

BLACK WIDOW NEWSLETTER



MCAS YUMA, ARIZONA

MARINE AVIATION LOGISTICS SQUADRON 13

ISSUE: SEPTEMBER 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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Twitter: @MALS13FRO

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,

We welcome the imminent return of cooler weather to Yuma. It's been a productive and fruitful summer for our command.

We extend our sincere thanks to Yuma's Coyote Ranch--their continued support, care packages, and personal care of MALS-13 is tremendous!

Please keep our teammates deployed in Afghanistan, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) and the upcoming Special Purpose Marine Air Group Task Force (SPMAGTF) in your thoughts and prayers.

Call, write, or visit anytime. We appreciate you.

It remains my honor to serve as the Commanding Officer.

Semper Fidelis,

LtCol Thompson

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Sergeant Major's Comments



Dear Marines, Sailors, Families and friends,

Max DePree said, " We cannot become who we need to be by remaining who we are"

It is very evident that we understand the need to continuously get better and that was displayed by our Marines winning all four Meritorious quotas!

Lieutenant General Davis (Deputy Commandant for Aviation) commented how proud and appreciative he is of MALS-13.

It will continue to be my honor to stand by you as your Sergeant Major.

Semper Fidelis

MGySgt Mena

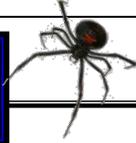
DATES TO REMEMBER

PREP Sept 10
Chapel/Fellowship Hall 7:00am-4:00 pm

Station Welcome Aboard Sept 17
Sonoran Pueblo/Gonzalez Room 8-11 am

Spouses Social Sept 9
Memorial Sports Complex 6-9 am

LINKS - Couples/Spouses Sept 24
Family Team Building 9am-4pm



INFO from the FRO

Black Widows and families,

Spouses, make sure you have registered with Alison to attend the Spouses Welcome Aboard Social. This social is designed for the new spouses who have joined the MALS family during the summer, however, all spouses are welcome to attend. There will be a time to share tips about the local area, where to dine and places of interest to visit. We will also have some time to put together care packages for our Marines forward deployed. Finally – there will be time for ICE CREAM!

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

Volunteers – Family Team Building will be taking over the Volunteer Coordinator Program, which includes all training and refresher. We will also be the Relocation Assistance Program Managers providing support to our Marines & Families on PCS.

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

MCFTB Calendar



Marine Corps Family Team Building
Building 598
(928) 269-6502/6503/6553/6544

SCHEDULED CLASSES

FRO Monthly Meeting
Sept 4 @ MCFTB, 9-11am

LINKS for Marines
Sept 11 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

FRO/DFRO Training
Sept 12 @ MCFTB, 9am-4pm

Growing the Green
Sept 16 @ MCFTB, 10-Noon & 6-8pm

Assistant/Advisor Training
Sept 23 @ MCFTB, 5-9pm

LINKS for Couples/Spouses
Sept 24 @ MCFTB, 6-9pm

Deployment Updates

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

The deployment began without a hitch, as we were able to recover all six primary aircraft, on time, and without incident. This occurred solely due to the hard work and exceptional performance by the VMA-211 Maintenance Department (both the Squadron minus, and the Detachment), and for that I am quite grateful. Upon embarkation, we sailed at best possible speed for Hawaii, such that the MEU could participate in sustainment training along the coast of Oahu. While it was nice to participate in some tactical training, we were all a bit disappointed that the ship did not pull into Pearl Harbor, and that we were not given a few days of liberty in the Aloha State. We all hope to visit Hawaii on our way home.

Shortly after departing Hawaii, the MEU / ARG was tasked to support the evacuation of scientists from NOAA, who were stranded on a remote island in the Pacific with a typhoon bearing down on them. Once receiving the task to evacuate these scientists, 11th MEU / ARG turned north, arrived on scene prior to the storm, retrieved the scientists from the island, and then safely delivered them to the island of Midway from where they could be moved via air. This was an incredibly rewarding experience for all involved, as it proved that the 11th MEU / ARG team was ready to execute any and all missions placed in front of it. Once mission complete, we turned west and continued our journey toward the island of Hong Kong.

