

# BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER



MCAS YUMA, ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: JANUARY 2015

## Commanding Officer's Comments



### COMMAND ELEMENT

**Commanding Officer:**  
LtCol Andrew Thompson

**Executive Officer**  
Maj Luke Watson

**Sergeant Major (Acting):**  
MGySgt Robert Mena

### FAMILY READINESS OFFICERS

**Family Readiness Officer:**  
Larry E. Leaver  
Office: (928) 269.2279  
BB: (928) 287.7293  
Email: [larry.leaver@usmc.mil](mailto:larry.leaver@usmc.mil)

**Deputy Family Readiness Officers:**

SSgt Person	Ordnance	269.6212
SSgt Vazquez	Supply	269.3160
SSgt Burke	Maint	269.3243
SSgt Casebolt	HQ	269.2510
SSgt Garcia	Avionics	269.3166

Dear Marines, Sailors and Families,

MALS-13 will embark on a great journey in 2015. Our Marines, Sailors and families are destined for greatness in all personal and professional pursuits.

Along the way, we'll have opportunities for education, training, service and character development. We'll embrace the ideals of accountability and professional competence.

I look forward to the process, the journey and continued success on all fronts.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

LtCol Thompson  
MALS-13 CO

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## Sergeant Major's Comments



Dear Friends and Families,

Happy New Year!

MALS-13 will welcome Sergeant Major Richard L. Hunt.

We closed out a positive year, we took the time to reflect and realign our goals for 2015.

Let's continue give our best.

Semper Fidelis,  
Master Gunnery Sergeant  
Robert J. Mena Jr.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

Yuma Military Appreciation	Jan 10
Historic Downtown Yuma	9am-5pm
Spouses Social	Jan 22
Community Center	7-9pm
Station Welcome Aboard	Jan 21
Sonoran Pueblo	8 -1030am
Squadron Run Breakfast	Jan 23
Community Center/Park	6-8am



## INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

Thank you all for making 2014 a productive, memorable and fun year! I am looking forward to the opportunity to provide you with another year of information updates and referral services, as well as assisting with upcoming unit events for the Marines and their families.

Remember, tax season is coming up and your 2014 W-2 will be available on the [www.mypay.dfas.mil](http://www.mypay.dfas.mil) website beginning 14 January. The Tax Center will be open beginning 15 January, Mon-Friday, 0730-1630. No weekends. The Tax Center is located in Bldg. 852 (Base Legal/ ID Center).

The Unit Personal & Family Readiness Program (UPFRP) 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

Closing our calendar year and looking ahead to 2015! We will have new curriculum and new opportunities with you. Join us to start out your year with one of our classes. Stop by our office to meet the staff and see what is coming up.

Marine Corps Family Team Building is committed to empowering military families with information and awareness that keep them healthy and safe. All of our classes and events are meant to provide an opportunity to learn about resources available to military families, skills to cope and thrive in the military lifestyle, meet new people and build relationships. After all, the tight-knit military community is a great place to find true friends who will provide a lifetime of support.

Rob, Steve and Angie

## SMP

### MALS-13 SMP Reps

- PRESIDENT** – Cpl Jessica Gesky
- VICE PRESIDENT** – Cpl Gardner
- HQ – Cpl Hipp
- ALIMSD – LCpl Fisher
- IMRL/TOOLS – LCpl Fiske
- 400 – Cpl Montgomery
- 500 – PFC Church
- 600 – LCpl Quiros
- 700 – Cpl Wells
- 800 – LCpl Hamilton
- 900 – Cpl Maples



### 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**

Jan 8, 1500-1630 – Sta. Conf. Room (bldg. 980)

#### **FREE Art Class-Beginners**

Jan 12 & 26 – 1800 Bldg. 645 (2<sup>nd</sup> deck)

