

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

# Desert **WARRIOR**



Volume 10, Number 53  
January 19, 2012

## **SPIRIT OF YUMA FESTIVAL**

Celebration of local military heritage



### **LEGOLAND OF YUMA?**

*YUMA MARINE HOLDS WORLD RECORD*

### **THE SILVER LINING**

*GEN. DEMPSEY SPEAKS ON THE MILITARY'S FUTURE*

### **A FRIEND IN NEED'S A FRIEND INDEED**

*A MARINE'S TAKE ON FRIENDSHIP TODAY*



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# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Joely Santiago

DoD's first production F-35B Lightning II joint strike fighter flies toward its new home at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., escorted by Marine Corps F-18 Hornets. The Marine variant of the JSF belongs to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 501. The Marines of VMFAT-501 received two F-35Bs Jan. 11.

## Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

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

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

Marines exchange warrior ethos with Djibouti forces.



<http://youtu.be/PWLpMT14hyA>

MCAS Yuma receive awards at Air Show.

## 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

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Yuma Union High School District will host the Region III Academic Decathlon competition this year at Gila Ridge High School on February 3rd and 4th. 80 volunteers are needed to serve as either test proctors or speech interview-essay judges. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Mr. Frank Nunez at 928-502-4676 or the MCAS Yuma School Liaison, Elena McShane, at 928-269-5373.

### MARRIAGE RETREAT

Active Duty Military, do you want to enrich your marriage? Come sign up at the Station Chapel for a paid weekend marriage retreat at the Yuma Radisson Hotel January 28-29. Child care will not be provided. For more information, contact the Station Chapel at 928-269-2371.

### HELP YUMA'S YOUNG MARINES

The Yuma Young Marines is a non-profit organization for children ages 8 to high school teens. The core effort of the program is to promote "Anti-Drug use and Awareness." The group attempts to instill the ideals of honesty, fairness, courage, respect, loyalty, and more. It's been in Yuma for nearly 14 years and has participated in numerous public events, fundraisers and more. In order to help keep the program growing and going, The Young Marines are asking for the most valuable thing a person can give to a child - 'their time'! They need volunteers willing to give a little of their time for a good cause! For more information, contact W. Moss at [dpblkc@yahoo.com](mailto:dpblkc@yahoo.com).

### 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.

### DOG PARK NOW READY

A new dog park, located at the end of Keith Ave. on MCAS Yuma, will open Jan. 20 for all military families. For any questions regarding the new dog park, contact Lincoln Military Housing at 928-344-1240.

### NEW OFF LIMITS LOCATIONS

The Mine Shaft, located at 3905 S. 4th Avenue is now off limits at all times. The confluence of the Colorado and Gila Rivers, is also off limits during the hours of darkness. For more details about these off limit locations, read Station Bulletin 1620 at [www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil) or call the Joint Law Center at 928-269-2481.

### MESS HALL HOURS

#### **Monday-Friday:**

Breakfast: 5:30-7:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dinner: 4-6 p.m.

Midrats: 11 p.m. to 12:45 p.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, visit [www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil).



## Tailspotter



**Yogi**

Yogi is one big lovable puppy, he is just over a year old. Yogi is a large, huggable Anatolian Shepherd / Cattle dog blend. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



## 5 Questions

for the MAD Director

Charles Richardson

### **Q. What is the Mission of the Mission Assurance Department (MAD)?**

Develop, coordinate, implement, and oversee Marine Corps policies that ensure MCAS Yuma can protect personnel, critical assets and supporting infrastructures, while ensuring that we remain capable of executing all tasks that support the Combatant Commander and Higher Headquarters missions. This is accomplished through an All Hazards process as it pertains to Antiterrorism, Critical Infrastructure Protection, Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Preparedness, Installation Emergency Management and Information & Personnel Security.

### **Q. How does MAD accomplish its mission?**

Our focus is on providing the Installation Commanding Officer with disaster resilience against all hazards threats. We accomplish this by focusing on the integration of protection-related efforts and functions:

- Prepare, prevent, respond and recover.
- Alignment of security and emergency response planning and resourcing activities.
- Synchronized policy, doctrine, and capabilities development.
- Integration effort includes all installation departments, activities and tenant units.

### **Q. What are the main programs that exist within the Mission Assurance Department?**

- Antiterrorism/Force Protection (AT/FP)
- Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP)
- Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives
- Installation Emergency Management (IEM)
- Information and Personnel Security (I&PS)

### **Q. If I wish to request training support, whom do I contact?**

Terrorism/AT Level I training: Mr. Tim Beeler 928-269-6725,  
Shelter-In-Place training: Mr. Earl Hamilton 928-269-6560,  
Active Shooter training: Mr. Bill Tait 928-269-6754

### **Q. Where can I get more information about the stations current threat protection level?**

The current Force Protection Condition is posted at the main gate of the air station and on all primary entrances to buildings. For more detailed information, contact the Mission Assurance Department at 928-269-2351.

## Thunderbird sighted in Yuma



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

Capt. Michael Fisher, advance pilot/narrator, U.S. Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron, gives an interview to local Yuma media in front of his modified Thunderbird F-16, Jan. 12. His visit marked the beginning of preparations for the Thunderbird Demo Team to perform in the March 17 airshow at MCAS Yuma.

## Harrier squadron celebrates its lineage, success

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior

As Corps history shows, Marines are well-acquainted with victory. A Yuma Harrier squadron celebrated both at MCAS Yuma, Jan. 12.

