

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

# Desert **WARRIOR**



## **AN ALTERED AFGHANISTAN**

*NATO SECURITY TRANSITION BEGINS*

May 17, 2012

Volume 11, Number 16

### **CAREER DAY**

COLLEGE AND CAREER FAIR PROVIDES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

### **TEACHER AND MILITARY SPOUSE: BALANCING ACT**

THE REAL TOUGHEST JOB IN THE MARINE CORPS

### **NATO'S MISSY-D**

PROGRESS CONTINUES TOWARD NATO MISSILE DEFENSE SYSTEM



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Stop by the station's pool May 18 from 12 a.m. - 8 p.m. for an entire day of games, prizes and fun

## **OASIS POOL GRAND OPENING**

**VISIT [WWW.FVAP.GOV](http://WWW.FVAP.GOV) TO REGISTER TO VOTE TODAY!**



# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



“And this is  
how I do a cart  
wheel...wee...”

Send your caption ideas to  
[www.editorial@gmail.com](mailto:www.editorial@gmail.com).  
The top three captions  
will be featured  
in next week's  
Desert Warrior.

# LAST WEEK'S TOP CAPTIONS



**James Gilligan:**  
“I believe those Marines  
gave it their all.”

**Bill Fain:**  
“International Rope  
Testing Confederation  
conducts annual confer-  
ence.”

**Bill Cline:**  
“Come on! We can't let  
these third graders beat us  
again...”

# Desert *WARRIOR*

MCAS Yuma's Official Newspaper

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*Commanding Officer*

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

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<http://www.youtube.com/user/marines>

Marines train Ugandan military.



<http://www.marines.mil/news/pages/marinestv.aspx>

Marine gives newborn son Stars and Stripes flown over Afghanistan.

# HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



Front Page Photo Credit

*Cpl. Timothy Lenzo*



## Marine Attack Squadron 311

### 31st MEU



## Marine Attack Squadron 211

### Afghanistan

## Marine Attack Squadron 214

### 11th MEU



## News to Use

### OASIS POOL GRAND REOPENING

The Oasis Pool will host its grand reopening, May 18. All station personnel and their families are invited, but please note the times for both groups:

Family time will be from 12-6:00 p.m.

Adults are invited to attend from 6-8 p.m.

The layout of events are as follows:

Noon - Pool Opening and Senior Leader remarks

12:20 p.m. - Ribbon Cutting

12:30-1:30 p.m. - Free hot dogs and drinks

12:30-6 p.m. - Family Open Swim

6 - 7 p.m. - Chretien's Nacho Eating Contest

6 - 8 p.m. - Adult Swim

7:30 - 8 p.m. El Luchadores Mexican Wrestling

### YUMA - U.S. MARINES BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, May 18, 2012

10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

MCAS Yuma station gym

All donors in April and May will be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 60 pairs of round trip tickets aboard the Grand Canyon Railway. Please be sure to bring a photo ID and donor card. For any questions, contact Kyle Campbell at (928)269-2416 or visit [www.BloodHero.com](http://www.BloodHero.com) (sponsor code: Marines).

### MESSHALL UPGRADES

The station's mess hall is now accepting credit cards. Hours of operation and prices have not changed. To find this weeks menu, visit [yuma.usmc.mil](http://yuma.usmc.mil).

### STATION SAFETY STANDDOWN

On May 22, 2012 MCAS Yuma Marines and Sailors will attend the 101 Days of Summer safety standdown. They will conduct small unit level training during the half of the day that they are not attending the safety fair. The morning wave will begin at 8 a.m. at the station gym, while the afternoon wave will begin at 1 p.m. and meet at the parade deck. For more details, please contact Station Safety.

### CHEERLEADERS WANTED

Auditions for the 2012 MCAS Yuma Cheerleading, Dance and POM Squadron will be held 6-7 p.m., May 30, at the Community Center. For more information, contact William Tracu at (928) 269- 2324.

### MESS HALL HOURS

#### **Monday-Friday:**

Breakfast: 5:30-7:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11a.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.

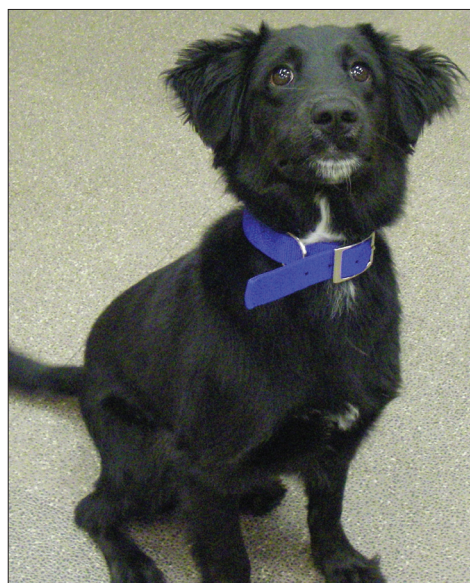
#### **Weekend Schedule:**

Brunch 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Dinner: 3-5 p.m.

For full menu online, [www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil).



## Tailspotter



### **Hashbrown**

He is a 1-year-old border collie or flat coated retriever mix. Hashbrown is the best work out plan around. He'll get you in shape then cuddle with you as you recoup. He is fixed, vaccinated and has a microchip. You can adopt him for less than a gym membership with many more added bonuses. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



## 5 Questions

### for the Installation Voting Assistance Officer

**Capt. Staci Reidinger**

#### **Why does the Department of Defense have Voting Assistance Officers?**

Voting is a constitutional right that U.S. citizens are afforded and the Federal Government believes that U.S. military members deserve additional assistance with exercising this right due to hardships involved with multiple military moves and deployments.

#### **What services are provided by the Installation Voting Assistance Office and who is eligible to use these services?**

The MCAS Yuma Installation Voting Assistance Office can help all government employees, both military and civilian, with registering to vote locally or absentee in another state, with finding information to make an informed voting decision and can provide information pertaining to local, state or federal level elections throughout the year.

