

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: APRIL 2014

Commanding Officer's Comments



COMMAND ELEMENT

Commanding Officer:
LtCol Andrew Thompson

Executive Officer
Maj Chris Story

Sergeant Major:
SgtMaj Lonny Solari

FAMILY READINESS OFFICERS

Family Readiness Officer:
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Deputy Family Readiness Officer:
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GySgt Tabora Maint 269.2148
SSgt Vega HQTR 269.2070
SSgt Casebolt Avionics 269.2697

Dear Black Widow Marines, Sailors, Families and Friends,

We eagerly anticipate the return of our Marines currently deployed with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). Their return marks the conclusion of a highly successful and safe global deployment. Their service, and the sacrifices their families have made have been tremendous.

Please mark your calendars: On April 12th, we will have a spring family day here at MCAS Yuma. We have a wide range of activities planned for families and single Marines & Sailors. Details will be readily available in the days to come. Please contact our Family Readiness Officer (FRO), Mr. Larry Leaver at 928-269-2279 with additional questions.

Congratulations to Corporal Rastetter, who was meritoriously promoted by Major General Busby (3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Commanding General) and Sergeant Major Kimble at the MALS-13 Noncommissioned Officer mess night on March 21st. Well done, Corporal Rastetter!

Until next month, we appreciate your continued support.

LtCol Andrew J. Thompson

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MALS13 Birthday Celebration



DATES TO REMEMBER

PREP Apr 09
Chapel/Fellowship Hall 7:30am-4:30pm

13th MEU Return & Reunion Apr 02
MCFTB 6-8pm

13th MEU Poster Making Apr 05
MAG13 FRP Room (bldg. 699) 9-Noon

MALS Spring Family Day
Apr 12 11:30am-3:30pm



INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

Our Spring Family Day will be on April 12 - the first big event of the year. It will be held at the park behind the Community Center (bldg. 1093, between the Dos Rios Inn and the CDC Annex) on base beginning at 11:30am and will finish at 3:30pm. It will be water themed again this year, we will have the 36 foot water slide/pool, Run N Slide inflatables, Easter Egg Hunt for the kids to enjoy. There will be a water balloon toss event, dunk tank fundraiser, and pinata's for different age groups. It should be a lot of fun, come out and join in on the fun!

DSTRESS Line staff not only has call and chat capabilities but they can Skype too! Skype has been used for couples counseling and to talk about the everyday stressors of life. This approach allows couples (even geographically separated couples); another avenue to discuss issues with veteran Marines, former FMF corpsmen with years of experience on 'the green side', Marine Corps spouses or other family members, and licensed behavioral health clinical counselors who have taken Marine Corps-specific training to understand our culture. To set up a Skype appointment, call the DSTRESS Line at (877) 476-7734.

The Family Readiness Program (FRP) is currently seeking volunteers, if you would like to support the unit with some of your spare time, let me know and I will send you an application form and information documents. The FRP is here for you, we look forward to providing any assistance to questions or needs you may have. If you would like to be a volunteer for the unit, whether officially or unofficially, contact me and I will get you more details on the opportunities.

Semper Fi ~ Larry

MCFTB

Marine Corps Family Team Building

Spring is here! The weather is usually perfect this time of year, and yet, it reminds us that the heat is coming. The heat this year will take on such new meaning. Although the "war is winding down," we will still see a busy schedule of deployments. As things boil over in Congress with the sequestration, MCAS Yuma will feel the heat of cuts in funding and services.

The tough decisions being made are part of a much bigger picture. Please know that MCFTB will do all it can to continue the support of our Marines, Sailors and families.

Warm regards,
Rob, Lauren & Steve

SMP

MALS-13 SMP Reps

- HQ - Cpl Latoya Jefferson
- 600 -Cpl Manuel Moreno
- 500 - LCpl Nicolas Fiske
- ALIMSD - Cpl Grey Crone
- PC - Cpl Rachel Christensen
- 900 - Cpl Dylan Miller
- Cpl MaryBeth Monson (MALS Pres)**
- 700 - Cpl Nathan Fee
- PC - Cpl Mitchell Majors
- M/A - Cpl Alyssa Altieri

SMP Recreation Center

Hours of Operation ~ 269-5794
 Mon - Thurs: 11am - 11pm
 Fri thru Sun: 11am - Midnight
 Holiday Hrs: 1:00pm - 11:00pm