Marine Attack Squadron 513, well-rested after the holidays following a six-month tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan, rededicated their squadron's battle streamers during a battle colors ceremony.

"In September 2010, Headquarters Marine Corps gave us our updated lineage," said Sgt. Maj. Scoot Cooper, the former VMA-513 sergeant major. "Through a process of inspections, we realized we needed new battle streamers."

The squadron ordered the streamers, which came in during the squadron's deployment. While there are no new additions to the squadron's streamers, there are updated versions to the ones already earned.

The squadron's color guard stood before the entire unit, along with spouses and guests, as the squadron Commanding Officer Lt. Col. Samuel Smith and squadron Sergeant Major Sgt. Maj. Raquel Painter attached the new streamers. They did so in correspondence with a narration of the squadron's history.

"The history of the Marine Corps is important," added Painter, who had taken over as the squadron's sergeant major earlier in the day. "Marines need to learn their history to take more pride in being Marines."

Afterward, the ceremony's guest of honor, Lt. Col. Peter Lee, the former squadron commanding officer who led VMA-513 in their Afghanistan tour, offered his view of the event.

"Those streamers are a reflection of American youth that decided to join this institution," he said. "Two hundred and thirty-six years we've been winning and we continue to win."

While the focus of the evening was the squadron's achievements throughout its history, the event also served as an event spouses could enjoy with their Marines, as they missed the Marine Corps Birthday Ball while on deployment.

"The Marines felt it appropriate to call it a victory dinner because they all came back together, no injuries of any sort," said Betty Pancake, the VMA-513 family readiness officer. "We wanted to give them something to celebrate with their families."

"It was a very good life experience," said Ashley Chmelik, wife of Cpl. Tyler Chmelik, of the evening, grateful of a better understanding of her husband's unit.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, left, the Marine Attack Squadron 513 commanding officer, and Sgt. Maj. Raquel Painter, the VMA-513 sergeant major, attach a streamer onto the squadron's colors in a battle color ceremony at MCAS Yuma, Jan. 12. The ceremony recognized the squadron's lineage while celebrating its successful six-month deployment to Afghanistan. "The history of the Marine Corps is important," said Painter. "Marines need to learn their history to take more pride in being Marines."

## MALS-13 kicks off deployment

**Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Desert Warrior

Early in the morning of Jan. 12, a group of 40 Marines wished farewell and good luck to those departing to Afghanistan from MCAS Yuma. Many of the Marines present will soon be joining those who left.

Nine Marines from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13 left last Thursday morning as an advance party for the unit. Those Marines who left each have jobs and responsibilities that require more turnover time than other fields. They will spend the next couple weeks acclimatizing to Afghanistan and getting used to how the command structure and operations work in country.

MALS-11, MALS-39 and MALS-13 will be attached to MALS-16 while in Afghanistan. These units will be replacing MALS-40, which is the East Coast equivalent to what MALS-16 will be.

"We are going to sit there and work with MALS-40 for a good while and monitor everything they do," said Sgt. Joseph Klennert, an aviation ordnance technician with MALS-13 and a native of Lake City, Minn. "Then, we will jump headfirst into everything that has been done and become completely involved. We are going to be working side by side with them, and when they leave it's almost like we are that exact person we are replacing."

MALS-13 will be responsible for building, delivering and accounting for ammunition and gear, weapon systems repair and transportation procedures for equipment. The unit will be providing logistical support first for VMA-223 and later in the deployment VMA-211.

The rest of the elements of MALS-13 that are deploying will be leaving later this spring. Many Marines from MALS-13 will remain on MCAS Yuma to continue to support operations here.

"The main bodies don't need as much change over time because they will be doing the same thing only on the other side of the world," said Klennert.

"The only thing you have to worry about is the days ticking by on the calendar," said Klennert. "If you keep busy, even that won't be anything to worry about."

# The man who officially has the most

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior

While many have a hobby, few have the drive and dedication to turn that hobby into a world record.

Capt. Kyle Ugone, however, not only has that drive, but also the certificate declaring him as the Guinness World Record holder for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection with an astonishing 1,091 sets.

While his record stands at 1,091, Ugone actually has 1,251 sets, but some did not count toward the record due to being reproductions or not having the original instructions.

His vast collection started small and at a young age, but has grown in size and number, including one set that contains more than 5,000 individual pieces.

"I got my first set as a gift when I was five years old," said Ugone. "It's a windmill and I still have it today. From there, I kept getting more and more sets."

Rooms in his Yuma home look like they belong in a Lego Land theme park, containing hundreds of completed Lego sets separated by genre, such as space, trains, castles and Star Wars sets, displayed on tables and shelves.