#### **Is the MCAS Yuma Installation Voting Assistance Officer the only voting assistance officer on station?**

No. Each major tenant command aboard MCAS Yuma has a unit-level voting assistance officer who can assist with registering to vote. Please visit [www.yuma.usmc.mil](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil) for a listing of MCAS Yuma-wide Voting Assistance Offices or contact your squadron/unit Adjutant.

#### **As the November Presidential Election draws near, what guidance can you provide to help voters?**

Although we are all very busy with work, family and our own personal interests, this year is a very important election year for the United States of America. The best guidance I can provide includes three simple steps:

#1: Register to vote. Either in the state in which you currently reside or, if you are active duty, register as an absentee voter so your vote can count in your home of record state. Visit [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov) for assistance with registering.

#2: Think about how the current Federal Government supports you, your family and your community. Many people don't realize all of the services provided through the Federal Government to include Social Security, Medicare, U.S. Military, FEMA, U.S. Postal Service, Department of Transportation, Small Business Administration, Federal Aviation Administration, FBI, CIA, and the list goes on and on. Visit [www.USA.gov](http://www.USA.gov) for a full list of these services.

#3: Learn about the presidential candidates through an objective source, if possible. I personally have reviewed several election websites and recommend visiting <http://2012.presidential-candidates.org/>. This site provides a full listing of candidates from every political party to include their own campaign websites and offers a comparison of their educational and professional experiences.

#### **Have you come across any information that is interesting to share with potential voters?**

Yes. Thomas Jefferson's poignant quote below may help some citizens who are currently apathetic about voting or feel that their vote will not make a difference.

**"All tyranny needs to gain a foothold is for people of good conscience to remain silent."**



# College and career fair educates station on future choices

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior Staff

Military friendly schools and employers gathered in the Sonoran Pueblo to give station residents a glimpse at their future Monday.

The college and career fair had 38 prospective employers and colleges, all looking for a few good men and women to transfer from the Corps' ranks to theirs.

The fair, open to all active duty personnel, dependents, station civilian personnel and retirees, was designed to allow participants to get some face time with representatives from the various colleges, trade schools and employers to get more information on the programs they offer.

"It gives Marines who are getting out a chance to see things they might not even know existed," said former Marine CJ Schneider, from Yavapai College's Guid-

ance Aviation program. "When I got out, I took a chance and packed up all of my things and came to Arizona. I'd never been here before, but someone had given me a card saying I could learn to fly helicopters. Twenty months later, I'm teaching other people to fly helicopters, and I can go anywhere in the country to do it."

The schools in attendance are all familiar with military tuition assistance benefits and the GI Bill, and all accommodate the needs of former military service members.

For more information about future career fairs, contact Richard Welch, Transition Assistance Program Manager, at 928-269-3159.

**Right: Marines discuss job and education prospects with representatives from different colleges and vocations during the College and Career fair, May 14. The event was a good way for Marines to weigh in post-Corps careers.**



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Diamant

## Station ARFF trains in setting up decontamination site

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



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**MCAS Yuma aircraft rescue and firefighting department firefighting specialists Lance Cpl. Dakota Richardson, left, a native of Newark, Penn., and Pfc. Timothy Simon, a native of a Vacaville, Calif., practice setting up and using a decontamination site during their annual training on the station flightline, May 10.**

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma aircraft rescue and firefighting department trained in setting up a mass decontamination site, May 10-11.

The training, part of ARFF personnel's annual training requirements, educated the firefighters on quickly and effectively constructing a decontamination site, which would aid in the event of a biological disaster or attack.

Representatives from Pennsylvania-based Buck's County Community College, who train Corps' firefighters, monitored the classes.

Staying up on their training, Marines and civilians learned the implications of hazardous material, how to dispose of it and react to it. They later applied the knowledge and constructed a site where they could treat people affected by contamination.

"It's refresher training and to help us brush up on skills for the classes," said Douglas Sanchez, an ARFF emergency medical technician.

In the event of contamination, ARFF personnel must assess who needs ambulatory assistance and who doesn't, creating the need for both improvisation and resourcefulness on the part of the responders.

"It can range anywhere from 15 to hundreds of people," said Danielle Stebner, one of the evaluators from Buck's County.

Like any annual training, the course ensured ARFF personnel are properly prepared for any incidents that come their way.

"They know how to properly set up a decontamination zone," said Stebner. "Moreover, there's a precedent they have to have proper training and resources to complete the tasks they need to do."

ARFF deals with accident reaction. The whole flightline and base is their domain should anything go wrong.

## REALISTIC URBAN TRAINING HEATS UP IN EL CENTRO

**Cpl. John Robbart III**  
15th MEU

NAVAL AIR STATION EL CENTRO, Calif. — More than 400 Marines and sailors with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit began conducting the ground portion of Realistic Urban Training, here, May 7.

The training aims to integrate the Command Element, and its Maritime Raid Force, with the Aviation Combat Element. It will be conducted in unfamiliar areas to better train the Marines in taking urban environments into consideration when con-

ducting missions.

"Realistic urban training allows the Marines and Sailors of the 15th MEU to exercise vital skill sets that better prepare them for what they face while forward deployed," said Col. Scott D. Campbell, commanding officer, 15th MEU. "Bringing together the entire Marine Air Ground Task Force in an exercise such as this one allows us to train our Maritime Raid Force, conduct shore-based command and control and provide our ACE with quality, realistic training," added Campbell.

The exercise will present unique challenges to prepare all elements of the MAGTF.

"This training is really important because the more practice we get, the more effective we will be," said Lance Cpl. Jacob K. Uhler, machine gunner, Security Element, Maritime Raid Force, 15th MEU. "We need to be a prepared for a variety of missions, and this is preparing us for a portion of the missions that could be conducted on land," added the 19-year-old native of Loomis, Calif.

