star Medal from Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, the VMA-513 commanding officer, at the squadron hangar at MCAS Yuma, Jan. 16. Fiust received the award for the tactical ingenuity he displayed while serving as the the air officer and a forward air controller for 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment. "I just felt like I was doing my job," Fiust said. "It was great to have support from 513." One of Fiust's highlights included ground-air coordination in taking out a sniper team pinning down a group of Marines. A battalion air officer acts as a liaison for aviation squadrons supporting ground Marines, directing and dispersing air assets across the battalion's area of operations. The air officer is the senior forward air controller in a battalion. His responsibilities range anywhere from air strikes to airborne medical evacuations.

# Full Ads

# Panetta Lifts F-35 Fighter Variant Probation

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

NAVAL AIR STATION PATUXENT RIVER, Md., Jan. 20, 2012 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta announced today he's lifted probation from the Short Takeoff, Vertical Landing variant of the fifth generation F-35 Lightning II joint strike fighter which is absolutely vital to maintaining air superiority.

Speaking during a town hall-style meeting here, the defense secretary discussed the latest development in the progress of the joint strike fighter program as service members, politicians and the civilian workforce listened.

"Early in 2011 DOD was compelled to put [the Short Takeoff and Vertical Landing] ... on probation," he said.

"Over the course of last year, you here at Pax River helped make an incredible difference by completing tremendous amounts of STOVL testing," Panetta noted. "You demonstrated that we've made real progress towards fixing some of the known problems that we had with STOVL."

Panetta lauded the joint strike fighter's workforce at NAS Patuxent River for their efforts to bring the STOVL variant up to the standards of the two other existing versions of the F-35, the Conventional Takeoff and Landing and Carrier Variant.

"We now believe that because of your work, that the STOVL variant is demonstrating the kind of performance and maturity that is in line with the other two variants of the JSF," Panetta said.

"As a result of your hard work and the hard work of JSF's government and industry team ... the STOVL variant has made, I believe and all of us believe, sufficient progress so that as of today, I am lifting the STOVL probation," he announced.

Panetta commended the crowd for their hard work, but cautioned that the JSF program still has more work to do. "We've got a long way to go with the JSF testing, and it's obviously not out of the woods yet," he said.

"But I am confident that if we continue to do the hard work necessary ... that both the Carrier

and the STOVL Variant are going to be ready for operations and are going to be ready for doing the work that they have to do, which is to help protect this country," Panetta said.

"I want you all to know that as secretary of defense, my department is committed to the development of the F-35," he said. "It's absolutely critical ... that we get it right. And that's why you're here. The developmental testing that's going on here will ensure that we get this right."

Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James F. Amos called Panetta's decision to lift the probation of the F-35B "hard-earned."

"Secretary Panetta's decision to take the F-35B Lightning II Short Takeoff, Vertical Landing variant off probation was a hard-earned and rewarding announcement for the entire DOD/industry team that worked very hard last year," he said.

"Successful F-35B performance ashore and at sea has very positively advanced the state of demonstrated capability in 2011," Amos said. "The positive momentum generated during 2011 will continue as testing proceeds, production aircraft are delivered, and fleet training begins in 2012."

Panetta said it is important that the U.S. military maintains its technological edge into the future.

"That's where we have to be," he said. "We're going to have a strong defense; we have got to be there."

Panetta praised the capabilities of Patuxent's workforce.

"Because of you, because of the very unique testing and capabilities that are offered here, we are able to maintain that technological edge," Panetta said. "And I want to thank you again for your dedication, for your commitment, for your great skills."

Panetta lauded the Patuxent River installation calling it "a very unique facility" and "a national treasure" that is important to maintain.

"These are world-class facilities ... that [are] important to our military, important to our men and women in uniform who have to put their lives on the line, and it's important to our national security," Panetta said.

"Please accept my deepest thanks for your work and dedication," he said. "I couldn't do it without you."