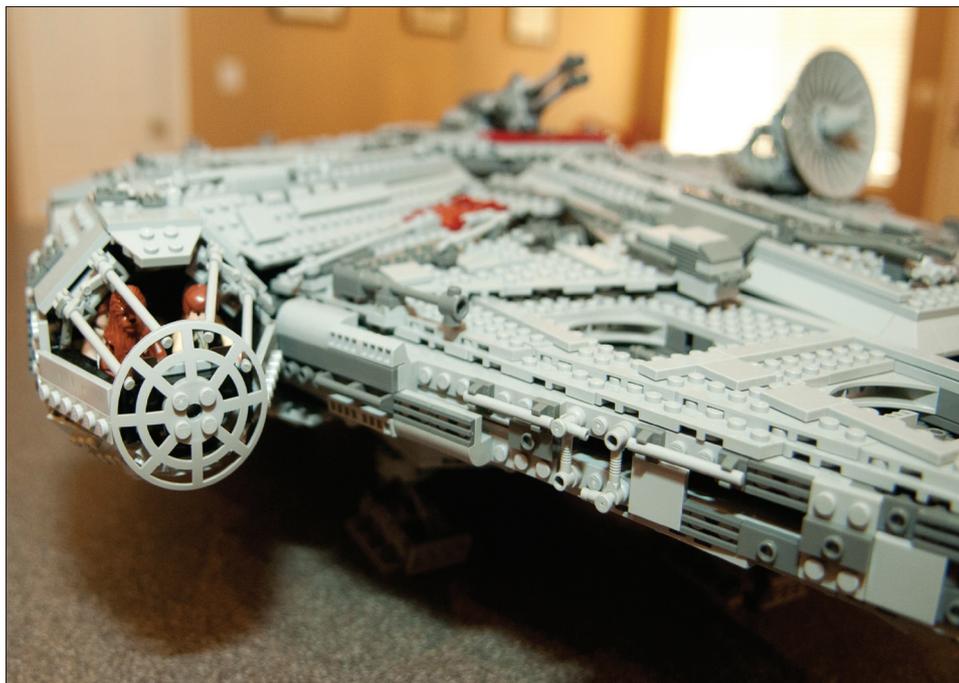
Lego is a line of construction toys consisting of colorful interlocking plastic bricks and an accompanying array of gears, mini-figures and various other parts.

Lego bricks can be assembled and connected in many ways, to construct objects like vehicles, buildings and even working robots. Anything constructed



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

**Capt. Kyle Ugone achieved the Guinness World Record holder for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection with an astonishing 1,091 sets. Ugone actually has 1,251 sets, but some did not count toward the record due to being reproductions or not having the original instructions.**



**Capt. Kyle Ugone achieved the Guinness World Record for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection with an astonishing 1,091 sets. Ugone actually has 1,251 sets, but some did not count toward the record due to being reproductions or not having the original instructions.**

can be taken apart to make other objects.

The toys were originally designed in the 1940s in Denmark and have achieved international appeal, with an extensive subculture that supports Lego movies, games, video games, competitions, and five Lego-themed amusement parks.

It wasn't until 2009, when Ugone was talking to other Lego enthusiasts online, that he decided to go for the world record.

"I was talking to a guy who said he wanted to build every set Lego has ever made," said Ugone, which number more than 5,000 sets, some of which are extremely rare and some that were only available in certain areas, such as Europe.

Ugone contacted Guinness to see what the current record for most sets was. Finding out there was none, he was told he would need at least 500 sets to claim a record.

"At the time, I had about 600-700 sets, but I wanted more," said Ugone. "So, I spent a lot of time scouring the internet to purchase more sets and build them."

After a Lego expert visited Ugone's house to verify his plethora of building block masterpieces, 1,091 of his 1,251 sets were authenticated for the record, earning him the title as the man with the most.

Now, Ugone is slowly taking the sets apart for storage to regain some of the square footage in his home, and taking a break from collecting Lego sets, planning instead to focus more of his attention on restoring a classic muscle car.

**Capt. Kyle Ugone achieved the Guinness World Record for the most completed Lego sets in a private collection with an astonishing 1,091 sets. Ugone actually has 1,251 sets, but some did not count toward the record due to being reproductions or not having the original instructions. Ugone is now taking the sets apart for storage to regain some of the square footage in his home, and taking a break from collecting Lego sets, planning instead to focus more of his attention on restoring a classic muscle car.**



# Full Ads

# General Martin E. Dempsey: New Strategy to Offer More Opportunities Than Liabilities

**Cheryl Pellerin**

American Forces Press Service

DURHAM, N.C., Jan. 12, 2012 – The Defense Department's new military strategy offers it more opportunities than liabilities, and the military is not being victimized by the need for a leaner budget, Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey said tonight.

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff addressed hundreds of attendees at Duke University's Page Auditorium during the annual Ambassador S. Davis Phillips Family International Lectureship.

"The real question from me to the service chiefs and the secretary of defense is how can we look at changing the way we deliver our objectives given these [budget constraints] and, actually, its enormous opportunity," Dempsey said.

"I think there is as much opportunity as liability," he added.

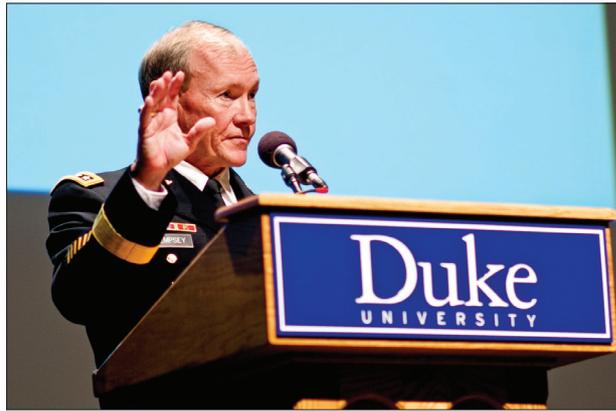
The chairman stressed that the military services are not being victimized by the U.S. economic crisis.

"We clearly have a role to play, all of us as citizens, in helping the nation address this economic crisis," he said. "We understand that for the nation to overcome its debt crisis and some of the other economic challenges it has, we have to get a hold of costs. And we will."

Dempsey added, "This is something that we, the Joint Chiefs, have embraced as what's best for America, and we'll figure it out."

The most important part of the emerging defense strategy "and where we're trying to get between now and 2020," he said, is that the United States is and must always be a world power.

