

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER

MCAS YUMA ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: September 2013

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
larry.leaver@usmc.mil

Deputy Family Readiness Officer:
SSgt Mahany- Ordnance – 269.2689
SSgt Guevara- Supply – 269.2430
SSgt Tabora - Maint – 269.2148
SSgt Vega - HQTR – 269.2070
SSgt Erdos- Avionics – 269.6781

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Yuma Regional Hospital Tour
Sept 5 @ YRMC Maternity, 3pm

Transition Readiness Seminar
Sept 9-13 & 23-27, Community Center,
8-10am

Tell Me a Story
Sept 13, Community Center, 5-7pm

Station Welcome Aboard brief
Sept 18, Sonoran Pueblo, 8-10am

Commanding Officer's Comments



Dear Marines, Sailors, Families and Friends,

Fall is nearly upon us, and we reflect briefly on a productive and eventful summer. I'm proud of the continued efforts and achievements of our Marines and Sailors.

Best of luck to the 22 MALS-13 Marines assigned to VMA-214 and the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). We know they will distinguish themselves with class and professionalism.

We eagerly anticipate the return of our Marines assigned to VMA-311. They've served in Afghanistan for the past several months and have performed in a highly exemplary manner.

Congratulations to our newly promoted meritorious Corporals: Miller (Ordnance) and Harris (Maintenance)...Well done, Marines!

One additional note for our female spouses: Mrs.Carolyn Solari has offered (free of charge) physical fitness and nutritional counseling. She has extensive experience in both areas and is a proud and dedicated military spouse herself. She can be reached at 618-604-0484 or totalbodyfitness_1@yahoo.com.

I remain proud to serve as your Commanding Officer.

Sincerely,

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

Sergeant Major's Message



Family and Friends,

Last month we honored one of our Brothers, Cpl Kyle Boline, at our Memorial on the Station, he was killed on August 1st. I can honestly tell you that I was so proud of MALS Marines, how they honored and respected Cpl Boline and his family that attended at the Memorial. Marines of MALS are so professional in so many ways and they do not do it without the love and support you give them, thank you.

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,

Our Marines and Sailors departed for the 13th MEU last month (I know you are already counting down the days until they return!). We are now looking at out Marines attached to VMA-311/Operation Enduring Freedom to return to us too ~ no specific dates to release as of right now as we are still working within the "window of return". As more specific dates/times become available I will post them on eMarine (deployment section) to keep everyone informed.

The Twice as Nice event will take place at the Community Center (bldg 1093, behind the CYTP and next to the CDC Annex) on 7 Sept between 8-10 am. 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.

Spouse's, attend a LINKS for Couples/Spouses (Sept 11, 9am-4pm) 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)! Steve Klauck has been hired and began his new duties as of 26 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. As a matter of fact, his first assignment will be the Family Readiness Assistant/Command Team Advisor Training coming up on 9 September. 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.

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
 Steve – (928) 269-6553

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

Sept 14 & 28, 0830-1130 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Adult Swim

Sept 3,10,17 & 24 - Oasis Pool, 1900

SMP Vol. Op- Yuma Food Bank

Sept 4 & 18, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- Habitat for Humanity

Sept 5 & 19, 0830-1100 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Vol. Op- River Clean-up/Float

Sept 6,13,20 & 27, 0830-1200 - SMP Rec. Center

Monday Night Football- Sept 9, 16, 23,

& 30 - SMP Rec. Center

SMP Last Vegas Trip – 13-15 Sept.

MCFTB COURSES

Hearts Apart Kids

Every Thursday beginning Sept 5
 Bldg 699 (Post Office/MAG13 FRP), 4-5pm

FRO Monthly Meeting

Sept 5 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

FR Assistant/CT Advisor Training

Sept 9 @ MCFTB, 5-8pm

LINKS for Couples/Spouses

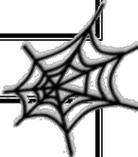
Sept 11 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

LINKS for Marines

Sept 12 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

4 Lenses (...what's your color?)

Sept 17 @ MCFTB, 6-9pm





School Liaison Officer



U.S. Secretary of Education to Visit MCAS Yuma: Military parents are cordially invited to attend the U.S. Secretary of Education's town hall meeting at MCAS Yuma's base chapel on September 12th from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. As part of his annual "Back to School" bus tour, Secretary Arne Duncan would like to focus the town hall on the education of military-connected children. There will be a panel discussion with the Secretary, the MCAS installation Commander, the YPG installation Commander and the Yuma area school Superintendents. Military parents will have the opportunity to ask questions relating to the education of their children. Please RSVP your attendance by calling or emailing the School Liaison at 928-269-5373 or mcshanee@usmc-mccs.org.

