

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

# Desert **WARRIOR**



August 16, 2012  
Volume 11 Number 28

## **F-35 LIGHTNING II**

**JOINT STRIKE FIGHTER SNEAK PEEK**



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# MAG-13 CO visits JSF at Eglin Air Force Base



Courtesy photos by USAF Major Karen Roganov

Above, left to right: Col. Michael Gough, left, the Marine Aircraft Group 13 commanding officer, listens as Sgt. William Luhrsen, a F-35B Lightning II airframes mechanic and low observation technician, explains some of the new components of the Joint Strike Fighter at Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., Aug 13. F-35B Lightning II mechanics explained to Gough how the landing gear system on the Joint Strike Fighter functions and what the different types of low observable materials are on the U.S. Armed Forces fifth-generation fighter jet during an informal tour of the jet. Gough, along with others, learned of the jet's capabilities and witnessed afternoon sorties from the flightline of Marine Strike Fighter Training Squadron at Eglin Air Force Base's 33rd Fighter Wing.

## Want your opinion heard? Here's how!

Send your opinion or comment on previous articles to [editor.deedub@gmail.com](mailto:editor.deedub@gmail.com)

The Desert Warrior reserves the right to choose content and edit as necessary.

### Front Page Photo



Courtesy photo by Lockheed Martin

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Lightning II is the world's only 5th generation international aircraft. The F-35 integrates advanced stealth technology into a highly agile, supersonic aircraft that provides the pilot with unprecedented situational awareness and unmatched lethality and survivability. Currently being developed for use by U.S. and international partners, the F-35 has three variants: F-35A is designed for conventional take offs and landings; F-35B is capable of short take off and vertical landings; and the F-35C is designed for carrier takes offs and landings. MCAS Yuma is slated to receive its first F-35 by the end of 2012.

## Desert *WARRIOR*

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

**Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino**  
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## News to Use

### ART CONTEST, CABALLEROS DE YUMA

For the upcoming 2012 Colorado River Crossing Balloon Festival scheduled for Nov. 16-18, the Caballeros de Yuma is holding an art contest to find this year's lead art for the festival. The theme for the artwork is hot air balloons and the contest winner will receive \$400. Deadline for submissions is Sept. 4. For more information, please visit [www.caballeros.org](http://www.caballeros.org), email [info@caballeros.org](mailto:info@caballeros.org) or call (928)343-1715.

### TUITION ASSISTANCE REMINDER

The end of the fiscal year is approaching so please remember to have all tuition assistance application requests brought to the Education Center (Bldg 598) by Sep. 12 for classes that start between Sep. 13-30. In addition, all TA requests for classes that begin on or after Oct. 1 will be able to be processed after Oct. 1. For any other questions, please contact Cindy Harris at 269-3589 or Melissa Dickerson at 269-5614.

### YUMA NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, RECYCLING SURVEY

The City of Yuma is asking its residential solid waste customers to complete a short survey designed to collect their ideas regarding a curbside recycling program. To take the survey, visit the City of Yuma website at [www.yumaaz.gov](http://www.yumaaz.gov) and click on the survey link under the Hot News section.

### 2012 SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE TO MILITARY, SPOUSES, VETERANS

The Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) is offering \$1000 scholarships (15 in all) to service members and their spouses who are working towards the completion of higher education degrees. For more information, please visit the CCME website at [www.ccmeonline.org](http://www.ccmeonline.org)/scholarships.

### MCAS DOVE REGISTRATION

**CORRECTION: Registration will only be Aug. 17 AND 24.**

Where: Sonoran Pueblo, MCAS Yuma

When: Aug. 17 and Aug. 24

Time: 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Eligibility Requirements: Active Duty, retired service members, MCAS employees, dependent family members and sponsored

guests.

All hunters must bring a valid identification, valid Arizona hunting license with migratory bird stamp. Family members and sponsored guests must be present with individual registering for dove hunt. Any question please contact Mike Waliszewski (928) 750-4777.

### 2012 HIRING OUR HEROES

#### VETERANS EVENT

Please join us for a FREE one-of-a-kind hiring fair sponsored by Hero2Hired (H2H) for job seekers and employers, Aug. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Scottsdale Resort and Conference Center, 7700 E. McCormick Parkway, Scottsdale, AZ 85258. This hiring fair is for veterans, military members currently serving, and military/veteran spouses.

### QUICK ASSIST LOANS THROUGH NMCRS

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is pleased to offer Quick Assist Loans (QAL) as a part of a pilot program designed to offer Sailors and Marines no interest loans of up to \$500. This specialized program increases the maximum QAL amount from the previous \$300 limit and does not impact service member access to society financial assistance of larger amounts as needed to assist with emergencies. The \$500 QAL program will be offered through December 31 and is available to eligible active duty Sailors and Marines here at MCAS Yuma and several other Navy and Marine Corps installations. For more information, call (928) 269-2373 or visit <http://www.nmcrcs.org/quickassist.html>.