Photo by Staff Sgt. James R. Richardson

**Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and U.S. Rep. Steny H. Hoyer of Maryland look at the cockpit of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter with Navy Capt. Erik "Rock" Etz on Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Md., Jan. 20, 2012. Panetta and Hoyer toured several facilities related to the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, which is in its test phases at the base**

# Station displays military assests for year's 1st Winter Visitors Tour

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior

Each year, the station holds three Winter Visitor's Tours in an effort to show the community what Marine Corps Air Station Yuma is all about.

Tour guides from the station's public affairs office guide the nearly 500 visitors on a windshield tour of the air station, talking about key points of interest, discussing the station's rich history, and explaining why the station is consistently the busiest air station in the Marine Corps.

The visitors also get to see a demonstration of the station's military working dogs, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstration, as well as displays of aircraft and equipment on the station flight line.

The station's final tour will be Feb. 7. For more information, or to volunteer to assist with the next tour, contact the public affairs office at 928-269-2275.



Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk

Several station Marines demonstrated their Marine Corps Martial Arts Program skills to hundreds of on lookers during this years first Winter Visitor Tour Jan. 24. The visitors also get to see a demonstration of the station's military working dogs and displays of aircraft and equipment on the station flight line. Tour guides from the station's public affairs office provided tours of the entire air station for the guests. The station's final tour will be Feb. 7.



Photos by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

Over 500 visitors toured MCAS Yuma during this years first Winter Visitor Tour Jan. 24. Tour guides from the station's public affairs office provided tours of the entire air station for the guests.



# 1/2 Ads

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

### *"Leadership in Relationships"*

**LTJG. Daniel E. Chung, Asst. MAG- 13 Chaplain**

Part of leadership is serving: considering the other, especially the junior Marine, and their needs over one's own. A simple example is waiting in the chow line. All SNCOs and Officers wait until the end so that their junior Marines and Sailors can eat first. As military personnel, it becomes easy to serve and it is expected, especially when we assume a position of leadership. The least popular NCO is the one that always looks out for his/her own best interest, and throws a temper tantrum when things do not go their way (beware the knife edge as I've been told they like to illustrate their anger using their hands!). Whenever a junior Marine comes into my office for counseling and they say that they like and respect their NCO, the reason is because that NCO looks out for the Marines under his/her care. That NCO sets his/her Marine on the right path for success, and that is always good to hear. Are we called to serve only while in uniform? Well, we're always being told that once you're a Marine, you're always a Marine. There is no such thing as a "former Marine." So the answer must be a "no." If we have the privilege of putting on this uniform as a Marine/Sailor, then we are called to be leaders wherever we go whether we are on or off duty. That includes our roman-

tic relationships, especially marriage! Have you thought about actively serving your spouse or partner in order to be their leader? The Bible says in Genesis 2:24 that a man will leave his family and hold fast to his wife, and become one with her. Think about the way you've been treating your spouse as of late. The moment we begin to think, "what can my spouse do for me?" is the moment we have failed in our relationship/marriage. That is the moment we have transitioned from being a selfless leader to a selfish tyrant, and no one likes a tyrant. And if this selfishness continues, one day a rebellion will arise and you will be overthrown in what we know as "divorce," which then leads to "alimony payment" and "child support." No one likes a divorce. No one ever gets married thinking, "Score! Now I can't wait to get a divorce in 6-8 months!" Take what you've learned from the Marine Corps and apply it to your relationship. No, not MCMAP; but about serving and looking out for the welfare of those under your care. As you serve, you will not get a medal, but the recognition you will have will be the undying love and support of your beloved spouse. Remember, serving is not the only key to a successful relationship, but it is an important one!

## Leader's Forum

**Sgt. Maj. Irene O'Neal,  
MAG-13 Sergeant Major**

The year is already coming to an end and this is normally the time when some may think of making a New Year's resolution.

I ask that you all take the time to reflect back on what you accomplished in your career this year as a Marine and Sailor and what you need to do to improve yourself.

It is easy to look at what you have accomplished, I highly recommend that you review, reflect and react to what you need to do to enhance yourself as a mentor, leader, Marine and Sailor.

By now you have all heard about the Marine Corps draw down and how competitive promotions and reenlistments are

going to be.

Don't be the one who is left standing alone by not doing enough to prepare for promotions, reenlistment or even more so transitioning out of the Marine Corps or Navy.

