

# Desert **WARRIOR**



## **In this Issue**

**Textual  
assault  
Pg. 2**

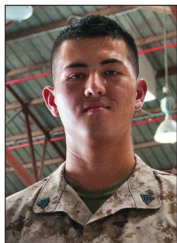
**Marine awarded  
Bronze Star  
Pg. 4**

**Military working  
dogs showcase  
skills Pg. 5**



**DoD News  
Pg. 7**

**Yuma Sgt.  
best in West  
Pg. 15**



**Entertainment  
Reviews  
Pg. 16**



**Yuma's own  
Speed Racer  
Pg. 17**



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OPINION & EDITORIAL

# Textual Assault

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Texting is supposed to be an instantaneous method of communication through a mix of actual words, abbreviations and emoticons meant for quick transmission-response protocol. It can also delay and outright ruin previously made plans. I'm guilty as anyone of using my thumbs instead of my voice to talk to people, thereby turning what could've been a minute-long conversation into an hour-long ordeal. It's one of those love-to-hate-it relationships (yes, you have a relationship with texting) because it's easy to blame a breakdown of face-to-face social interaction on a device that's there rather than the person who uses it.

But I also wonder: how texting really causing a deterioration of personal interaction? And by personal I mean is it unthreading the emotional bond that makes us, well, us?

Short Message Service language (I'm going to arbitrarily claim there were five percent of you who already knew what that was), the visual syntax used in text messaging, particularly emoticons, is making appearances in student essays. There are even teacher's guides on how to teach with emoticons, which implies a less intensive social interaction between the teachers and students.

This is a global issue. In the US and UK, at least, texting is a person's main way of communicating next to in-person. Personal calls fall in the middle range, with hand-written letters, once considered an art form as much as a way of

correspondence, ranks in dead last.

But at what point does communication become, and this'll sound strange, a cause for concern?

In an April 2012 press release, the National Communication Association warned college students to not text during class, claiming, "college students who frequently text message during class have difficulty staying attentive to classroom lectures and consequently risk having poor learning

*"...is texting really causing a deterioration of personal interaction?"*

outcomes."

This is more of an individual problem than anything, but it still goes to show how texting can be detrimental to your intellectual development.

More and more, kids and teenagers are choosing texting over physical meetings. I can't stress enough how dangerous this can be. Am I overreacting? Maybe, but in ten years when those kids grow up and they find it harder to respond to emotional and social cues I'll have myself a good laugh.

I'm also worried about is the implications of important

texts. When a friend texts you their mom had a stroke, did that really necessitate a text? If a close friend of mine was going through a period of such emotional turmoil because her mom had a freaking stroke, I'd rather be informed about it immediately or as soon as possible rather than through a random text. It's like it's cool to send it because we know they'll get it eventually.

Texting is, absolutely important. I wouldn't even call that a matter of opinion. Anything that allows us to convey information and emotion at a moment's notice when a call is unfeasible is important. Friendships have been cultivated across oceans, military operations have succeeded and lives have been saved thanks to this method.

What I'm getting at is there are just some things that call for a phone call. Why spend several minutes texting back and forth when you can just answer a single question in a few seconds (real answer: because humanity, that's why)?

Even letter writing seems novel these days. It's understandable, why physically handcopy hundreds of words what you could say in less than 100 characters? I still feel there's warmth in taking the time out of your day to write something to somebody. I'd feel more comfortable if my life were threatened with a handwritten letter, even one of those old-timey cut-and-paste ones, than from a text. Even e-mails, once decried as the end of personal rapport, seem to carry heavier personality than a text.

I cannot recommend enough you speak face-to-face with somebody than text them, if possible. Go visit them. All this progress we've made, shouldn't that help us free up more our time to relax and build relationships rather than create pockets of time we feel the need to fill up with trite discourse.

## 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



**Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and MCAS Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units work together to reinforce firefighting techniques and learn to extinguish jet fuel fires at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27.**

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Zac Scanlon*

## Desert *WARRIOR*

*MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper*

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*Commanding Officer*

**Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino**  
*Station Sergeant Major*

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## News to Use

### MCAS DOVE REGISTRATION

Where: Sonoran Pueblo, MCAS Yuma

When: Aug. 17 to 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.

### MISSION ASSURANCE AWARENESS BRIEF

The station will host mission assurance awareness briefs at the base theater Aug. 14. The first session will go 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and the second from noon to 3 p.m.. Topics will include active shooter awareness, how to respond, shelter in place and Mexico travel. NCIS will present insider threats, personal security awareness, mass notification, National Terrorism Advisory System and more. For more information, contact Tim Beeler, station Anti-Terrorism Officer, at (928) 269-6725.

### ANNUAL TOMBSTONE VIGILANTE DAYS

Aug. 10 – 12 Historic Tombstone, Ariz., the Town Too Tough To Die, will be celebrating their Annual Vigilante Days. It will be three days of non-stop action on Historic Allen Street.

Sponsored by the Tombstone Vigilantes, the oldest performing Gunfighting reenactment group in Arizona, (if not the nation) will be performing various Gunfighting Skits all week-end long along with several out of town groups. Besides all the entertainment on Allen Street, the ever popular Vigilante Days Chili Cook Off will take place on Saturday and the Annual 10K run will take place on Sunday. Throughout the weekend the Vigilantes will have their booth set up and they will be offering Vigilante merchandise for sale as well as a raffle for a Classic Firearm.

For any additional information please contact Pat Kelly at (928)457-3451.