### ID CARD CENTER TEMPORARY CLOSURE

Until further notice, the Station ID Card Center will be unavailable due to network and systems issues. Patrons in need of ID Cards should contact or visit the below alternate locations until the MCAS Yuma center is operational:

YPG (928) 328-2578 (appointment only)  
Monday through Thursday (closed Fridays)  
Bldg #501

NAF El Centro 0730-1530 (760) 339-2623,  
Monday through Friday (recommend calling before driving over) Bldg #214.

## Fact or Fiction?

### Debunking Lance Corporal underground myths



**Q:** What is the actual policy about sunglasses?

**A:** According to MARADMIN 504/07, Sunglasses, when worn, will be conservative in appearance without ornamentation. Manufacturer logos should be small and inconspicuous. Sunglasses may be worn on leave, liberty, and in garrison but not in formation unless prescribed by the commander or certified medical authority. When authorized for wear in formations, sunglass lenses will be of standard green, black, or brown shade or may be the type commonly referred to as "photosensitive." Sunglasses that do not have "photosensitive" lenses will not be worn indoors.

Submit your question to [editor.deedub@gmail.com](mailto:editor.deedub@gmail.com).

## 5 Questions

### Department of Homeland Security

## U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

### 1. What is the purpose of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services?

The mission is to secure America's promise as a nation of immigrants by providing accurate and useful information to our customers, granting immigration and citizenship benefits, promoting an awareness and understanding of citizenship and ensuring the integrity of our immigration system.

### 2. Does marrying a U.S. citizen automatically make the non-citizen eligible to stay in the United States?

No, a non-citizen spouse does not automatically become eligible to stay in the United States by marrying a U.S. citizen. Depending upon the status of the non-citizen spouse, there are various application types that can be found on our website that can provide a road path to permanent residence status and/or citizenship. Our website is: [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov). More detailed information on available avenues can be found at: [www.uscis.gov/greencard](http://www.uscis.gov/greencard) and [www.uscis.gov/howdoi](http://www.uscis.gov/howdoi).

### 3. What is the "Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals" program and who is eligible to apply (Per the Department of Homeland Security)?

On June 15, 2012, the Secretary of Homeland Security announced that certain people who came to the U.S. as children and meet several key guidelines may request consideration of deferred action for a period of two years, subject to renewal, and would then be eligible for work authorization.

Individuals who can demonstrate through verifiable documentation that they meet these guidelines will be considered for deferred action. Determinations will be made on a case-by-case basis under the guidelines set forth in the Secretary of Homeland Security's memorandum.

Details can be found at [www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals](http://www.uscis.gov/childhoodarrivals).

### 4. What are the steps to becoming a U.S. citizen for non-citizen military members?

It is impossible to provide one answer for all cases as the circumstances of individuals can vary widely. USCIS has special information to help the military understand their immigration options. This information can be found at [www.uscis.gov/military](http://www.uscis.gov/military).

### 5. What services are provided to U.S. military members to help their non-citizen relatives reside in the U.S. permanently?

USCIS has established a toll-free military help line, 1-877-CIS-4MIL (1-877-247-4645), exclusively for members of the military and their families. USCIS customer service specialists are available to answer calls Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (CST), excluding federal holidays. After-hours callers will receive an email address that they can use to contact USCIS for assistance. Callers will receive assistance with immigration-related information, such as:

- \* Tracking their Form N-400, Application for Naturalization.
- \* Notifying USCIS of a new mailing address or duty station.
- \* Checking the status of any other application or petition.
- \* Bringing a spouse, fiancé, or adopted child to the United States.
- \* Posthumous citizenship for a deceased member of the U.S. military.
- \* Submitting an application for expedited processing.

Members of the U.S. military and their families stationed in the United States or overseas may access the help line using the toll-free number through their base telephone operator or using the Defense Switched Network (DSN).

In the case of MCAS Yuma, individuals can contact the Joint Law Center for assistance.



## Tailspotter

### Missy

Missy is a 8-year-old female mixed breed. Missy loves to be petted, cuddled and just lay around watching what is going on in her world. Missy is spayed, microchipped and current with all her vaccinations. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at (928) 782-1621.





## Yuma's future F-35B hits the mark



Courtesy of Naval Air Station Patuxent River, MD

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Lightning II, expected to arrive at MCAS Yuma, Ariz. by the end of the year, accomplished a significant milestone Aug. 8 by demonstrating a successful weapons release during a flight at Naval Air Systems Command, Patuxent River, MD. U.S. military officials at the test site see this as a, "significant entry into a new phase of testing for the F-35 program," which includes validating the F-35's capability to employ precision weapons and allow pilots to engage the enemy on the ground and in the air. The release was the first time any version of the F-35 conducted an airborne weapon separation, as well as the first from an international weapon bay for a fighter aircraft designated for the U.S. Marine Corps, the United Kingdom and Italy.

## 3RD MAW UNDER NEW COMMAND



Cpl. Ryan Carpenter

Maj. Gen. Andrew O'Donnell, Jr., relinquished command of 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing to Maj. Gen. (select) Steven Busby during a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Aug. 10.