Not everyone will be able to reenlist and we can't stay around forever, so before you try to make promises you may not be able to keep to yourself look at what you have already done and what you are going to do to make things better for you and your Marines and Sailors.

# 1/2 Ads



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Top:** Cpl. Jakob Schulz, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron combat correspondent and a native of Chicago, Ill., prepares to clear a room at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23. The room clearing exercise was part of the final event for Corporal's Course class 310-12.

**Right:** Cpl. Raymond Thiesen, a station Corporal's Course instructor and native of The Bronx, NY, watches his class 310-12 enter the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23, to clear it as part of the final MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course event.

# Corporal's Course class gets colorful lesson in teamwork, tactics



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

Corporal's Course: for some Marines, a mere promotion requirement, for others a period of enlightenment used for reflection of what it means to be a noncommissioned officer.

Whatever their feelings, station Marines attending Corporal's Course class 310-12 found themselves utilizing what they learned in their section during a house-clearing exercise at the station's Special Reaction Team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Monday.

For the past four weeks, dozens of Marines from various squadrons have been strengthening their NCO leadership abilities through courses including combat operations, sword and drill manual, and learning how to give primary military education classes.

Corporal's Course is meant to remind Marines that they're, well, Marines.

"Unfortunately, there're times you forget the basics of being a Marine," said Sgt. Cynthia Collier, a Corporal's Course instructor and a native of Los Angeles, Calif. "(Corporal's Course) breaks Marines out of that shell and brings them back to what they signed up for."

On a duty station that prides itself as a fantastic location for most anything aviation, room-clearing tactics are probably the farthest thing from most Marines' mind. Class 310-12, the second to participate in such an event within the course, had those tactics at the forefront of their minds.

Taught by members of the station's Special Reaction Team, the Marines drilled first with dry runs, again with body and head armor, and finally combined their knowledge to surround and then clear the house with paintballs as their ammunition of choice.

"The different things we don't stress about in our day to day job, we apply them in this event," said Collier, noting the more disciplined look of the class as the course nears its completion.

"You're applying the skills you learned and it builds up the camaraderie, so it's a fun thing we send them off with," she added.

Course attendees also noted a change in their outlook of rank.

"It's building the foundation of being a noncommissioned officer," said Cpl. Donald Carlson, a Corporal's Course participant and a native of St. Paul, Minn. "It supplements the leadership skills we've already learned and backs it up with knowledge and training."

Class 310-12 is slated to graduate Friday.

