

Desert **WARRIOR**



In this Issue

**Pro's and Con's
of early out
programs
Pg. 2**

**Marine, NCO of
the Year
Pg. 4**

**SMP volunteers
at Comic-Con
2012
Pg. 5**



**DoD
News
Pg. 7**

**Exercise
Javelin Thrust
2012
Pgs. 8**

**Get to know
MAWTS-1
Combat
Camera
Pg. 10**



**Station weight
lifting
competition
Pg. 17**

BAND OF BROTHERS

July 19, 2012
Volume 11, Number 24



STATION HOSTS BONE MARROW DONOR REGISTRY FOR GUNNERY SGT. SHANE LAMONT



Visit us on-
line with your
smartphone:
**scan this QR
code.**

**This is your paper.
Tell us what you think!**

Find us on facebook
facebook.com/mcasyuma



For photo galleries
and more!

Watch us on YouTube
youtube.com/MCASYuma



Video gallery

SEND YOUR COMMENTS AND OPINIONS TO EDITOR.DEEDUB@GMAIL.COM

OPINION & EDITORIAL

Good bye everybody, I've got to go

Cpl. Jolene Bopp
Desert Warrior Staff

Every enlistment must come to an end at some point or another, the question is, when is the right time? I thought I had everything planned out, then I received an email about the Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program and I feel as though I've been thrown a curve ball.

The VEERP provides Marines within the fiscal year the option of getting out before their end of active service date. For example, my current EAS date is November 13, 2012. The VEERP would allow FY13 Marines to end their enlistment as early as October 1, with terminal leave, a Marine could be gone before then.

For some Marines, this could be helpful if they would like to start college in the fall semester, usually beginning in August. For others, it could mean being able to take the job they are hoping will stay available until they get out. If a Marine has a lack of terminal leave available, this could put them between a rock and a hard place.

On one hand, a Marine could finish their enlistment, move on, and try to get a job until they start classes. This would mean finding a job right away and possibly only working for approximately four months until school starts. In today's job market, depending

on what your specialty is, this could be near impossible, especially if you're planning on staying in Yuma, which has the highest unemployment rate in the nation.

As a mother of a 16 month old and a wife of a Marine, this provides a couple additional challenges. On top of losing half of our household income, he could possibly be reassigned in the middle of everything. I

"...I feel as though I've been thrown a curve ball."

could find a job and a month later have to move and start the process over again. I could be a stay-at-home mom for a while. Now, now be nice, I know what you are thinking, but that would mean losing out on some things to ensure financial responsibility.

Before considering VEERP, it would be beneficial to look at financial situations before chomping at the bit for this opportunity. If savings could last until plans can start, whether it is a job or school, this is a great chance to get settled into the civilian life. If you're going to be

scrounging through couch cushions to try and make sure bills are paid, you may want to take a little more time and consider all options. Figure out how much is spent on bills and fun, then determine if there is anything that could be sacrificed if need be and decide if it is worth it.

Aside from individual personal advantages and disadvantages, what about the rest of the shop? If a Marine from a small shop is thinking about getting out early, what will it do to everyone else? If the Marines position is abandoned early, they will not receive a replacement for that Marine until their original EAS. This could leave the shop in quite the predicament, leaving everyone else to pick up the abandoned work load.

Talk with a trusted co-worker or a staff non-commissioned officer about the best options for you. The request could potentially be denied if the shop is really short staffed. If your VEERP is approved, try not to be a complete buddy. I mean blue falcon. Ensure someone else is up to date on what needs to be done to keep things running smoothly, this way everyone is a winner.

All in all, if finances are set, a plan or two is in motion and you're ready to take the next big step toward your future, there is really no reason not to apply. This is a great opportunity that not many people get. Like the rest of military benefits, use it to your advantage.

Want your opinion heard? Here's how!

Send your opinion or comment on previous articles to editor.deedub@gmail.com

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

Front Page Photo



Gunnery Sgt. Shane Lamont with Marine Aviation and Weapons Tactics Squadron-1, wife Christa and daughter Audrey pose for a photo at the station child development center. Lamont was recently diagnosed with leukemia and the station rallied together to find a match for a bone marrow transplant.

Photo by Cpl. Shelby Shields

Hot Shot

Range High Shooters

Cpl. Peter Pritchard, MALS-13

331

Cpl. Jason Nettles, MALS-13

329

Cpl. Brian Uentillie, MACS-1

326

Desert *WARRIOR*

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

Col. Robert C. Kuckuk
Commanding Officer

Sgt. Maj. Karl Villalino
Station Sergeant Major

STAFF

Capt. Staci Reidinger
Public Affairs Director

Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Dunk
Public Affairs Chief

Patricia Zoskey
Community Relations Chief

Cpl. Jolene Bopp
Media Relations Chief

Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Press Chief/Webmaster

Layout & Design

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Cpl. Laura Cardoso

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Combat Correspondents

Cpl. Shelby Shields
Cpl. Aaron I. Diamant
Cpl. Laura Cardoso
Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison
Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Lance Cpl. Zac Scanlon
Lance Cpl. Uriel Avendano

DISCLAIMER

The Desert Warrior is printed Thursday each week by Aerotech News and Review, Inc., at no cost to the government. It complies with publication and printing requirements of the Navy and Marine Corps.

The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of Defense. It is for informational purposes only and in no way should be considered directive in nature. All queries concerning news and editorial content should be directed to: Public Affairs Office, P.O. Box 99113, Yuma, AZ 85369-9113 or 928-269-3612/3410.

Everything advertised, including inserts, in this publication must be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race,

creed, color, national origin, religion, age or sex of the purchaser, the user or the patron. A confirmed violation or rejection of this policy will result in refusal to print advertising from that source. All queries concerning business matters or display ads should be directed to Aerotech News and Review, Inc. at 623-487-7321.

The appearance of advertising in this newspaper, including inserts of supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Marine Corps, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma or Aerotech News and Review, Inc., of the products and services advertised.