Upcoming Events

SMP Monthly Council Meeting

Apr 3, 1500-1630 – Station Conf. Room (bldg. 980)

SMP Vol. Op- Crossroads Mission

Apr 12 & 26, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

Dinner and a Movie

Apr 2/9/16/23/30, 1800 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Ping Pong, Basketball & Pool Tournaments

Apr 1/8/15/22/29, meet 1830 @ SMP Rec. Center



SMP Wonder-Con Trip

Apr 17-20, volunteering 3 hrs per day

SMP Vol. Op-Humane Society

Apr 9 & 23, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank

Apr 2/16/30, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP – LINE UFC Fight (FREE food)

Apr 12, 1800 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op: Precious Treasures

Apr 14 & 28, 1500 @ SMP Rec. Center

Marine Corps Family Team Building Building 598

(928) 269-6502/6503/6553/6544

SCHEDULED CLASSES

Command Team Training

Apr 2 @ MCFTB, 9-12am

FRO Monthly Meeting

Apr 3 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

e-Marine Training

Apr 4 @ Computer Lab (bldg. 328), 9am-4pm

LINKS for Teens

Apr 5 @ MCFTB, 8am-4pm

LINKS for Marines

Apr 10 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

Family Care Plan Class

Apr 15 @ MCFTB, 1-3pm

How Not to Marry a Jerk/Jerkette

Apr 16 @ MCFT, 9-11am

Auto Care Basics Class

Apr 16 @ Auto Skills Center, 6-8pm

4-Lenses

Apr 22 @ MCFTB, 6-8:30pm

FR Assist/CT Adv Training

Apr 23 @ MCFTB, 8-12am

LINKS for Couples/Spouses

Apr 24 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm





Voting News

Black Widows and Families,

Voting news for DC residents; primaries are in 2 weeks! The District of Columbia will hold its primary election on April 1. If you are a DC resident and want to vote in the primary, you must be registered by March 3. If you live outside the DC area and need to register to vote absentee, you can do so using the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) at FVAP.gov. If you complete and return this form, DC will register you as an absentee voter and send you your ballot for any elections this year.

If you are already registered in DC, ballots must have been requested by March 25 if you want to vote in the primary. Detailed information is available at the following website: fvap.gov/district-of-Columbia, along with the FPCA. If you are registered and have not received your absentee ballot by March 3, use the Federal Write-In Ballot to vote. The form is also available at fvap.gov/district-of-Columbia.

If you experience any issues or have questions, FVAP's call center is available at 1-800-438-VOTE (8683), DSN 425-1584, or at vote@fvap.gov. Toll-free phone numbers from 67 countries are listed at FVAP.gov. Find us on Facebook at /DoDFVAP and follow @FVAP on Twitter.

Capt Barnes (928) 269-0402
 GySgt Kealen (928) 269-2510
 GySgt Mendoza (928) 269-2995

Lifelong Learning

When our Marines check into the unit they have to check into Lifelong Learning, the Station Education Center (building 850). There are opportunities for **spouses** to utilize these services as well for with a MyCAA grant (\$4000) for approved transferable training.

Testing Schedule

Apr 1: AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0800 & 1300

Apr 9: College Exams, 1300

Apr 10: College Exams, 0800 & 1300

Apr 15: AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0800 & 1300

Apr 16: SAT, 0800-1330

Apr 29: AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0800 & 1300

College 101 (Tuition Assistance Brief): EVERY Friday, 1000-1100

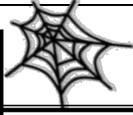
MGIB and Post 9/11 Bill Brief: Apr 7 & 21, 1000-1100

USMAP: Apr 24, 1000-1100

Spouse Education and Employment Brief (call 269-3248 for reservations): Apr 2, 1000-1100

Station Education Staff: Cindy Harry - Education Services Officer @ 269-3589 or cindy.harris@usmc.mil, Jessica Davis - Education Services Specialist @ 269-5614 or jessica.a.davis@usmc.mil, or Alvina Johnson - Education Services Specialist @ 269-3248 or alvina.johnson@usmc.mil.