### 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.nmcrs.org/quickassist.html>.

### COMMISSARY PARKING CLOSURE

From Aug. 20 to Oct. 12, the MCAS Yuma Commissary parking lot will be partially closed for a repaving project. During this time, please refrain from using the commissary parking lot as overflow parking for the gym to ensure commissary patrons have access to close parking. The alternate parking location for gym overflow is the parking lot east of barracks 645.

### 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 should happen when a flag touches the ground?

**A:** According to MCO P10520.3B, the American flag should never touch anything beneath it. Should this happen, the flag is to be disposed of in a dignified manner, i.e., burning, after consultation with Headquarters Marine Corps.

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



## 5 Questions MACS-1 Substance Abuse Control Officer

**Sgt. Austin Wethington**  
(SACO of the Quarter)

### 1. What are the functions of the Substance Abuse Control Officer?

The function of a Substance Abuse Control Officer is to provide physical, mental, emotional, and moral support and education for Marines that are going through trials and tribulations with drugs or alcohol.

I am supposed to be the embodiment of positive reinforcement. I am here to maintain records, be the liaison in providing my Marines the opportunity for education and treatment, as well as create and maintain a proactive random urinalysis program in order to keep my Marines guessing everyday as to whether or not they will be providing a urine sample. I am here to support and educate my squadron, as well as any other SACOs that could require my assistance. I am here to make observations, and advise my leadership when necessary, as well as educate my squadron on happenings around the world with drugs and alcohol, in hopes of preventing them from making poor decisions, and possibly endangering their own lives in the process.

### 2. How do you determine the substance abuse prevention needs of your unit?

Knowing the prevention needs of my unit is a constant battle that I fight. This is because my unit is comprised of numerous different kinds of Marines. Not every Marine is going to respond to prevention techniques the same way, so it is up to my counterparts, leadership, and I to strive every day to discover new ways of appealing to a Marine's better judgment. There are many different successes and objectives, but the necessary path will vary every time, so open-minded observations are a necessity in this field. I have to know my Marines, and how to help them understand why I'm here and what I'm willing and able to do for them.

### 3. What help do you provide those identified as alcohol/drug abusers?

The help provided in my office covers a wide spectrum of any reasonable request or need presented. If they need advice, I'll give it my best effort. If they need an ear to vent to, I'll close the door and listen. If they need education or information, I'll provide it, or claw my way through the gates of Mordor to find it for them. If they require treatment, then I will ensure that I exhaust every effort possible to afford them the opportunity to succeed. I am a supportive and intuitive soul, and value my Marines as much as I value my own self. I cannot succeed without my fellow Marines, so it is my duty, as well as my honor, to be able to aid and support them as they strive to put the pieces back in place.

### 4. Do you think drug testing helps in reducing illegal drug use in the Corps?

I believe that the drug testing program does indeed help to reduce the use of illegal drugs when put into used properly. I believe this because the random urinalysis program helps to make Marines second guess the decision to use because they never know when they're going to have to come in and provide a sample. The program can definitely be utilized to instill the fear of being caught when it is used properly.

### 5. What services do you offer the Marines/Sailors in your unit?

The services offered in my office cover a wide range as well. My SACO office offers everything from knowledge about drug and alcohol use and abuse, to a comfortable place for somebody to approach me about a problem without being judged, or ostracized for previous decisions made. I offer anything from small talk about life, to any sort of advice I can give from personal experience or general knowledge. I am a shoulder to cry on when necessary, and a force to be reckoned with if my Marines need me.



## Tailspotter

**Cosita**

Cosita is an adult Chihuahua mix who is great with dogs. She is already spayed with up-to-date vaccinations and house trained. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at (928) 782-1621.





# EOD Officer of the Year receives Bronze Star Medal with Combat V



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

To Olympic athletes, bronze is the color of could've, would've, should've.

In the military, bronze is the color of honor, dedication, and sacrifice.

Few uniformed service members alive today can vouch for that. Chief Warrant Officer-2 Jeffrey Thomas Jones II, Explosive Ordnance Disposal officer-in-charge with Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, can.

Named Explosive Ordnance Disposal's Officer of the Year, Jones received a Bronze Star with Combat V at a promotion ceremony held at the Cannon Air Defense Complex in Yuma on Aug. 1. The medal was awarded to Jones for his role as an EOD Section Chief with 1st Battalion, 2d Marines, Regimental Combat Team 2, 1st Marine Division (Forward), I Marine Expeditionary Force, from April, 2010 to October, 2010, in Afghanistan. Then a master sergeant, Jones personally completed a total of 96 EOD responses, disarmed 5 improvised explosive devices by himself, and supervised four EOD teams in a cumulative total of 343 incidents.

"It's an honor," said Jones, days after being promoted in front a memorial for 43 fallen EOD brothers-in-arms at the Combined Explosive Ordnance Disposal building. "But these Marines here, these are the ones that are the heroes. They made the ultimate sacrifice," added Jones.

Born and raised in Columbus, Ohio, Jones was no stranger to hard work. Growing up in a rural farming community had Jones baling hay at an early age in a close-knit family of eight. The countryside of Columbus also found him fishing, hunting and riding dirt bikes.

The grandson of a retired Army technical sergeant and retired Army master sergeant, Jones did not take the decision to serve his country lightly. He was advised by his grandfathers about the weight of military life and the other options available to him.

With a family to support, a 23-year-old Jones took to the service.