The views and comments expressed in the opinion articles of the Desert

Warrior are the author's individual opinions and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Defense, the United States Marine Corps or Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. If you have an opinion that you would like to see published, submit your article or letter to dustin.dunk@usmc.mil or bring it to the Public Affairs Office in building 852. Submissions must be handed into the Public Affairs Office no later than the Friday prior to the next issue's publish date. All submissions are subject to editing and space availability, and they are not guaranteed to be published.

News to Use

HARD ROAD CLOSURE

Access to Airport Loop between Avenue A and County 14th is CLOSED due to sink hole. This includes access to emergency vehicles. Unknown ETA for repairs.

SCHOOL VISION SCREENING

Branch Health Clinic Yuma will be conducting a school vision screening on Mon. July 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the station clinic. Parents are invited to bring all school age children to check their vision before the school year begins! Comprehensive exams can be booked same day if the screening indicates a need. Please have your child wear his or her glasses to the screening if they have been previously prescribed.

OASIS POOL OPEN FOR REGULAR BUSINESS

Free lap swim Monday through Friday 6 to 7 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Open swim Monday through Friday 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday and holiday open swim 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
(\$1.50 YOUTH and \$2.00 ADULT DAILY PASS)

FAMILY CARE BRANCH RESOURCE FAIR

The MCAS Yuma Family Care Branch will host a Family Care Back to School Resource Fair on Wednesday, Aug. 1 at the Sonoran Pueblo from 5-7 p.m. The Resource Fair is an excellent opportunity for military families with school age children to come learn about the various community and installation resources available to them to support their children throughout the school year. School supplies, door prizes and a hamburger dinner will be provided. For more information, parents can call Elena McShane at (928) 269-5373.

OPERATION HOMEFRONT AT YPG

The U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground is scheduled to host Operation Homefront's Back-to-School Brigade at the Desert Breeze Travel Camp (Bldg. S6) on Saturday, Aug. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The event will provide free backpacks and school supplies for children of active duty service members

ranks E1-E6, reducing some of the stress of the new school year for military families. Online registration is mandatory, and one can do so at www.operationhomefront.net/arizona. Patrons are reminded they must present their military ID cards to participate. For more information, contact YPG's Army Community Service office at (928) 328-2513.

SATELITE COLLEGE RELOCATION

Northern Arizona University and Arizona Western College Military Services have temporarily relocated to Bldg. 1093 (Community Center) until further notice. For questions, please call (928) 269-3589 or 5614.

EDUCATIONAL COMMISARY TOURS

Take a tour of the commissary and learn a variety of things about eating healthy, shopping smart and how to make healthier and more informed food choices. The next tour is Aug. 15, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. For more information, contact Nikki Dallam at (928) 269-6642.

PARENT SURVEY

We encourage all MCAS Yuma military parents with school age children to complete the survey by Aug. 3. We also encourage geo-bachelors with school age children to participate. Data from the survey will assist us in moving forward with continued educational progress and success for all military school age children attending schools in Yuma. Please contact the MCAS Yuma School Liaison, Elena McShane, for more information at (928) 269-5373.

<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e64koelqh4fuskhz/start> <<http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e64koelqh4fuskhz/start>>

MESS HALL HOURS

Monday-Friday:
Breakfast: 5:30-7:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Dinner: 4-6 p.m.
Midrats: 11 p.m. to 12:45 a.m.
SubMarine Bar: 7-9 p.m.
Weekend Schedule:
Brunch 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Dinner: 3-5 p.m.

For full menu online, www.yuma.usmc.mil.

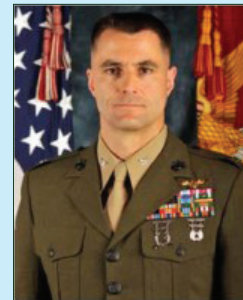
Fact or Fiction? Debunking Lance Corporal underground myths



Q: Can I really get out up to a year early?

A: Yes, according to changes in the Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program Marines can terminate their contract up to 365 days before their original EAS date. However there are some caveats, those applying for termination more than 90 days before their EAS must have approval from the first general officer and it may not cross over fiscal years. For more information see your S-1 office.

Submit your question to editor.deedub@gmail.com



5 Questions

MAG-13 Commanding Officer

Col. Michael Gough

1. What is the mission of MAG-13 and how does it support the MAGTF?

MAG-13's mission is to provide fixed-wing tactical aviation support to Marine Air Ground Task Force operations from a variety of main bases, forward operating bases, and aircraft carriers. In short, our mission is to train, deploy, and win.

2. AV-8B Harriers from MAG-13 have deployed continuously over the last decade in support of combat and contingency operations and exercises. Can you expand on a few highlights during your tenure and how these deployments have impacted our nation's defense?

A large number of the Marines and Sailors from MAG-13 are deployed at any given time -- whether deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, or to Japan, or to the amphibious carriers of Marine Expeditionary Units. During the last 14 months of my time here as Commanding Officer, all of the 6 squadrons of the MAG have been deployed in one shape or another, and all have made a difference in our national security. I am very proud of them.

3. With the pending arrival of the F-35B Joint Strike Fighter, what preparations are being made now to prepare your staff and this aircraft's future aviators?

The F-35B will be arriving here in Yuma this winter. Our first hangar is almost complete. The Marines and Sailors of the unit have been arriving, and on October 1st of this year, we plan on holding a ceremony to commemorate the unit's stand-up here in Yuma -- the stand-up of Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 121. The MAG-13 staff, working with MCAS Yuma, 3d Marine Aircraft Wing, and Headquarters Marine Corps, is preparing for the arrival of the first aircraft and for getting the pilots and maintainers trained for their mission. It is an exciting time for MAG-13 -- a historic time -- and we are looking forward to having the first operational F-35B squadron in the Marine Corps and the first operational Joint Strike Fighter squadron in the world.

4. As the F-35B JSF squadron phases in, the first AV-8B Harrier squadron is set to deactivate. When will the first AV-8B squadron deactivate and what will happen with the Harriers and personnel from this squadron?