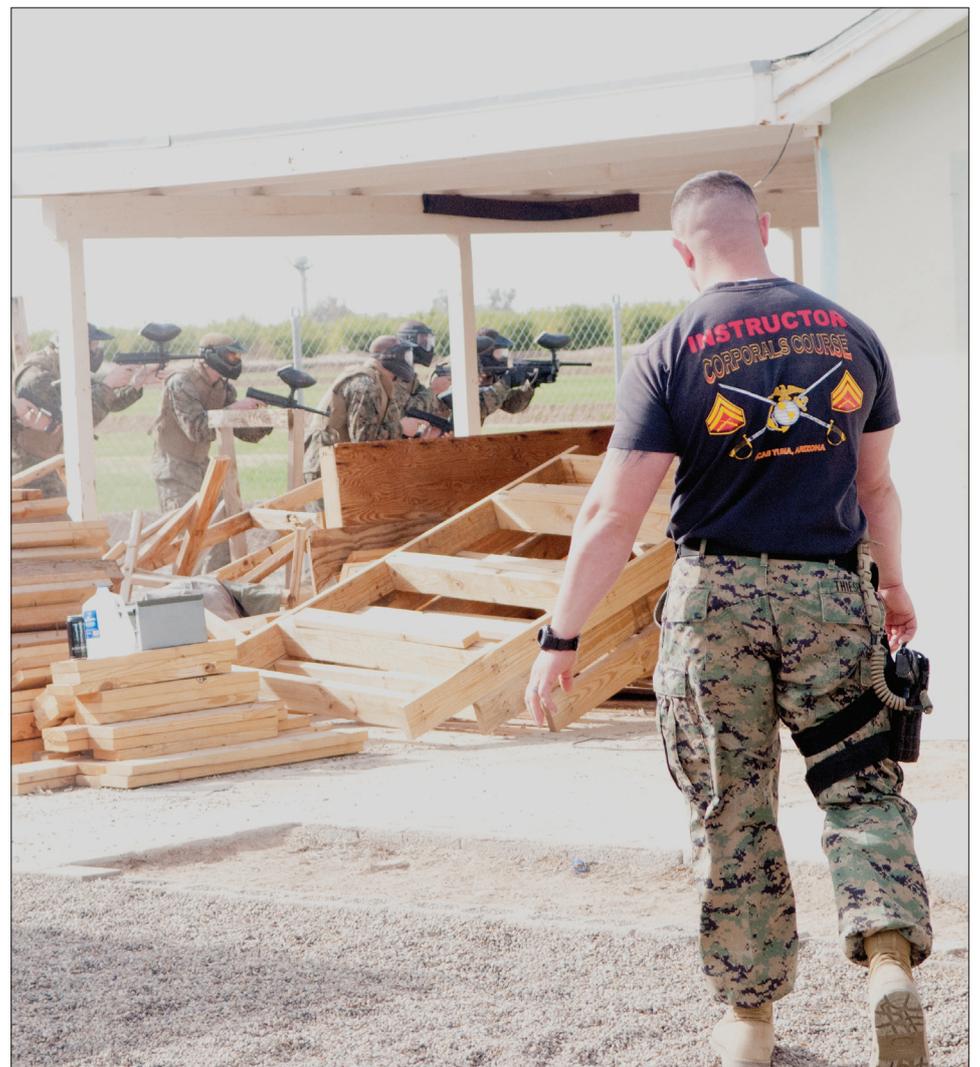


Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

A Corporal's Course attendee shows his paint-splattered helmet after partaking in the paintball portion of the final Corporal's Course event for MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course class 310-12 at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23.

A Corporal's Course attendee shows his paintball gun before partaking in the paintball portion of the final Corporal's Course event for MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course class 310-12 at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

A Corporal's Course attendee prepares to search and clear a room at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23. The room clearing exercise was part of the final event for MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course class 310-12.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Above: Cpl. Adam Loudermilk, a MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course attendee, provides cover for his fellow Marines during a room clearing exercise at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23.

Below: Corporal's Course attendees prepare to search and clear a house at the station's special reaction team house off County 14th Street in Yuma, Ariz., Jan. 23., as part of the final MCAS Yuma Corporal's Course event.



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

# Full Ads

# Qualified tuition plan

**Mycreditunion.gov**

Parents often hear that they should begin saving early for their children's college educations, but it can be tricky to know how to get started. You may have heard about 529 plans as one option.

A 529 plan is a tax-advantaged savings plan designed to encourage saving for future college costs. States, state agencies, or educational institutions sponsor 529 plans, which are legally known as "qualified tuition plans."

These plans can either be pre-paid tuition plans or college savings plans. All 50 states and the District of Columbia sponsor at least one type of 529 plan. In addition, a group of private colleges and universities sponsor a pre-paid tuition plan.

Pre-paid Tuition Plans generally allow you to purchase units or credits at participating colleges and universities for future tuition and, in some cases, room and board. Most of these plans are sponsored by state governments and have residency requirements. They often involve locking in tuition prices at eligible public and private colleges and universities.

College Savings Plans do not have a lock on college costs. They generally permit you to establish an account for a student to pay eligible college expenses, including tuition, room and board, mandatory fees, and books and computers (if required). There are typically several investment options for contributions, which the college savings plan invests on behalf of the account holder.

## Be wary of cell phone batteries

### U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Lithium-ion (Li-Ion) batteries, which are commonly found in today's cellular phones, have a lot of energy in a small package. Li-Ion batteries are more sensitive to physical stress than alkaline batteries found in toys and flashlights and need to be treated with more care.

