

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: November 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
BB: (928) 287.7293
Email: larry.leaver@usmc.mil
Twitter: @MALS13FRO

Deputy Family Readiness Officer:
Sgt Roussell - Ordnance – 269.2689
Sgt Dominguez - Supply – 269.2430
SSgt Tabora - Maint – 269.2148
SSgt Vega - HQTR – 269.2070
SSgt Casebolt - Avionics – 269.2697

Dear Marines, Sailors and Families of MALS-13,

November is upon us, and we are mindful of this great time of year.

This month we'll celebrate the USMC's Birthday, Veteran's Day and Thanksgiving.

We also have several other activities scheduled to include a "Jane Wayne Day" on the 22nd.

We eagerly anticipate the return of our Marines deployed on the 31st MEU, and are thankful for their exemplary service.

I remain honored to serve as the Commanding Officer.

Thankfully,

LtCol Andrew J. Thompson, USMC
Commanding Officer
Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-13

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Yuma Regional Hospital Tour
7 Nov @ YRMC Maternity, 3pm

Transition Readiness Seminar
Nov 4-8 & 18-22, Community Center,
7:30am-4:30pm

OEF 14.1 Pre-Deployment Brief
Nov 5, Station Chapel, 6-8pm

Station Welcome Aboard brief
Nov 20, Sonoran Pueblo, 8-10am

Sergeant Major's Message



Family and Friends,

Finally the weather is nice and November has arrived. First of all I just want to say congratulations to the newly promoted SSgt's:

SSgt Jasso
SSgt Nielson
SSgt Roussell
SSgt Rykhus

Well deserved, and proud of you. I am excited about November because we have our Marine Corps Birthday Ball and Thanksgiving coming up. These are 2 events that we spend with both our families, the Marine Corps Family and the Immediate Family. Thanks for the all the hard work everyone has been doing to make MALS look good.

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



INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,
 OEF Marines & families, remember the Pre-Deployment Brief is scheduled for 5 November at the Station Chapel from 6-8pm. The Kids N' Deployment (for ages 5 and up) was cancelled due to low/no RSVP's, child care will be available (ages 4 and below). Registration (RSVP) for Kids N' Deployment and child care were through 4 Nov. until Noon. The brief should last approximately 1.5 hours, it is a mandatory event for all Marines (married or single), the families of married Marines are highly encouraged to attend in order to receive the information as well.
 We have another Squadron Run Breakfast at Ramada Sports Complex on 7 Nov, the Marine Corps Birthday Celebration on 15 November at Quechan Casino and our Christmas Party will be on 7 December at the Community Center and adjacent park!
 Spouses, attend a LINKS for Couples/Spouses (Nov 6, from 9am-4pm) class at 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

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
- 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 Monthly Meeting**
 Nov 7, 1500-1630 – Station Conf Room
- SMP Dinner and a Movie**
 Nov 6, 13, 20, 27 – Station Theater 1800
- SMP Vol. Op-**
 Nov, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center
- SMP Vol. Op-**
 Nov, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center
- SMP Vol. Op-**
 Nov, 0830-1200 - SMP Rec. Center
- Monday Night Football-** Nov 4, 11, 18, & 25 - SMP Rec. Center



MCFTB

Marine Corps Family Team Building

October is a month to spread awareness and celebrate milestones for issues that are important to our military families, such as Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer.
 In challenging circumstances, whether it be illness, hardship at home, or deployment, it is important that military spouses know where to turn for help. As a military community, we should all have somebody who has our back, looks out for us and provides guidance in life's challenges.
 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.
 Warm regards,
 Rob, Meaghan, Lauren, and Steve
 (928) 269-6502, 269-6544, 269-6503, and 269-6553

MCFTB COURSES

- Hearts Apart Kids**
 Every Thursday beginning Nov 7
 Bldg 699 (Post Office/MAG13 FRP), 4-5pm
- FR Assistant/CT Advisor Training**
 Nov 5 @ MCFTB, 9-12am
- LINKS for Couples/Spouses**
 Nov 6 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm
- FRO Monthly Meeting**
 Nov 7 @ MCFTB, 9-11am
- Command Team Training**
 Nov 13 @ MCFTB, 8-12am
- LINKS for Marines**
 Nov 14 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm
- Kids Birthday Bash**
 Nov 14 @ Community Center, 1-2pm



School Liaison Officer



Federal Impact Aid Survey Cards Going Home with Students:

If your students attends a public/charter school in Yuma School District One, Yuma Union High School District, Somerton School District, Desert View Academy or Carpe Diem Collegiate Academy, be on the look-out for the annual Federal Impact Aid Survey card to come home with your child on or near November 1st. All military and government civilian employees are encouraged to fill out this form and return it to your child's school as soon as possible. Federal Impact Aid is a program in which all schools in districts with a substantial federal government presence can apply for federal funding to support education due to loss of property taxes. Schools must accurately report the number of military dependents enrolled in order to qualify for Federal Impact Aid funding. Information on the survey card will be kept confidential. On behalf of the MCI West Commanding General and the MCAS Yuma Commanding Officer, I thank you for supporting our local school districts by participating in the 2013 Federal Impact Aid survey.