As the Marine Corps transitions several aircraft types to the F-35, the AV-8B will be a large part of that transition process. VMFA-121's stand-up as an F-35B squadron this winter is one step in that transition process. Another step next summer will be when VMA-513 deactivates as an AV-8B squadron and the aircraft are redistributed across MAG-13 here in Yuma and to MAG-14 in Cherry Point, NC. The important note for the Marines and Sailors of VMA-513 is that there is a plan for all of them, whether it is to be reassigned within the AV-8B squadrons of the MAG, to transition to the F-35 program, to accept orders to another duty station, or to leave the Marine Corps on their terms upon reaching the end of their enlistment contract.

5. As an AV-8B Harrier pilot, what are your favorite memories flying this aircraft? And, if given the chance, would you take the opportunity to fly the F-35B?

I have many favorite memories from my 20 years of flying the AV-8B. I'll never forget flying the aircraft for the first time and my first vertical landing. I'll always remember the instructor saying, "trust me, it works" as we decelerated for the landing -- because unlike the unique Harrier, every other jet stops flying once you slow past a certain airspeed. I'll remember my first flight across the Pacific, my first close air support mission for forces in Afghanistan and Iraq, my first landing on an aircraft carrier. Lots of great memories. But my true favorite memories airborne are not of me flying the aircraft, they are of the many pilots I have trained or influenced over the years, watching them succeed at the mission and often surpassing what I have done in the aircraft. And of course, I will never forget the nearly super-human effort of the Marines and Sailors that work very long and difficult hours -- in peace and in war -- to keep the aircraft flying, to keep the pilots trained, and to support all of our commitments at home and abroad. Oh, and if given the chance to fly the F-35B, would I? Hell yes!



Tailspotter

Gretta

Gretta is an adult kitty at 6-years-old and quiet, already spayed and declawed, and with all of her vaccinations. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at (928)782-1621.



Station comes together for bone marrow registry

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison and
Cpl. Jolene Bopp**
Desert Warrior Staff

The air station hosted a bone marrow donor registry at the Marine Corps exchange to help one of its own Marines, July 13.

Gunnery Sgt. Shane Lamont, a Marine Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 low altitude air defense gunner, was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in May 2012.

The donor registry saw hundreds of Marines, some of whom had no personal affiliation with Lamont, taking swabs of saliva as prospective donors.

"We are trying to increase the number of potential donors in the National Registry. The more people in the registry, the better the chance of finding a match for Lamont, and others who are waiting on the list," said Sandra Rookey, the MAWTS-1 family readiness officer, during an interview with local paper, The Yuma Sun. "We are trying to do everything we can do to get our Marine healthy again."

"After the birth of his daughter, he saw the flight surgeon, who determined he actually had leukemia," Rookey added. "He was quickly transferred to San Diego to begin chemotherapy. The leukemia is a very aggressive cancer of the blood and bone marrow, and it progresses very quickly, so

he needed to begin treatment right away."

Lamont's case is particularly tough to combat due to a mutational condition called FLT3, which makes his Leukemia more resistant to treatment.

Regardless, Marines and civilians were willing to swab up.

"It's a chance to help people," said Gunnery Sgt. David Earl, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ground support equipment assistant staff noncommissioned officer and a native of Littletown, Penn.

Like others there, Earl did not know who Lamont was but showed up anyway by merit of Lamont being a Marine in need of assistance from his brothers and sisters.

"It shows we're willing to help strangers," added Earl.

The drive saw 882 donors.

The first successful bone marrow transplant was performed in 1968, according to the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center, and despite symptoms including high fever dizziness and diarrhea, the Marines were unfazed by their prospective results.

Every Marine, when asked if they were scared of being a possible donor, gave an unhesitant "No" as their answer.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Gunnery Sgt. David Earl, left, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 ground support equipment assistant staff noncommissioned officer and a native of Littletown, Penn. and Flight Lt. Nick Geary of the Royal Air Force take swabs with the hopes of being a potential bone marrow donor for Gunnery Sgt. Shane Lamont, a Marine Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 low altitude air defense gunner, during a bone marrow donor registry at MCAS Yuma's post exchange, July 13. Lamont was diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in May 2012

MCAS Yuma's Marine and NCO of the Year

Sgt. Rodriguez
NCO of the Year

Sergeant Rodriguez was born on 18 January 1988 in Harlingen, Texas where he was raised and completed his high school education at Harlingen High School in 2006. Sergeant Rodriguez left for Boot Camp in June 2006 and graduated Boot Camp in September from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California. Following graduation from Marine Combat Training at Camp Pendleton, California, Sergeant Rodriguez continued his training in Pensacola, Florida where he attended the Aviation Ordnanceman Course. In 2010 he initiated a lateral occupational move in the criminal investigation division, recovering \$32,000 in stolen government and private property to kickstart his career. He's been awarded multiple Letters of Appreciation for his volunteer service; selected as the Military Service Member of the Quarter by the Military Affairs Council of the Crystal Coast, North Carolina; won the Marine Corps Installations East Meritorious Sergeant Board, and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of Sergeant in February 2010. In April 2012, Sergeant Rodriguez successfully completed Black Belt 2nd Degree at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California, and just recently trained 20 Marines in MCMAP, totaling 100 Marines in his career. Sergeant Rodriguez also currently coaches Youth Basketball for Marine Corps Community Services, MCAS Yuma, Arizona, and actively participates in volunteer opportunities with the local community.



Courtesy photo

From left to right: Sgt. Maj. Karl Villaino, MCAS Yuma's sergeant major, Sgt. Ernesto Rodriguez, Jr., a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron criminal investigation division investigator and a native of Harlingen, Texas, Lance Cpl. Blake Walker, a Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 electrician and a native of Santa Monica, Calif., and Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma's commanding officer, stand for a photo at the Armed Forces Memorial Park in Yuma, Ariz. Sgt. Rodriguez and Lance Cpl. Blake were recently recognized as MCAS Yuma's noncommissioned officer of the year and Marine of the year, respectively.