## Chaplain of the Corps ✕ Yuma gets a spiritual uplift



Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, the 18th Chaplain of the Marine Corps, holds a conference with the chaplains and religion program specialists from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma at MCAS Yuma's Church, Aug. 13. The meeting was held as a pulse check to see how things were running on base. Some key points discussed were involvement in the community, the need of chaplains as the troops are beginning to return home and future changes.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Zac Scanlon

# VMA-214 achieves missile milestone

Story by Cpl. Sean Dennison  
Desert Warrior Staff

A detachment with a Yuma-based AV-8B Harrier squadron wrote another chapter of the aircraft's history when they launched, for the first time, an air-to-air missile operationally Aug. 14.

Approximately 40 Marines with Marine Attack Squadron 214 worked to have the Harriers launch three AIM-120 advanced medium-range air-to-air missiles (or AMRAAM, to the maintainers and pilots) during a live-fire exercise at Tyndall Air Force Base, Fla., Aug. 14-15.

"There are three variants (of the AIM-120), the alpha, bravo and charlie," said Maj. Jeremy Osborne, the VMA-214 operations officer and a native of Pensacola, Fla. "The variant they shot were alphas, which are the oldest version of the AIM-120."

Then Capt. Michael McKenney, a Harrier pilot with local squadron VMA-211, first launched the missile during a test run in Okinawa, Japan, back in June 2009.

At 12 feet long and weighing approximately 350 pounds, the AIM-120 is a fire-and-forget weapon, able to lock on to targets out of range.

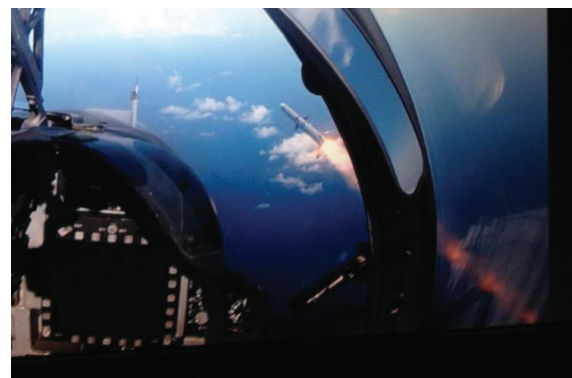
"This is the first BVR (beyond visual range) air-to-air missile the Harrier's ever had," said Osborne.

During the live-fire exercise, mediated mainly through the U.S. Air Force's 83rd Fighter Weapons Squadron, the Harrier pilots aggressed remote-controlled F-4 Phantoms and BQM-167 Skeeters over the

Gulf of Mexico. No machinery was harmed during the occasion; the controls would avoid the missiles before impact.

The significance of the AIM-120's first successful operational launch is twofold.

One, this expands the capabilities of the Harrier while deployed with Marine Expeditionary Units at a time when the Corps is getting back to its amphibious beginnings.



Courtesy photo

"The main reason the AV-8B was able to gain this capability was to provide the escort role for (MV-22 Ospreys) for the MAGTF (Marine Air-Ground Task Force)," said Osborne.

The Harriers' escort service provide Ospreys safer transportation for Corps assets, the most important being Marines themselves.

Secondly, the capability bridges the gap between the Harrier and the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter. The JSF will have long-range armament, too. However, with the Harriers newly acquired weaponry, attack squadrons will be able to offer more versatility until the JSF truly takes off.

"It's another step forward increasing the AV-8B's capability of long-range warfare," said Capt. Mark Maholchic, the Marine Attack Squadron 214 adjutant and a native of Kennesaw, Ga. "This is the step where we prove and we know, through a live-fire exercise, we are capable of defending the fleet at a greater range than we previously were able."

The detachment is slated to return Aug. 16.





# Muscle(car) Men

**Story by Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior Staff

“Anyone driving slower than you is an idiot, and anyone going faster than you is a maniac.”

-Author Unknown



There’s something about a classic muscle car; its attention getter, sleek lines and steel parts. They are distinctly American, with an almost cult following.

Most people might not be able to tell you the exact year, make and model when they see one driving down the street, but they know what the car and its driver are all about: good looks and plenty of plant-you-in-the-seat horsepower.

Two station Marines made their dreams of owning a muscle car come true.

Capt. Kyle Ugone, station

deputy comptroller, owns a shiny-blue 1968 Chevrolet Chevelle with a 454 cubic inch V-8, with the cylinders bored out to a whopping 460 cubic inches of displacement. The roar of the big-block Chevy coming to life is unmistakable. Modern cars may scream that they go fast, but this car roars it like a lion staking claim to the Savannah.

“It’s a bad ass car,” said Ugone. “I’m not of the age to remember them from their original days, but it’s cool to be able to show people what was around in the heyday of American muscle cars.”

Master Sgt. Gregory Greer, station airfield operations chief, has a bright-red 1971 Chevelle Super Sport with a 350 cubic inch small-block V-8. It’s built to be a little more cruise-around-town friendly, but when the pedal hits the floor, still has the power to leave other cars inhaling exhaust fumes.

“You get a lot of compliments about old cars,” said Greer. “It’s a real eye-catcher and conversation starter. Even the younger generations know it’s a muscle car.”