President Barack Obama released the strategic guidance alongside Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Dempsey on at the



DoD photo by D. Myles Cullen

**Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, addresses a crowd at Duke University in Durham, N.C., about military possibilities despite the recent budget cuts, Jan. 12.**

Pentagon on Jan. 5. The guidance describes how the military will maintain superiority by becoming more agile, flexible and ready for the full range of contingencies and threats.

The strategy honors four principles -- that the U.S. military must remain preeminent, that there will be no hollow force, that financial savings must be balanced, and that the all-volunteer force must be preserved, keeping faith with men and women in uniform and their families.

"It's a real strategy," Dempsey told the Duke University audience. "We made some real choices. We've taken real own-

ership of it. It seeks a balance of principle and pragmatism."

The nation's military needs in 2020 are "what we should be thinking about," Dempsey said.

That means some combination of changed relationships between the traditional and conventional military components, the emerging components such as cyber, the lessons of the last 10 years of war, especially special operations forces, the chairman added.

"It's a new relationship among the services potentially ... a change in the way we approach security challenges [and] shifts in geographic priorities," he said.

Also changed is the two-war construct, Dempsey said -- the idea that arose in the era of the Soviet Union that the United States should be able to fight two large-scale land wars at the same time.

"Somebody said, 'Aha, you're taking that language out because now you're only going to fight one war,'" he said. "I would never say that. The nation doesn't need a military that can only do one thing at a time. The nation needs a military that can do multiple things" to give the nation's leaders as many options as possible.

Taking the two-war wording out of the defense strategy released the department from the "tyranny of language" associated with that construct, Dempsey said.

"That was fine when the world was like that and it was fine when resources were not an independent variable," the chairman said, "and so by freeing ourselves from that tyranny of vocabulary I think what we can actually allow ourselves to do now is to think differently about how we achieve the outcome."

# Nightmares welcome new Sergeant Major

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior

A Yuma-based Harrier squadron welcomed its new sergeant major in a post and relief ceremony at the squadron hangar, Jan. 12.

Sgt. Maj. Raquel Painter acceded the position of Marine Attack Squadron 513's senior enlisted Marine from Sgt. Maj. Scott Cooper, whose next tour will see him at Headquarters Battalion Marine Air/Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, Calif.

"I had a great time, with a great unit, and they'll continue to do great things," Cooper assured the squadron and ceremony attendees.

For his efforts as the Nightmare's sergeant major, Cooper, a native of Huntington Beach, Calif., received the Meritorious Service Medal. Cooper oversaw the squadron's six-month deployment to Afghanistan, which they returned from in November 2011, as well as a tour in Japan earlier in 2010.

Painter, a native of Sioux City, Iowa, on her first tour as a sergeant major, switched coasts from her previous assignment at Communications Company, 2nd Marine Division, Camp Lejuene, N.C.

"I'm honored to be here, to serve with the Nightmares," she said.

As well, her tour with the squadron will be her first experience with the airwing.

"I'm excited," Painter said, who served as a first sergeant under division and logistics echelons. "What better way to kick off my sergeant major career than with the wing?"



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Sgt. Maj. Raquel Painter, left, incoming Marine Attack 513 sergeant major, assumes her new position with Lt. Col. Samuel Smith, the VMA-513 commanding officer, as Sgt. Maj. Scott Cooper, VMA-513 outgoing sergeant major, looks on at the squadron hangar, MCAS Yuma, Jan. 12. This is Painter's first tour as a sergeant major.**

## 1/2 Ads

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

## *"Calling and Vocation"*

**Lt. j.g. Daniel Chung, MAG-13 Asst. Chaplain**

My friend graduated college and got a degree in human development from the University of California, San Diego two years ago. Since that time she has been taking more classes in order to apply to graduate school in order to become a Physician's Assistant. As rejection letters have been coming in, she called me and said she was lost, hopeless, and quite frankly she felt she had been wasting her life. I think we can all relate to her with our own struggles, trials, and periods of time where nothing seemed to get accomplished. Through our disappointments and failures, we become focused on what is at the tip of our noses, and become blind to the bigger picture of life. Some of you may be vehemently in disagreement with President Reagan's famous quote regarding the Marine Corps, especially when you are counting the days until your End of Active Service (EAS) date. Yes, some-

times (for others, many times) our jobs may not shine with splendor and satisfaction, and instead, our vocation breeds frustrations and stress. But rest assured that even the negatives are part of our calling as Marines/Sailors, and how we deal with them are what defines someone who is Semper Fi. You may be thinking that being a Marine or Sailor isn't your "calling" in life, and that you plan to get out and go to college. Good for you. But, know that right now, you're calling IS to be a Marine or Sailor, and this calling you have right now is precious in God's sight. So whether you're in it for the long haul or for the short term, whether you have been stressed out and frustrated, bear through the temporary weariness, finding hope that your struggles are not meaningless, but as Calvin says, very precious in God's sight. How we get to our goals in life are just as important as the goal itself.

## **"Life according to Facebook"**

**Capt. Staci Reidinger**  
Station Public Affairs Officer

Before the holidays I received a call from my mom. To my surprise, she asked me if I had heard about my sister and my niece as well as about other family members. After listening to her for two minutes, I asked her to start over because I was totally confused. She said, "Haven't you been on Facebook?"

In today's age of social media and text messaging, I feel like the old days of phone calls, friendly group gatherings and water cooler discussions are disappearing and are being replaced with distant e-mails, Facebook postings, status changes and texts. These additional communication channels were originally created to connect us but in some ways may be isolating us from human interaction.

