

# BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER



MCAS YUMA, ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: JULY 2014

## Commanding Officer's Comments



### COMMAND ELEMENT

**Commanding Officer:**  
LtCol Andrew Thompson

**Executive Officer**  
Maj Chris Story

**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)  
Twitter: @MALS13FRO

**Deputy Family Readiness Officer:**  
SSgt Roussell Ordnance 269.2689  
SSgt Dominguez Supply 269.2310  
GySgt Tabora Maint 269.2148  
TBD HQ 269.2070  
SSgt Casebolt Avionics 269.2697

Dear Black Widow Marines, Sailors, Families and Friends,

Please allow me to welcome our Marines and Sailors home from Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom 14.1). Job well done! We are sincerely grateful for their extraordinary efforts.

We offer continued support and prayers for our Marines deployed in Afghanistan (Operation Enduring Freedom 14.2), Marines preparing to deploy with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), and our detachment of Marines in the United Kingdom in support of VMFA-121.

Many sincere congratulations to newly promoted Sgt Tanner and Cpl Fisher from our Ordnance Department...they were promoted by Major General Busby in June. Bravo Zulu!

All the best to our Marines, Sailors and dedicated families--we appreciate you.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Thompson

### In This Edition:

Commanding Officer's Comments	1
Sergeant Major's Comments	1
INFO from the FRO	2
Single Marine Program	2
MCFTB	2
Relocation Assistance Program	3
Lifelong Learning	3
New Parent Support	4
School Liaison Officer	4

## Sergeant Major's Comments



Dear Marines, Sailors, Families and friends,

We are honored to have our Marines from OEF 14.1 back with us. We are all proud how you represented Black Widows.

Sgt Tanner and Cpl Fisher from our Ordnance Department deserve special congratulations for their meritorious promotion. Also, a job well done to our Marines completing Lance Corporal Course, Sergeant Course, SNCO Academy and Career Course.

I continue to look forward to working with MALS -13 Marines and families.

Semper Fidelis,  
MGySgt Mena  
MALS-13

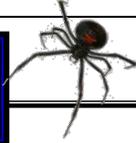
### DATES TO REMEMBER

**PREP** July 16  
Chapel/Fellowship Hall 7:00am-4:00pm

**Station Welcome Aboard** July 16  
Sonoran Pueblo/Gonzalez Room 8-11am

**Squadron Run/Breakfast** July 2  
Memorial Sports Complex 6-10am

**Home Buying Workshop** July 15  
Bldg. T-40(behind Post Office)6:30-8:30pm



# INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

The Yuma summer heat is upon us averaging between 100-110 degrees on a daily basis – if you are enjoying the many outdoor activities, or planning future events, please drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. As we move deeper into our “Summer” season temperatures will be averaging between 110-118 degrees as a norm, for the most part it is a dry heat so you should make applying sunblock and a healthy intake of water is necessary for personal safety.

**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

There was a recent change within Marine Corps Family Team Building (MCFTB). Lauren Tye and her husband received orders, Laurens last day was June 24. She was our L.I.N.K.S. trainer (prior to Angie), she provided MALS-13 with outstanding support.

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, Steve and Angie

# SMP



## MALS-13 SMP Reps

- HQ - Cpl Cassidy Hipp
- AVI - Cpl Jessica Gesky
- PP - Cpl Aaron E Classen
- IMRL - PFC Dixon A Gomez
- ORD - Cpl Edward L Wells
- AVI - Cpl Kaleem E Beazer
- SUP - LCpl Ryan O Coleman
- ALSS - LCpl Zachery A Maples
- SUP - Sgt Eric J Jenkins
- Cpl MaryBeth Monson (MALS-13 Pres.)**

## 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**

Jul 1, 1500-1630 – Station Conf. Room (bldg. 980)

### **SMP Vol. Op- River Cleanup/Float-down**

Jul 4, 11, 18 & 25 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

### **SMP Vol. Op: Precious Treasures**

Jul 7 & 21 - 1500 @ SMP Rec. Center

### **SMP Adult Swim**

Jul 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 29 - 1900 @ Base Pool



**SMP Vol. Op-Comic Con 4 day Trip**  
 July 24-27, 0700 @ SMP Rec. Center

**SMP Vol. Op-Humane Society**  
 Jul 2, 16 & 30 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

**SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank**  
 Jul 9 & 23 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