They hearken back to glory

days of the American muscle car, when car manufacturers settled differences on the drag strip, circle-track and from stoplight to stoplight all over suburban and rural USA. Back then, fuel mileage and luxury weren’t the main concern; it was who crossed the finish line first.

Muscle cars may not be for everyone. They suck down fuel like it’s going out of style, handle like the 40-plus year old cars they are, and, depending on how they’re built, some have too much power for some drivers to handle safely. But, they can be seen as investments.

“The older they get, the more they’re worth,” explained Greer.

The benefit comes in that many of them are purchased in need of some restoration. Ugone and Greer agree this fact lets you build the car exactly how you want it.

**For full story, visit**  
[Yuma.usmc.mil](http://Yuma.usmc.mil)



Classic muscle cars can be seen prowling the air station from time to time. While they may not be as practical as modern sports cars, muscle cars represent the height of America’s obsession with style and horsepower. Their steel construction and large engines make them heavier than most of their modern counterparts, but their style attacks devoted fans and owners of all ages.



Capt. Kyle Ugone, above, drives his 1968 Chevrolet Chevelle, left, on station. The car attracts plenty of attention as it roars its way down the highways and byways. Master Sgt. Gregory Greer’s red 1971 Chevelle, top, known as the ‘Heavy Chevy,’ also attracts attention to itself, even sitting in a parking lot. Both men love their cars, and have poured much of themselves into them. While both cars look like they’d be able to take on some of the aircraft they park near, their owners don’t race them preferring to cruise around town in their classic works of art.





# Full Ads



# New Marine Officers Will Add to Legacy of Excellence

Karen Parrish

## American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10, 2012 – Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta offered congratulations and a challenge to a group of newly minted Marine Corps officers during a commissioning ceremony today at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Triangle, Va.

“It is now your turn ... to take up this mantle of responsibility as leaders in the Marine Corps – to preserve our military strength [and] to uphold the honor and reputation of your uniform,” Panetta told the 120-plus recent graduates of Marine Corps Officer Candidates School at Quantico, Va. “In wearing the eagle, globe and anchor, always remember that you have set yourself apart. Remember that you are expected to abide by the highest standards, to display the strongest character, and to demonstrate the utmost integrity in all you do.”

The secretary noted eight of the new second lieutenants served as enlisted Marines before completing the 10-week school that admitted them to the officer ranks.

“You’ve already served as enlisted Marines, and some of you have seen combat,” Panetta told them. “So you know first-hand the sacrifice and discipline that the Marine Corps is all about, and I commend you for shouldering the new responsibility [of] a Marine officer.”

He noted the course included the hottest July on record in the United States, and told the new second lieutenants OCS may well have been the longest and most challenging 2 1/2 months of their lives.

“You’ve been up before sunrise; you’ve collapsed exhausted onto your rack after dark,” Panetta said. “I’m sure that each of you had moments – as you were low-crawling through the mud, carrying a heavy pack, or running in boots with blisters on your feet – when you wondered just what the hell you had gotten yourself into.”



Photo by Erin A. Kirk-Cuomo

**Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta administers the oath of office to newly commissioned Marine Corps 2nd lieutenants at the Marine Corps Officer Candidates School commissioning ceremony at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, Va., Aug. 10, 2012.**

Nearly a third of the men and women enrolled in the class didn’t finish, the secretary said.

“But you proved to yourselves, and you proved to others, that you can fight through pain and frustration, and that you can endure what most people cannot,” he said. “You’ll need that self-confidence, you will need that discipline, as you step forward to lead the Fleet Marine Force and our military.”

Panetta told the new officers he has been privileged to work with a number of extraordinary Marine Corps officers: Gen. James F. Amos, 35th commandant of the Marine Corps; Gen. James N. Mattis, commander of U.S. Central Command; Gen. John R. Allen, commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan; and Gen. John F. Kelly, the secretary’s senior military

assistant, who will soon assume leadership of U.S. Southern Command.

Those officers, he said, carry on a Marine Corps legacy “of grit and sheer determination, of taking the fight to the enemy on far-flung shores, and of fighting like hell – especially when the odds are long.”

Across generations, Marines have added to that legacy, from Tripoli to the Pacific islands and Korea to Vietnam, Panetta said.

“During this past decade of war, our nation has depended on Marines to confront determined enemies and threats around the world,” he said. “And we’ll never forget – never forget -- the more than 1,400 Marines who’ve paid the ultimate price for our country since 9/11.”

In Iraq and now Afghanistan, Marines have led some of the fiercest fighting over more than a decade of conflict, he said.

“Right now, as we speak, night has fallen in Sangin District of Helmand,” Panetta added. “The enemy may be resting, but you can be damn sure the Marines are not. They’re taking the fight to the Taliban every day, every night; helping their Afghan brothers take the lead for security so that Afghanistan can secure and govern itself and never again become a safe haven for al-Qaida.”

The secretary thanked the families and friends of today’s new officers, and recognized service members and veterans attending the event. Panetta also praised the company and platoon commanders, sergeant instructors and OCS staff who trained the new lieutenants.