"I wanted to join when I was younger, but I had a good job. Five years down the road, I got laid off," said Jones. "I was roofing houses, but winter time came and I had a son and no way to support the family at that time."

Jones would become the first Marine from either side of the family. From the get-go, Jones was attracted to infantry. He enlisted in July 1997 and hit the ground running as an infantryman.

EOD first caught Jones' attention as a young lance corporal during a 14-15 mile hump while training in the Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

The program was not considering anyone below corporal at the time. A few years down the road, as a marksmanship instructor and block noncommissioned officer on the pistol range at Quantico, VA., Jones went over and talked to EOD.

"I did a lateral move interview, they accepted me and I haven't looked back since," said Jones. "I've been in EOD just over 10 years."

With more than a decade's worth of experience, Jones is conscious of the realities that come with his responsibility as an EOD technician. In a job where one is required to step into combat to locate, disarm, and dispose of each hidden improvised explosive device, Jones knows full well the dangers that come with the territory.

"I have a lot of faith in my husband," said Kelly Jones, his wife and a native of Long Island, NY. "I'm concerned that he's over there, but I know he knows what he's doing."

As a father of two, Robert and Samantha, Jones does not let his position or his accomplishments get in the way of crediting the Marines around him and the Corps itself.

"In today's age, with the IED threat, definitely EOD plays a big role in that," said Jones. "However, we're no more important than motor transport because without trucks, we don't get gear. Food services, we can't eat, we can't live, we can't fight."

Jones' role as EOD Section Leader led to the destruction of 1,286 Net Explosive Weight of enemy ammunition and explosives. Also serving as the directed telescope for the battalion commander and operations officer, Jones ensured operational effectiveness.

"We don't do what we do for the awards or the accolades. That's just a byproduct," said Jones. "We do it because we want to save lives of other Marines."

The 15-year-Marine is quick to put his accomplishments in perspective.

"I have to thank my junior Marines," said Jones. "I wouldn't be where I'm at without the Marines that work for me. No military officer or leader is where they're at without the great Marines that they lead."

## CY&TP beats summer heat



Photos by Cpl. Shelby Shields

**Children from the pre-kinder class, Safari Adventure, splash in the water at the grand opening of the Child, Youth and Teen Program Splash Pad Aug. 6. The Splash Pad is located adjacent to the Youth Center building and is currently only available to the children enrolled in the CYTP. Each class anticipates being able to use the Splash Pad at least once a week during their scheduled weekly water play. "The kids have been looking forward to this for quite a while, and were very excited to find out they would be the first ones going," said Erika Peterson, Safari Program Lead.**





# Station K-9 section showcases skills for Army brass

**Story and photos by  
Cpl. Aaron Diamant**

Desert Warrior Staff

The station's K-9 section was given a chance to show Army generals, colonels, command sergeants major and several top-level Department of Defense civilian personnel the capabilities well-trained dogs bring to the field of battle.

During a yearly exposition of the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command's capabilities, the section took two of their dogs and four of their Marines to assist in the field portion of the conference.

The conference rotates between the Army's several test centers, giving the leaders a taste of Yuma's infamously hot summers one year, while another year could hold Alaska's bitterly cold winter, or a sweltering stint in the humid South.

Normally, the Yuma Proving Grounds' Inter-Service Advanced Skills K-9 course would put on such a display, however, they were busy with night-time pre-deployment training for K-9 teams preparing for combat deployments. Due to the course's intensive training regimen, the station's teams were happy to step in to lend a few hands and paws to the cause.

"The training the course provides is absolutely life saving," said Cpl. Andrew Kowtko, station military working dog handler, who attended the course prior to his latest deployment to Afghanistan. "I wouldn't send a K-9 team downrange or into a hazardous environment without it. It's vital to understanding how you and your dog will react in various situations."

Indeed, a large part of the section's mission at the demo was to show how vital the course is to not just military working dog teams, but to the military as a whole. Handlers and their four-legged partners from every branch of military service and even various federal law enforcement agencies attend the course before going into harm's way. The area's astounding resemblance to the terrain of Afghanistan helps the teams adapt to their future working environment before travelling overseas.

Facing budget cuts, many military working dog

handlers are justifiably worried the vital, life-saving course may cease to exist.

"We're here to show them some of the capabilities our teams bring to the troops in the field," said Staff Sgt. Jeffery Worley, station kennel master. "We're out here showing them what we can do, what we love to do. It's always a privilege to show what our dogs are capable of, and help people better understand what it is we do."

The demo illustrated the teamwork that goes into the successful location of explosive devices, but couldn't resist showing the spectators the crowd favorite; aggression work.

"We don't always use the dogs for aggression work in combat zones, we use them more for locating explosives than people, but many are capable of doing both," explained Worley. "These aren't field dogs, they're garrison dogs, dual purpose trained to locate contraband items and do patrol duties, also known as aggression work."

Other stations at YPG's Graze Range included armored vehicles, aviation displays and hands-on, live-fire demonstrations of .50 caliber and 7.62mm machine guns.

Amid the near-deafening roar of intermittent machine gun fire, the K-9 teams performed flawlessly, locating hidden training aids and apprehending shady looking suspects hiding in the desert fauna. While the teams made it look easy, it's their constant training and dedication each other that make their work look easy to the untrained eye.

The demonstrations had every attendee's full attention and admiration.

"This has been a great demonstration, on everyone's part," said Army Maj. Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, ATEC commanding general. "I really appreciate the hard work everyone has put into this, and would call this a definite success."