To promote the safe use of cell phones, batteries and chargers, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and CTIA-The Wireless Association, the trade organization representing various facets of the wireless industry, recommend the following:

1. Do not use incompatible cell phone batteries and chargers. Some Web sites and second-hand dealers, not associated with reputable manufacturers and carriers, might be selling incompatible or even counterfeit batteries and chargers. Consumers should purchase manufacturer or carrier recommended products and accessories. If unsure about whether a replacement battery or charger is compatible, contact the manufacturer of the battery or charger.
2. Do not permit a battery out of the phone to come in contact with metal objects, such as coins, keys or jewelry.
3. Do not crush, puncture or put a high degree of pressure on the battery as this can cause an internal short-circuit, resulting in overheating.
4. Avoid dropping the cell phone. Dropping it, especially on a hard surface, can potentially cause damage to the phone and battery. If you suspect damage to the phone or battery, take it to a service center for inspection.
5. Do not place the phone in areas that may get very hot, such as on or near a cooking surface, cooking appliance, iron, or radiator.
6. Do not get your phone or battery wet. Even though they will dry and appear to operate normally, the circuitry could slowly corrode and pose a safety hazard.
7. Follow battery usage, storage and charging guidelines found in the user's guide.

## LEAVING THE CORPS

### Jobs to Serve You

**defense.gov**

#### What is USA Jobs?

USA Jobs is the United States Office of Personnel Management's website. USAJOBS is the Federal Government's official one-stop source for Federal jobs and employment information.

#### How does the Federal Resume help?

A federal resume is a type of resume constructed specifically to apply for Federal Government jobs. It contains a summary or listing of relevant job experience and education, but it is written specifically to target the position being applied for.

#### How is it different than a regular resume?

Not only is the format different in terms of structure, length and content, but a Federal resume must include all the information required by a job announcement — not following these guidelines will most likely get you eliminated. Federal resumes are written in chronological resume format. Specific information is required to be included on federal resumes so that applicants can be rated uniformly.

#### Why is a special resume required for USA Jobs?

A federal resume is required when applying for federal employment because it asks for specific information that is not required when applying for work in the private sector.

#### What types of programs are provided to help with this sort of resume?

Resumix classes are offered through the Career Resource Management Center.

#### What will the Marines learn?

Marines and their spouses will learn about the federal employment process, VA point preferences, how to determine what GS levels they qualify for, how to navigate USA jobs and most importantly how to write a federal resume.

#### Do Marines need to schedule an appointment for the programs?

Anyone wanting to sign up for these classes can contact the Career Resource Management Center Rich Welch 269-5181, Emma Mendez 269-2680, Alicia Ruvalcaba 269-2680.

#### Why would it benefit a Marine to fill out a Federal Resume?

On November 9, 2009, President Barack Obama signed Executive Order 13518, Employment of Veterans in the Federal Government, which establishes the Veterans Employment Initiative. Military Veterans are being targeted for hire because in comparison to a recent college graduate a veteran brings discipline, skills, ability to multi-task and they are reliable.

#### What are the qualifications?

The qualifications will vary based on the position being applied for. The most important thing to remember is how well someone translates their military skills into civilian terms and how these skills relate to the position they are applying for.

#### Why should a Marine want a job from USA Jobs?

USA jobs lists all current federal vacancies. These would be of interest to any service member because of their VA preference and being able to transfer their time of military service.

## Tips for a Safe and Healthy Life

### Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

**Take steps every day to live a safe and healthy life.**

#### 1. Eat Healthy

- Eat a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains every day.

- Limit foods and drinks high in calories, sugar, salt, fat, and alcohol.

- Eat a balanced diet to help keep a healthy weight.

#### 2. Be Active

- Be active for at least 2½ hours a week. Include activities that raise your breathing and heart rates and that strengthen your muscles.

- Help kids and teens be active for at least 1 hour a day. Include activities that raise their breathing and heart rates and that strengthen their muscles and bones.

- Physical activity helps to maintain weight, reduce high blood pressure, reduce arthritis pain and associated disability, reduce risk for osteoporosis and falls and reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety.

#### 3. Protect Yourself And Your Family

- Wear helmets, seat belts, sunscreen, and insect repellent.