With this said, the internet has brought deployed service members closer to their families and friends, allowing fathers to witness the birth of their children and mothers to see their daughters graduate from high school. But, when we return from deployment and have the time and ability to see our loved ones and speak to them, why don't we choose this option over Facebook and instant messaging?

My new year's resolution for 2012 includes connecting with friends and family more through phone calls and face-to-face visits when time permits. If you feel the same but want to reach out online, one of my favorites is Skype ([www.skype.com](http://www.skype.com)) which is a free service that allows you to see and hear the person on the other side. You can also sign up for the Skype conference option and have several friends and family on the line.

As for my mom, she now tries to give me a Facebook debrief before we talk. Gotta love technology!

# 1/2 Ads

# GIMME THAT OL' MARINE CORPS SPIRIT:

**By Cpl. Jolene Bopp**  
Desert Warrior

Col. Robert Kuckuk, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's commanding officer along with a few other Marines aboard the station volunteered their Saturday to celebrate Yuma's military history at the second annual Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in downtown Yuma, Jan. 14.

The festival celebrated the history of Yuma's military. The station has been a part of Yuma since 1928 but did not become a Marine Corps Air Station until Jan. 1, 1959. Since then the air station has gone through dramatic changes. Currently, the air station is going through major cosmetic surgery in preparation for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter.

Kuckuk was introduced by Mayor Alan Krieger and provided opening remarks following the pledge of allegiance. Kuckuk discussed the "marriage-like" relationship between station and city, as one cannot thrive without the other. He also mentioned how happy he was to be back in Yuma and could not think of a better place to be.

Five other Marines also volunteered their time to represent historical Marine Corps uniforms. The uniforms worn were the Spanish American War uniform of 1898 (Cpl. Harold Cline), Banana Wars uniform of 1927 (Sgt. Troy Hutchenson), a male and female uniform for Vietnam of 1965 (Cpl. Andres Amaya and Cpl. Myra Crandall) and Desert Storm, Desert Shield uniform of 1991 (Lance Cpl. Magdelyne Chase.)

Yuma citizens asked the Marines about the significance of each of the uniforms and why they were worn. Veterans also told Marines stories about their represented era. The volunteers were offered a free lunch from one of the local restaurants to show their appreciation for those currently serving.

MCAS Yuma also provided photos to the Yuma Art Gallery. Everyone was given the opportunity to learn more about the air station through the displayed photos.

Not only did the three-day festival provide MCAS Yuma a chance to share Marine Corps history but also gave local citizens the opportunity to sell their art, crafts and foods. Marines and Yuma's citizens were able to share their spirit for Yuma together for the second year.



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

**Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma commanding officer, speaks to the local community during the Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in downtown Yuma, Jan. 14. Kuckuk discussed the relationship between the community of Yuma and MCAS Yuma as a married couple. Through thick and thin, one cannot survive without the other.**



Photo by Cpl. Jolene Bopp

**Many Yuma natives thanked Marine volunteers for their service and asked questions about their historical Marine Corps uniforms. Five Marines volunteered their time to represent significant historical Marine uniforms.**



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



**Cpl. Andres Amaya, station Admin Clerk and native of Yuma, Az. who volunteered to represent Vietnam Marines in 1965, spoke with a veteran at the Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in downtown Yuma, Jan. 14. Marines from different units at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma dressed in historical Marine Corps uniforms to celebrate Yuma's military history. Many Yuma natives thanked Marine volunteers for their service and asked questions about their historical Marine Corps uniforms.**

Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

**Cpl. Harold Cline, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron Admin Clerk and native of Circleville, Ohio speaks with two guests during the Spirit of Yuma festival, Jan. 14.**

# MARINES AND CIVILIANS CELEBRATE HISTORY



Photos by Sgt. Daniel Malta



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

Cpl. Myra Crandall, Station Admin Clerk and native of Los Angeles, Calif. who volunteered to represent Female Vietnam Marines in 1965, walked around the Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in downtown Yuma, Jan. 14. Marines from different units at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma dressed in historical Marine Corps uniforms to celebrate Yuma's military history. Marine Corps Air Station Yuma provided the Yuma Arts Center with historical photos and present photos for the Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in down town Yuma. This gave Yuma civilians the opportunity to learn more about the history of MCAS Yuma and how it progressed to what it is now.

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma provided the Yuma Arts Center with historical photos and present photos for the Spirit of Yuma Festival on Main Street in downtown Yuma, Jan. 13-15. This gave visitors the opportunity to learn more about the history of MCAS Yuma and how it progressed to what it is now.



Photos by Sgt. Daniel Malta

# Full Ads

# Top 10 Tax Time Tips

**IRS TAX TIP 2011-01, January 03, 2011**

*It's that time of the year again. The income tax filing season has begun and important tax documents should be arriving in the mail. Here are the Internal Revenue Service's top 10 tips that will help your tax filing process run smoother than ever this year.*