**Top: Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Miller and Military Working Dog Beano give each other a 'chest bump' before working a training scenario at the Yuma Proving Grounds, July 26. The duo was part of a demonstration for some of the Army Test and Evaluation Command's top officers, enlisted and civilian personnel. They demonstrated locating explosives and aggression work amid the sounds of machine-gun fire.**

**Bottom: Lance Cpl. Nathaniel Miller, left, rushes to the side of Military Working Dog Beano as he apprehends Lance Cpl. Kristopher Marcum during a demonstration at Yuma Proving Grounds' Graze Range, July 26.**



**Army Maj Gen. Genaro Dellarocco, center, U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command's commanding general, looks at Military Working Dog Xxander and his handler, Lance Cpl. Kristopher Marcum, right, after a demonstration of their abilities at Yuma Proving Grounds' Graze Range, July 26.**



# Full Ads



# Defense, Interior Departments Join Forces on Renewable Energy

## The Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Aug. 6, 2012 – The Defense and Interior departments are teaming up to strengthen energy security and reduce military utility costs.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar have signed a memorandum of understanding that encourages appropriate development of renewable energy projects on public lands set aside for defense-related purposes and other onshore and offshore areas near military installations.

The memo sets out the guiding concepts for the Renewable Energy Partnership Plan, the departments' roles and responsibilities under the agreement, and how they will work together to carry out the initiative. A goal of the partnership is to harness solar, wind, geothermal and biomass energy resources on or near DOD installations across the country, officials said.

"Developing renewable energy is the right thing to do for national security, as well as for the environment and our economy," Panetta said. "Renewable energy projects built on these lands will provide reliable, local sources of power for military installations; allow for a continued energy supply if the commercial power grid gets disrupted; and will help lower utility costs."

Salazar announced the agreement today on the eve of the National Clean Energy Summit.

"Energy security is critical to our national security," he said. "Under our 'Smart from the Start' approach to spurring renewable energy development, we are making millions of acres of public lands and offshore areas available that have the greatest potential for utility-scale solar and wind projects and the fewest resource conflicts."

"Our nation's military lands hold great renewable energy potential," he added, "and this partnership will help ensure that we're tapping into these resources with a smart and focused approach to power our military, reduce energy costs, and grow our nation's energy independence."

The Defense Department has been pursuing development



Courtesy Photo

of renewable energy on its installations to improve energy security and to reduce its \$4 billion-a-year utility bill. Together with advanced microgrid technology, which DOD is testing, renewable energy will allow a base to maintain critical functions for weeks or months if the commercial grid goes down. Each of the military services has committed to deploy 1 gigawatt of renewable energy on or near its installations by 2025.

Defense installations encompass roughly 28 million acres in the United States, of which 16 million acres previously managed by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management were withdrawn for military use by executive order, congressional legislation or departmental regulations. About 13 million acres of these withdrawn lands are in the West and are high in wind, solar and geothermal resources.

Offshore wind also is an abundant renewable energy resource available to many coastal installations. Offshore Atlantic winds alone could produce an estimated 1,000 gigawatts of energy, Interior Department officials said.

The memo of understanding establishes a framework for an offshore wind partnership in which the Defense and Interior

departments will continue to work together to identify areas most appropriate for offshore wind development. To encourage a dialogue with industry, the departments will co-chair a military/industry offshore wind forum this fall to initiate information sharing among the military, other federal agencies and industry.

The memo also provides a blueprint for cooperation to identify lands for mission-compatible development of onshore renewable energy projects on DOD installations. This includes withdrawn lands on military installations or on withdrawn land that could be appropriate for utility-scale solar, wind or geothermal projects, officials said.

Under the agreement, the Defense Department will explore ways in which renewable energy could be provided directly to a single installation or may be transmitted across a network of installations. Some larger projects could involve the sale of excess power to the grid, provided appropriate measures ensure base security.

Also, DOD and the Bureau of Land Management will develop a pilot process for authorizing solar energy projects on several military installations, including the Barry M. Goldwater Range and Yuma Proving Ground in Arizona and Fort Irwin, Calif. The Defense Department will take the lead in permitting and leasing for renewable energy projects on lands withdrawn for defense-related purposes.

The partnership will set up a working group on geothermal energy, continue to increase renewable energy production opportunities through the Interagency Working Group on Coordination of Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska, and use the Interagency Land Use Coordinating Committee process to resolve land management issues pertaining to withdrawn lands. The memo also stipulates that the Defense and Interior departments will continue the landscape level planning effort on the Desert Renewable Energy Conservation Plan in California.





**Lance Cpl. Daniel Giles, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron food service specialist and a native of Springfield, Va., carves meat for Mess Hall 710's lunch rotation at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Aug. 1**

# Bon Appétit: MESS HALL 710 ENSURES STATION IS SATISFIED

**Story and photos by  
Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

*"Chillin', killin', cookin', grillin'"*

*Sgt. Richard Martin, Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 food service specialist*

Vats of boiling food release steam into the galley while a Marine yelps in pain because of spilled, scalding alfredo sauce. Cooks dodge each other with practiced grace as they carry ingredients and edibles to their proper places. Aromas of freshly prepared meals mix and fill the chow hall while hungry Marines queue up to fill their stomachs.

As the Marines sit down to eat, out of sight, the food service specialists of MCAS Yuma relentlessly prepare for the next meal, keeping in mind clean utensils and proper cooking temperatures.

Just another day in Mess Hall 710.