- Wash hands to stop the spread of germs.

- Avoid smoking and breathing other people's, or (second hand), smoke.

- Build safe and healthy relationships with family and friends.

- Be ready for emergencies. Gather emergency supplies. Make a plan. Be informed.

#### 4. Manage Stress

- Balance work, home, and play.

- Get support from family and friends.

- Take time to relax.

- Stay positive.

- Get 7-9 hours of sleep each night. Make sure kids get more, based on their age.

- Get help or counseling if needed.

#### 5. Get Check-Ups

- Ask your doctor or nurse how you can lower your risk for health problems.

- Find out what exams, tests, and shots you need and when to get them.

- See your doctor or nurse for regular check-ups and as often as directed. Get seen if you feel sick, have pain, notice changes, or have problems with medicine.

For more information on flu prevention, visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/preventing.html>

# Full Ads

# 211's history to be recreated at the 50th annual Yuma Air Show

by **Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior Staff

On December 8, 1941 the Japanese Imperial Navy conducted a daring surprise attack on Wake Island, a small American outpost in the Pacific. At the same time, across the Pacific and the international dateline, the more infamous attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii was taking place.

The first attack on Wake Island destroyed seven of Marine Fighter Squadron 211's 12 aircraft on the ground.

In the next two weeks, the remaining five planes repelled numerous attacks and inflicted great losses on the much larger enemy force. During the course of the defense, the Marine ground forces and VMF-211 sunk at least four enemy warships, the first major Japanese naval vessels sunk in the Pacific theater, as well as destroying eight enemy aircraft.

After the loss of its last aircraft, the squadron became a ground unit and fought until the surrender of the atoll.

The first Marine pilot awarded the Medal of Honor in World War II was VMF-211's Capt. Henry T. Elrod. On December 12, "Hammerin' Hank" single-handedly attacked a flight of 22 enemy planes and shot down two. He also executed several low-altitude bombing and strafing runs on enemy ships. During one of these attacks, he became the first man to sink a warship, the Japanese destroyer Kisaragi, with small-caliber bombs delivered from a fighter aircraft.

When all the U.S. aircraft had been destroyed by hostile fire, Elrod organized remaining troops into a beach defense unit which repelled repeated Japanese attacks. On December 23, 1941, Elrod was mortally wounded while protecting his men who were carrying ammunition to a gun emplacement.

He was posthumously promoted to major on November 8, 1946, and his widow was presented with the Medal of Honor for his heroic actions during the defense of Wake Island.

Today, his name is still on the cockpit of the squadron's commanding officer's jet.

A planned operation to reinforce Wake Island was deemed too dangerous by the fleet command, and on Dec. 23 Wake Island was finally overrun by a numerically superior enemy.

"It's definitely a heritage we celebrate today," said Capt. Daniel Ford, VMA-211 pilot and historian. "'Remember Wake' became the battle cry for the squadron for the rest of the war. It's where we get our identity from."

Slowly rebuilding, as personnel and aircraft became available, the squadron was deployed in May 1942 to Palmyra Atoll in the South Pacific and adopted the name "Avengers" in memory of those squadron members who were killed or captured on Wake Island.

Throughout the war, VMF-211 participated in the Treasury-Bougainville Campaign, Battle of the Bismarck Sea, Northern Solomon, Battle of Leyte Gulf and Southern Philippine campaigns, shouting "Remember Wake!" everywhere the Marines went.