Lance Cpl. Walker
Marine of the Year

Lance Corporal Walker was born on 12 December, 1991 in Santa Monica, California. He lived in Pacific Beach, California for 12 years and then spent 3 years living in Gaeta, Italy before moving to Hampton, Virginia where he completed his high school education in June 2010. Walker left for Boot Camp in July and graduated Boot Camp from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina in October 2010. Following graduation from Marine Combat Training at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, Lance Corporal Walker continued his training at Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he attended the Tactical Switch Operator Course from November 2010 to March 2011. Upon completion of his training, he received orders to Marine Wing Support Squadron 371. In September 2011, Walker deployed with MWSS-371 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and was given many leadership opportunities in leading Marines through various projects including running 21,000 feet of fiber optics and successfully completing 550 hours worth of trouble calls. Walker was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal in February 2012 for his work during his deployment to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

For full biographies, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

Marines nerd out at Comic-Con 2012

Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet
Desert Warrior Staff

Cosplayers, crafts of cosmic caliber, and copious cameras are common occasion at Comic-Con. Meritable Marines meeting out many moments to make this marvel measurably more magnificent are not.

Marines from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma traveled to the San Diego International Comic Convention through the Single Marine Program, July 11 – 15. These Marines volunteered their time to make Comic-Con a better experience for all.

“(The organizers) always rave about the work Marines do for Comic-Con,” said Lucia Uribe, the special events coordinator for SMP and a native of Long Beach, Calif. “Every section the Marines volunteer for is exceptionally organized. Other volunteers took notes on the way we worked and tried to emulate us. Imitation is the biggest form of flattery.”

“The Marines are more helpful than everyone else who’s volunteering,” Carlie Pettijon, a Comic-Con staff member and volunteer organizer. “It helps that Marines are more imposing and can help keep order, and they listen and accomplish tasks far better than the average volunteer.”

One group of Marines came to the convention before it began and helped set up the event, and the other came during the festivities to help the Comic-Con run smoother. All together, more than 40 Marines came out to help.

For their work the Marines received free passes, which would normally cost hundreds of dollars, to enjoy the convention once their volunteer shifts were done.

Comic-Con is the largest and most ac-

claimed convention of its type in the world; in 2010, it filled the San Diego Convention Center with more than 130,000 people. The convention hosts large and small-name video game, movie, comic, trading card, television and Internet entertainment producers. If it could be considered nerdy, it’s here in abundance.

“It’s important to get Marines out to events like this,” said Cpl. Anthony Vanasco, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 avionics technician and a native of New Castle, Penn. “Everyone has a bad taste in their mouths from some things that have happened, but when they see us out here they really appreciate it. We need to be out with the community more often, showing that we can do good.”

“People recognize us as Marines, and it looks good on the Corps when we’re out here volunteering,” added Cpl. Brandon Maki, a Marine Attack Squadron 211 avionics technician and a native of Duluth, Minn.

The trip is not just for public image, however. This was also a great opportunity for Marines to unwind and get out of Yuma for a weekend.

“It’s a recreational opportunity that’s getting (the Marines) out of the barracks and into a fun environment where they are meeting new people,” stated Uribe. “It’s neat to see Marines meet, become friends and begin doing things together outside of SMP.”

The SMP in Yuma works to get Marines out to Comic-Con every year. In addition, trips to Las Vegas, Big Bear, Flagstaff, a theme park like Six Flags, concerts and Lake Havasu occur every year. Also, numerous smaller opportunities for activities in Yuma take place every week and are open to Marines stationed or visiting MCAS Yuma.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

New alpha male for Los Lobos



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Col. Horace Bly, left, Combat Logistics Company 16 incoming commanding officer, receives the company guidon from Maj. Nowell McKnight, right, CLC-16’s outgoing commanding officer, at the company compound at MCAS Yuma, July 17. McKnight’s next assignment will see him at Marine Air/Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. “To every one here, I’d like to say thank you,” he said. “Maj. Bly, they’re yours.”

Marine Corps Community Services provides for air station

Lance Cpl. Uriel Avendano
Desert Warrior Staff

MCAS Yuma Marine Corps Community Services offers a variety of programs and services for Marines, sailors and their families to help ease the weight of deployments and everyday military life.

MCCS provides for the station the Semper Fit fitness program to family team building, counseling, personal finance and educational services for service members and their dependants. Also sponsored are the social organized events by the Single Marines Program and the Sonoran Pueblo.

MCCS is run by civilians and veterans.

“Anywhere between 425-500 employees help take care of Marines, sailors and their families. From retirees to one-tour

veterans,” said MCCS Yuma director David Koopman.

MCCS employees work together in an effort to help better the lives of Yuma’s military community through social, recreational, and educational programs.

MCCS is funded through corporate sponsorships, advertising and the Department of Defense. If there is money left over from overseas contingency operations, a request for funding is submitted through the Department of Defense and either granted or denied. Recently, a request for new sports fields for youth sports was approved, said Koopman.

“Somebody offers us money to improve our program, I’ll be first in line,” added Koopman.

How MCCS selects its projects is determined not only by the organization itself, but by the input provided by Marines themselves.

“We go find what people want, what Marine Corps Headquarters is pushing down, and what the command wants,” said Koopman.

Most services are split between two categories in accordance with the Department of Defense standards. Category A services have to do with fitness and have a higher priority when it comes to funding. Category B services are recreational and can generate some revenue.

The economy affects MCCS. Budgets determine the future of Category B services. The pool, for example, might have to raise fees in order to provide the same level of enjoyment for station patrons.

“Next year, the decision won’t be whether or not to charge, but how many hours to keep the door open,” said Koopman.

For additional information, visit: www.mccsyuma.org.

Full Ads

Priorities Set U.S. Africa Command's Agenda

Donna Mills

American Forces Press Service

STUTTGART, Germany, June 11, 2012 – After a year of significant change sweeping the African continent – a wave of democratic movements, the emergence of South Sudan as the world's newest nation and an increase in violent extremism, among them – U.S. Africa Command is using the new defense strategic guidance to shape its engagement in the theater.

“In line with the new strategic guidance, we've prioritized our efforts, focusing on the greatest threats to America, Americans and American interests,” Army Gen. Carter F. Ham, Africom commander, told the Senate Armed Services Committee in March.

Ham's strategy, encapsulated in an eight-page command strategy document published in September, is based on four top priorities:

- Countering terrorism and violent extremist organizations;
- Countering piracy and illicit trafficking;
- Partnering to strengthen defense capabilities; and
- Preparing for and responding to crises.