Over the 11-day exercise, Uhler and his Marines will be conducting training such as fast-roping, covert and overt movement, patrols, tactical recovery of aircraft and personnel and vehicle and helicopter insertion.

The ACE will be providing UH-1Y and

AH-1Z helicopters to conduct close air support missions and CH-46Es for troop insertion for the Marines on the ground.

"This is a great opportunity for us to train the junior Marines by letting them practice their trade," said Cpl. Aaron W. Booth, UH-1Y door-gunner, Scarface Detachment, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364, 15th MEU. "The more flights we conduct, the more the helicopters need to be serviced. This training is invaluable."

The 15th MEU is comprised of approximately 2,300 Marines and sailors and are conducting this training to prepare for their deployment scheduled for this fall.



# Marine spouse and a Criminal of a teacher

## Sgt. Daniel Malta

Desert Warrior Staff

Teachers mold our youth and prepare them for their future, which is why it's important for their hard work to be noticed during this year's teacher appreciation week.

One of our very own Marine spouses who teaches at Yuma High School, home to the Criminals(mascot), Mrs. Shannon Mitchell, plays a large role in the local community teaching hundreds of kids each year.

Originally from Chicago, Mitchell began teaching in Yuma in 2008 where she currently teaches art and student council. Mitchell comes from a long line of teachers and attributes her passion for teaching to them.

"There are lots of teachers in my family, my mom, three aunts, my grandpa and my great grandma," said Mitchell. "It has always been something I have been familiar with. When I was younger, after school I would help my mom grade papers and set up her classroom."

She may be familiar with education, but it's her values which set her apart from an everyday teacher.

"Being a teacher means guiding students to a better education and further more to a more fulfilling life," said Mitchell. "It's being a mentor and a friend all at the same time."

Also being a Marine spouse, Mitchell is accustomed to working through tough situations. For her, keeping one foot forward is the best way to get through any difficulty that comes with being a Marine spouse.

"It has not been an easy one, but it is doable," said Mitch-



Courtesy photo

ell. "Being a teacher keeps me very busy, but I like to stay busy, because it helps me deal with detachments or deployments, which are very frequent."

Mitchell currently mentors and teaches more than 180 students, and the students couldn't be happier to have a teacher who cares.

"I call her aunt Shannon," said Rachel Pallack, student council member. "She knows my interests and, as a student council advisor, she is everywhere all the time. It's really nice to know she cares."

With the job market becoming more and more difficult to enter and with nearly 1 million students not graduating a year according to National Public Radio news, teachers who can retain children through graduation are a commodity.

"If you know your teacher is interested in your life, it helps you learn," said Mitchell. "Because of that interest, you know they care, and it makes you want to meet their expectations."

Regardless of how tough being a teacher must be, Mitchell thinks it's what you know and how you adapt to the situation that can make all the difference.

"The most difficult part of being a teacher is adapting to the large variety of personalities and behaviors," said Mitchell. "All the classrooms have such different dynamics and needs. Each student requires different needs that need to be addressed separately from the overall classroom needs."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor, there are approximately 7.2 million teachers in the United States tasked with educating the children of America, and Mitchell stressed how important it is to have a teacher appreciation week each year.

"I think it is important because teaching can be a very thankless job," said Mitchell. "We spend a large portion of a students' time with them, so it's teachers that really try to mentor and mold the student to function in society."

Without these men and women, who knows what would become of this great nation, which is why since 1984 the National Parent Teacher Association has designated the first full week in May as PTA Teacher Appreciation Week.

Whether it be watching her students place in an art fair, seeing them take control of planning events for student council or seeing how they grow into young, accomplished adults and leaders, Mitchell can't stress enough how much she cares for her students.

# Officers' Spouses' Club donates \$3,000 in scholarships to military families

## Jenny Kuckuk

Officer's Spouses' Club Advisor

The Officers' Spouses' Club of MCAS Yuma held their Scholarship and Philanthropy Awards Banquet on May 8, 2012. They awarded three \$1,000 scholarships to military family members: one each to high school seniors Amanda McShane and Sophia Cole, and one to continuing education family member, Julia Mueller. The Yuma YMCA was the recipient of the Military Family Initiative Award of \$1000. The Philanthropy Award Recipients were: Yuma Food Bank, who received \$1000; MCAS Yuma Library, who received \$500 in children's books; the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (T.A.P.S.), who received \$500; and the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, who received \$1,000 in Commissary gift cards.

One of the largest projects the Officers' Spouses' Club (OSC) takes on every year is the Holiday Basket program. With the decline in the economy and the price of food soaring, putting a holiday meal on the table has become increasingly hard for our Marines and Sailors. With the help of the station sergeant major who contacts families and organizes delivery, and with the money raised locally during their fundraisers, OSC is able to donate baskets of food and commissary gift cards to these families in their time of need. Over the years, the number has steadily increased so it has become vital that OSC raise enough money to support between 200 to 400 Marine and Sailor families aboard MCAS Yuma. This year, the OSC was able to give away \$5575.00 in gift cards for the Holiday Basket program.



Photo by Jenny Kuckuk

From left to right: Col. Robert Kuckuk, MCAS Yuma Commanding Officer; Sophia Cole, Amanda McShane, Julia Mueller (Educational Scholarship recipients); Kristen Armbruster, librarian; Elizabeth O'Rourke and Mike Ivers, Yuma Community Food Bank; Chris Wheeler, Yuma YMCA; Lora O'Hara, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society and Amy Jacobs, OSC President.

The OSC of MCAS Yuma is a non-profit club comprised of spouses of active duty and retired officers as well as the spouses of reserve, widowed, POWs and MIA officers residing in the Yuma area. The OSC's purpose is to promote good will, friendship, and cultural opportunity among families of officers stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. In addition, they raise funds for the further advancement of activities benefitting ALL military

personnel and family members including Holiday Baskets, Educational Scholarships, and various Charitable Donations to other organizations who support military families. The total money raised and given away for the 2011-2012 year was just under \$13,000.