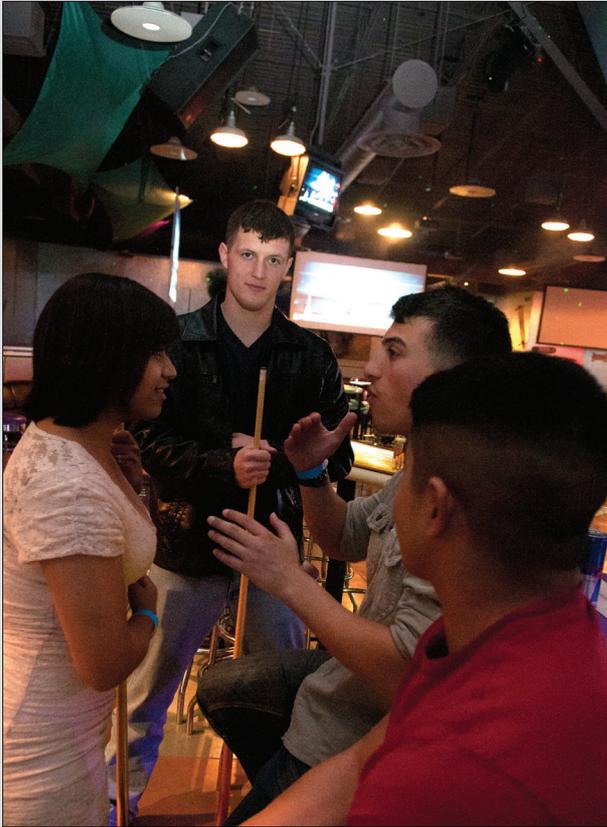
The World War II reenactment group Tora! Tora! Tora! will recreate similar WWII attacks during the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's 50th annual Air Show March 17, bringing with them their WWII era planes and pyrotechnics.

At the 2009 MCAS Yuma Air Show, the same group shattered a world record with a 10,178.3 foot wall of fire. While the group won't be attempting any world records for this year's air show, it is sure to be a performance worth watching.



Photo courtesy of Tora Tora Tora

## 1/2 Ads



Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Sgt. Daniel Malta, left, and Cpl. Jakob Schulz, both Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron combat correspondents, dance at Club Pulse on the air station, Jan. 21.**

## Pulse... The Nightclub

**Lance Cpl. Laura Cardoso**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Club Pulse is the type of venue that will be enjoyed by anyone who wants to let loose and have an unforgettable time with friends. Entrance is free and drinks are cheap!

The music is great and the club's layout directs the emphasis of your attention directly to the action on the dance floor.

The club had an extensive bar and the bar tenders were friendly, fun and quick to serve.

When you wanted to take a break from dancing, there was a variety of fun activities to do, such as, pool, video games, computers and volleyball.

When I went with my friends a few nights ago, we couldn't stop talking about it the next day. We all concluded that that night was one of the most exciting nights we've had in a long time and are looking forward to coming back.

I definitely give this nightclub a ten out of ten.



**Lance Cpl. Laura Cardoso lines up a shot in a game of pool at Club Pulse on the air station, Jan. 21.**



**Sgt. Jimmy Gauna lines up a shot in a game of pool at Club Pulse on the air station, Jan. 21.**

# Application review: *The iCorps & My Baby app*

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**  
Desert Warrior Staff

The iCorps app, available for Android and Apple devices, is probably the most useful app for Marines. The app has a multitude of different functions such as PFT and CFT calculators, updated MarAdmins, uniform regulations, pay charts, ribbon placement and important Marine Corps knowledge. The information and sub apps are extremely organized and accurate. This application alone has almost everything required to be a functioning Marine, putting every bit of Marine Corps knowledge at your finger tips.

The My Baby app by BabyCenter, available for Apple devices, is something every new parent should have on their phone. After downloading and inputting a little information, the app tracks your baby's development, sending you important information on the growth and development of the child. Along with this, there are a few extra things that come with this application, though none seem to be as useful as its core function. Every day I look forward to getting updates and finding my child's right on track. It even sends useful hints. This app is a must have for any new parent.

# Americas Intelligence in Question

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**  
Desert Warrior Staff

It's no secret that America has fallen on hard times, but what people might not be aware of is where America stands next to other developed countries in education.

Out of 30 developed countries, U.S. students rank 25 in math and 21 in science according to Programme for International School Assessment.

For a country that's supposed to be a super power, this is totally unsatisfactory, to say the least.

The one thing American students rate number one at is confidence, according to the documentary "Waiting for Superman", by academy award winning director Davis Guggenheim. That fact, which may seem a bit funny, really shows our illusions of superiority.

It is not only our president's and military's job to keep this country on top, but the individual American's by striving for education and the education of their children.

