

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: August 2013

Commanding Officer's Comments



COMMAND ELEMENT

Commanding Officer:
LtCol Andrew Thompson

Executive Officer
Maj Luke Watson

Sergeant Major:
SgtMaj Lonny Solari

FAMILY READINESS OFFICERS

Family Readiness Officer:
Larry E. Leaver
Office: (928) 269.2279
Cell: (928) 287.7293
larry.leaver@usmc.mil

Deputy Family Readiness Officer:
SSgt Mahany- Ordnance – 269.2689
SSgt Guevara- Supply – 269.2430
SSgt Tabora - Maint – 269.2148
SSgt Bretz - HQTR – 269.5214
SSgt Erdos- Avionics – 269.6781

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Spa Night (deployed spouses)
Aug 6, MCFTB, 6-8pm

Imagination in a Box (EFMP)
Aug 6, Youth Center, Noon-2:00pm

Transition Readiness Seminar
Aug 5-9/19-23, Sonoran Pueblo, 8-10am

Station Welcome Aboard brief
Aug 21, Sonoran Pueblo, 8-10am

Dear Black Widow Families and Friends,

As the new Commanding Officer of MALS-13, I sincerely appreciate the work ethic and dedication of our Marines and the support of their families.

Whether the family is "Born Into, Sworn Into or Married Into"--I sense a deep and abiding commitment on the part of everyone.

We are especially grateful for the commitment of our deployed personnel--serving aboard the USS Bonhomme Richard or in the heat of Afghanistan. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all. Thanks for all you do.

Of special note this month is the performance of Corporal Burns from our Ordnance Department. His commitment to excellence was noted during a recent meritorious Sergeant board where he was chosen from a group of highly competitive Marine Corporals. Well done, Meritorious Sergeant Burns!

I continue to look forward to meeting you all as we move forward.

Sincerely,

LtCol A. J. Thompson

Sergeant Major's Message



Family and Friends,

I just wanted to take time this month to say how proud I am of the Marines and Sailors of the MALS. We are going on our 4th week of incident free. Everyone is doing great in their job and outside their job. Keep everyone safe by hydrating, it is extremely hot out there, that goes for pets too.

If there is anything that the Command can do for you please do not hesitate to email me, I am here to support your loved one in uniform and yourself.

R/S

SgtMaj Solari, Lonny
Lonny.Solari@usmc.mil



INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

We have been going over the Unit, Personal, and Family Readiness Fund budget and have been looking at some great events to bring our Marines and families together for some fun, food, and good company through February 2014. Of course we are discussing the usual events such as the MALS Marine Corps Ball Celebration, the annual Christmas Party, but we are also looking at some other ways to say thanks to our Marines for “doing what they do.” Look for more information to come in the future on these events.

Be on the lookout for the marketing flyer with event details for the next Twice as Nice. Twice as Nice is a base event where families can pick up barely used or used but well taken care of clothing, toys, furniture (infant – teen) and miscellaneous baby items for FREE.

Spouses, attend a LINKS for Couples/Spouses class through MCFTB and get your Marines a day off! Just bring/send me a copy of your certificate and I will inform his department. Once he has been approved for his day off in their departments he will have 30 days to take it.

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

Greetings Marines, Sailors and families,

MCFTB has a new Return and Deployment Specialist (RDST)! Mr. Steve Klauck has been hired and will begin his new duties at the end of August. Steve will be taking on the important responsibilities of ensuring Marines and families receive pre, mid, and post deployment briefs including Pre-deployment briefs and Return and Reunions. He will also be the trainer for new Family Readiness Officer and ensure that the seasoned FRO’s stay up to date on their training as well. Steve’s background in a nutshell is: Retired Master Sergeant (with 27 years active duty), held the billet of Family Readiness Officer for MWSS-371 for the last five years.

With all the experience Steve is bringing with him MCFTB will stay the course and keep MCAS Yuma prepared! Please know that MCFTB will do all it can to continue the support of our Marines, Sailors and families.

Thank you for being part of our family.

Rob, Lauren, Meaghan and Steve

Rob – (928) 269-6502
 Meaghan – (928) 269-6544
 Lauren – (928) 269-6503
 Rob – (928) 269-6502

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
- Supply - Cpl Tila Nguyen (Station Pres)
- 700 - Cpl Nathan Fee
- PC - Cpl Mitchell Majors
- JSF - LCpl Montel Palmer
- 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 Vol. Op- Crossroads Mission
 Aug 3/17/31, 0830-1130 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Adult Swim
 Aug 6/13/20/27 - Oasis Pool, 1900

SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank
 Aug 7/21, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- Habitat for Humanity
 Aug 8/22, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- River Clean-up/Float
 Aug 2/9/16/23/30, 0830-1200 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Grand Canyon Trip
 Aug 22-25

MCFTB COURSES

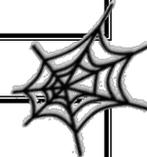
Hearts Apart Kids
 Every Thursday beginning Aug 1
 @ bldg 699, 4-5pm

FRO Monthly Meeting
 Aug 1 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

LINKS for Marines
 Aug 6 @ MCFT, 9am-4pm

LINKS for Couples/Spouses
 Aug 14 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

Family Care Plan/Validator
 Aug 26 @ MCFTB, 9am-Noon





School Liaison Officer



School Start Dates for 2013-14 School Year:

