

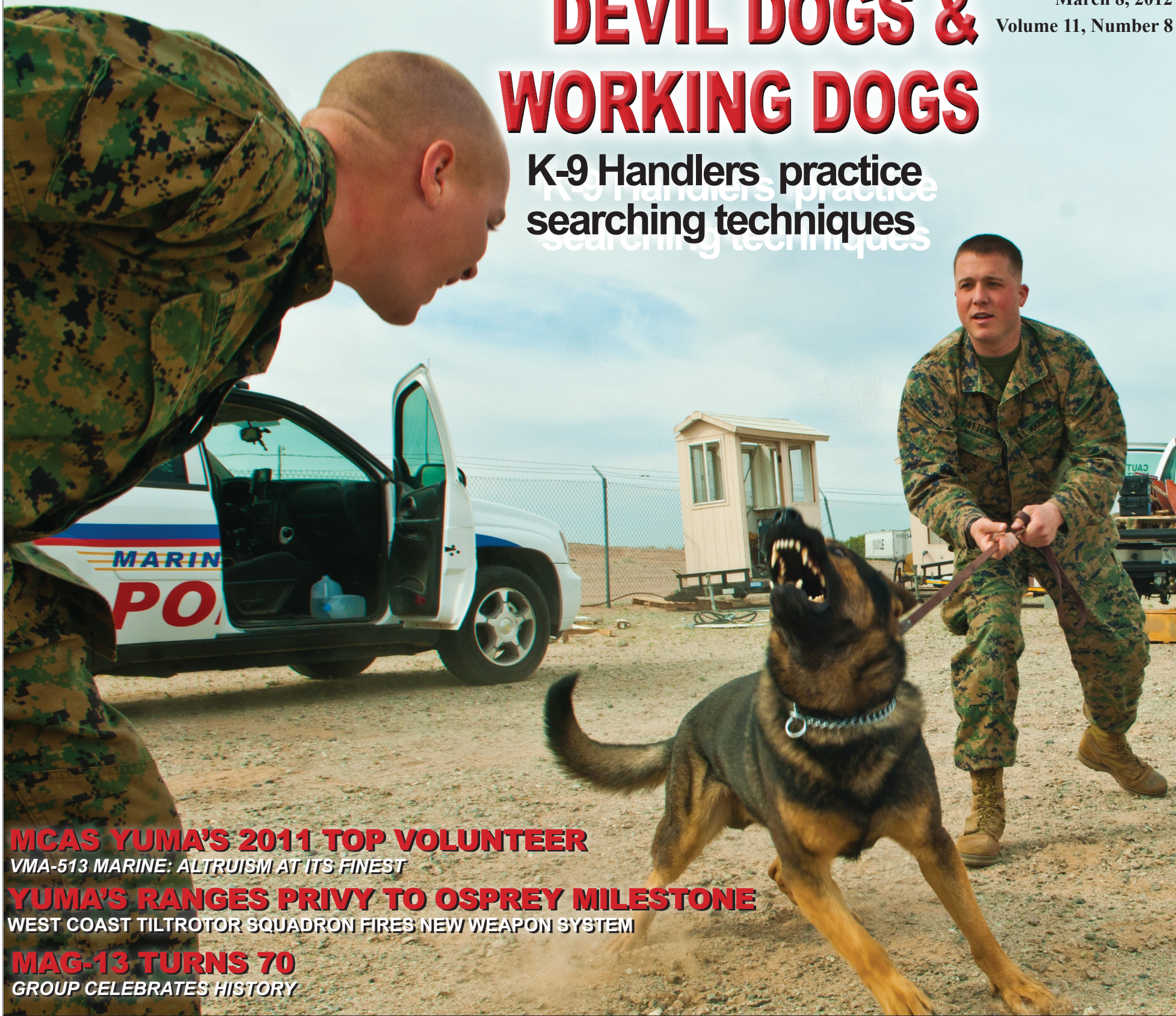
# Desert **WARRIOR**



## **DEVIL DOGS & WORKING DOGS**

March 8, 2012  
Volume 11, Number 8

**K-9 Handlers practice searching techniques**



**MCAS YUMA'S 2011 TOP VOLUNTEER**

VMA-513 MARINE: ALTRUISM AT ITS FINEST

**YUMA'S RANGES PRIVY TO OSPREY MILESTONE**

WEST COAST TILTROTOR SQUADRON FIRES NEW WEAPON SYSTEM

**MAG-13 TURNS 70**

GROUP CELEBRATES HISTORY



U.S. AIR FORCE  
*Thunderbirds*

*50th Annual*

## MCAS Yuma Airshow 2012

Visit us March 17 for the 50th MCAS Yuma Air Show

**yumaairshow.com**

*flyingshutters.com*





# PHOTO OF THE WEEK



**“But those Scooby Snacks looked so delicious I just couldn’t resist.”**

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.

# Desert WARRIOR

MCAS Yuma’s Official Newspaper

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Commanding Officer

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

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Combat Correspondent

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Combat Correspondent

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**Cpl. Laura Cardoso**  
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**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Layout & Design / Combat Correspondent

**Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Combat Correspondent

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# LAST WEEK’S TOP CAPTIONS



**Jessica Barney:**  
“You can learn the easy way... or you can learn the hard way.”

**Jose San Martin:**  
“Jeez, Jimmy! Wash up before dinner!”

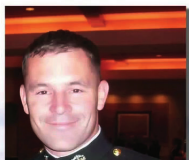
**Rachel McCoy:**  
“Showers MANDATORY...or you get the HOSE!”

# HOT VIDEOS OF THE WEEK



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aboxHRpCLdg>

Marine and Thai forces train to fight disaster.



1979-2012  
Rest In Peace

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Obh1mL7Q924>

Yuma Marines mourn loss of MAWTS-1 Marine: Maj. Nathan Anderson



Front Page Photo Credit

Cpl. Aaron Diamant





**Marine Wing Support Squadron 371**  
Helmand Province, Afghanistan

**Marine Attack Squadron 311**  
31st MEU



