

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER



MCAS YUMA, ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: OCTOBER 2014

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

Dear Black Widow Marines, Sailors, Families and Friends,

Please join me in recognizing Lance Corporal Sergio Gomez and his recent completion of the American citizenship process. Congrats, LCpl Gomez!

Corporal Albert Ludwig, now deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU), was recently recognized as the "Honor Graduate" after exemplary performance in Corporal's leadership course.

These individuals illustrate the great work that happens daily in our organization. Stateside, deployed, on duty or off-duty, we are truly proud of them all!

Thank you for your ongoing prayers, support and friendship.

Sincerely,

AJ Thompson
LtCol CO

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Sergeant Major's Comments



Dear Marines, Sailors, Families and friends,

I appreciate all the effort from our Marines and families in our ball fund raising events. It is going to be a great event.

CO and I have seen our Marines off that will support SP-MAGTF. We appreciate their dedication and representation of MALS-13.

Semper Fidelis,
MGySgt Mena
MALS-13

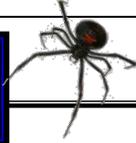
DATES TO REMEMBER

PREP Oct 8
Chapel/Fellowship Hall 7am-4pm

Station Welcome Aboard Oct 15
Sonoran Pueblo/Gonzalez Room 8-11 am

Squadron Run/Breakfast Oct 9
Memorial Sports Complex 6-9 am

LINKS - Couples/Spouses Oct 22
Family Team Building 9am-4pm



INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

Finally, the weather is starting to cool off! Enjoy the winter months coming up as they are some of the most pleasurable in the country with their moderate temps. Currently, we have a Single Marine Barracks Bash on 3 Oct, a squadron run breakfast on Oct 9, then a Coyote Ranch car wash on 18 Oct. There will be another unit event on Nov 6 - a Unit Field Meet, the remainder of the year will showcase our MC Ball Birthday Celebration on November 22 and our Christmas Party on December 6. We currently have three deployments out (OEF 14.2, 11th MEU and the SPMAGTF).

The planning on an "In the Midst" event for the OEF 14.2 and the 11th MEU families is almost complete. It is scheduled for 11 Oct at the Community Center (bldg. 1093) from 6-8pm. It will feature NCIS/Station PMO, a group of Station Martial Arts Instructors, as well as a certified instructor on child seat installation. It will provide you with some of the areas to be weary of, as well as tips and tricks to stay safe. The Martial Arts Instructors will provide you some basic techniques to use in self-protection. Stay focused as the remainder of the year will kick into high gear, update your calendars and keep on top of your schedules.

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

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.

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

Oct 2, 1500-1630 – Station Conf. Room (bldg. 980)

SMP Weekend Challenge

Oct 10-12

Monday Night Football

Oct 6, 13, 20 & 27 - 1730 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Dinner and a Movie

Oct 1, 8, 15, 22 @ 29 - 1800 @ SMP Rec. Center

FREE Charcoal Drawing Class-Beginners

Oct 6, 20 & 27 – 1800 Bldg. 645 (2nd deck)

SMP Vol. Op-Humane Society

Oct 8 & 22 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank

Oct 1, 15 & 29 - 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- Crossroads Mission

Oct 11 & 25, 0830 @ SMP Rec. Center

SMP Tournaments: Oct 16-Gaming,
 Oct 9-Pool & Oct 23-Ping Pong.

October Fest

Oct 7. 1800-2000 @ SMP Rec.

Marine Corps Family Team Building Building 598

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

SCHEDULED CLASSES

FRO Monthly Meeting

Oct 2 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

Command Team Training

Oct 7 @ MCFTB, 9am-Noon

LINKS for Marines

Oct 9 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

Ball Etiquette Class

Oct 15 @ MCFTB, 6-8pm

eMarine Training

Oct 17 @ Comp Lab (328), 9am-4pm

LINKS for Couples/Spouses

Oct 22 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

Family Care Plan

Oct 23 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

4 Lenses

Oct 28 @ MCFTB, 6-8:30pm

Assistant/Advisor Training

Oct 30 @ MCFTB, 8-Noon

Relocation Assistance Program

Relocation Assistance Program (RAP)

PCS Workshop:

Oct 7 (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.

Welcome Aboard Brief:

Oct 15 (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:

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.