The mess hall, or chow hall, to its patrons, is one of those entities on the air station so familiar to Marines and Sailors it's easy to forget the food line separates hungry Marines ready to idle over a hot plate of food from the restless cooks in the galley ensuring those platefuls are palatable.

"The thing about being a cook is everything is time management," said Petty Officer Second Class Bryan Schoeppner, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron culinary specialist and a native of Canton, Ohio. "If you don't do your job right, you're going to have a ton of starving Marines."

Sanitation, temperature and timing are always on the cooks' minds when working.

Out of the approximately 70 mess halls, Mess Hall 710 has the honor of being the oldest mess hall in the Marine Corps. Built in 1960 and opening in 1961, 710 has gone through over 50 years of food service changes and has adapted to new Marine Corps standards.

It's also received numerous accolades for its cooks' proficiency.

"This mess hall has been known to have outstanding command support," said Lt. Col. Jay Rogers, Director of the Marine Corps Food Service



**Lance Cpl. Diana Huizar, a Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121 administration clerk and a native of Riverside, Calif., makes herself a salad in Mess Hall 710 at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Aug. 1. Huizar is among the hundreds of patrons that come to the mess hall daily to fill their stomachs.**

and Subsistence Program, Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington, D.C. "Otherwise you wouldn't see those trophies outside (the entrance)."

710's most respected award is the W.P.T Hill Award, which recognizes the best messes in the Corps. The award, established in 1985, is named after Maj. Gen. William P.T. Hill, who served as Quartermaster for the Marine Corps from 1944-55.

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

# 1/2 Ads



# Leader's Forum

**Col. Bradford Gering**  
MAWTS-1 Commanding Officer



## CULTURE OF EXCELLENCE



I've always believed that a "GOOD unit" is one where the actions of all members are guided by what is expected of them. They essentially "do the right thing" 24/7/365 in order to meet the expectations of their leadership (all levels). A "GREAT unit" is one where the actions of all members are guided by what they truly believe. They "do the right thing" 24/7/365 because they truly believe it is the right thing to do.

While the two statements above appear similar, the "GREAT unit" is much stronger than the "GOOD unit".

- It can handle the toughest of circumstances and will always prevail.
- It is a unit where a culture exists, a very special culture, a culture of excellence.
- If you could put it in a bottle and sell it, you would be a billionaire.
- It requires the highest degree of professionalism, trust, communication, and balance.

Professionalism includes knowing all aspects of your job and always seeking improvement. Trust is essential among all members and if violated, can never really be regained. Communication is key...taking the time to talk with those you serve with at every opportunity (email is not the answer). Balance includes living your life beyond the work place (hobbies, family, faith, fitness, etc...). Are you in a GOOD unit or a GREAT unit?

# UNCERTAINTY

**Lt. Greg Woodard**  
Station Chaplain

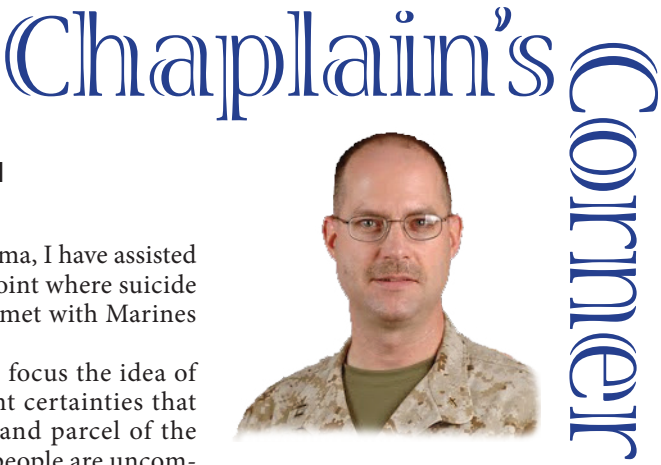
Over the course of my time here in Yuma, I have assisted several individuals who had come to a point where suicide seemed like a viable option. And I have met with Marines who have lost people that they love.

I bring up these events to bring into focus the idea of uncertainty. One of the most significant certainties that I see in life is that uncertainty is part and parcel of the journey for us here on this earth. Many people are uncomfortable with uncertainty because we live in an age of planning and prosperity. The downsizing of our military, the upcoming presidential election and tragedies such as the shooting that occurred in Aurora, Colorado and continuing economic uncertainty have shaken the foundations of our society.

As I have said to the Chapel Protestant Community, I believe that uncertainty can be used for our good. Uncertainty can force us to take a deeper look inside. We have the opportunity to reexamine our priorities, our relationships, and our plans for the future. We are reminded to keep first things first and second things second.

Personal struggles and tragedies, health issues and natural disasters remind us of the brevity of life. When are faced with the shortness of life, we are reminded that we will all leave a legacy and that the way we live matters. Our character can be formed according to the hallmarks of a good life if we live according to virtues such as courage, discretion, self-restraint, justice, hope and love. Considering how we want to be remembered is helpful as we live our daily life.

In my faith tradition, we are called on to fight the good fight of faith and to run well the race of life. Our goal is to be able to look back on our journey and be pleased to see God's hand guiding us on the path of life. In the midst of uncertainty, be reminded that God is still guiding you into the future and legacy that he desires for you.



### Chapel Schedule

#### Catholic Mass

Sunday 9 a.m.

#### Protestant Service

Sunday 11 a.m.

#### Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday 9:15 a.m. to  
11 a.m.

(Fellowship Hall)

#### Lunch Time Bible Study

Thursday 11:30 a.m. to  
12:30 p.m.