On our way to Hong Kong, we passed within 10 miles of the historic island of Iwo Jima (now called Iwo To). Due to some last minute hard work and planning by some key operations personnel, we were able to bring over 60 Marines and sailors from the MEU to the island, where they were able to climb Mount Suribachi, and walk the beach. The Marines were even able to bring back sand from the famous island. The VMA representative on this trip was Sgt Brooks from the Quality Assurance division. He was hand selected by the VMA Detachment SNCO's due to his exceptional performance over the last few months. Other candidates for this were Sgt Mundle from Maintenance Administration, Sgt Schwartzbauer from Airframes, Cpl White from Seat Shop, Cpl Ealey from Powerline, Cpl Walters from Ordnance, Cpl Puryear from Avionics, Cpl Leedahl from Airframes, and Cpl Clements from the S-shops. These Marines continue to perform superbly; our success is entirely due to their continued leadership and hard work. I wish that I could have sent them all to Iwo Jima; however, we were only allowed to bring one Marine from the VMA Detachment. I will find other ways to award and reward these fantastic NCO's for their overall performance, to date.

We just completed a three day port call to the beautiful island of Hong Kong, where our Marines and Sailors were able to take in some R&R, to enjoy all that Hong Kong has to offer, and hopefully, to enjoy some facetime / skype with their significant others. We are now underway again, continuing our adventure westbound. We look forward to our next port call, though at this time we do not know when or where that will occur. In the interim, we will stand ready to support any and all tasking that comes our way.

In closing, please know that the Marines and Sailors of VMA-211 Det A are performing extremely well, and that they continue to impress all who interact with them. You should all be extremely proud of their performance.

Maj James Vallario
Officer in Charge, VMA-211 Detachment Alpha

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

Sept 10: ACT, 0800 - 1300

Sept 9 & 23: 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.*

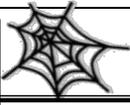
College 101 (Tuition Assistance Brief): EVERY Friday, 1000-1100

MGIB and Post 9/11 Bill Brief: Sept 8 & 22, 1000-1100

USMAP: Sept 25, 1000-1100

Spouse Education and Employment Brief (call 269-3248 for reservations): Sept 3, 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

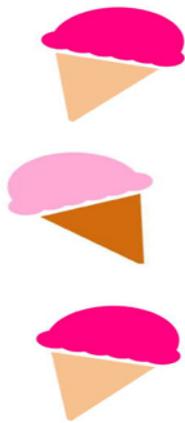
1. Daddy’s Baby Boot Camp, held at NPSP – Sept 12, 0800-1600 (must call and register)
2. Mom’s Basic Training, held at NPSP – Sept 26, 0800-1600 (must call to register ~ as soon as you know you’re expecting)
3. YRMC Hospital Tour, held on 1st Thursday of each month at 3:00pm – Sept 4 is the next tour (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: No classes in Sept. Breast Feeding: No classes in Sept.

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.

Spouses Social



MALS-13 SPOUSES
WELCOME ABOARD
ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Tuesday, September 9th
 7:00 PM
 Vittori Clubhouse in base housing

Join us for a fun night to welcome all of the new spouses that recently joined our unit! All MALS-13 Spouses are encouraged to attend. Hope to see you there!!

WE WILL

- ENJOY SOME TASTY ICE CREAM
- SHARE SOME TIPS FOR LIVING IN YUMA
- PUT TOGETHER CARE PACKAGES FOR OUR DEPLOYED MARINES
- RAFFLE OFF SOME FUN PRIZES FROM LOCAL VENDORS!

PLEASE TRY TO LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE COMING OR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.
 CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL ALISON (817) 874-9962, ALANDREW32@GMAIL.COM