**Marine Attack Squadron 214**  
11th MEU

## News to Use

### VOTING MADE EASY

Remember, voting assistance representatives are available on station to provide help with registering to vote, submitting absentee ballots if voting outside of Arizona or while deployed. Contact the Installation Voting Officer, Capt. Staci Reidinger at (928)-269-3609, or visit [www.fvap.gov](http://www.fvap.gov) to get started today.

### U.S. MARINE CORPS SEASONAL UNIFORM CHANGE

MCIWest Installations will transition to summer season uniforms March 11. This means the Blue Dress A/B/D, Blue-White Dress A/B, Service A/C, and the Desert MARPAT with sleeves down.

### VOLUNTEER AT THIS YEARS 50TH ANNUAL MCAS YUMA AIRSHOW

The 2012 MCAS Yuma Airshow, scheduled for Sat, Mar. 17, is looking for military and civilian volunteers to assist with the air station and Yuma's largest public event of the year. For more details about volunteer opportunities or to find out how you can help, please visit [www.yumaairshow.com](http://www.yumaairshow.com) or call (928)-269-2275.

### STATION GYM AWAITING REPAIRS FOR HOT WATER OUTAGE

Hot water at the main gym is still not available but repairs are expected to be completed no later than Friday, March 16. Your patience is appreciated while station maintenance works to bring back these services.

### DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME CHANGE

Although Arizona does not observe changes in Daylight Savings Time, please remember that most of the U.S. will shift forward one hour as of 12 midnight on Sunday, March 11 also known as "Spring Forward." Keep this information in mind as you are making arrangements for travel, teleconferences and meetings outside Arizona.

### LEADERSHIP TIPS

Excellent Leaders Avoid the "Seven Deadly Sins" From "Developing the Leader Within You", John C. Maxwell

1. Trying to be liked rather than respected.
2. Not asking team members for advice and help.
3. Thwarting personal talent by emphasizing rules rather than skills.
4. Not keeping criticism constructive.
5. Not developing a sense of responsibility in team members.
6. Treating everyone the same way.
7. Failing to keep people informed.