1. **Start gathering your records.** Round up any documents or forms you'll need when filing your taxes: receipts, canceled checks and other documents that support income or deductions you're claiming on your return.
2. **Be on the lookout W-2s and 1099s will be coming soon.** You'll need these to file your tax return.
3. **Use Free File.** Let Free File do the hard work for you with brand-name tax software or online fillable forms. It's available exclusively at <http://www.irs.gov>. Everyone can find an option to prepare their tax return and e-file it for free. If you made \$58,000 or less, you qualify for free tax software that is offered through a private-public partnership with manufacturers. If you made more or are comfortable preparing your own tax return, there's Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic versions of IRS paper forms. Visit [www.irs.gov/efile](http://www.irs.gov/efile) to review your options.
4. **Try IRS e-file.** After 21 years, IRS e-file has become the safe, easy and most common way to file a tax return. Last year, 70 percent of taxpayers - 99 million people - used IRS e-file. Starting in 2011, many tax preparers will be required to use e-file and will explain your filing options to you. This is your chance to give it a try. IRS e-file is approaching 1 billion returns processed safely and securely. If you owe taxes, you have payment options to file immediately and pay by the tax deadline. Best of all, combine e-file with direct deposit and you get your refund in as few as 10 days.
5. **Consider other filing options.** There are many different options for filing your tax return. You can prepare it yourself or go to a tax preparer. You may be eligible for free face-to-face help at an IRS office or volunteer site. Give yourself time to weigh all the different options and find the one that best suits your needs.
6. **Consider Direct Deposit.** If you elect to have your refund directly deposited into your bank account, you'll receive it faster than waiting for a paper check.
7. **Visit the IRS website again and again.** The official IRS website is a great place to find everything you'll need to file your tax return: forms, publications, tips, answers to frequently asked questions and updates on tax law changes.
8. **Remember this number: 17.** Check out IRS Publication 17, Your Federal Income Tax on the IRS website. It's a comprehensive collection of information for taxpayers highlighting everything you'll need to know when filing your return.

## LEAVING THE CORPS

### The skills everyone wants

Adam Stone, **Military Times**

Inherently subjective skills are hard to prove, yet they're critical in today's workplace. Bradley-Morris recruiter Brian Tabinga, who specializes in placing military officers in civilian jobs, identified the top intangible skills he says employers are looking for:

- **Communication.**
- **Leadership.**
- **Diplomacy.**
- **Time management.**
- **Problem solving.**

#### Develop your people skills

Six ways to improve your people skills:

- **Practice nonmilitary speak.** Watch business videos on YouTube to see how leaders communicate their ideas, and then practice doing the same. Read nonmilitary business magazines, too. You'll prove you can communicate by speaking the native tongue.

- **Take an interest in your subordinates' professional and personal development.** The civilian world expects this of you. Keep track of how you prepared others for success.

- **Compile stories.** By cataloging specific achievements, you're gathering stories to tell in interviews, while at the same time identifying areas where you may need to improve.

- **Learn to finesse.** That "get it done" attitude serves you well in the military. In the corporate world, it'll be: "Shall we all get this done, together, if you're not too busy?" That may not come naturally, but employers want to see it.

- **Prove you can be flexible.** Volunteer for special projects. Interact with other departments. Show how you sought experiences outside of your specialty and how you led people effectively even without being in charge.

## Product Warning

### Consumer Product Safety Commission

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Each year, unintentional poisonings from consumer products commonly found in the home kill about 30 children and prompt more than 2 million calls to the nation's poison control centers. More than 90% of these calls involve poisonings in the home.

On average, each year an estimated 80,000 children are treated in hospital emergency departments for unintentional poisonings.

While there has been a significant decrease in deaths, studies show that unintentional child poisonings still remain a serious concern.

Children younger than age 5 account for the majority of the non-fatal poisonings. A recent review conducted by U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff found that 70% of poisonings involve children 1 to 2 years of age.

Oral prescription drugs, non prescription drugs and supplements were involved in more than half of the incidents.

"Awareness and action are the keys to preventing unintentional poisonings," said CPSC Acting Chairman Nancy Nord. "Children act fast. So do poisons. That's why we urge parents, grandparents and caregivers to have layers of poison prevention protection in the home."

CPSC recommends that parents and caregivers immediately take these three steps. First, keep medicines and household chemicals in their original, child-resistant containers.

Second, store the potentially hazardous substances up and out of a child's sight and reach. And lastly, keep the National toll-free poison control center telephone number, 800-222-1222, handy in case of a poison emergency.

## 2012 New Year's Resolutions for Veterans

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

It's that time of year when many Veterans look forward to a fresh start in life and resolve to improve their health. However, the problem with the start of a new year is that most good intentions are often derailed within a few weeks.

Make this year the year you make good on your New Year's resolutions. Let this be the year you get on the path to good health in 2012.

Whether your goal is to lose weight, exercise regularly or stop smoking, VA is here to help you maintain your motivation and avoid common pitfalls.

Here are some tips for sticking to your 2012 diet:

- Be prepared. Clear out all the junk food from all cupboards and the fridge.
- Make meal plans and get shopping. Fill the fridge with fruit and vegetables.
- Increase your calorie burn. Get off the metro or the bus one stop earlier or be the one who walks the dog.
- Don't overdo it. You'll lose weight on 1,500 daily calories for women, 1,800 for men. Any lower and you just get hungry and give up.
- Use websites such as [www.move.va.gov](http://www.move.va.gov) for online help, support and tips and to keep a diary to help you stay on track.
- VA is Here to Help

Studies have shown that patients in the VA health care system receive better care than private sector patients. And VA inpatients and outpatients are happier with the care they receive than those patients in the private sector.

VA professionals have a proven track record and will use their experience and skills to make 2012 the healthiest year of your life.

VA doctors and researchers have played key roles in the medical community by developing the cardiac pacemaker and the CT scan, performing the first liver transplant, and conducting research that has led to major improvements in treatment of tuberculosis, schizophrenia and high blood pressure. In fact, three Nobel Prize winners have worked for the VA health care system.