(Fellowship Hall)

#### Marriage Prep Class

Call for appointment

1/2 Ads





# ARFF MARINES START, PUT OUT, THE FIRE IN MIRAMAR

**Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Zac Scanlon**  
Desert Warrior Staff

The wailing of a fire engine is a sound no one hopes to hear. It's the sound of unpredictability and the unknown.

To the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting section at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, it's the sound of their job.

The Marines need to make sure they're prepared for any situation, sometimes traveling

off base to complete training qualifications. Most recently, ARFF Marines traveled to MCAS Miramar in Miramar, Calif., to practice scenario-specific fires, July 27.

They traveled to a remote area on base, where a replicated airplane hull was placed in the middle of a pit filled with water. Seeing this pit had the Marines buzzing with excitement as they readied themselves to fight an unfamiliar kind of fire, jet fuel fires.

Jet fuel fires are considered far more difficult to contain and harder to combat, said Gunnery Sgt. Marco Martinez, MCAS Yuma ARFF section leader and a native of Holtville, Calif.

This sort of training opportunity is not available at MCAS Yuma due to the air station having only propane to work with for training. MCAS Miramar has discarded jet fuel reserves.

Being that the air station's trademark is the AV-8B Harrier, the training provided a possible scenario for ARFF to work with should a jet ever catch fire.

"The theory behind this is that if we can learn to extinguish a fuel fire with water when it is all forced to pool together, it will be much eas-

ier when we are attacking a true with fuel specific extinguishers," said Lance Cpl. Thomas Dunlop, MCAS Yuma ARFF Handline man and a native of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio.

With the stakes higher in a jet fuel fire, getting training like this helps reinforce the fundamentals of staying low, sweeping with the fire hose and communication, said Lance Cpl. Brandon Craft, MCAS Yuma ARFF turret operator and a native of Saint Marys, Ohio.

The ARFF job field is a small one. Cohesion between the ARFF units is paramount because it makes it easier to work side-by-side and work compatibly once transferred to new units.

These relationships begin at the ARFF schoolhouse and continue during training activities like the one conducted at MCAS Miramar.

"Going there was good because I saw people I knew," said Craft. "We had a chance to learn new techniques from each other."

With training complete, both Miramar and Yuma Marines increased their jet fuel fire fighting capabilities.

"You never want to experience it, but you need knowledge on how to fight these fires," said Craft.

The smell of fuel and fire lingered on the Marines as they were bussed eastward to home and the smell of a job well done. That was not the only thing they left with. Also with the knowledge of keeping ARFF Marines out of harm's way and focusing on saving lives.



**Staff Sgt. Jozef Senna, a section leader of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and a native of Jackson, Fla., gives a safety brief before starting the fire exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27. Senna tells the ARFF Marines how to work as team to combat different types of fires.**



**Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit prep their gear before going out to the fire training pit at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27.**





Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units walk through the water to stir up the jet fuel at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27. Both units work together to tackle the fire and build cohesion between the two.



Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units work together to reinforce firefighting techniques and learn to extinguish jet fuel fires at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27. Marines from both units learn to work together and build camaraderie between the two individual units.



GySgt. Marcos Martinez, a section leader of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and a native of Holtville, Calif., explains tactics on how to extinguish a jet fuel fire to the Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27.



Cpl. Christopher Del-Frate, a crew chief of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting unit at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and a native San Antonio, Texas, hoses down a fire while being instructed on proper techniques of fire fighting at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27.



Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma and Marine Corps Air Station Miramar's Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting units work together to reinforce firefighting techniques and learn to extinguish jet fuel fires at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, July 27. Marines from both units learn to work together and build camaraderie between the two individual units.



# Full Ads



## Station MCFTB reaches out to local educators

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**

Desert Warrior Staff

It's hard to find a better example of the military supporting the local community than using station resources to inform the people who educate local children.

Doing just that, three members of the station's staff traveled to Alice Byrne Elementary School to work with Yuma School District One counselors, educating them on some of the specific needs and challenges faced by military families, and also how the use of synthetic drugs can affect all children and families.

"There are approximately 1,300 school-age children at the Marine Corps Air Station," said Elena McShane, station school liaison officer. "These represent kids from kindergarten to 12th grade, many of whom attend Yuma's public schools."

McShane presented a large list of resources available to military families in relation to schools, giving the counselors added methods of helping military children excel in education.

Life can be hard for military kids. After ten years of war, we're just starting to see some of the long-term effects of deployments on children.

Brooke Burgess, station Marine Corps Family Team Building director, talked about some of her personal experiences as a mother, educator and military spouse, illustrating life inside the Corps to the counselors from first-hand experience.

"These families are moving every two- to three years," explained Burgess. "You'll see an adjustment and transition period when they move, when their parent deploys, when their parent returns. That's normal, but something to be aware of. Sometimes, the most consistent thing in the child's life during a deployment is school."

Deployments are an emotional time for military families, and the emotions can run the gamut in very short succession for everyone involved. Helping to maintain a sense of normalcy in the child's life is something a teacher may not be aware of.

A new addition to the School Liaison and MCFTB working with local educators was a presentation from the station's Drug Demand Reduction coordinator, Virgil Tapispisan.

Tapispisan taught the counselors about the latest in synthetic, designer drugs, enlightening the captive audience to the symptoms, side effects and proliferation of the so-called 'legal high' caused by Spice and Bath Salts.