Online Parent Tools Helping Parents Stay in Tune with Children's Academic Progress:

Most Yuma area schools are utilizing online parent communication tools which provide parents access to children's grades, attendance records, homework assignments, etc. Yuma School District One, Crane School District and Yuma Union High School District utilize "ParentVue." Yuma Lutheran School, Southwest Christian School and Yuma Catholic High School utilize "RenWeb," while St. Francis of Assisi school utilizes "Jupiter." Parents must have a parent login code that can be requested by your child's teacher, or the school's front office staff. Please check with your child's school if you are not aware of a parent online communication tool being utilized.

Arizona Move on When Reading Initiative:

Beginning this school year, Arizona revised statute 15-710 requires that third-grade students who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade may be retained. Third grade students will have to receive a proficient score on the reading portion of the Arizona state standardized test called the *Arizona Instruments to Measure Standards (AIMS)*. Exceptions will be made for children with disabilities based on their Individualized Education Program (IEP) and for children who are English Language Learners (ELL) with less than two years of English instruction. If you are a parent of a 1st, 2nd or 3rd grader and have not been informed of this new requirement, please contact your child's teacher immediately for more information about your child's academic standing and ways to support literacy development at home. You may also check the Arizona Department of Education website at www.azde.gov for more information.

Exciting News about the MCX Super Star Student Program:

Did you know that the MCX Super Star Student Awards Program has expanded to include 1st through 12th grade students beginning this school year? This program is designed to encourage and reward the next generation of leaders from military families. Students in grades 1st through 12th who maintain a "B" average or better may bring a copy of their report card each quarter to the MCAS Yuma Exchange and receive a gift card scratch off for (\$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100 or \$250). This program is available to dependents of active duty military that are attending either traditional schools or are being homeschooled.

Common Core Standards Update:

Arizona Governor, Jan Brewer, has issued an Executive Order to rename the Common Core Standards in our state to the "Arizona's College and Career Ready Standards." Arizona adopted the Common Core Standards in 2010 along with 45 other states, and they are being implemented throughout our Arizona schools this year. A new standardized test aligned to the new standards will be developed to measure student learning by 2015.

Military Family Life Consultants at Three Yuma Schools:

I am pleased to share that a full time school based Military Family Life Consultant (MFLC) is now assigned to Sunrise Elementary, Palmcroft Elementary and Woodard Middle School for the duration of the school year. MFLCs provide non-medical counseling services to military children, parents and school staff while addressing the impact of military life. MFLCs augment the support services already provided at these schools, but their focus is on the military child and family. If your child attends one of these three schools, please contact the front office staff to inquire about the assigned MFLC and set up a time to introduce yourself to him/her. Your child may bring home a permission slip for you to sign in order to receive MFLC services. Installation MFLCs are available to work with students attending other schools. Currently, MCAS Yuma has two installation MFLCs in building #699. You may contact them at 928-245-6057 or 928-245-6591.

Save the Date:

- Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) Homework Strategies Workshop November 14th 9:00-11:00 a.m. Bldg. T-40 (Behind the post office) Call 269-5617 to RSVP ~ EFMP/Relocation & Assistance/Financial: Harvest Fest Open House, November 18th 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Bldg. T-40, All Families are Welcome!
- Station Library Family Night : Last Tuesday of each month 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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 (for November)

Nov 5: Military Testing, 0800-1630

Nov 19: Military Testing, 0800-1630

Nov 12: AFCT/DLAB, 1300-1630

Nov 20: ACT, 0800-1630

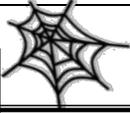
Nov 14: College Exams, 0800-1100

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

GI Bill Brief: Nov 4, 1000-1100

Spouse Education and Employment Brief (call 269-3248 for reservations): Nov 6, 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 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 – 15 Nov, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – 22 Nov, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00pm, this month it is 7 Nov. Normally last about 45 minutes, you can also pre-register and complete all required paperwork while you are there.

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 ensure).
2. Pay Day loans up to \$500.
3. Grant and Loan program for emergencies.

Deployment Update

Hello Black Widow Families,

Hope all is well in MALS-13. We recently returned from the USS Bonhomme Richard, and now are located in MALS-12 Iwakuni, Japan. The Marines performed outstandingly while aboard the USS BHR and several will be receiving NAM's for their excellent efforts in support of the 31st MEU and AIMD. I am proud of the professionalism and dedication that the Marines of this MALS-13 detachment as showed and continue to add to. So far to date, seven Marines have been promoted. Sgt Milhorn (ORD) was selected for SSgt, Cpl Clark (ORD), Cpl Evans (ORD), Cpl Wells (SUP), Cpl Salcedo (SUP), and Cpl Gesky (AVI) were all promoted to their present rank. Also, Sgt Frederick (Power Plants) was also promoted to his present rank.

The Marines enjoyed the ship experience and the port calls that came with it. We visited three ports in Australia: Brisbane, Sydney, and Darwin x2. We also had the pleasure of seeing Hong Kong. Now, we will see what mainland Japan has to offer. The Marines are busy assisting in their work centers, as MALS-12 is preparing for their upcoming Wing Inspection at the end of October. We look forward to the time we have left here and our return trip back to MCAS Yuma, MALS-13 and the rest of the Black Widows.

Respectfully Submitted,

GySgt Livingston
Det SNCOIC