**SMP Vol. Op- Crossroads Mission**  
 Jul 5 & 19, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

**SMP Vol. Op- Door Hangers**  
 Jul 10 & 24, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

## Marine Corps Family Team Building Building 598

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

## SCHEDULED CLASSES

### **FRO Monthly Meeting**

July 8 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

### **LINKS for Marines**

July 10 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

### **Assistant/Advisor Training**

July 17 @ MCFTB, 8am-Noon

### **4 Lenses**

July 22 @ MCFTB, 6-8:30pm

### **Family Care Plan**

July 23 @ MCFTB, 3-5pm

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

July 24 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

### **FRO/DFRO Training**

July 29 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

## Relocation Assistance Program

### Relocation Assistance Program (RAP)

#### Welcome Aboard Brief:

3rd Wednesday of each month, held in the Sonoran Pueblo, 8-11am. Mandatory for all Active Duty to attend. Highly encouraged for spouses, significant others and family members. A wealth of information will be provided on services available on and off base.

#### Home Buying Workshop:

July 15 and Oct 21, held in bldg. T-40 (located behind the Base Post Office), 6:30-8:30pm. Interested in buying a home? Attend this workshop and you will find out how to do it. Reservations are required: 928-269-2949.

#### PCS Workshop:

2nd Tuesday of each month, held in bldg. T-40 (located behind the Base Post Office), 8-10am. Are in receipt of order to a new duty station? Attend the PCS Move Workshop which will provide you with information on your new location. The Relocation Office, Defense Movement Office (DMO), and IPAC will be present. Reservations are required: 928-269-2949.

#### The RAP office provides both pre-departure and pre-arrival services as outlines below:

- \* Individual Relocation Plan (IRP) -IRP serves as plan to ensure essential events or a PCS move are identified and addressed in a timely manner.
- \* New Sponsor Training - RAP office trains sponsors assigned to inbound Marines/families arriving at a new command.
- \* Military Homefront - Official program information, policy and guidance for active duty, families, leaders and service providers. Access to Homefront's website is <http://www.militaryhomefront.dod.mil>
- \* Loan/Lending Locker - Provides basic household items to assist Marines and family members who are without their own household good temporarily (30 days, extension can be requested).
- \* Welcome Aboard Packets - These packets contain valuable relocation information for inbound Marines/families.
- \* Youth Sponsorship - Coordination for children ages 7-17 years old. Will provide your child with a friend prior to the PCS move.

Call the RAP office for further details and information: 928-269-2949.

## 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.

### Testing Schedule

July 9: ACT, 0800 - 1300

July 1, 15 & 29: AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0800 & 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.*

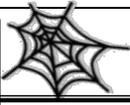
*\*TABE (Test of Adult Basic Education), GED Locator and GED Practice exams are by appointment only.*

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

**MGIB and Post 9/11 Bill Brief:** July 7 & 21, 1000-1100      **USMAP:** July 31, 1000-1100

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

**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 – July 11, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – July 25, 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 of each month at 3:00pm – July 3 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: July 15, 22 & 29 (call to register).      Breast Feeding: July 18 (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

The MCAS Yuma Family Care Branch will also be hosting a Back to School Resource Fair on Friday, August 1st at the Sonoran Pueblo from 4:00 - 6:00 pm. for all MCAS active duty families with school age children (K-12). Unlike the MAM Back to School Brigade at YPG, ours will be open to all ranks and there is no need to register. As soon as marketing materials are available, Margy and I will get them out to all of you.

Families can contact Elena McShane at 269-5373 for any questions about the event on Aug. 1st.

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Sending out this information as a reminder about the MAM Back to School Backpack Brigade at YPG.

When: Aug 2nd @ 10AM-1300

Where: Yuma Proving Ground - Desert Breeze Travel Camp  
301 C. Street Bldg. S6  
Yuma, AZ 85365

To register, have families go to this website <http://www.azmam.org/backpack-event.html>  
<http://www.azmam.org/backpack-event.html>

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