For more information on the Officers' Spouses' Club of MCAS Yuma, please see their website at [www.yumaosc.org](http://www.yumaosc.org) <<http://www.yumaosc.org>>.



# Full Ads



# Progress Continues Toward NATO Missile Defense System

**Donna Miles**

American Forces Press Service

STUTT GART, Germany, May 15, 2012 – The United States will announce at next week’s NATO summit in Chicago that the new missile defense system in Europe has reached interim operational capability, the alliance’s supreme allied commander for Europe said.

“We will announce the interim operational capability of that system, which will begin to protect our European partners from the threat of ballistic missiles,” Navy Adm. James G. Stavridis said during an interview with the Pentagon Channel and American Forces Press Service. Stavridis also commands U.S. European Command.

That system -- the first phase of the European Phased Adaptive Approach Missile Defense System that President Barack Obama proposed in 2009 -- will integrate with the NATO command-and-control system to begin standing up the NATO missile defense system, he said.

The first phase, now completed, relies on existing missile defense systems to address short- and medium-range ballistic missile threats. Upcoming phases will introduce increasingly capable interceptors and missile defense command-and-control system upgrades.

Phase 1 consists of Aegis ships with ballistic missile defense capabilities and a command-and-control system in Ramstein, Germany.

USS Monterey, followed shortly by USS The Sullivans, last year became the first ships to rotate to the Mediterranean Sea in support of the initiative. Stavridis told Congress in March he considers these ships “the backbone of missile defense” with the added benefit of being able to support anti-submarine, anti-air and anti-surface operations.

Also as part of Phase 1, Turkey agreed to host a land-based early warning radar system in Kurecik, in the southeastern Malatya province. That, in turn, will be combined with the

NATO command-and-control system, Stavridis said.

“Those three elements come together to provide us with an initial capability to provide some level of defense of Europe against a threat emanating from the Middle East,” Navy Rear Adm. Mark



DoD photo by Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Katherine Noll

**A tugboat helps the guided-missile cruiser USS Monterey toward the pier Nov. 1, 2011, as the ship returns from an eight-month deployment to the Mediterranean Sea, where it visited 16 ports as the initial platform for ballistic missile defense of Europe.**

Montgomery, Eucom’s deputy director for plans, policy and strategy, told American Forces Press Service. “That was our most significant ballistic missile defense achievement in 2011.”

Meanwhile, “we are working hard on the Phase 2, 3 and 4 elements” of the plan, Stavridis told the Senate and House armed services committees in March. That includes negotiating agreements with partner countries, particularly Romania and Poland, regarding stationing of the Aegis ballistic missile defense system

that will extend the missile shield during Phase 2 of the plan.

Montgomery also reported progress toward developing an AEGIS Ashore land-based interceptor system in Deveselu, Romania, to be completed by 2015. This is a critical element of the Phase 2 rollout, which Romania agreed late last year to host.

Meanwhile, Eucom is working closely with the Polish defense ministry to implement the U.S.-Poland ballistic missile defense agreement in support of important Phase 3 capabilities, Stavridis reported.

“We’ll upgrade the missiles at that point, and we’ll upgrade the command-and-control” with more and increasingly sophisticated overhead sensors, he told Congress. “And then the next step will be 2018, when we’ll add another set of ground interceptors in Poland.”

The final phase of the plan, slated for completion by 2020, will deploy more advanced interceptors designed to counter not only medium and intermediate range missiles, but also potential future intercontinental ballistic missile threats to the United States from the Middle East.

“It is a progression,” Stavridis said of the system. “It is adaptive to the threat, in that we can plug in at any step along the way to continue to improve it, to pace the threat that we see.”

In announcing the missile defense plan three years ago, Obama promised “stronger, smarter and swifter defenses of American forces and America’s allies.”

“It is more comprehensive than the previous program,” he said of the plan. “It deploys capabilities that are proven and cost effective. And it sustains and builds upon our commitment to protect the U.S. homeland against long-range ballistic missile threats, and it ensures and enhances the protection of all our NATO allies.”

**For full story, visit**  
**Yuma.usmc.mil**



# Marines foster relations with local students



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

Local students from Palmcroft Elementary School, Otondo Elementary School, South West Christian Elementary School toured the air station as part of a community-building event hosted by various units on base. Students got to mingle with military dog handlers, F-5 Tiger II pilots as well as Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting Marines. The kids were torn as to which event they enjoyed the most. "I laughed so hard when that guy fell I almost cried," said Alex, a Palmcroft student, after watching one of the military working dogs take down an aggressor during the K-9 demonstration.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

## 1/2 Ads



# Tactical Small-Unit Leadership Course empowers junior Marines

**Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston**  
2nd Marine Division

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — More than 45 Marines with 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, participated in a Tactical Small-Unit Leadership Course May 2-18.

The main focus of the event was to take potential fire team leaders out of their comfort zone and into simulated combat situations where decisions normally made by others were now up to them.

“Right now, these are the guys that were the new Marines last year before our deployment, so they’ve pretty much been living in the shadows of their leaders up to this point,” Sgt. Taylor L. Limes, from Crestview, Fla., 2nd Bn., 2nd Marines, TSULC squad mentor, said. “This is our chance to pull these guys and mentor them before they’re filling in the positions of outbound Marines. We’re building their confidence so they’re ready to step up and take charge.”

The unit returned from a deployment as a Battalion Landing Team with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit in February and is in the process of a personnel rotation. The majority of Marines currently holding billets as fire team leaders are either transitioning out of the Corps or the unit, 1st Lt. Stephen T. Desmond, a Scituate, Mass., native and officer in charge of the battalion’s TSULC.