“While members of this class may not have fully appreciated it while doing push-ups or marching on the parade field, you have given them lessons that they will call upon for years to come,” the secretary told them.

“Most of all, let me thank this graduating class,” he said. “Thank you for choosing to serve our country. Thank you for your willingness to step forward and ... put your lives on the line in order to protect this country and in order to defend your fellow Americans.”





# MWSS-374: PAVING A BETTER FUTURE

**Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Uriel Avendano**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Breaking new ground isn't easy. Building a foundation, in the most literal sense, is hard work.

Just ask the engineer company of Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., who are refurbishing the landing zone strip at the Bull Assault Forward Air Refueling Point site located in the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, Aug. 9.

"The majority of the work of bringing it out here was done by motor transportation. Utilities set up all the water points," said Sgt. Juan Flores, the MWSS-374 project manager and a native of Houston, Texas. "And, obvi-

ously, the heavy equipment engineers worked on the ground here."

MWSS-374 electronically surveyed, gauged, and measured the site to determine



the terrain conditions. Then, construction began on Aug. 1.

"The most difficult part was keeping with the terrain, making sure the landing strip is within regulations," said Gunnery Sgt. Ramiro Chavez Jr., the MWSS-374 engineer

equipment chief and a native of Naples, Fla.

After layering up to six inches of Recycled Asphalt Product (RAP) and using Portland cement to provide greater strength and better durability, it will then be compacted and paved to a smooth finish. Soiltac, a biodegradable and environmentally safe product that will reduce dust and prevent erosion, will also be used to deliver a safer strip to land on for pilots during training exercises.

"The local Marines will be able to use this LZ as a good training environment for future FARP operations," said Chavez.

For Flores, LZ Bull marks his first operation as project manager.

**For full story, visit**  
[Yuma.usmc.mil](http://Yuma.usmc.mil)



Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, based out of Twentynine Palms, Calif., work on a new water purification system at the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range in MCAS Yuma region, Aug. 9. The lightweight purification water recycling system uses 3,000 gallon collapsible tanks that pump and filter out clean water which allows Marines to better conserve resources.

## 1/2 Ads



# Marine for a Day: Camp Pendleton teams up with the Make-A-Wish Foundation to make a child’s wish come true

**Story by Cpl. Jovan M. Henry**

MCB Camp Pendleton

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.  
At only 5 years old, Jorge Solis has dreamed of becoming a Marine for more than half his life.

Jorge, who suffers from retinoblastoma, a rare type of eye cancer, got the chance to live his dream when the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Orange County and the Inland Empire partnered with Camp Pendleton to conduct a hands-on tour for Jorge and his family, Aug. 10.

Dressed in a tan Marine Corps camouflage uniform complete with cover, backpack, tan boots and a blue button identifying him as a Make-A-Wish child, Jorge looked the part when he arrived at the main gate in a white limousine with his parents and three brothers, who all wore Marine Corps t-shirts.

“This is a dream come true for Jorge, and we’re so glad to be here,” said Carmen Reyes, Jorge’s mother. “He’s loved the military since he was 2 years old- playing soldiers, yelling ‘move out, move out’ at his brothers, watching all the Rambo movies- it’s just in his blood.”

Jorge’s family was accompanied by several representatives from the Orange County and Inland Empire Make-A-Wish offices, including chief executive officer Stephanie McCormick, Jorge’s wish coordinator Michelle Cuellar, and chairman of the board Michael Rapacz.

Jorge’s first stop was the South Mesa Club, where he was greeted by Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianese, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations-West, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and Sgt. Maj. Derrick Christovale, Marine Corps Installations-West, Marine Corps Base Camp

Pendleton sergeant major.  
During the meeting, Coglianese and Christovale presented Jorge with a duffel bag of Marine Corps goodies, promoted him to general, and taught him how to march and salute.  
“I only have one order for you Jorge,” said Coglianese, saluting the new young general as the meeting ended. “Have a good time.”  
“Yes, sir,” said Jorge, saluting.

Throughout the day, Jorge and his family participated in various activities across the base: riding amphibious assault vehicles, shooting rifles and pistols at the Individual Simulated Marksmanship Trainer, learning a boxing lesson from instructors at the new Marine Corps Martial Arts Program dojo, eating lunch with Coglianese at the 24 Area chow hall, flying the helicopter simulator on Marine Corps Air Station Camp Pendleton, controlling an explosive ordinance disposal robot at the EOD Museum, taking photos in vintage military vehicles at the Mechanized Museum and watching a demo and petting the dogs at the K-9 kennels.

At every location he was saluted and presented coins, badges and other gifts from the Marines.  
Seeing Jorge’s wish granted touched not only the family, but the Marines he came into contact with throughout the day as well.

While waiting in line at the chow hall for a cheeseburger, he was approached by a Marine who offered him a handshake and his boot bands so he could blouse his boots.