New Parent Support & Navy Marine Corps Relief Society



The New Parent Support Program (NPSP) and Navy Marine Corps Relief Society (NMCRS) offer our Marines and families who are expecting some great opportunities prior to your “new joins” arrival.

New Parent Support: Located in building 645 (corner across from the Gym) 269-2308

1. Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp, held at NPSP – 11 April, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – 25 April, 0800-1600 (must call to register ~ as soon as you know you’re expecting)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00pm – 3 April is the next tour (if you cannot make the tour call YRMC they will usually do a private tour too). Normally last about 45 minutes, you can also pre-register and complete all required paperwork while you are there.

Play Based Parenting: April 15, 22 & 29 (call to register).

Breast Feeding Class: April 4 (by reservation only).

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society: Also building 645 (use side entrance facing the Station Theater) 269-2373

1. Budget for Baby, classes held Wednesday morning, 0930 (please call to register).
2. Pay Day loans up to \$500.
3. Grant and Loan program for emergencies.

School Liaison Officer

Spring Break Dates:

Crane School District: March 24 – April 4

Yuma School District One: March 31 – April 4

Yuma Union High School District: March 31 – April 4

All Other Yuma Area Schools: March 31- April 4

AIMS/SAT 10 Testing Dates: The Arizona required standardized assessment will be administered at all public elementary and middle schools as well as some private schools during the weeks of April 7 – 25. All 2nd through 8th graders are expected to be on time and give their best effort during each day of testing. During testing, school offices will not forward phone calls unless there is a family emergency. Arizona Department of Education rules are very specific in regards to testing protocol. Please make any appointments for your children later in April after the testing period has been completed. 2nd grade students will be taking the Stanford Achievement Test 10 (SAT 10) while 3rd through 8th graders will take the Arizona Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS).

First Things First Pre-School Registration: The Yuma School District One North End Pre-School Program will once again offer a “First Things First” Pre-School for children of families with financial need. Students must turn 4 years old prior to September 1st, live within the district and meet income requirements. There are usually 70 preschool openings available with two preschool locations (Pecan Grove & Desert Mesa Elementary Schools). Registration for the 2014-15 school year begins April 7th and is on a first come first serve basis. Families will have to provide evidence of financial need and provide their own transportation to and from school. Parents may register at Pecan Grove Elementary School Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and at Desert Mesa Elementary School on Mondays only from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Parents must bring the following documents: Child’s birth certificate, immunization records, proof of residency and recent tax returns or Leave & Earnings Statement. Please call North End Pre-School at 928-502-8140 for further questions.

Private Tutoring Resource List Available: Is your child in need of a private tutor? The School Liaison has an updated tutoring resource list with names of qualified tutors. Tutors are qualified to instruct children (K-12) in all content areas as well as assist with test taking strategies and organizational skills for a minimum hourly fee of \$15 per hour. Please contact the School Liaison at 928-269-5373 for more information.

Middle School Parent “School Safety Survey”: Yuma School District One is encouraging all parents of middle school students attending Woodard, Gila Vista, Castle Dome, Ron Watson and Fourth Ave. Junior High to complete a school safety survey. The school district needs your input in order to plan for the future and secure additional funding for school safety. You may complete the survey at the Yuma School District One website:

<http://www.yuma.org/index.cfm?pID=1019>

**April is the Month of the Military Child
&
Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month**

Purple Up for Military Kids! During the month of April, military children are applauded for the daily sacrifices they make and the challenges they overcome by being a part of a military family. Across the nation, Wednesday, April 15th will be the day to “Purple Up For Military Kids!” People are being encouraged to wear purple on that day to show support for our military kids and to thank them for their strength and sacrifices. Purple is the color that symbolizes all branches of the military, as it is the combination of Army green, Coast Guard blue, Air Force blue, Marine red, and Navy blue. On behalf of all MCAS Yuma Marine & Family Programs, I would like to send a special “Shout Out” to all of our MCAS Yuma Military children! You make us proud!

MCCS to Host a Family Fun Event on April 25, 2014:

In commemoration of the month of the Military Child as well as Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month, please join MCCS for a Family Fun Event on Friday, April 25th from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at the MCAS Yuma Memorial Sports Complex. There will be lots fun family engaging activities, games, entertainment, food and beverages. The event is free and open to all families of active duty service members aboard MCAS Yuma. Looking forward to seeing you all there!