All support two guiding principles, Ham explained during an interview with American Forces Press Service at his headquarters here: that a safe, secure and stable Africa is in the United States' national in-

terests, and that Africans are best suited to address African security challenges.

No Africom effort gets higher billing than its initiatives aimed at eliminating terrorist safe havens and support for terrorist organizations intent on attacking the United States and its citizens, allies and interests abroad.

“Countering the threats posed by al-Qaida affiliates in East and Northwest Africa remains my No. 1 priority,” Ham said.

But for security to take hold in Africa for the long-term, Ham also recognizes the importance of strengthening African partners' defense capabilities so they can address their own security challenges. He noted ongoing efforts to increase capacity in peacekeeping, maritime security, disaster response and other key areas. The general noted the value of this investment, from “train-the-trainer” sessions conducted at the tactical level to leader development programs that will have positive long-term strategic implications.

“We are planting seeds, if you will, and allowing those to develop and grow,” he said, noting that it's all being done with no permanently assigned forces and limited forces on the ground.

For full story, visit

Yuma.usmc.mil



Photo by Sgt. Tatum Vayavananda

Lance Cpls. Chris C. Holloway and Dominic D. Walicki, and Pfc. Kenneth T. Martin, assistant crowd control instructors with 3rd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, simulate a riot for the Burkina Faso partners they are training with during Exercise Western Accord 2012. The crowd control training taught the basics of baton work, use of shields, forming a shield line, keeping rhythm in the line, and the deployment of snatch teams that are used to acquire and detain high-value individuals, such as a riot leader. Exercise Western Accord 2012 is a multi-lateral training exercise with West African nations to increase understanding and interoperability, prevent conflict by enabling Africans to provide for their security and stability, strengthen relationships with partner nations, and promote and support U.S. national security priorities. Participating African nations include Senegal, Burkina Faso, Guinea, and Gambia.

TRAP mission prepares reservists for combat

Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi

Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center,
Twentynine Palms

TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. - The roar of the propellers above the helicopter was deafening. A screech rang throughout the hull, where eight Marines and the flight crew sat. Their only form of communication was hand signals, but those sitting side-by-side had the luxury of screaming into each other's ears, hoping the message was comprehended down the row of seats.

The air was cooler at the high elevation, but the Marines knew what temperatures awaited them below. The aircraft circled multiple times, with the Marines peering down to get eyes on the objective.

The aircraft landed; it was game on.

Marines with Company G, 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, conducted a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise over the Combat Center training areas Monday.

The unit, originally from Dover, N.J., arrived at the Combat Center July 1 in support of Large Scale Exercise-1/Javelin Thrust 2012.

Twenty-three Marines loaded up onto three CH-46E Sea Knight Helicopters from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 774, and took off from the Camp Wilson landing zone.

Their mission was to retrieve two Marines awaiting rescue from a simulated downed aircraft. One was a simulated casualty and in need of medical attention, the other was somewhat injured but able to walk and talk.

Unlike a search-and-rescue, a TRAP mission is conducted because an aviator is taken down by hostile enemy fire and needs to be rescued from what could be imminent danger.

"You know what you're going in for," said Lance Cpl. Raymond Kummer, team leader, Co. G., 2/25. "We know we had people to recover."

As the bird's wheels set down on the dirt, the Marines unbuckled their seatbelts and sprinted out of the back of the helicopter. Words were still useless, but each Marine knew what they had to do.

They formed a secure perimeter as the Phrog lifted off. Keeping eyes out for any hostiles in the area, the Marines moved toward their objective — the two downed airmen.

They effectively communicated with each other and provided security as the corpsman



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ali Azimi

Marines with 2nd Battalion, 25th Marine Regiment, load onto a CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter to retrieve two Marines during a tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel exercise in the Combat Center training areas July 9, 2012. The 23 Marines loaded into three CH-46 Sea Knights to rescue their fellow Marines from the site of a simulated downed aircraft. Marines with 2/25 are currently training at the Combat Center as part of Large Scale Exercise 1/Javelin Thrust 2012.

and a group of Marines provided medical attention to the simulated casualty and rolled him onto a stretcher.

With the packages ready for transport, the CH-46Es were signaled to land.

The Marines braced themselves for the sandstorm, created by the helicopters, rotorwash as they descended for pick up.

"Overall, I think we did well. The rehearsals helped a lot," said Sgt. Joseph Patishnock, squad leader, Co. G., 2/25. "This mission was definitely successful."

1/2 Ads

Leader's Forum

Col. Robert Kuckuk
Station Commanding Officer

Think about this statement for a second: It's the right thing to do. It's fair to say we all typically know the right thing to do in most situations. We are guided by the regs, our leaders, our training or our experiences. Maybe we let our conscience be our guide. Sometimes, it not easy, nor fun. But, it lets you sleep better at night.

Our Corps is undergoing a transformation regarding the way treat sexual assault. Why? Because we (maybe not you the reader, but we the Marines Corps), are treating it wrong. We are going to learn to keep our comments and our hands to ourselves. We are going to teach one another in both large groups and small the importance of treating all Marines: male, female, black, white, Hispanic, Asian, with the same respect you would give your sister or your brother. Further, I insist you watch out for each other, the same way you would protect your sister, brother or your children, from those who would take advantage of a situation. You do this because they are your brother and sister Marines. That doesn't stop when you secure each day. You do this because it's the right thing to do.

- When your brother or sister drinks a little too much, you get them home safely. It's the right thing to do.
- When they drink too much too often, you tell someone and get them some help. It's the right thing to do.
- When they are going through a rough patch in a relationship, you support them.
- When you have a new Marine check in, you teach them the ropes like you would teach your brother or sister.
- And when they stop communicating, their personality changes and they don't seem to be themselves, you find out why.

Let's remember why we became a part of this illustrious Corps and do what's needed to keep our brothers and sisters in arms safe as we would our own.

"CORE VALUES"

Lt. Greg Woodard
Station Chaplain

In light of the Commandants Heritage tour and directive of an ethics stand-down, I asked the Desert Warrior to re-run this article on values that appeared in this space in the not too distant past.