**For full story, visit**  
[Yuma.usmc.mil](http://Yuma.usmc.mil)



Photo by Cpl. Jovane M. Henry

**Jorge Solis, 5, gets a rifle shooting lesson from Sgt. Daniel Mullis, a formal marksmanship training course instructor at the Individual Simulated Marksmanship Trainer here, Aug. 10.**

1/2 Ads



# YUMA GETS A SNEAK PEEK AT THE FUTURE F-35 JSF

**Story by Capt. Staci Reidinger**  
**Photos by Lockheed Martin**

**T**he late Steve Jobs said it best: “Most of the time, people don’t know what they want until you show it to them.” Well, after taking a tour of the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter aircraft factory in Ft. Worth, Texas, I believe yet another advancement in aviation is about to grace Yuma’s presence that will make us wonder for many years to come how it came to be.

As we entered Lockheed Martin’s facility, a chronological timeline dating back to the 1980s detailed the history of the F-35 program and explained the significance of developing a joint aircraft based on a common airframe structure. The U.S. Air Force variant of the F-35 is labeled as the “A” model and is designed as a conventional take-off and landing craft; the U.S. Marine Corps variant is the “B” model and features a short takeoff/vertical landing capability that allows the aircraft to land on austere roads, runways and ship decks; and the U.S. Navy variant is the “C” model which is capable of taking off and landing on aircraft carriers. All variants are capable of reaching Mach 1.6 and are built with stealth and integrated information and sensor fusion.

The next portion of the tour opened our eyes to the amount of precision work required to construct the electrical, mechanical and structural elements of the F-35. The inside of the facility reminded me of a sterile hospital with bright florescent lights, shiny waxed floors, perfectly displayed tools at arm’s reach and smock-dressed employees all paying close care and attention to their specific portion of the plane. As if I were watching a doctor perform surgery on a patient, the experts working on the F-35s showed the same amount of precision and quality assurance. And, many of their workspaces proudly adorned the American Flag and pictures of their children serving in the military.

As we approached the first aircraft under construction,

the guide pointed out a sign that displayed an American flag with the label, “BF - Yuma.” Wow, this is really happening. After several years of seeing this aircraft in videos, articles and photos and hearing the Department of the Navy make a decision to make MCAS Yuma the first



F-35B operational squadron in the Marine Corps, it’s now marked for Yuma and on the assembly line!

We continued to pass many F-35Bs slated for Yuma in all levels of construction as well as U.S. Air Force F-35As and U.S. Navy F-35Cs. From afar they look similar because of the lime green and white paper skins covering the aircraft but we soon discovered on the flightline what sets these aircraft apart.

Both the A- and B-model F-35s share a wing area of 460 square feet, while the C model sports a span of 668 square feet. The B model alone has a vertical thrust of 40,000 pounds that allows it to take off and land vertically while the C model has the heaviest weight empty at approximately 35,000 pounds. Also, all three models are capable of carrying in excess of 12,000 pounds of weapons and each tote a 25mm cannon. With a naked eye, you can tell the Corps’ B variant apart from the A and C models because of a lift system that rotates at the back

of the aircraft downward and a compartment that opens behind the cockpit to engage the shaft-driven propulsion system.

Climbing a ladder to get a look at an F-35 cockpit, I was amazed at the design and functionality of the displays and net-enabled operations. My mind quickly wandered back to the control knobs, switches and displays of the AV-8B Harrier and instantly realized that this cockpit is well beyond what we currently have in operations today. This new aircrafts integrated operating systems will allow the pilot to navigate, perform reconnaissance, seek out and destroy enemies in the air, on land and sea that combines the abilities of the Marine Corps’ current fixed wing aircraft - the AV-8B Harrier, F/A-18 Hornet and the EA-6B Prowler.

What an amazing opportunity to see the F-35 under production and testing! I didn’t imagine there would be another occasion to get a behind the scenes look at this airplane before it arrives to Yuma but a few days after my return, I stepped in to the state of the art F-35 flight simulator. Nearing completion across the street from the MCAS Yuma Gas Station and Gym, the flight simulation building is designed to provide pilots with realistic flight operations practice under different training conditions. In many ways, the simulator is as important as the arrival of the aircraft itself. Well, almost!

As MCAS Yuma continues to transform in to one of the most advanced aviation training and operations facilities in the Marine Corps, the local community will be offered a rare chance to watch the AV-8B Harrier and the F-35B JSF in action. As the only two short take off/vertical landing aircraft in the U.S. Department of Defense, this occasion will mark another glorious historical milestone in the advancement of military aviation. Who knows, maybe the Harrier will have a trick or two to teach the new kid on the block. We’ll have to wait and see.



Courtesy Photo



"Most of the time,  
people don't know what  
they want until you  
show it to them."  
- Steve Jobs



Courtesy photos by Lockheed Martin

Left, above: The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter under construction at Lockheed Martin's aircraft factory in Fort Worth, Texas.