### 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](http://www.yuma.usmc.mil).*

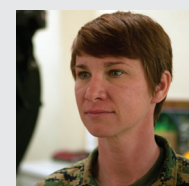


## Tailspotter



**Buttermilk**

She is a friendly 1-year-old Chihuahua mix who gets along well with her humane and canine companions. She is already spayed, vaccinated and micro-chipped. For more information about adopting, contact the Humane Society of Yuma at 928-782-1621.



## 5 Questions

for the Combat Camera Chief

**GySgt. Rhonda Mera**

### **How long has Combat Camera been around in the Corps?**

I cannot pinpoint the actual year that photographers, videographers, and illustrators were introduced into the Marine Corps, however I have found imagery that dates back to the 1940's during WWII. This specific skill set that Marines held was called Motion Picture Film. During my tenure in the Marine Corps, we have been called Training Audio Visual Support Center (TAVSC), Training Visual Information Support Center (TVISC), Combat Visual Information Center (CVIC) and finally, as we know it today, Combat Camera.

### **What is the mission of Combat Camera?**

There are COMCAM assets assigned to every element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF) at the GCE, ACE, MLG and SE (bases and stations). Marine Corps Combat Camera is organized and structured to provide commanders with photographic, video, digital, printed products and archival capabilities which directly support Marine Corps operations, enhancing decision-making processes and situational awareness. Marine Corps COMCAM acquires and exploits still and motion imagery in support of combat, information operations, humanitarian, special force, intelligence, reconnaissance, engineering, legal, public affairs, and other operations involving the Military Services.

### **How does COMCAM contribute to station operations?**

Combat Camera provides specific technical specialties for the development of products that enhance the ability to support the forward deployed commands, document historic events supporting command chronology, support training and develop better situational awareness through products and digital imagery.

### **Where do the products the Marines produce go to, and how do these help the Corps?**

A lot of the products created aboard the Air Station are used locally. Combat Camera supports WTI by reproducing a large scale of unclassified course curriculum; reproduce the Corporals and Lance Cpls Course text books assisting Marines to meet their PME requirement. Combat Camera also produces training videos such as Commander's Station Safety Intro, layout/design work supporting the dedication ceremony of the MAG 13 conference room and compositions of training evolutions for units aboard the station.

### **What are some misconceptions you would like to address in regards to COMCAM and how it operates?**

The biggest misconception is that people think that generally PAO and COMCAM are one in the same. How I like to break it down for most people to understand is: COMCAM supports the commanding officer by documenting and archiving operations and training while PAO supports the CO by covering events and operations for external release to inform the public.



# Osprey squadron trains on new defensive weapon system

**Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet**  
Desert Warrior

Marines from an Osprey squadron conducted the firing of a new weapon system for the MV-22 Osprey for the first time on a West Coast installation.

The Marines of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165, based out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, are practicing on the Interim Defensive Weapon System, also known as the IDWS, or "belly gun", because of its location on the aircraft. This training exercise occurred on Marine Corps Air Station Yuma's Chocolate Mountain Aerial Gunnery Range, March 2. The IDWS is soon to find its way to Osprey squadrons throughout the fleet.

"The unique piece of this weapon system is it gives the ability to fire in 360 degrees, and most hard-mounted weapon systems can't do that," said Gunnery Sgt. Ted Karp, the Assault Support Department, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 staff non-commissioned officer in charge and a native of Crawford, Colo.

The IDWS utilizes a .30-caliber mini-gun that fires 3,000 rounds per minute. It's designed for the engagement of personnel and lightly-armored targets, as it fires 7.62 mm ammunition.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Bill Waterstreet

**Gunnery Sgt. Ted Karp, Assault Support Department, Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron 1 staff non-commissioned officer in charge, and native of Crawford, Colo., assists Sgt. Michael Demars, a Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 165 MV-22 Osprey crew chief, and a native of St. Louis, in training on the Interim Defensive Weapon System, March 2.**

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

## VMA-513 Marine has most 2011 volunteer hours

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior

The station's Single Marine Program recently named the Marine who racked up the most volunteer hours in 2011.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Cpl. Shawn Rose, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 avionics technician and a Native of Freeport, N.Y., by way of San Ann, Jamaica, racked up 111 hours of volunteer hours in 2011. He is shown here in Afghanistan.**

Cpl. Shawn Rose, a Marine Attack Squadron 513 avionics technician and a Native of Freeport, N.Y., by way of San Ann, Jamaica, racked up 111 hours of his time to local community efforts.