"We do this to assist the school district in identifying potential drug use," said Tapispisan. "While it isn't their job to enforce drug use statutes, they can be a valuable ally in assisting the families of children who may be dealing with addiction, whether it be the student or a family member."

The chance to help those who help others is the reward for these presenters.

"Knowing that what I do could help someone, even if it is only one child, means I've done my job," said Tapispisan. "That's my reward, that's what make me sleep soundly at night, knowing I've passed on my knowledge to someone who might benefit from it, or who can continue to pass that knowledge on to others."



Courtesy photo

## Station facility gets silver for being green



Photo By Cpl. Shelby Shields

Col. Bradford Gering, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 commanding officer, stands alongside members of the construction team, while presenting the award citation for the MAWTS-1 building July 31. The MAWTS-1 building received the silver rating in Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification. Receiving 35 points out of a possible 69 in over 60 categories ranging from site selection, pollution protection, water use reduction and storage and collection of recycled materials earned the MAWTS-1 facility a silver rating with the LEED certification program. "The building is just aesthetically appealing," said Gering. "But what makes it special is what it's certified for, it's really magnificent."

## Blacksheep hit the lake for deployment relaxation, fun



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

Members of Yuma's Marine Attack Squadron 214 took part in Operation Adrenaline Rush and had a family day at Squaw Lake, Aug. 4. Blacksheep returning from a deployment with a Marine Expeditionary Unit blew off some steam, riding jet skis, jet boats and pontoon boats and also swimming and jumping on a floating trampoline. More than 275 Marines and family members from the squadron were also on the lake, enjoying some quality time with one another. The squadron worked with Arizona Adventures and the bureau of Land Management to make the day possible and a success.





# Full Ads



# HHS Sgt. named MCI-W NCO of the Quarter

**Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Desert Warrior Staff

What does it take to be considered one of the Marine Corps' best? What must a Marine achieve to be recognized as a cut above the rest? The answer is simple: take a page from the book of Sgt. Maxmillion Page.

In the Search and Rescue hangar at Marine Corps Air

Station Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 2, then Cpl. Page received his sergeant chevrons and a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for his success in earning the title of Marine Corps Installations-West non-commissioned officer of the quarter.

Page, 22, works as the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administration non-commissioned officer-in-charge, a sergeant's billet Page held as a corporal for 16 months. While holding this billet, Page led his section through a commanding general's inspection in November 2011, resulting in a flawless performance.

"The legal section was outstanding during the CGI," said Staff Sgt. Wandy Rodriguezabreu, the H&HS administration chief, a native of Massachusetts and mentor to Page. "It was so good, then Cpl. Page received a certificate of commendation from the CG. You don't see many corporals performing in the billet of a sergeant to that level."

Page earned this recognition through his consistent

superior performance in his work, in addition to holding a black belt in Marine Corps Martial Arts, a high first class Physical Fitness Test score and a high first class Combat Fitness Test score. He is also an expert pistol and rifle marksman, an avid volunteer for the youth sports teams of MCAS Yuma, a deck NCO for the barracks and president of the Single Marine Program for H&HS. He has far exceeded the military education requirements for his grade, and maintains 4.9 marks in both proficiency and conduct.

Outside his military duties, Page spends much of his free time during his first enlistment pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Northern Arizona University. Having never taken a college class before the joining the Corps, Page is one semester from finishing his degree in three short years, a feat that takes full-time students, who do not have the workload the Corps demands, a full four years.

While Page appears the ideal Marine on paper, his true strength lies in his leadership.

"He takes control," said Lance Cpl. Jonathan Yepez, an H&HS admin clerk under Sgt. Page and a native of Dallas. "If something needs to get done, he takes authority, won't take no for an answer, and handles it. He takes it a step above other NCOs."

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



**Left: Sgt. Maxmillion Page, the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron administration non-commissioned officer-in-charge and a native of Thousand Oaks, Calif., right, and Lt. Col. Karl Arbogast, the H&HS commanding officer and a native of Iowa City, Iowa, hold newly promoted Page's promotion warrant and award citation after the promotion ceremony in the Search and Rescue hangar on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., Aug. 2. Page received these honors for his achievement of Marine Corps Installations West NCO of the Quarter.**

1/2 Ads



# WHERE IN THE WORLD



Photo by Cpl. John Robbart III

Gunnery Sgt. Rodolfo Gonzalez, disbursing chief, Sgt. Lionel E. Smith, disbursing non-commissioned officer-in-charge, 1st Lt. Clayton L. Wiggins, disbursing officer, Lance Cpl. Freddie Richardson, disbursing clerk, all with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit Disbursing Office, participate in a morning physical training session on the flight deck of the USS Peleliu, July 30. The Disbursing Office assists Marines and sailors of the MEU by replacing cash with Marine Cash cards to make purchases while embarked on ships in the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group.



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan Wright

Staff Sgt. Bryan Robbins, platoon sergeant for 3rd plt., Company G., Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, calls for mortar support during a live-fire exercise here, July 13.

Marines with Company G., Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, launch a volley of mortars for suppression during a live-fire exercise here, July 13. The 31st MEU is the only continuously forward-deployed ME.



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan Wright



Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Johnny Gunn

Marine Corps Military Free Fall Instructors assigned to Marine Detachment - Fort Bragg, release the ashes of Sgt. Brett Jaffe (1971-2012), a Marine rigger, above Phillips Drop Zone at Yuma Proving Grounds, Ariz., on July 26, 2012. "It was an honor and privilege to take this Marine on his last jump and give him a proper hail and farewell," said Staff Sgt. Marty Rhett. Marines in photo (clockwise, starting with the flag): Gunnery Sgt. Brian Boger, Gunnery Sgt. Mike Latham, Gunnery Sgt. Jimmy Smith, Staff Sgt. Lennie Castro, Staff Sgt. Seth Wright, Staff Sgt. Marty Rhett.