The F-35 integrates advanced stealth technology into a highly agile, supersonic aircraft that provides the pilot with unprecedented situational awareness and unmatched lethality and survivability. Currently being developed for use by U.S. and international partners, the F-35 has three variants:

- F-35A (U.S. Air Force) conventional take offs and landings
- F-35B (U.S. Marine Corps) short take off and vertical landings
- F-35C (U.S. Navy) carrier takes offs and landings

MCAS Yuma is slated to receive its first F-35B by the end of 2012. As MCAS Yuma continues to transform in to one of the most advanced aviation training and operations facilities in the Marine Corps, the local community will be offered a rare chance to watch the AV-8B Harrier and the F-35B JSF in action. As the only two short take off/vertical landing aircraft in the U.S. Department of Defense, this occasion will mark another glorious historical milestone in the advancement of military aviation.



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# EVENTS CALENDAR

REMEMBER TO MENTION YOU  
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CALENDAR!

## AUGUST 16

### EFMP CONNECTIONS

**WHEN** Thu, Aug. 16, 4pm – 5pm

**WHERE** Building 598

Support Group for families. Open discussion with guest speakers. Call 269-5233 for more info.

### TORCHCLUB

**WHEN** Thu, Aug. 16, 4pm – 5pm

**WHERE** Youth Center

Torch Clubs are charter small-group leadership and service clubs for boys and girls ages 11-13. A Torch Club is a powerful vehicle through which Club staff can help meet the special character development needs of younger adolescents at a critical stage in their development. For more information call 269-5390.

## AUGUST 17

### COLLEGE 101 BRIEF

**WHEN** Fri, Aug. 17, 1pm – 2pm

**WHERE** Building 598

This hour long brief focuses on the policies and procedures that are in place for using military Tuition Assistance. This brief is required for anyone who wants to use Tuition Assistance.



### YOUTH KARAOKE NIGHT

**WHEN** Fri, Aug. 17, 7pm – 10pm

**WHERE** Youth Center

What's your talent? Do you have vocals to keep up with Katy Perry? Chris Brown? come and join us at the Youth Center for Karaoke night and find out. Call 269-5390 for more info.

## AUGUST 18

### FOAM PARTY

**WHEN** Sat, Aug. 18, 8pm – Sun, Aug. 19, 1am

**WHERE** Club Pulse

No Cover. Plenty of drink specials.

## AUGUST 19

### SWIM LESSON: SESSION 3

**WHEN** Sun, Aug. 19, 6pm – 8pm

**WHERE** Oasis Pool

Oasis Pool offers 4 different classes during the hours of 0700-1100. Parent-tot, pre-school, level 1/2 and level 3/4. Cost is \$40. Call 269-2914 to register.

### SMP DINNER & A MOVIE

**WHEN** Sun, Aug. 19, 6pm – 8pm

**WHERE** SMP Rec Center

Come relax and enjoy a free movie and popcorn. Call 269-5794 for more info.

## AUGUST 20

### MGIB & POST 9/11 BRIEF

**WHEN** Mon, Aug. 20, 2pm – 3pm

**WHERE** Building 598

The one hour brief covers the benefits under both MGIB and Post 9/11 GI Bill and compares the differences between the two benefits. No reservations are required, but seating is limited to 24. For more information, please contact Cindy Harris at 928-269-3589.



### FLAG FOOTBALL SEASON BEGINS

**WHEN** Mon, Aug. 20, 6:30pm – 8:30pm

**WHERE** Building 555

For more info call Athletics Department 269-2383.

## AUGUST 21

### PCSMOVES WORKSHOP

**WHEN** Tue, Aug. 21, 8am – 10am

**WHERE** Building 598

All relocating Marines are required to attend this workshop. Spouses are welcome to join. Information provided includes entitlements, TMO and stress free move techniques. For more information call 269-5615.

## AUGUST 22

### HEARTS APART COFFEE HOUR

**WHEN** Wed, Aug. 22, 10am – 11am

**WHERE** Building 699

A weekly gathering for spouses and significant others with a deployed Marine. Meet new friends, discuss deployment issues, and gain insight and support from others. For more information call 269-6544.

SEE ALL THE FULL LIST OF UPCOMING EVENTS ONLINE • [WWW.MCCSYUMA.ORG](http://WWW.MCCSYUMA.ORG)



# Full Ads



# WELCOME BACK, BLACK WIDOWS



Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Clockwise from top left: Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith, the Marine Aircraft Logistics Squadron 13 aviation ordnance noncommissioned officer-in-charge and a native of Madisonville, Ky., right, and Sgt. Keason Torian, a MALS-13 aviation supply clerk and a native of Schaunburg, Ill., left, step off the bus to greet friends and family upon their return from an Afghanistan deployment on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Aug. 13. Torian embraces his girlfriend, Lance Cpl. Gabriela Pasillas, an Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administration specialist, and a native of Belvidere, Ill., after returning from an Afghanistan deployment to MCAS Yuma, Aug. 13. Marines with MALS-13 return to the sight of loved ones smiling and cheering after returning from an Afghanistan deployment at MCAS Yuma, Aug. 13. This group of 17 Marines comprised the third main body from MALS-13 to come home.

## 1/2 Ads



# WHERE IN THE WORLD



Photo by Cpl. Isaac Lamberth

Completing 60 years of service, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, known as the 'Ugly Angels,' completed a memorial flight over Helmand province, Afghanistan, Aug. 9. The squadron was created in 1952 and holds the distinction of being the first Marine helicopter squadron to arrive in country during the Vietnam War.