"I enjoy volunteering because it helps build altruism and assists the local community as well as the Marine community," he said.

Rose began volunteering from the get-go, helping out in

youth development programs in Jamaica and doing the same when he arrived in New York in 2006.

It would be there he learned about the Marine Corps.

"I heard about the Marines through advertisements, and came to be greeted by Marine recruiters who gave more information on what the Marines were," Rose said.

Being in the Marines only encourages Rose to lend a helping hand.

"It helps develop a sense of pride and leadership," he said. "One of the key leadership elements is setting an example for others to assist the local community."

Rose has volunteered at Yuma organizations such as Helping Hands, Crossroads Mission and the Humane Society. He still managed to accumulate the most hours despite a six-month deployment to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Even there, he stepped outside his comfort zone and volunteered to handle security detail at the base's entry control points.

"He is one stellar human being," said Jude Crouch, SMP coordinator. "He doesn't do it for the recognition. He does it because he has a philanthropic nature."

"It's nice to know there are people that good out there," she added.

In volunteering, Rose said helping others is helping him achieve one of his goals.

"I joined the Marine Corps to seek self-improvement," he said.

Rose is currently slated to head to Marine Security Guard School in Quantico, Va., where he will volunteer in a different way "in providing international security for our American interests."

## Local musician teaches children the power of music during art fest

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**  
Desert Warrior

This week the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma Youth Center had a digital arts festival where people from every branch of digital media came to teach and inspire kids about photography, graphic design, movies and video games.

One of the speakers, Shirley Beyer, training officer at Human Resources on station, talked to the children about her music career spanning more than two decades.

After she received her guitar at the age of 12, Beyer became fascinated with the instrument and taught herself to play. Also writing poetry, Beyer eventually started singing the songs she wrote.

At the age of 20, she was finally heard by someone from Soft Rain Music and was asked to record several of her own songs.

"Next thing I knew I was in a professional recording studio," said Beyer. "Since then I have wrote 200 songs."

Beyer then moved to Okinawa with her now ex-husband, where she played with many bands across the island. For years she toured every base on island going from band to band.

"The first band I was in they wanted me to sing but not play the guitar, so I was stuck playing the tambourine," said Beyer. "The bands after that I played the guitar and many club managers said I was the first woman they'd seen playing guitar in the bands touring the island."

After getting back to the states, Beyer won a talent contest here in Yuma with music that she had written herself.

"That's when things started getting crazy," said Beyer. "From there we were asked to start opening for big bands such as Tanya Tucker and Garth Brooks."

The name of her band was Crystal Rose, which she again wrote most of the music for though she



eventually went solo after her band broke up.

As a solo artist she was offered a recording contract but declined so her 12 year old daughter could have a more stable life.

After a number of years playing at small venues, Beyer was contacted by her friend Patti Bourelle the owner of 2 Girls and a Hammer. Bourelle commissioned her to write jingles for her business. 2 Girls and a Hammer currently have two commercials that play locally that Beyer has wrote and sang in.

Sharing her music career with the children, she hoped to help them understand the industry a little as well as inspire them to never give up on their dreams.

The Youth Center on station hopes to have this event annually to help these children attain those hopes and dreams.



# K-9 section uses daily training to maintain excellence

**Cpl. Aaron Diamant**  
Desert Warrior

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”-Aristotle

The station military working dog section is comprised of Marines, both two- and four-legged, who work hard to maintain excellence in their duty to keep the air station safe.

Daily training keeps both the Marines and the dogs' skills sharp, maintaining standards for detection of contraband items such as explosives and narcotics, as well as aggression work and searching for and apprehending suspects.

To practice searching for contraband items, the trainer sets up training aids in various scenarios to test both the canine's nose and the handler's ability to guide the search and pick up on the cues the dog gives them.

In addition to training scenarios, the teams randomly show up to the front gate, allowing the dogs to pick up on contraband people may be attempting to smuggle aboard the station.