It is hard to succeed in places like inner city schools, where the educators are stretched and the dropout rates are through the roof, but that's no excuse for giving up. Some people are given less to work with, which is clear, but the ability to push through and succeed should be a quality that every American holds.

Regardless of our culture, heritage or geographic location, all American students should be receiving the same education and opportunities, but this is simply not the case.

"Nationally, about 71 percent of all students graduate from high school on time with a regular diploma, but barely half of African-American and Hispanic students earn diplomas with their peers," according to the Alliance for Excellent Education.

In a country that preaches equality, this is a statistic that shouldn't exist.

Besides our education system, I also believe materialism plays a huge part in our rapid educational decline.

All of the technology and gizmos Americans have

should be a sign of our economic prosperity and growth. Instead it's become indicative of our collective lethargy. We have television and top notch programming people glue themselves to for hours, instead of being constructive. Everyday features like spell check allow us to spell like third graders. All of which are destroying the effectiveness of the individual American.

So, after years of learning the wrong way and years of becoming dependent on technology, how can we once again become the super power we were 60 years ago?

There is no shortage on mediums in which we can educate ourselves, so if you're not learning something everyday, something's not right.

The answer is simple enough. We first need to learn humility and understand where we truly stand. Stop being so politically correct allowing our children to do whatever the hell they want, and stop making GED's and dropping out even an option. We need every American on top of their game if we truly want to do some good.

# The Great Outdoors... at 50 MPH

**Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Desert Warrior

It's no secret Yuma is a little more removed than many other American cities, so finding new and exciting activities here can be a challenge. But every once in a while, a new opportunity for a rewarding experience presents itself.

The station Arizona Adventures location is soon to be offering such an opportunity. The many new and improved attractions that will be provided can change any run-of-the-mill weekend into an adrenaline-fueled odyssey one is not soon to forget.

"Our main priority is to have a program for Marines to be entertained," said Bill Cardenas, the outdoors director for Arizona Adventures.

Come Feb. 1, all new equipment, mostly for outdoor activities, will be ready for use,



Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

**Sergio Medina, Arizona Adventures recreation assistant, 19, stands next to the array of new off-road vehicles at Arizona Adventures, Jan. 12. These vehicles, along with boats, jet skis, bicycles, paintball gear and canoes, will be available after Feb. 1.**

Cardenas explained. More Than 50 new off-road motorized vehicles, including dirt bikes, four-wheelers and side-by-sides, will be available for rent. There are also 40 mountain bikes, numerous jet skis and canoes, a handful of pontoon and recreational boats and even trailers that are capable of cooking meals for large groups of people, all brand new.

However, rentals will only be in large groups, with a minimum of ten people to take out equipment. This is due to any possible safety issues with the new equipment, as well as to reduce cost to the consumer but still maintain profits. It's projected items will be available for individual use within a year.

"We need to make the program work first to see if the rental system will function," said Cardenas. "It's the foundation. We are trying to bring people together and keep the costs down."

Events can run anywhere from \$50-\$100 per person, said Cardenas, but trips will generally include a day's worth of activities, transportation and food.

"All we need is you guys to sign up," said Cardenas.

As for activities that take place on station, a new rock climbing wall has just been completed on the north face of the gym, and the paintball field has been renovated and all new rental equipment purchased. The paintball field is open to groups who wish to play, with a variety of scenarios available. The details of operation of the rock wall are still being worked out with the gym, but it will likely be open to individuals.

However, safety is a big concern, said Cardenas. Before any off-road motorized vehicle can be taken out, the All Terrain Vehicle safety course must be completed. As well, before any watercraft can be used, the Arizona Adventures water safety course is mandatory.

"Safety is our priority," said Cardenas. "It always has been and always will be. I think it can be done safely all the way around. We just have to educate."

For more information, go to the Arizona Adventures website at [www.mccsyuma.org](http://www.mccsyuma.org) and click the Arizona Adventures link under the "recreation/fitness" tab, or call 928-269-2848.

From looking at row upon row of glimmering new vehicles and watching the sunlight glisten off of the boats and jet skis, I can say that I can't wait to see and feel these rides in action.

## 1/2 Ads