“For the past two years, a lot of these guys have spent their time as riflemen,” Desmond said. “The biggest jump in anybody’s career, when you are a Marine, is when you transition from follower to leader. So, we’re trying to teach that over a two-and-a half-week period.”

The training operation was broken up into five phases where prospective fire team leaders participated in the implementation of various weapons systems, tactical movements, communications and land navigation. The exercises were geared toward critical thinking, putting Marines in position to call the shots.

“Since day one of (the School of Infantry) and up to the end of this last deployment, they we’re all riflemen, so they we’re focused on individual actions,” Limes said. “Their main focus then was, ‘what can I do to support my team?’ We’re here to rebuild their muscle memory and build them as a team leader and let them know their primary weapon is their team.”

Squad mentors and primary instructors coached fire team leaders as they maneuvered their teams through trenches and over berms in simulated assaults.

“There (are) two simulated enemy machine gun bunkers as well as fire team-sized elements that will pop up,” Desmond explained, as he pointed toward the range. “They could get caught with their pants down. It’s all about decision making, decision making, decision making.”

“We’re trying to evaluate and enforce making a decision because a Marine who can’t make a decision or shies away, ultimately is never going to be successful as a fire team leader – not everyone will get a slot or make the cut,” he later added.

The TSULC is one of the battalion’s first major training events since returning with the 22nd MEU and just a small

step in their overall training matrix. With a potential 2013 deployment to Afghanistan, Limes said now is the time for the Marines to find their weaknesses and prove they have what it takes to lead.

“While you’re in training, go ahead and step up, make the mistakes so that you can build from it,” Limes said. “If you’re going to be the guy (who’s) always sitting back on the sidelines not making those mistakes, you’re not going to grow as a leader. The more mistakes you make here, the fewer mistakes you’re going to make in country.”

According to Desmond, the TSULC gave the battalion an opportunity to mold its future leaders and maintain its standards of excellence. He believes the course has better prepared Marines to make tactical decisions under pressure and lead others with confidence.

“Small unit leaders have to make split-second decisions,” Desmond said. “In training, a split-second decision can mean pass or fail. On the battlefield, a split-second decision can mean life or death. We’re going to force them to make tough decisions here so they won’t make the wrong decisions over there.”

**Bethel, Conn., native Lance Cpl. Stephen A. Fike, a rifleman with Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, aims downrange during a simulated machine gun bunker assault May 10. The simulated assault was part of a two-and-a-half-week Tactical Small Unit Leadership Course prospective fire team leaders from the battalion participated in the implementation of various weapons systems, tactical movements, communications and land navigation.**



Photo by Cpl. Andrew D. Johnston

1/2 Ads



# Obama Welcomes New Stage of Afghan Security Transition

**American Forces**  
Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 13, 2012 – President Barack Obama welcomed Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai’s announcement of his government’s list of areas intended for the third stage of the transition of security responsibility from NATO’s International Security Assistance Force to Afghan security forces.

“I welcome President Karzai’s announcement today of the third tranche of areas to transition to Afghan security lead, which is an important step forward in our effort to achieve our objectives in Afghanistan,” Obama said in a statement issued today.

“As transition proceeds in these areas,” Obama said, “nearly 75 percent of the population of Afghanistan will be living in provinces, districts and villages where Afghan forces are leading.”

The Afghan government will now enter the third of five tranches or stages, as they continue to move forward in the process of taking the responsibility of national security, ISAF officials said in a news release issued today.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan’s national security forces “are strengthening their capacity as we remain on track to meet our goal of having the Afghan government fully responsible for security across the country by the end of 2014,” Obama said in his statement.

A week from now, Obama said, world leaders will gather at the May 20-21 NATO Summit in Chicago “to discuss how we can effectively advance the transition process as our forces move from combat to a support role and demonstrate our enduring support for the Afghan government and Afghan National Security Forces.”

Obama said he “looks forward to meeting with President Karzai and my fellow leaders in Chicago to discuss these critical steps that will strengthen Afghan sovereignty while responsibly winding down the war.”



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jenny Lui

U.S. Army Pfc. Jeffery Penning and an Afghan security guard pull security during a roving patrol on Observation Post Mustang in Afghanistan's Kunar province, May 3, 2012. Penning is assigned to the 4th Infantry Division's Company C, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. U.S. troops are slated to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014, with the transition from U.S.-led to Afghan-led security forces already being undertaken.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Top:** Petty Officer 1st Class Angelo Catindig, left, and Petty Officer 2nd Class Benjamin Reyes, both corpsmen with Marine Attack Squadron 513, watch as Abdulhazaik, an Afghan police officer, administers a shot at the joint regional Afghan center at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 14, 2011. The corpsmen's efforts are part of the hundreds of actions meant to culminate in a more autonomous Afghan force to protect their country after US are expected to withdraw in 2014.

**Bottom:** Cpl. Frankie Collins, a Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 40 airframes mechanic and a native of Park Falls, Idaho, signals a truck to stop to be searched at one of the entry control points in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 29, 2011. US forces are slated to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014, whereupon Afghan forces will take over the bulk of security.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Photo by Petty Officer First Class James G. Pinsky

**Top:** Afghanistan Pakistan Border Station at Torkhem, Afghanistan - Lance Cpl. France Mahabub, a rifleman with 1st Batt., 3rd Marine Division, helps set security for police investigators at the site of an explosion close to the Afghanistan-Pakistan border control station at Torkhem, Afghanistan, March 25, 2006. U.S. Marines from Forward Operating Base Torkhem provide security for international police advisors in Afghanistan who are training Afghanistan Border Police. U.S. troops are slated to withdraw from Afghanistan in 2014, with future US presence yet to be fully determined.