#### **NFL Football Playoffs**

Jan 10, 17, 24 - 1300, Jan 11, 18, 25 – 1000  
 @ SMP Rec. Center

#### **Presidents Training**

Jan 9 – 1130-1300 @ bldg. 598

#### **SMP Vol. Op-Humane Society**

Jan 14 & 28 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

#### **SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank**

Jan 7 & 21 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

#### **SMP Vol. Op- Crossroads Mission**

Jan 3, 17 & 31- 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

#### **PR Meeting**

Jan 13 - 1130 @ SMP Rec. Center

### Marine Corps Family Team Building Building 598

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

### SCHEDULED CLASSES

#### **Monthly FRO Meeting**

Jan 6 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

#### **FRO/DFRO Training**

Jan 9 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

#### **Assistant/Advisor Training**

Jan 13 @ MCFTB, 8am-Noon

#### **Four Lenses**

Jan 15 @ MCFTB, 6-8:30pm

#### **Car Seat Safety Class**

Jan 16 @ MCFTB, 2-4pm

#### **LINKS for Couples/Spouses**

Jan 17 @ MCFTB, 9am-3pm

#### **LINKS for Marines**

Jan 21 @ MCFTB, 1-4:30pm



## School Liaison Officer

**Save the Date for these upcoming Family Engagement Events:**

- January 12, 2014:** 10:00 a.m. Home School "Meet & Greet" for military families at the station library
- January 22, 2015:** 6:00 p.m. Military Family Story Night at Palmcroft Elementary (Ages K-5)
- January 29, 2015:** 6:00 p.m. Military Family Story Night at Sunrise Elementary (Ages K-5)
- January 29, 2015:** Desert View Academy Registration at MCAS Yuma Building #598 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**Home School Meet & Greet:** The School Liaison and the Station Library staff would like to invite all military families who currently Home School their children to come for a "meet and greet" at 10:00 a.m. on January 12<sup>th</sup> at the station library. Please come share your ideas of how our programs can better support your school age children. Refreshments and resources will be provided. Please call 269-5373 if you have questions.

**Military Family Story Nights:** The MCAS School Liaison and Yuma School District One military dependent counselors invite Palmcroft and Sunrise Elementary families to join them for a fun evening of storytelling by special guest readers. The free event is for children in K-5, and all children will receive a free copy of the featured book "Night Catch" as well as pizza and drinks. Palmcroft Elementary: Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. Sunrise Elementary: Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. Reservations are required and space is limited. Call Brittany at 928-502-8021.

**Desert View Academy Registration on MCAS Yuma:** Desert View Academy Charter School will be on board MCAS Yuma accepting enrollment forms for the 2015-16 school year on Thursday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. in building #598 (next to commissary). Military and civilian personnel attached to MCAS Yuma are invited to bring their completed enrollment forms along with copies of their children's birth certificates, immunization records and proof of residency. Desert View Academy will also have open enrollment for all Yuma county residents the week of January 26<sup>th</sup>. Please keep in mind, that DVA selects students using a lottery system. Turning in an enrollment packet does not guarantee acceptance to the school. For questions, please call the School Liaison at 928-269-5373.

**Empowerment Scholarship Account for 2015-15 school year:** The Arizona Department of Education is once again offering financial assistance scholarships for families seeking a private/religious school education for their children. Active duty military families who reside in Arizona can apply for the "Empowerment Scholarship Account (ESA) which could fund up to \$6000 per year in tuition costs for eligible children. All of the private/religious schools in Yuma will accept the ESA funds for the 2015-16 school year. Applications will be accepted from January 1, 2015 through April 1, 2015, and can be found at <http://www.azed.gov/esa>. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the School Liaison at 928-269-5373.

**Off Base Child Care Assistance:** Active Duty Marine Corps families living off base and who require off base childcare due to lack of transportation to a military Child Care/Youth Center facility may be eligible for the "Off Base Child Care Fee Assistance Program." Marine Administrative Message MARADMIN 570/14 ELIGIBILITY AND FUNDING GUIDELINES FOR OFF BASE CHILD CARE FEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM states that "Geographically dispersed Marines in an active duty status with a spouse that is employed 35 hours or more per week, or attending an accredited full-time education program and when transportation from community schools to "Before and After School Programs" is not available for school age care...fee assistance will be authorized for those families meeting the requirements. This program is subject to the availability of funding. Interested families must complete an application at [WWW.NACCRRRA.ORG/MILITARY-FAMILIES](http://WWW.NACCRRRA.ORG/MILITARY-FAMILIES) or call 1-800-793-0324.

**New Arizona Standardized Test Adopted for Spring 2015:** The Arizona State Board of Education has announced the adoption of the new Arizona state standardized assessment for all children in grades 3 through 12. The new test, called AzMERIT, will replace the AIMS Reading, Writing and Mathematics tests beginning in spring 2015.

AzMERIT=Arizona's Measurement of Educational Readiness to Inform Teaching. The exams will be offered on computer and will provide a better measurement of students' mastery of the standards including problem solving and critical thinking skills. For more questions about the new upcoming AzMERIT test, please contact your child's teacher or school

**Principal Voters Show Support for Yuma Area School Districts:** Positive results were received after the November election in support of Yuma School District One's \$37 million bond and Crane School District's \$10 million bond. The approved bonds will be dedicated to renovate and extend the useful life of the existing school buildings, provide improvements to facilities maintenance, safety and security enhancements, replace, upgrade and expand student technology, improve energy projects and new construction projects. Voters also approved the development of a new JTED (Joint Technological Education District) for Yuma County.