"Tell Me a Story" is Back by Popular Demand: Please join us for an evening of storytelling by a very special guest reader on Friday, September 20th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center building #1093. "Tell Me a Story" is sponsored by the Military Child Education Coalition for military school age children and parents. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grades are invited to attend this free event with a parent and enjoy listening to the story *How to Bake an American Pie* read by the MAG-13 Commanding Officer, Colonel Chris McPhillips. Pizza and pie will be served, fun crafts and activities will be planned, and each child will receive a free signed copy of the featured book. Please call 269-6544 no later than September 17th to reserve your spot.

Box Tops for Education: If your child's school is not collecting "Box Tops" please feel free to continue collecting them and dropping them off at the MCAS Youth Center or the Commissary. Drop boxes are located at both sites and the "Box Tops" will be distributed to schools with a large military student enrollment.

Free & Reduced Lunch Applications: Parents enrolling their children in public/charter schools should always fill out a free & reduced lunch application. If you have never filled out a Free & Reduced lunch application, you may want to consider filling one out to see if your family qualifies.

MealTime Online Program: If your child attends a school in Yuma School District One or Yuma Union High School District, you may want to check into the MealTime Online Program. This program enables you to make prepay deposits and payments on balances on your student's school lunch account. It is convenient, safe and secure. You can also view your student's account activity, including onsite payment, online payments, current balance and a detailed history of meal and food item purchases. Please visit www.MyMealTime.com to create a profile, username & password.

Military Counselors Support Students in Yuma District One: As part of the \$1.7 million Department of Defense Education Activity (DODEA) grants awarded to Yuma School District One since 2012, three additional school counselors have been hired to work specifically with military students attending eight schools. Ms. Renee Ellis, Ms. Nadia Gaspard and Ms. Ashley Gonzalez will be assigned to work with students at Otondo, Desert Mesa, Sunrise, Price, Palmcroft, Rolle, Ron Watson and Castle Dome schools. If your child attends one of these schools, please take a moment to meet the respective military counselor for your school. The military community is thrilled to have the extra support provided for our children by these three professionals within our District One schools.

Adopt a School Program: I am thrilled to announce that four MCAS Yuma squadrons/units have committed to adopt schools for the 2013-14 school year. VMA-211 has adopted G.W. Carver Elementary, VMA-311 has adopted Desert View Academy, H&HS has adopted Sunrise Elementary, and MALS-13 has adopted Castle Dome Middle School. Way to go Wake Island Avengers, Tomcats, Black Widows and H&HS for being positive role models and supporting the education of our Yuma students!

Riding the School Bus: Did you know that riding a school bus is a privilege and not a right? School districts choose to provide bus service to help children who might not otherwise be able to get to the school campus. Since riding a school bus is a privilege, it can be lost. Poor student behavior on the bus can be a major safety concern for the driver. Please take a few minutes to talk with our child about proper bus behavior. Keeping hands, feet, and objects to oneself, staying seated and using quiet voices are the keys to a safe and convenient ride.

Online Learning at the MCAS Youth Center: Students enrolled in the Youth Center's School Age Care Program utilizing "Power Hour" will now have access to Yuma School District One's online learning programs such as PLATO, Raz Kids, Edmodo, etc. Staff members have been trained by the school district's technology experts in how to implement these online programs during "Power Hour." Staff members will be able help students access the online programs in the Youth Center's computer lab and better support the homework needs of the students.



**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 850). There are opportunities for spouses to utilize these services as well for with a MyCAA grant for approved transferable training.

Testing Schedule (for August)

Sept 10: Military Testing, 0800-1630

Sept 17: AFCT/DLAB, 1300-1630

Sept 11: ACT, 0800-1330

Sept 19: College Exams, 0800-1100

Sept 16: Military Testing, 0800-1630

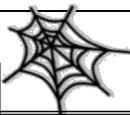
Sept 24: Military Testing, 0800-1630

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

GI Bill Brief: Sept 9, 1000-1100

Spouse Education and Employment Brief (call 269-3248 for reservations): 4 Sept, 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

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](tel:269-2308)

1. Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp, held at NPSP – 13 Sept, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – 27 Sept, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00pm (5 Sept). 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](tel: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.

Event Announcements

Marine Corps Family Team Building

Family Advocacy Program

Child Development Center

American Red Cross

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society

Family Readiness Officers

Military & Family Life Counselor

New Parent Support Program

Twice as Nice

Baby & Kids' Gear Swap

Saturday, September 7th · Community Center Bldg 1093
8:00 am to 10:00 am (or while supplies last!)

*****Valid military I.D. cards are required and there will be outside parking for strollers*****

Donate

Drop off gently used baby, child & maternity items to your Family Readiness Officer All donations are greatly appreciated.

Shop!

Visit the Community Center on Saturday, September 7th beginning at 8 am to “shop” for baby, child & maternity items – all for FREE!

Learn

Pick up information and speak to representatives from various family-oriented organizations (listed around the border of this flyer).

For more information or if you require special assistance, contact Erika Ruiz at (928) 269-3042 or Erika.ruiz@usmc.mil