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

### Brownie's Cafe

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Exuding small town charm, with a 50s diner interior, Brownie's immediately welcomed me with its relaxed atmosphere the moment I stepped it. Granted, I was the youngest customer in there by a good 40 years, but in a way that added to the charm.

Service was fast and friendly. My waitress' smile never left her face as she doted on myself and her other customers. In fact, if things were not as busy as usual, the waiters and waitresses made it a point to talk to customer, from small courtesies such as how does their food taste to long conversations about anything at all.

I was also impressed that most people seemed to be on a first name basis with each other. Brownie's menu totes itself as having

served Yuma for 46 years, and you don't provide good food for four decades without making a few emotional connections.

For less than \$15 I had one of the most satisfying lunches I've ever had in Yuma. The milkshakes are a steal. A bit cheaper than \$5, it tasted far richer than I expected. The ice cream is homemade as well, adding to the air of familiarity with the place. My sandwich was a winner, with succulent turkey, crisp bacon and cheese melted just right. The onion rings were delicious as well.

As for dessert, those slices of pies are unnecessarily large, but proportion wise you get more than what you pay for.

I'll definitely be returning to Brownie's. Few eateries I've been to in Yuma provide the pleasant, mellow atmosphere, delicious food and friendly service all at one location.



**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

### Lou Reed- "Metal Machine Music"

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Remember Lou Reed? The guy who fronted The Velvet Underground, debatably the most important rock group ever to exist (whatever, Beatles)? Well, he's gotten pretty bad the last couple of decades. His most recent work, a collaboration with Metallica called Lulu, was a huge misstep (by both entities) that resulted in another fracture for his career. Hell, his last good album was from 1978.

Listening to Metal Machine Music, though, it's

easy to ignore everything I just said.

That's because this album, like any good conceptual noise art, challenges the listener's notion of what music really is.

Actually, don't give Reed too much credit; the album was conceived as a joke, the result of Reed feeling trapped within his contract at RCA Records in 1975. The album is literally nothing but guitar feedback and Reed-mutilated modulations. Here's an example of how any given point in the album sounds like:

BrzzzzshggssstttttxxWHGHHHHHRRprshssh-shshgzzzzz!!!!!!

The only thing rivaling the heavy atmosphere of the album was the volume of laughter by everyone in the record industry upon M3's release.

Joke's on them, though; the album is now considered one of the earliest examples of industrial music (never mind that fact Neu! and a bunch of other German and French composers were doing the same thing earlier on). M3 now stands as the album everyone loves to hate and begrudgingly admits is an important milestone in music.

Or if you're not into musical philosophy, think of this album as a textbook example of how not to record an album.

Anyway, I think Reed was onto something here, even if that something was creating the aural equivalent of the final scene in the original Texas Chainsaw Massacre. Highly recommended for people who hate having friends or who use words like lugubrious.



Courtesy photo



# Marine's love of racing carries over into Corps

**Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior Staff

*"America is all about speed. Hot, nasty, bad-ass speed."*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt, 1936

There are two kinds of people in this world: those who race and those who don't.

Lance Cpl. Justin Yohe, a Marine Air Control Squadron 1 navigational aide technician, falls into the former category.

Twenty-year-old Yohe, a native of Bradford, Penn., heard the roar of the engine when he was 11.

"My dad's friend raced, and he said come out to the track," said Yohe. "After that, we bought a cheap little car and started from there."

"I was too young to actually race, so I'd go on the track afterwards and run laps by myself," he added.

With no human competitors, Yohe challenged himself until he was 12, thereafter placing in third for his first race and winning his second.

"Once I got in it, it was in my blood I guess," he said.

Yohe honed his skills primarily on three tracks back in Pennsylvania while also venturing out to New York and Ohio. He wasted no time acquainting himself with the dynamic, and often times dangerous, world of racing.

"When I was 12, the first night out for the season I flipped my car two-and-a-half times," Yohe said. "It was a fun experience. We started sliding and I looked over at my side and saw a ditch and we hit it. I tucked in, closed my eyes, and when I opened them I was spinning. I closed them again. When I opened them, I was still spinning."

When Yohe finally stopped spinning, he was laying with the driver window pushed into the ground.

Though audience members might share a simple, morbid fascination for potential of crashes, the drivers know how complex racing can be.

Yohe explained the different classes of racing, such as Char-



Photo by Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Lance Cpl. Justin Yohe, a Marine Air Control Squadron 1 navigational aide technician and a native of Bradford, Penn., stands with his Pontiac Grand Prix at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Aug. 7. Yohe has been racing since he was 11 and pursues his hobby in the local area as well as San Diego and Phoenix.**

ger Class, Pure Stock and Street Stock. Chargers are small cars, Pure Stock are full-bodied V-8s with no modifications and Street Stock allows heavily modified vehicles to run the loop.

"You run a class depending on how much money you want to spend," he said. "Whatever you want to run, you build your car to it."

Yohe raced through all of them before arriving at his current class: Pro Stock. His advancement was as much natural

progression as it was necessity.

"Back home, there was more done to the car than the street stocks down here," he said. "When I got down here, I couldn't run with them and had to move up."

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

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