**Commissary Scholarship for Graduating Seniors:** Attention military connected high school seniors! The Defense Commissary Agency has opened its 2015 scholarship application. This year a minimum of one \$2000 scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location where qualified applications are received. Applicants must be enrolled, or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate degree program at an accredited U.S. college or university in the fall term of 2015. All scholarship applications must be submitted to the MCAS Yuma Commissary by February 13, 2015. Application forms and eligibility requirements can be found at [www.militaryscholar.org](http://www.militaryscholar.org).

## 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** (E5 and below) to utilize these services as well for with a MyCAA grant (\$4000) for approved transferable training.

**Transition Readiness Seminar: Jan 5-9**, held at the Community Center, 0730-1630.

**Testing Schedule**

**Jan 14:** ACT, 0830-1400

**Jan 6 & 27:** AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0830 or 1300

*\*College exams are by appointment only and must be scheduled at least two weeks prior to exam date. Please call 928-269-3248 to register.*

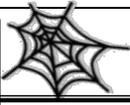
*\*TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education), GED Locator and GED Practice exams are by appointment only.*

**College 101** (Tuition Assistance Brief): **EVERY Friday**, 1000-1115 **FAFSA Brief** (Fed. Fin. Aid): **Jan 9 & 23**, 1300-1330.

**MGIB and Post 9/11 Bill Brief: Jan 5 & 26**, 1000-1130 **USMAP: Jan 29**, 1000-1030

**Spouse Education and Employment Brief** (call 269-3248 for reservations): **Jan 7**, 1000-1130

**Station Education Staff:** Cindy Harry - Education Services Officer @ 269-3589 or [cindy.harris@usmc.mil](mailto:cindy.harris@usmc.mil), Jessica Davis - Education Services Specialist @ 269-5614 or [jessica.a.davis@usmc.mil](mailto:jessica.a.davis@usmc.mil), or Alvina Johnson - Education Services Specialist @ 269-3248 or [alvina.johnson@usmc.mil](mailto: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 – **Jan 9**, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – **Jan 23**, 0800-1600 (must call to register ~ as soon as you know you’re expecting)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday (normally) of each month at 3:00pm – **Jan 8** 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: **Jan 6-Feb 10** (call to register).

Breast Feeding: **Jan 16** (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 scheduled for January 14 and 28 beginning at 0930 (please call to register).
2. Pay Day loans up to \$500.
3. Grant and Loan program for emergencies.

**Military Appreciation Day**

**City of Yuma Heritage Festivals Presents...**

# Yuma's Military Appreciation Day

**Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup> | 9am - 5pm**  
**in Historic Downtown Yuma**

Join us as we salute active military personnel, military veterans and their families.

**Military Memorabilia**

- 40ft Replica of the USS Arizona from the movie "Tora, Tora, Tora"
- Helmets & Weapons
- M119 Howitzer, Aviation Fire Truck & Humvee
- **And MORE!**

**Pancake Breakfast**  
**FREE for military veterans!**

**\$3 per person**  
 Starting at 8:30am (while supplies last)

Proceeds to benefit **Crossroads Mission**  
 Sponsored by: Franklin Tire, A Touch of Glass & Sam's Club

**Guest Speakers & Art Displays**  
 in the Historic Yuma Theatre and Yuma Art Center  
 Including...

- Bill Heidner & Chuck Wullenjohn from Yuma Proving Grounds
- Arizona Western College
- Combat dioramas

**PLUS!** Stop by the Sanguinetti House Museum and Gardens to view the Arizona Medal of Honor exhibit and visit Yuma's Armed Forces Park.

**Great Food, Craft Vendors & Shopping!**

**FUN for the Whole Family!**

- MCAS Canine Demonstrations
- Marine Martial Arts
- Patriotic Guard Riders
- KIDzone with jumpers, face painting, and more!

**LOCAL Entertainment!**  
 Including...

- Cibola & Gila Ridge High School Bands
- Yuma High School's Criminal Choir
- DJ Money and MORE!

**FREE Admission ~ FREE Parking**

★ **Special thanks to the Military Affairs Committee for their dedication to and support of this event.**

\* Subject to change.

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