Visit a VA Medical Center today and discover a new you in 2012! <http://www.va.gov/health/NewsFeatures/20111229a.asp>

# Full Ads

# Marine Corps honors aviation centennial

**Lance Cpl. Christofer P. Baines**  
Headquarters Marine Corps

ARLINGTON, Va. — This year the Marine Corps is celebrating its 100th year in aviation, leaving behind a legacy of accomplishment and looking forward to a bright future. From May 2011 to May 2012, the Corps will celebrate its aviation heritage.

Events such as open houses, air shows and other community outreach efforts will be hosted Corpwide throughout the year, demonstrating a century of aerial excellence.

The theme for this year in celebration is “100 years of putting the ‘A’ in MAGTF,” highlighting the organic role of aviation in Marine Corps combat doctrine.

From Alfred A. Cunningham’s first flight as a Marine aviator in 1912, to the MV-22B Osprey driven helicopter raids in today’s battlespace, the Corps’ air capabilities have evolved to support the individual Marine.

“The Marine Corps has shown that it’s always at the forward edge in aviation units,” said Capt. Brian T. Block, a Headquarters Marine Corps spokesperson.

Close air support and vertical envelopment are essential to our expeditionary objectives, where Marines will have to operate in austere environments, he said. Marines have continued to adapt and evolve, especially with newer short take-off, vertical landing aircraft.

In its infancy, Marine Corps aviation had to fight for its very existence. The 1st Marine Aviation Force, lead by Cunningham, demonstrated its abilities in World War I by flying close air support missions, as well as anti-submarine patrols. The post-World War I years left the Corps facing budget cuts and other woes, but that did not stop them from fighting from the skies.

During the Banana Wars, Marine aviators saw action throughout the Caribbean and Central America. It was there that Marine pilots perfected close air support and integrated it into doctrine. In July 1927, a squadron of five Marine aircraft successfully dive-bombed Sandinista rebels in Ocotal, Nicaragua. Less than a year later, Medal of Honor recipient 1st Lt. Christian F. Schilt performed aerial medical evacuations in the town of Quilali after Marines on the ground were surrounded by several hundred Sandinista rebels.

In World War II, Marine aviators demonstrated their agility and resolve as they battled Imperial Japanese forces in the sky, sinking ships and providing close air support to their counterparts on the ground. Fighting high in the skies of Wake Island and over tree lines throughout the Pacific, another chapter of history was forged by men in the cockpit, and the crews on the ground that kept them aloft.

The breakthrough of vertical envelopment, or insertion by helicopter was applied in 1951 during the Korean War when Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 161 transported 224 Marines to Hill 884 during Operation Summit. The corps has applied this concept in every conflict since.

In an age of new and emerging technology, the Marine Corps continues to make aviation history with accomplishments like the first intercontinental Osprey flight in April. The Osprey itself is a hallmark with its hybrid fixed and rotary wing capabilities, allowing Marines to get to the fight faster without the need for a runway.

**For full story, visit**  
**<http://marines.mil>**



Photo by Staff Sgt W. F. Schrider,

**A vital part of the Marine Air Wing is maintenance personnel, who keep aircraft in good working order. Cpl. William H. Mielke and Lance Cpl. Phillip J. Orlando of Headquarters and Maintenance Squadron 36, 1st Marine Air Wing, prepare to clean the engine of a C-117 transport plane while deployed in the Republic of South Vietnam.**

## 1/2 Ads

# The Dunes Review

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

People looking for a chill night with good vibes need look no further than The Dunes, one of Yuma's few musical venues and one of its oldest bars.

I've been meaning to visit The Dunes for the longest time, though for one reason or another never got around to making it. I'd heard it was one of Yuma's better destinations for a good evening, and my trip there last Friday didn't disappoint.

As stated, The Dunes is one of Yuma's few stages for live music. On Wednesdays they play Salsa music, Thursdays are devoted to hip-hop while Friday's cater to the alternative crowd. Last Friday saw several local hip-hop talents take the stage as entertained onlookers moved their bodies to the groove.

I enjoyed my time there, the bartenders were amicable and able to keep up with the flow of people, and the lighting and sound were just right.

Doubling as a restaurant, I decided to return the following Sunday. Not bad at all. Rather good fare for what it is. It hit the spot, and that's all that matters.

I've been looking for a strong music venue for some time now, and was pleasantly surprised that The Dunes was right down the road from base. Especially with the 'Top of the Kress' recent closure following New Year's Eve, I suspect the Dunes will see a lot more business, and hopefully that'll open up exciting new possibilities for bringing up the place as an oasis of local music.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



# The Warrior Ethos "Book review"

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

As Marines in non-infantry units, we may lose track of the fact we live in a warrior culture, dedicated to an existence in battle and the defeat of our enemies. Luckily, we experience the seldom occasion that reminds us of who we are and what we do.

Steven Pressfield's, *The Warrior Ethos*, is a book that does exactly that. It is an analysis of soldiers, conquerors and combatants of the past and present. It delves into the heart of what it means to claim the title "Warrior."

The book reads as a case study of the philosophy and practice of warrior cultures throughout the ages, U.S. Marines included. From Alexander to Patton and Spartans to modern-day Israelis, this piece covers the history of combat and the societies that worshipped it.