In my role as a Station Chaplain, I have the joy of welcoming Marines to the station and of providing counseling to many of them. Each time I meet with a young Marine, I remind them that the decision that they make today will affect their future. I get a nod of agreement, and a statement of understanding this.

I generally proceed to tell the Marines that as a 40ish year old chaplain, I have the advantage of being able to look back on the 20 years that have gone by since I began my 20s. I can see the results of decisions made – both good results and bad results.

Each time I meet to counsel someone, I listen carefully to the issues that are of concern to them. I listen to decisions that were made that provide a foundation to their current concerns. In my experience, there is a general lack of consideration about how the decisions made in the moment may affect the future. I often find that there is little in the way of guiding principles that provide a framework for making decisions.

I'd like to offer three guiding principles that all of us who serve on the Navy / Marine Corps team are aware of: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Honor is living with integrity, responsibility, and accountability. Are we honest in our dealings with others? Is our word our bond? Do we take responsibility for our actions and do we have people in our lives to whom we can be accountable?

Courage is doing the right thing, in the right way, for the right reasons. Do we cut corners in trying to move our careers ahead? Are we willing to compromise our standards in order to make ourselves look good?

Commitment is devotion to our organization and to our fellow Marines & Sailors. Do we live by the motto of treating others as you would have them treat you? Do we demonstrate this commitment by our words and actions?

I believe that if we will commit to living according to the principles of honor, courage and commitment that our chances of making decisions that will positively affect our future will be greatly enhances.

Chaplain's Corner



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

MAWTS-1 Combat Camera provides vi

Lance Cpl. S
Desert Wa



LCpl. Jacob J. Krummel, a Combat Videographer for Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1, takes video of a drone flying over Yuma Proving Grounds, near Yuma, Ariz., before it is shot at by U.S. Marines with 3rd Low Altitude Air Defense, Oct. 1, 2011. 3rd LAAD Marines hone their skills during an exercise at YPG.

Photo by Cpl. Benjamin Reynolds



Photo by Cpl. Jacob Krummel

U.S. Marines from Battery C, 1st Battalion, 11th Marine Regiment (Btry C, 1/11) conduct firing mission during Howitzer Live Fire mission, near Siphon 8 training area, Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., April 12, 2012. Howitzer Live Fire was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-12 hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Ashley Santy

Lance Cpl. Amy Muir, left, a MAWTS-1 production specialist. A U.S. Marine Helicopter Support Team conducts an external lift with a Marine Corps CH-53 in the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., March 2012. The external lift was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



Photo by Cpl. Patrick Evenson

A U.S. Marine with Weapons Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment engages targets with a M249 Squad Automatic Weapon during Assault Support Tactics 1 (AST-1) at the base of Observation Point Feets, Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, Calif., April 16, 2012. AST-1 was in support of WTI 2-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.

Twice a year, for seven weeks at a time, the station floods with Marines and service members from across the country and around the world. This magical time of congestion is called the Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1.

The course hosts several large-scale operations, spanning from Arizona to California. There's a ton of moving parts, the documentation of which would be impossible if not for a small shop of Marines known as MAWTS-1 Combat Camera.

"The biggest piece we bring to the training command is the ability to create training materials with video and still imagery," said Capt. Anthony Lopez, the MAWTS-1 Combat Camera division head and assistant academics officer.

The products range from course exams, name instructional videos explaining the six functions of Marine Corps Aviation, printed material and graphic illustrations, explained Lopez, a native of Riverside, Calif.

Every WTI student has, in one way or another, been influenced by MAWTS-1 Combat Camera's products, whether it's a course booklet or comprehensive end of course video production.

This particular Combat Camera section is relatively young, coming to existence around 2006.

"I remember when I first got here, our jobs were sporadic," said Cpl. Jacob Krummel, a MAWTS-1 videographer and a native of Los Angeles. "We wouldn't do much with our footage; they'd just sit in the archives."

Krummel explains how, originally, it used to be the night lab specialists who put together videos. However, it was a collateral duty and not a designated job, the need for a constant supply of training material eventually inspired then MAWTS-1's commanding officer Col. Raymond Fox to seek out a Combat Camera shop for the squadron.

"The original design came from Marine Corps Combat Service Support Schools," said Staff Sgt. Robert Brown, the MAWTS-1 combat camera

tal assests to squadron, station, Corps

ean Dennison

arrior Staff

chief and a native of Fayetteville, N.C. Camp Johnson's combat camera shop is within a military occupational school at Combat Service Support Schools. MAWTS-1 Combat Camera shop, like the rest of the squadron, flourishes during WTI.

Once the biannual event kicks off, it's time for the physically and mentally demanding task of capturing the training and putting it together for the instructors and students.

Mentally demanding because only a handful of Marines are charged with preparing course materials, resolving conflicted schedules, manifesting themselves on flights and working double-digit hours, typically for six out of seven days a week.

Physically demanding, because an assignment can take place on base just as easily as out in the California Mountains and Arizona deserts. One shoot may have the Marines flying in an Osprey while others are off with an artillery battery.

It's the sort of versatility Marines are known for and only they can pull off.

"However many hours the pilots and crews are out, that's when we're out," said Krummel.

To someone on the outside, it may not seem like much, but consider this: like their station brethren, MAWTS-1 Combat Camera is recording the history of the Marine Corps. Every pixel passing through the retinas of a WTI student, every photo used, is a leaf on the tree of military training.

Especially with a rapidly thinning force, it's important for the Marines of today and the Marines of tomorrow, to know where they came from.

That's where Combat Camera comes in, and they must be aware of this.

"We get to witness nearly every side of the Marine Corps," said Sgt. Richard Tetreau, a MAWTS-1 production specialist and a native of Newport, Wash.

Be sure to keep an eye out for more from the Marines at MAWTS-1's combat camera.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Staff Sgt. Robert Brown, the Marine Aviation Tactics and Weapons Squadron 1 combat camera chief and a native of Fayetteville, N.C., holds onto Pfc. Brandon Ponyah, a MAWTS-1 videographer and native of Flagstaff, Ariz., as he documents an MV-22 Opsrey external lift at Bull Landing Zone, part of the Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range in California, April 5.