**Bottom:** NEW YORK -- Afghanistan Army Major General Sayed Malouk, 215 Corps commander, (left) and Afghanistan National Police Major General Mullah Khil, 707 AUP Regional Headquarters deputy commander, view the National September 11 Memorial, Dec. 9, 2011. The trip, including three more officers with the ANA and ANP, is designed to provide more knowledge to these top Afghanistan commanders to further develop Afghanistan's ability to independently secure their country as U.S. forces draw down.



Photo by Cpl. Caleb Gomez



# Full Ads



# NO MORE PHISHING SCAMS

**David Ager**

Post Office Clerk in Charge

## Examples of Phishing Messages

You open an email or text, and see a message like this:

“We suspect an unauthorized transaction on your account. To ensure that your account is not compromised, please click the link below and confirm your identity.”

“During our regular verification of accounts, we couldn’t verify your information. Please click here to update and verify your information.”

“Our records indicate that your account was overcharged. You must call us within 7 days to receive your refund.”

The senders are phishing for your information so they can use it to commit fraud.

## How to Deal with Phishing Scams

- Delete email and text messages that ask you to confirm or provide personal information (credit card and bank account numbers, Social Security numbers, passwords, etc.). Legitimate companies don’t ask for this information via email or text.

- The messages may appear to be from organizations you do business with – banks, for example. They might threaten to close your account or take other action if you don’t respond.

- Don’t reply, and don’t click on links or call phone numbers provided in the message, either. These messages direct you to spoof sites – sites that look real but whose purpose is to steal your information so a scammer can run up bills or commit crimes in your name.

- Area codes can mislead, too. Some scammers ask you to call a phone number to update your account or access a “refund.” But a local area code doesn’t guarantee that the caller is local.

- If you’re concerned about your account or need to reach an organization you do business with, call the number on your financial statements or on the back of your credit card.

## Action Steps

You can take steps to avoid a phishing attack:

- Use trusted security software and set it to update automatically. In addition, use these computer security practices.

- Don’t email personal or financial information. Email is not a secure method of transmitting personal information.

- Only provide personal or financial information through an organization’s website if you typed in the web address yourself and you see signals that the site is secure, like a URL that begins https (the “s” stands for secure). Unfortunately, no indicator is foolproof; some phishers have forged security icons.

- Review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges. If your statement is late by more than a couple of days, call to confirm your billing address and account balances.

- Be cautious about opening attachments and downloading files from emails, regardless of who sent them. These files can contain viruses or other malware that can weaken your computer’s security.

## VET NEWS

### Veteran Burial Benefits

va.gov

#### Burial Benefits

The VA does not make funeral arrangements or perform cremations. Families should make these arrangements with a funeral provider or cremation office. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the families expense.

#### Burial in a National Cemetery

Burial benefits available include a gravesite in any of our 131 national cemeteries with available space, opening and closing of the grave, perpetual care, a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate, at no cost to the family. Some Veterans may also be eligible for Burial Allowances. Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the Veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependents name and date of birth and death will be inscribed on the Veteran’s headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried, even if they predecease the Veteran.

#### Preparing in Advance

Gravesites in Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) national cemeteries cannot be reserved in advance.

You should advise your family of your wishes and where your discharge papers\* are kept. These papers are very important in establishing your eligibility. You may wish to make pre-need arrangements with a funeral home.

At the time of need, your family would contact a funeral home who will assist them with making burial arrangements at the national cemetery.

To schedule a burial: Fax all discharge documentation to the National Cemetery Scheduling Office at 1-866-900-6417 and follow-up with a phone call to 1-800-535-1117.

## MARINE CORPS COMMUNITY SERVICES



### OASIS POOL GRAND OPENING

**WHEN:** FRI, MAY 18, 12PM – 8PM

**WHERE:** OASIS POOL, MCAS YUMA

OASIS POOL WILL OFFICIALLY OPEN FOR THE SEASON WITH A

RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY. FREE FOOD WILL BE PROVIDED

FOR THE FIRST HOUR. FREE ADMISSION ALL WEEKEND.

COME

ENJOY THE NEW SLIDES AND SPLASH PAD.

### EXTREME COUPONING

**WHEN:** WED, MAY 23, 6PM – 8PM

**WHERE:** BUILDING 598

LEARN TIPS AND TRICKS ON HOW TO COUPON! YOU CAN SAVE BIG ON EVERYDAY PRODUCTS! 269-5615. PLEASE MENTION YOU SAW IT ON THE MCCS EVENTS CALENDAR.

### SMP WEEKLY TOURNAMENT

**WHEN:** THU, MAY 17, 6PM – 8PM

**WHERE:** SMP REC CENTER, MCAS YUMA

STARTING AT 1800 EVERY TUESDAY AND THURSDAY, COME JOIN US FOR TOURNAMENTS!

TOURNAMENTS INCLUDE: XBOX, WII, PS3, TEXAS HOLD ‘EM, PING PONG

& POOL. TODAY: PING PONG.



# Full Ads



# Remembering the Bataan Death March, a Pacific Legacy

**Story by Richard A. Long**

[www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov)

At dawn, 9 April 1942, Major General Edward P. King, Jr., commanding Luzon Force, Bataan, Philippine Islands, surrendered more than 75,000 starving and disease-ridden American soldiers, sailors, and Marines, and their Filipino allies, to overwhelming Japanese forces.

He inquired of the Japanese colonel to whom he tendered his pistol in lieu of his lost sword whether the Americans and Filipinos would be well treated. The Japanese aide-de-camp indignantly replied: "We are not barbarians." The forthcoming seven to 14 days would prove just how barbaric and uncivilized this enemy could be!

The majority of the prisoners of war were immediately subjected to robbery of their most trivial keepsakes and belongings, to personal indignities to their bodies, and subsequently to a grueling 90-mile enforced march in deep dust, over vehicle-broken macadam roads, and crammed into sub-standard rail cars to captivity in the now infamous Camp O'Donnell.