Power Lunch-Understanding Taxes

Oct 22, held in bldg. T-40 (located behind the Base Post Office), 11:30-1:00pm. Provide a clear understanding about how to prepare taxes, right filing status and how to save money

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

Oct 22: SAT, 0830-1330

Oct 7, 21 & 28: AFCT/DLAB/DLPT, 0830 & 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): Oct 17, 1300-1330.

MGIB and Post 9/11 Bill Brief: Oct 6 & 20, 1000-1100 **USMAP:** Oct 30, 1000-1100

Spouse Education and Employment Brief (call 269-3248 for reservations): Oct 1, 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 – Oct 10, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – Oct 24, 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 – Oct 9 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: Oct 7, 14, 21 & 28 (call to register). Breast Feeding: Oct 3 & 31 (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.

11th MEU Update

Greetings - USS Makin Island! We are all happy to report that as of the 25th of September, we will have completed the second month of the deployment.

What I left out of the previous month’s update (due to operational security concerns) was the fact that we had an aircraft stuck on Iwo Jima Island. Due to an inflight aircraft maintenance issue, one of our pilots was forced to divert into the island and perform a precautionary emergency landing. We did not know at that time that it would take 22 days before we would see that aircraft or those Marines again. I believe that the novelty of visiting such an historic island wore off after approximately 72 hours. The Marines were on the island for thirteen days and suffered through high heat and humidity, no cell phone service, no internet access, no television, and only a few Japanese military personnel, most of whom did not speak any English. On the thirteenth day of the recovery effort, we were able to move the jet and the Marines from Iwo Jima to Okinawa. Four days later, Capt Lippert flew the aircraft from Okinawa to Singapore, which was a 5+ hour sortie behind an Air Force KC-10 refueling aircraft. Three days later, Capt Hartnett flew the aircraft from Singapore to Phuket, Thailand. Two days later (and 22 days into this excursion), we were able to safely recover the aircraft and our Marines back onboard the Makin Island. If you plot this entire excursion on a map, you will see that it was no small feat that we were able to move a single engine tactical aircraft from Iwo Jima, all the way to the ship via Okinawa, Singapore, and Thailand. Not only did it require a tremendous amount of hard work from our Marines, it also required assistance from Marine Attack Squadron 542, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, Air Mobility Command (KC-10), a KC-130 Squadron, and various embassies around Asia. The maintenance team at Iwo Jima was led by GySgt Cox. He was assisted by SSgts Luck, Calime, and Colburn; Sgts Tichi and Schwartzbauer; Cpls Camarenarodriguez, White, Tucker, Vantine, Cadotte, Guill; and LCpls Dien and McEntyre. The Marines returned to us with bullet proof suntans and lots of great stories and pictures from their planes, trains, and automobiles adventure.

When I wrote previously, we had just departed from Hong Kong, and were expecting to move west toward the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR). However, shortly after departing Hong Kong, the ship was forced to pull into Singapore due to some unforeseen maintenance issues. As such, our Marines and Sailors were forced to undergo a grueling four additional days of liberty in Singapore. All kidding aside, it was a “working port”, meaning that we worked a full shift of maintenance during the day, and we were then cut loose for five to seven hours in the evenings to explore Singapore. Two port calls in 11 days can get expensive. This is especially the case when traveling to places like Singapore, which is not a cheap place to visit. However, it is always good for the team to get off of the ship and blow off some steam.

Once we departed Singapore, we transited through the Straits of Malacca, which is one of the busiest waterways in the world. It was quite an amazing sight to see hundreds of super tankers all lined up in a formation, transiting through the straits in a single file line. We then sailed around India, and are currently postured in 5th Fleet AOR, prepared to execute any tasking as assigned by CENTCOM commander. The bad news about this is that every day is now exactly the same, which makes life quite boring at times. The good news is that we are all now earning tax free money, which should make life a little more fun for those of you at home.

I am happy to announce that the following Marines were promoted during the month of September: LCpl Arellanogarcia – Avionics – promoted to Corporal LCpl Deasis – Ordnance – promoted to Corporal LCpl Niday – Ordnance – promoted to Corporal Cpl Ealey – Powerline – promoted to Sergeant PFC Sanchez – Powerline – promoted to Lance Corporal Sgt Schaub – Airframes – promoted to Sergeant LCpl Wilson – MALS – promoted to Corporal. Additionally, Sgt Brooks from the Quality Assurance Division, and Sgt Pou from the Ordnance Division, were both selected to be promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. Lastly, newly promoted Sgt Ealey received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for exceptional performance while serving as a Powerline Division Mechanic.

Respectfully - Maj James “Twitch” Vallario