Right: From left to right, Cpl. Phillip Brunch, Cpl. Alphonse Didomenico, and Cpl. Olivia Childers, firefighters with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 evacuate a simulated casualty from a UH-1 Huey during an Aircraft Recovery exercise at K-9 Village, Yuma Proving Ground, Ariz., Oct. 3, 2011. MWSS-373 was in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 1-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



Photo by Cpl. Patrick Evenson



Photo by Sgt. Richard Tetreau

U. S. Marine Corps UH-1Y Huey helicopters and Royal Canadian Soldiers perform fast roping exercises during WTI 2-12, March 2012. The fast roping exercises were in support of Weapons and Tactics Instructor Course 2-12, hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.



Photo by Cpl. Patrick Evenson

Full Ads

SMP EVENTS

JULY 19:

Fear Factor: Think you have what it takes to face your fears? Come participate in Fear Factor with the Rec Center at 6 p.m. Teams must consist of players. We dare you to play with the SMP? Free food and Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners. For further information or to register, please contact the Rec Center at (928) 269-5794.

Weekly SMP Tournaments: Starting at 6 p.m. every Tuesday and Thursday, come join us for Tournaments! Tournaments include: Xbox, Wii, PS3, Texas Hold 'Em, Ping Pong & Pool.

JULY 25:

Adult Swim Party: From 7 to 10 p.m. the Oasis pool is closed down to the general public, but folks living in the barracks will be provided a free BBQ. Those who are 21 or over may bring alcoholic beverages.

SEPARATION

EDUCATIONAL COUNSELING

The Education Center is staffed by friendly trained counselors capable of providing academic counseling. The Education Center is easy to use and presents information in a clear and helpful manner. Once users zero in on the degree programs, course offerings, or institutions that meet their criteria, they can then explore the details for each option right down to course descriptions, number of credits, prerequisites, and a host of other related information.

7 STEPS TO COLLEGE WORKSHOP

The Education Center presents a monthly workshop that provides a career assessment and discusses school selection process, admission requirements, financial aid/scholarships, MGIB and Post-9/11 GI Bill, College Success Tips and more... Please contact the Education Center to sign up for the workshop. Seating is limited to ten.

The Reel Deal

Station Movie

Theater Times

Thursday

The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel
(PG-13) 7 p.m.

Friday

3D Men in Black 3
(PG-13) 6 p.m.

The Dictator
(R) 9 p.m.

Saturday

Madagascar 3
(PG) 1 p.m.

Snow White and the Huntsman
(PG-13) 4 p.m.

Prometheus
(R) 7 p.m.

Visit www.mccsyuma.org for
updated movie schedules. Or call,
(928) 269-2358.

Events Calendar

Don't forget to mention you saw this on the MCCS Events Calendar!

july

19

3 Part Babysitter Course

WHEN Thu, July 19, 9am to 6 pm

where Building 1085

This three day course provides training and referral services for pre-teen and teenagers for family members interested in babysitters living on and off installation. Cost is \$35.

Think Thursdays SNCO

WHEN Thu, July 19, 5pm – 7pm

where SNCO Club

Happy Hour from 4 to 6pm on this Third Thursday Take Over For more information call (928) 269-2711.

july

20



Toddler Crafts

WHEN Fri, July 20, 10am – 11pm

where Building 645

Weekly on Fridays, until Dec 28, 2012. Call (928) 269-2561 for more information.

Youth Center Summer Camp Family Luau

WHEN Fri, July 20, 11am – 2:30pm

where Youth Center

Families are invited to join us for a day of fun games, lunch and treats. For more info call (928) 269-5390.

july

21

Live DJ

WHEN Sat, July 21, 8pm – Sun, July 22, 1am

where Club Pulse

Every Friday and Saturday come out to Pulse the Nightclub to listen to the Live DJ. Call (928) 269-2711 for more information.



july

22

Session Two Swim Lessons

WHEN Sat, July 22, 12pm

where Oasis Pool

Classes held Monday through Thursday for two weeks. Classes start at 7am, 8am, 9am and 10am. Parent-tot, Pre-School, Level 1/2 and Level 3/4 available. Cost is \$40 for the entire session. For more info or to sign up call (928) 269-2914.

july

24

Play-based parenting

WHEN Tue, July 24, 10am – 11am

where Building 645

Playgroup/parenting class for parents and their children ages 1-4. Meets for 6 weeks.

july

23

California Career School Visiting Education Center

WHEN Mon, July 23, 12pm

where Education Center

California Career School offers Commercial Truck Driver Training. A representative will be available to speak with you about their program on a walk-in basis or you may contact the school at (714) 720-7580 to schedule an appointment.

july

25

Financial Workshop

WHEN Wed July 25, 8am – 10am

where Building 598

In-depth information on investing in the Thrift Savings Plan.

Visit www.mccsyuma.org for more information

Full Ads

MCAS Yuma approaches 50th anniversary

Desert Warrior Staff

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma turns 50 years old July 20. The station started out as Marine Corps Auxiliary Air Station after being signed over from the Air Force to the Navy January 1, 1959 and turned over to the Marine Corps nine days later.

On July 20, 1962, MCAAS Yuma was elevated to a Marine Corps Air Station, making it the newest autonomous Fleet Aerial Training Base. While the fundamental mission of supporting weapons proficiency and combat-readiness training remained unchanged, with its "coming of age" the importance of MCAS Yuma's role in the Naval and Marine aviation establishment was solidified; flight operations and base development projects increased commensurately in the ensuing years. This trend of growth accelerated in the mid 1960s, as the United States entered into war in Vietnam and MCAS Yuma reacted to the Navy's and Marines' increasing demand for combat-ready pilots. By the mid 1970s, as the Vietnam Era drew to a close, MCAS Yuma had become as it remains the Marine Corps' busiest

air base.

One factor contributing to the increase in operations at MCAS Yuma was the decision to host Marine and Navy squadrons from all over the country, rather than just from the Pacific Fleet as had been the case when it was an auxiliary air station. In September 1962, Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 242 became the first East Coast Marine unit to deploy to the air station. Based at MCAS Cherry Point, North Carolina, the squadron arrived with twenty A4D Skyhawks and embarked on a three-week attack training course including rocketry, strafing, conventional bombing, and napalm and loft-bombing exercises.