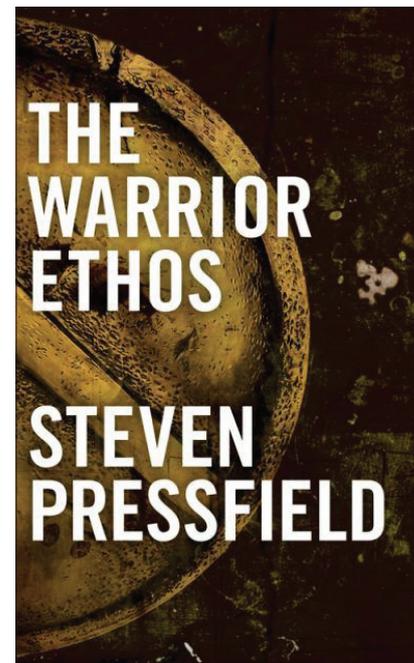
This book is not only engaging and

entertaining, but is intellectual beyond the level of many other contemporary works. The ideas Pressfield discusses, such as the warrior's dark and terse sense of humor or the perverse pleasure the warrior takes in suffering, are intriguing and thought-provoking. *The Warrior Ethos* can inspire intense reflection and meditation for being a 90-page, easy-to-read book.

For its historical content alone, this book is worth reading and appreciating. It contains a large collection of some of the most astute quotes from political leaders and military commanders throughout human history.

Pressfield, who also authored the book *The Gates of Fire*, the basis for the film *300*, writes this exposition with talent and expertise. This book is an inspiring read for service members, and it strikes a special cord with Marines.

I highly recommend *The Warrior Ethos* to anyone with an interest in con-



Borders.com courtesy photo

flict or history, as well as any present, former or future Marine. It is a personal favorite, and I guarantee anyone who reads it will find something to love about it.

## Quid pro quo: the youth of today

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior Staff

I've noticed the younger generations seem to be a little too self-centered.

It's always, "What about me?" or "What do I get out of this?" or "How can I get more than I deserve?"

What happened to the days when people did stuff for friends just to help them out, or to be a good person?

It seems to me those days are long gone. Today, it's all about the quid pro quo.

To get help with anything, you have to bribe your friends with money, food and/or booze. Thanks, appreciation or the unspoken promise of returning the favor are no longer good enough reasons to help your friends.

Some Marines may volunteer to feed the homeless or play with puppies and kitties at the humane society, yet it seems few are willing to volunteer to help their friends without expecting something tangible in return, usually booze, which hints at another problem and possibly another

editorial.

For volunteering in the community, Marines receive letters of appreciation, and maybe eventually a volunteer service medal. But, for volunteering to help their friends, they receive friendship, which apparently isn't what it used to be.

On the other hand, however, this generation always expects things to be given to them for nothing. Basically, this generation is one giant oxymoron.

"Give me everything for nothing," could very well be this generation's war cry. All you have to do is take one look at the "Occupy Movement" to see it.

Many have called this generation "America's next greatest generation." While a few people exemplify these accolades, received from the original "Greatest Generation," the vast majority are lazy, greedy and rude.

I see people my age (26) on down to the youngsters in the single-digit age range talking to their parents in a way that would have earned me a good smack, spanking or my least favorite,

an endless, one-way conversation.

Yet today, parents just accept that their children, young or fully-grown, have no respect for them and allow them to get away with it. If people are willing to treat their parents in this manner, how can we expect them to be any different to the general populace?

As Mark Twain once said, "Never argue with a fool; onlookers may not be able to tell the difference."

But is it not our duty as humans and Marines to inform the masses of their idiocy?

"The ultimate result of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools," said Herbert Spencer back in 1891.

I believe that holds true to this day. Sometimes you have to let them fail, then be there to help them back up.

These days, it seems it pays to choose your friends wisely and be there to help them when they need it. The people willing to do the same are few and far between.

# Station civilians compete in monthly golf tournament

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior

Each month, station civilian employees hit the greens in four man teams, competing in a golf tournament for bragging rights and possession of a trophy until the next month's victors are decided.

Known as the Civilian Golf Challenge, the outing is held on the first Saturday of each month as a way to build camaraderie amongst the civilians that work aboard the air station, similar to a meet and greet while doing something they all love, said Cedric Baker of the station safety team.

The team with the lowest score to par during the round receives the rotating trophy, a replica Claret Jug, from The British Open, and anyone can come out to have fun because of the best ball scoring format.

Currently there are five teams competing for bragging rights and the trophy:

The Safety Department, Intermediate Maintenance Activity, Installation and Logistics, Marine Corps Community Services and the Joint Law Center. Also, there's a large frame board at the station gymnasium that monthly winners are displayed on, giving some notoriety for the victorious team.

Although the name says Civilian Golf Challenge, a team may be up to half military members playing alongside their civilian coworkers.

The plan is to announce a one year champion in September 2012 and since September 2011 the jug has been held by Safety for one month and IMA for three months.

The next Challenge will be Feb. 11 at the Coyote Wash Golf Course. Anyone interested in signing up a team contact Cedric Baker at 928-269-2873, Karl Semler at 928-269-2257, or Walter Sosinski at 928-269-2280. The only cost to play is the course's green fees.



**Karl Semler, left, Bryon Green, Cedric Baker and Brian Linstrom pose with their trophy after winning the air station's civilian golf tournament. The outing, known as the Civilian Golf Challenge, sees several four-man teams compete on the greens in order to build camaraderie. This month the coveted trophy went to the station safety department. The next Challenge will be Feb. 11 at the Coyote Wash Golf Course. Although the tournament has civilian in the title, any time can be comprised of no more than half of service members. Anyone interested in signing up a team contact Cedric Baker at 928-269-2873, Karl Semler at 928-269-2257, or Walter Sosinski at 928-269-2280. The only cost to play is the course's green fees.**

Courtesy photo

**1/2 Ads**