Photo by Cpl. Jovane M. Henry

Jorge Solis, 5, shows Officer Benjamin Maple, kennel master at the K-9 kennels here, the challenge coins he's recieved throughout his tour of the base, Aug. 10. Solis, who has retinoblastoma, a rare eye cancer, wished to be a Marine for a day.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Derrick K. Irions

Corpsmen assist an acting casualty and a simulated infant. A Pre-deployment Mass Casualty Care Course was held to ensure medical operational forces maintain clinical sustainment and combat readiness at Camp Pendleton's Tango Training Area, Aug 8.

## Around town, reviews on Yuma dining and attractions!

### Rocky's Pizzeria & Italian Foods

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

There are precious few locations for good pizza in Yuma. Besides the retail chains and Benito's on base, there are only a handful of local pizzerias that make their pizza from scratch. Rocky's Pizzeria falls somewhere in the middle of the pizza pie.

Boasting an impressive assortment of Italian dishes next to its home-made pizza, Rocky's gives Yumans a taste of New York, but ends up teasing rather than enticing.

The strongest feature is their cheese, very sweet, and very chewy, but it didn't seem to meld with the tomato sauce or dough. My buddies, for their part, ordered calzones, and considered them delicious for the price. Still, I was pleasantly surprised by the lack of grease on both items, and

in fact, one of the first reviews published about Rocky's boasts the pizza is healthier than other alternatives.

The garlic bread, a staple of any pizza meal, was also palatable.

My biggest gripe involves the fact there are no free refills on the drinks. I don't know about you, but the only beverages appropriate for pizza are beer and soda. It felt almost criminal paying for two root beers, or maybe I'm just spoiled. I have a cousin who has milk with his pizza; he is rarely consulted on food choices at family gatherings.

What Rocky's may lack in taste it makes up for in spades in atmosphere. It's a small establishment, and the people behind the counter look like the sort who would have no issue telling a robber to bug off if they ever tried to hit the establishment. I personally have never felt safer eating pizza.



**DO YOU KNOW THE BEST SPOTS IN TOWN? OR READ A GREAT BOOK RECENTLY? WE WANT TO KNOW! SHARE REVIEWS OF YOUR FAVORITE HANG OUTS, BOOKS, MOVIES, GAMES AND MUSIC! SEND THEM TO EDITOR.DEEDUB@GMAIL.COM**

## Entertainment Review Thee Oh Sees - Warm Blood

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Man, John Dwyer and company has just been decimating it with psychedelic rock the last few years. I'm all like, just chill out and let me breath for a minute.

Their latest release, 2011's Carrion Crawler/The Dream, included a bunch of long, constantly mutating guitar-centric numbers that I should probably review because of chronological proximity and all that, but Warm Blood has this one song I really like so I'm going with that.

So Warm Blood is considered a slight disappointment by the fans, a pulsing pimple on the otherwise unblemished face of Thee

Oh Sees. I'll agree, many of the songs here don't work as an entire album. Take the title track: interesting for the first few minutes, but then devolves into spacey guitar rock and reverb abuse not even Syd Barret would endorse. No payoff, no real form of control or tension, nothing.

Yes, the band's usual wanton energy is there but it feels muted. Like. . .

You know when your best friend finally gets to

date that one stupid hot girl (or guy, whatever) and you just sort of put up with the slightly condescending way he [or she (or he)] talks to you because you know that hot person is going to break up with them? This album is like that, only there's never any breakup. And the two people involved are way into hallucinogens.

Thankfully, for this album, there's "I Was Denied". This song consistently ranks as one of the best numbers ever conceived out of Dwyer's lonely, lunatic mind. The three-minute power pop-cum-noise rock ode to inebriation is overwhelmingly jubilant. Lyrically, it doesn't stray too far from the I-clearly-wrote-these-in-less-than-a-minute-in-the-middle-of-a-binge that permeates the band's entire discography but musically

and sonically, it's a welcome deviation.

In short, it's an actual pop song. With consistent structure and "la-la-la" choruses and everything.

But yah man, Thee Oh Sees.

Even their bad records are better than most of the subpar psychedelia coming out San Francisco and wherever else these days.

Their next album, Putrifiers II, is slated to melt your mind this September.



Courtesy photo



# VMA-513 goes paintballs to the wall



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Members of Marine Attack Squadron 513 spent a morning shooting one another with paintball guns on the station's paintball field, Aug. 3. The stress relieving activity was sponsored by Arizona Adventures, allowing Marines to blow off some steam while blowing each other away with high velocity paintballs. Teams of up to 15 Marines stormed across the field, using obstacles for cover as they pelted their opponents. It also gave the Marines a chance to practice some close quarter combat maneuvers while under fire, and a few paid the price with lots of paint and a little pain.



Members of Marine Attack Squadron 513 spent a morning shooting one another with paintball guns on the station's paintball field, Aug. 3. The stress relieving activity was sponsored by Arizona Adventures.

## 1/2 Ads