During the early 1960s, a period characterized by downsizing and base closures throughout all branches of the military, MCAS Yuma thrived, owing in large part to its unique combination of facilities and environmental and geographical conditions.

In December 1962, MCAS Yuma celebrated a milestone

when an F8U Crusader touched down, marking the 500,000 flight operation since the base's establishment in 1959. Another milestone, reached in August 1964, was the arrival of the 500th squadron deployed at the Marine Corps air station, VMA-142 from Naval Air Station Jacksonville, Florida. This operational activity was matched with a continuing building program that added vital new facilities and infrastructure to the base.

Activities and operations at MCAS Yuma spiked again during the Vietnam War era. The conflict in Southeast Asia required the participation of all Marine Corps facilities on the West Coast and elsewhere. Marine Corps aviation became involved as early as 1962, when helicopters from the 1st MAW were deployed to



Courtesy photo



Courtesy photo

support American advisors, but Marine aviators were assigned to Vietnam in substantial numbers beginning in 1965.

Throughout the Vietnam War era, MCAS Yuma continued its primary mission of supporting Fleet aerial weaponry training, but refined its scope to emphasize perfecting air-to-ground tactics and techniques in support of deployed Marine forces. The frequency of training exercises escalated at MCAS Yuma continued to escalate as the United States became more deeply embroiled in the conflict.

In March 1966, Commanding Officer Colonel McGlothlin announced a planned six-year buildup of personnel levels at MCAS Yuma, citing the need to keep pace with a projected increase in general Marine Corps personnel levels from 190,000 to 278,000 over the same period.

For full story, visit
Yuma.usmc.mil

1/2 Ads

WHERE IN THE WORLD



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan Wright

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. Following the conclusion of Exercise Hamel 2012, the Marines of Co. G. engaged in movement to contact drills, using what they learned from living in a woodland environment for the past three weeks.



Sgt. Corey Quill, Marine Barracks Washington ceremonial bell ringer, sounds the Barracks bell during a Friday Evening Parade at Marine Corps Barracks, Washington, D.C., July 13.

Photo by Cpl. Dengrier Baez



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Oxtan

Marines with the Maritime Raid Force, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, use a circular saw to ignite a Brocos torch while attempting to breach steel barricades, July 9. The raid was part of the Realistic Urban Training Exercise, evaluated by Special Operations Training Group.

Around town, Yuma's hidden hot spots!

LZ Bar & Grill

Cpl. Shelby Shields

Desert Warrior Staff

The LZ Bar and Grill is a great hangout for anyone who supports and appreciates today's military. Every inch of every wall is covered in military memorabilia. Items ranging from flight helmets, unit patches, a B-52, Huey and Cobra instrument panel, a Bell-47 tail rotor and a working World War II dog tag machine, just to name a few. LZ offers traditional American grill foods like burgers, hot dogs, oven roasted sandwiches and the very popular bucket of wings. Portion sizes at LZ make it impossible for you to

leave hungry. The staff is colorful and friendly making the dining experience even more enjoyable. LZ also offers different events every night of the week; Sundays and Mondays they host free poker tournaments, Tuesday offers free country swing and line dance lessons, karaoke and drink specials on Thursdays, live music on Saturdays with dart boards and pool tables available all week, making it a well rounded and fun environment for everyone. Conveniently located just a few minutes north of MCAS Yuma this establishment is perfect for Marines and their families to enjoy some great food and atmosphere.



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

Bob Markley- "Markley, A Group"

Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

Desert Warrior Staff

The West Coast Pop Art Experimental Band was hardly experimental or even interesting sounding as their name would imply, this being a late 1960s, early 1970s, when a rock album by any other name was not indicative of its sounds.

Anyway, Bob Markley fronted the band and this album is regarded as his solo debut or the fourth WCPAEB album, or fifth, depending on where you do your research.

As far as I'm concerned, this is one of the most brilliant psychedelic pop albums from the 1970s.

Markley's buoyant orchestration and ear for genre imitation creates a sound that at once embraces and satirizes the most commercial aspects of popular music at his time. When you're basically a one-man band with an inferiority complex, that wasn't easy to do against the post-1967 deluge of music acts in the rock realm. Especially with albums like Sgt. Peppers and Pet Sounds still fresh in people's minds?

While experimentation is nowhere near the level of the previously mentioned two albums, and I only mention them because they're con-

sidered canon by mostly anyone having to do with music, *Markley, A Group* is musically their equal. Markley's forthrightness, knack for witty lyrics and wordplay and an impeccable ear for timing (the subtle use of strings in "Outside/Inside" is a fantastic little moment in music) should've stood out on the radio.

In a way I think Markley knew how little his chances were of breaking through with this album were, because, make no mistake, this is one of the darker albums of the psychedelic pop era, touching upon themes such as isolation, death, xenophobia, expansionism, STDs, incest, pedophilia, mental deterioration and suicide. Sometime in the same song (check out "Roger the Rocket Ship" when you get a chance).

I can see why a lot of people would not like this; there are times when you can't tell if Markley is taking himself seriously or playing a massive joke on anyone with a working cochlea. Still, the good moments are great and the bad moments are few and far between (even delightfully stupid tracks like the honkytonk "Truck Stop" sounds more like a planned misstep than an honest mistake).



Courtesy photo

SPORTS

Station strongmen compete in bench press competition



Left: Sgt. Ato Waithe, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 13 aviation supply specialist and a native of Brooklyn, N.Y., pumps iron during the Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit program's bench press competition at the station gym, July 13.

Right: Cpl. Jonathan Russell, the Combat Logistics Company 16 armory chief and a native of New Berlin, Wis., controls his lift during the Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit program's bench press competition at the station gym, July 13.



Cpl. Gabriel Gutierrez, a Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron military policeman and a native of Celina, Texas, readies himself for a lift during the Marine Corps Community Services' Semper Fit program's bench press competition at the station gym, July 13.

Photos by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

1/2 Ads