Yuma School District One:	Starts: August 12 th	Early Release: Mondays
Crane School District:	Starts: August 5 th	Early Release: Wednesdays
Gowan Science Academy:	Starts: August 5 th	Early Release: Wednesdays
Desert View Academy:	Starts: August 7 th	Early Release: Thursdays
Carpe Diem Collegiate Academy:	Starts: August 5 th	Early Release: Some Fridays
Harvest Preparatory Academy:	Starts: August 14 th	Early Release: Wednesdays
Amerischools Academy North & South:	Starts: August 14 th	Early Release: Wednesdays
St. Francis of Assisi:	Starts: August 12 th	Early Release: Fridays
Southwest Christian:	Starts: August 12 th	Early Release: Some Fridays
Yuma Lutheran School:	Starts: August 14 th	Early Release: Fridays
Yuma Catholic High School:	Starts: August 7 th	Early Release: Fridays
Yuma Union High School District:	Starts: August 7 th	Early Release: Mondays
Somerton School District:	Starts: August 1 st	Early Release: Wednesdays

Congratulations to Mary Otondo Elementary School & Desert View Academy:

The Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) has awarded 3 year grants to both Otondo Elementary and Desert View Academy to begin this school year. Otondo Elementary will receive \$270,000 to support their science and math curriculum as well as their military counseling program. Desert View Academy will receive \$269,828 to support their "Beyond Technology" education program and teacher professional development. In all, DODEA has awarded our Yuma schools with a total of \$1,754,828 million since 2012. This is very exciting news for our military children attending Yuma School District One and Desert View Academy. The Department of Defense is committed to making sure that every military connected school-age child receives a quality education, wherever they are in the world!

Is Your Child Attending a Private School in Yuma? :

Dependents of U.S. Armed Forces members stationed in Arizona on military orders are eligible to receive tuition scholarships through the "Switcher" tax credit. Military students must have a scholarship application form on file with a School Tuition Organization such as the Yuma Educational Scholarship Fund (Y.E.S.) or the School Tuition Association of Yuma (S.T.A.Y.). Application forms must be completed each year in order for your children to receive any scholarship assistance. Application forms can be downloaded at the respective websites and mailed in. If you have any questions on how to open an account with an Arizona School Tuition Organization, please contact the MCAS Yuma School Liaison, Elena McShane, or your child's school finance director for more information.

G.I Bill Transferability to Dependents:

Beginning August 1st, 2013, retirement eligible service members will be required to reenlist for a minimum of four years to be eligible to transfer benefits to their dependents. Please contact the MCAS Yuma Education Office if you have any questions about transferring your Post 9/11 G.I. Bill to your dependents at 928-269-3589.

Are You Looking for a Before & After School Care Program For Your Children?

Several Yuma School District One campuses offer the Discovery Club program for Before & After School care. The program is offered from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. and after school from dismissal time until 6:00 p.m. Attendance in the morning is \$5.00 per day and the after school fee is \$11.00 per day for each child. Campuses that offer the Discovery Club are Rolle, McGraw, Palmcroft, Otondo, Desert Mesa and Sunrise Elementary schools. Students must be enrolled in these schools in order to be eligible for care. Please call these schools for more information.

Tips for a Successful School Year:

1. Re-establish bedtime and mealtime routines
2. Designate a special homework area & routine
3. Organize your child's time and items
4. Monitor the television
5. Teach your child to prioritize tasks
6. Praise your child and celebrate his/her successes

USMC K-12 Parent Survey Closes August 15th:

I would like to thank those of you who have already participated in the USMC School Liaison parent Survey. If you have not had the opportunity to participate, it is not too late. The parent survey closes on August 15th. I would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few moments to take the parent survey regarding military moves and school transitions. Your input will help guide the USMC School Liaison program and advocacy efforts on behalf of you and your school-aged children. Please click on this link to provide your input:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/FFHBWK9>.



Find your Marine Corps School Liaison Here



**MCAS Yuma SL: Elena McShane 928-269-5373 mcshanee@usmc-mccs.org
CONNECTING MILITARY FAMILIES, SCHOOLS AND THE MARINE CORPS**

Lifelong Learning

When our Marines check into the unit they have to check into Lifelong Learning, the Station Education Center (building 852). There are opportunities for spouses to utilize these services as well for with a MyCAA grant for approved transferable training.

Testing Schedule (for August)

Aug 5: AFCT/DLAB, 1300-1630

Aug 14: ACT, 0800-1330

Aug 8: DSST/College Exams, 0800-1100

Aug 19: AFCT/DLAB, 1300-1630

Aug 12: Military Testing, 0800-1630

Aug 26: Military Testing, 0800-1630

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

GI Bill Brief: Aug 13, 1000-1100

Station Education Staff: Cindy Harry, Education Services Officer @ 269-3589 or cindy.harris@usmc.mil

Missy Dickerson, Education Services Specialist @ 269-5614 or melissa.dickerson@usmc.mil

New Parent Support

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), room 105, **269-2308**

1. Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp, held at NPSP – 9 Aug, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – 23 Aug, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00pm. Normally last about 45 minutes, you can also pre-register and complete all required paperwork.

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society: Also building 645, use entrance facing the Station Theater, **269-2373**

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

Deployment Updates

Families & Extended Families,

The 13th MEU is scheduled to depart in the month of August. Please ensure that you have gone over the deployment checklists, both for Single Marines and Married Marines, to ensure no stone has been left untouched. By checking and double-checking you will allow your loved ones who remain behind in Yuma or travel out of state to be well prepared. If you need these checklists please download a copy of the “Welcome Aboard, Deployment & Resource Guide” on from the Download Center on the Homepage of the MALS-13 eMarine site.

For the most up-to-date information received from our deployed Marines please check eMarine as it is the most secure avenue of getting important information to you.