Thousands died enroute from disease, starvation, thirst, heat prostration, untreated wounds, and wanton execution. Additional thousands died in this and in equally disreputable prison camps, the direct result of maltreatment on the Death March.

There were relatively few Marines on the march, when compared with other members of the American service. Marine Staff Sergeant Thomas R. Hicks, a field clerk in the 4th Ma-

rines, kept a "Record of Events" from 8 December 1941 to 2 May 1942 on Corregidor. It was apparently shipped off the island on the following day on the submarine Spearfish and arrived at Headquarters Marine Corps in Washington on 13 August 1942.

When Bataan fell to the enemy on 9 April 1942, Staff Sergeant Hicks enumerated six officers and 71 enlisted personnel (including Navy medical) as presumed prisoners of war. An additional Marine from an antiaircraft unit had contracted polio and was left at Bataan's Hospital No. 2.

The majority of captured Marines belonged to two organizations, the USAFFE-USFIP (finally Luzon Force) guard detachment and the Marine Air Warning Unit (an SCR-270B mobile, long-range radar unit). The first was composed of 43 enlisted Marines and two officers. The latter also had two officers and 28 communications personnel. Nearly all made the Death March.

Former Lieutenant Michiel Dobervich considers himself among the more fortunate of the prisoners. For reasons unknown to him, he was selected to drive a GMC truck loaded with sugar to Camp O'Donnell.

En route, Dobervich was witness to the initial looting, face slapping, beating, and bayoneting of American and Filipino captives. Guarded by a Japanese captain and a soldier with a bayonet at his back, he was helpless in the rage that welled in him. At Balanga, he saw an Army brigadier general and other senior staff officers run through a gauntlet of enemy privates, slapped and beaten as they were robbed of



Courtesy photo

**At dawn, 9 April 1942, Major General Edward P. King, Jr., commanding Luzon Force, Bataan, Philippine Islands, surrendered more than 75,000 starving and disease-ridden American soldiers, sailors, and Marines, and their Filipino allies, to overwhelming Japanese forces. What followed, the Bataan Death March, would go down in history as one of the bloodiest events in the Pacific theater during World War II.**

their possessions. At the same time, Dobervich lost 500 Philippines pesos, his wrist watch, two fountain pens, and \$40 in U.S. currency. A friend from USAFFE's motor pool and four others were beheaded when a Japanese found occupation money on their persons.

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

## 1/2 Ads



# Papa San

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**

Desert Warrior Staff

I love rice bowls; in fact, I might even have a slightly unhealthy obsession with them.

When I first came to Yuma three years ago, I was depressed to see a total lack of Asian food places, but with a little bit of looking and recon work, I found a few.

I had been told that Papa San was a good place to get a rice bowl and was guaranteed by a civilian colleague that I would run into someone I knew there, because she always did.

My wife and I went there for lunch one weekend, and let's just say it was a less than pleasurable experience.

I honestly can't tell what the food tastes like, because after standing in front of the register for nearly ten minutes being completely and utterly ignored by the employees, with a ever growing line behind us, we finally gave up and left.

I did see the food that was coming out of the kitchen, and it wasn't the most appetizing food I've ever seen. Again, I can't comment on the taste of it, but the customer service was so atrocious, I can't imagine the food quality being much better.

Somehow, this place is still popular. I pretty much vowed that day to never return, but we'll see if I go back or not. I've gone three years in Yuma without a decent rice bowl, I imagine I can last until my eventual change of duty station, and can only hope I go somewhere with a little more culinary variety.

We were both still hungry, so we went to Taco Bell to try the taco with the Doritos shell, which tasted like complete disappointment. It's overrated, it tastes just like a normal taco, don't buy one.



Courtesy photo by papa-san.com

# Book Review: *The Child Buyer*

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**

Desert Warrior Staff

*"There is real danger in the acceptance of the word of an authority without questioning it, because the acceptance may blind us to proof of a more accurate statement."*

-Barry Rudd

I recommend this book not only for the unique way it's written—the story is told through only court transcripts—but also for the ideas presented Hersey presents us.

The plot concerns Barry Rudd, a pragmatic, ingenious student, and his fight against the charismatic Mr. Jones, who wants Barry for a defense contract that involves turning young men and women into organic thinking machines, able to process and predict information used for the country's security.

Characters such as Barry's family and teachers and the townspeople are introduced, brilliantly fleshed out through nothing but dialogue, to give their two cents on how they feel about the boy's fate.

Like a nightmarish hybrid of Orwell's *1984* and Goethe's *Faust*, Hersey paints a depressing picture of humanity, a collection of individuals entirely susceptible to selling or modifying their intellectualism and freedoms for a vaguely defined greater good. Characters with rebellious, gritty background quickly fall prey to Mr. Jones's methods, which usually are no more than hefty monetary sums, to sway them to his side.

Hersey, who won numerous awards and accolades for his journalistic work on the bombing to Hiroshima, calls for readers to question how far they would be willing to go for their patriotism, especially if it meant sacrificing someone one else. The question is answered at the end of the book in one of the most troubling conclusions I've ever read.

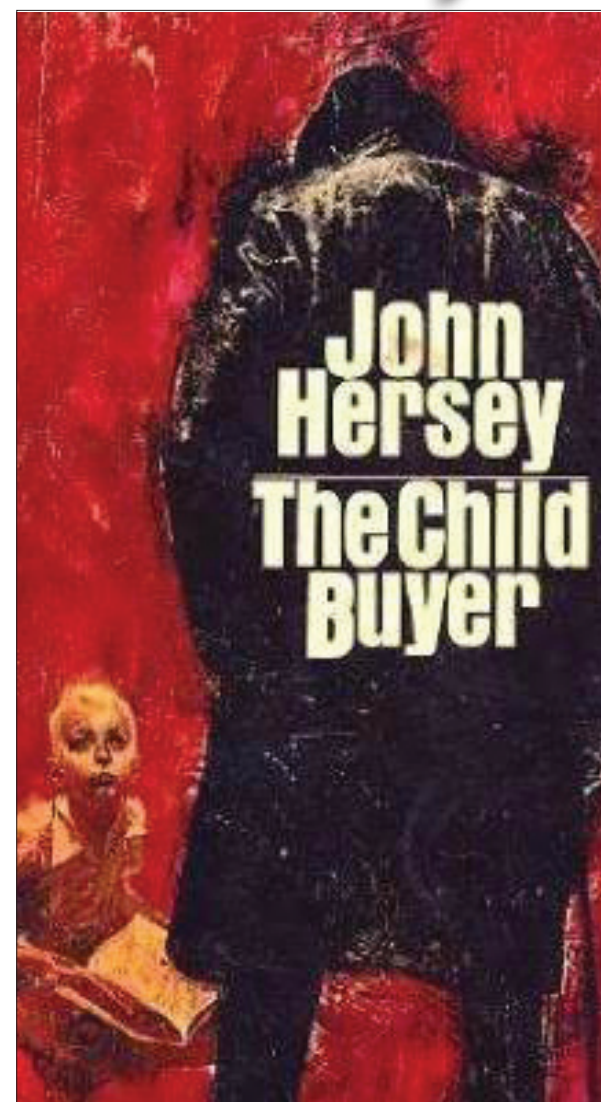


Photo courtesy of amazon.com

# Opinion: Let one down, let all down

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**

Desert Warrior Staff

Everybody has their job, and from time to time everyone fails to accomplish their job. What separates the men and women who fail is the integrity to own up to the mistake, which is easily the most difficult part of any job.

When it comes down to it, that brief moment of uncertainty before deciding on whether or not to own up is so stressful that sweeping the problem under the rug for a later date is usually the more enticing decision.

The problem is it always resurfaces and by that time has grown into a huge uncontrollable lie that is going to get you in trouble or possibly fired.

This may be reason enough to do the right thing but all in all is a selfish reason. Why should the only motivating force behind doing the right thing be just, "I don't want to get in trouble"?

What kind of person doesn't think about everything else they affect by making a decision?

At work, there are people above and beneath you and almost always that relationship you share with those people is symbiotic. They need you just as much as you need them and everybody serves their purpose. When there's a break in the chain, everyone suffers in one way or another because the obligation between everyone has failed.

When something breaks or fails, that's usually not a good sign. It diminishes

not only the integrity of the individual but the collective or organization he falls under.

For example, if one Marine does something horrible while deployed and it goes viral, the rest of the Marine Corps is labeled for whatever was shown, which intern discredits the mission of the Corps and everything Marines stand for. The recent examples are clear examples of this, with the media and social backlash becoming a problem for commands everywhere.

By joining the Marine Corps, we became a part of something bigger, and the sooner we realize "No man is an island, entire of itself," the sooner we can really start to benefit each other.

Though, maybe your understanding of semantics isn't the issue, and you truly are a selfish person. Well that quote from John Donne can just as easily apply to you.

No one goes out of their way to help someone who consistently shows themselves to be selfish. Friendship, help, advice, and many other intangible goods that you might depend on one day will be completely out of reach because of that selfish lifestyle or thought process.

People are inherently good and regardless of whatever mistake you may have made, honesty will always be the prevailing trait next to failure.

It's important to remember this, even more important to note most people forget that. It starts with the individual to change who you are.



# When push comes to crunch: abdominal workout

by **ACE Fitness**

Abdominal training has developed a lot over the past 20 years. Straight legged sit ups and straight leg raises became bent knee sit ups, crunches and now to the abdominal and drawing exercises on fit balls.

**FIT BALLS** - Fit balls have been a useful training tool for abdominals and stabilisers when sitting on a fit ball. However, after you have worked out on the fit ball, you have to be able to get up and walk up and down stairs, squat to pick things up off the ground, run, jump and duck when needed, with control and stability. All of these actions have to be performed without the aid of a fit ball. Therefore wouldn't it be more



Photo courtesy of absculpting.com

beneficial to perform these actions without the aid of a fit ball? Abdominal exercises do not burn fat or reduce fat off our waist, they will have little, if any effect on building muscles, as the overload is far too low and number of repetitions performed are far too high, to stimulate any physiological adaptations resulting in an increase in strength and muscle.

**WHAT DO THE ABS DO** - The function of the abdominal muscle group, is to stabilise the pelvis and the lower back region and to protect the lower back from injury whilst doing daily and physical activities. Therefore, the most effective abdominal exercises are exercises that overload the abdominals while the body is doing full body functional movements. EG. Squats, deadlifts, lunges, pushups, chin ups and dips. These are all compound exercises. Every compound exercise you do while weight training is a very effective abdominal exercise. When these movements are overloaded with a weight, all the muscles responsible for the action are overloaded and strengthened accordingly, especially the abdominals. Also doing the above compound exercises put your body in a position where there is a need for the pelvis and lower back to be stabilised by the abdominals. The overload is high, effective and functional. Any abdominal work performed on the floor does not compare as there is no requirement for the pelvis and lower back to be stabilised as they are being supported by the floor.

**HOW TO GET FAT OFF MY ABS** - If you wish to burn fat off your stomach, then adapt your eating patterns accordingly and include some cardiovascular exercise to burn off extra calories. Fat is like petrol in a car. If you wish to burn it off, then get the car out of the garage, start the engine up and take the car driving. The further you drive the car, the more petrol you burn. Doing specific exercises for abdominal (eg. Crunches, sit ups. ), is like going up to the car when it is in the garage and opening and shutting the bonnet. It does not burn fuel, however it will wear out the hinges.

**IN CONCLUSION** - To achieve optimal fat loss off your abs, you must work on the engine (weight train) and take the car driving (cardiovascular training).

## 1/2 Ads