It's been a while since any of the station teams have deployed to a combat zone, but they do support the U.S. Secret Service in addition to local law enforcement agencies when needed.



Photos by Cpl. Aaron Diamant



The section also conducts demonstrations, showcasing the amazing capabilities of their dogs for awe-struck audiences.

While they do show some of the basic obedience and detection skills of the dogs, several spectators agree the aggression and apprehension demonstrations, showing a roughly 65 pound dog tackle a Marine in a bite-suit, are the real crowd-pleasers.

But for all the show and go, the canines and their handlers perform hours upon hours of training to first get the animal to the point it can perform its duties, then be able to perform for the crowds.

While the crew does enjoy showing off their skills, they know their job comes first.

They train, so that if and when the need arises, they can literally, “Cry ‘havoc!’ and let slip the dogs of war.”

# Marines master craft, fuel Marine Attack Squadron 311

**Pfc. Codey Underwood**  
Okinawa Marine Staff

IE SHIMA, OKINAWA, Japan — As the AV-8B Harrier jets hovered over the airfield, Marines prepared to quickly



Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood

IE SHIMA, OKINAWA, Japan A AV-8B Harrier jet hovers over the airfield during a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28. The Harriers, part of Marine Attack Squadron 311, from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., are currently assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, through the Marine Corps' unit deployment program.

and efficiently carry out the task in front of them. Pumping more than 130 gallons per minute, the Marines with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172 filled the Harrier jets with the fuel needed to complete the mission.

The squadron, part of Marine Wing Support Group 17, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, conducted a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28.

The Harriers, part of Marine Attack Squadron 311, from Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Ariz., are currently assigned to 1st MAW through the Marine Corps' unit deployment program.

It takes roughly 10 to 15 minutes to fill a Harrier with

fuel if it is completely empty, said Sgt. Calvin L. Norwood, the FARP line safety noncommissioned officer for MWSS-172.

“With a partial tactical airfield fuel dispenser system and two 20-thousand-gallon bags of fuel, we were able to provide support to VMA-311 by fueling two aircraft at one time,” said Norwood. “We are here to provide a service for the pilots, and we give them 100 percent every time.”

The job of quick and efficient refueling is a group effort, requiring Marines of all backgrounds to play their part.

“The squadron consists of Marines from many different areas in the Marine Corps who come together and make our team,” said Sgt. Edward S. Ramlal, the fuel team leader for MWSS-172. “We have bulk fuel specialists, motor transport operators, motor transport mechanics and field radio operators.”



Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood

**Marines with MWSS-172 prepare to refuel an VMA-311 AV-8B Harrier jet during a forward arming and refueling point operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28**

Fueling is necessary to ensure pilots are able to get off the ground and move the battle downrange, according to Lance Cpl. Joshua W. Koehler, a logistics vehicle systems operator with MWSS-172.

“The fueling section of the (aircraft wing) is a very big part of making sure things run smoothly,” said Koehler.



Photo by Pfc. Codey Underwood

**Bulk Fuel Marines with MWSS-172 pump water out of a trough to prevent the fuel bladder from floating during a forward arming and refueling operation at Ie Shima Training Range Feb. 28.**

All the Marines are necessary to ensure the forward arming and refueling point operation runs smoothly, according to Ramlal.

“Naturally, a FARP is a mobile refueling point which, when used in (combat), advances the battlefield further downrange by making the distance that the (aircraft) have to travel for fuel and armaments shorter,” said Ramlal. “Here on Ie Shima, the FARP was intended to support Marine Attack Squadron 311 with the fuel necessary to carry out their operation and to give the Marines with MWSS-172 more hands-on experience.”

VMA-311 is currently working to become certified to fly with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, according to Ramlal.

“The airfield here on Ie Shima simulates the landing area on a carrier,” said Ramlal. “It was selected for this operation because the pilots of the Harriers are required to obtain so many hours of training, including takeoffs and landings, before they become qualified to land on a carrier.”

Providing the logistical support required for the pilots to accomplish this training is a large responsibility but one the bulk fuel Marines take a lot of pride in, Ramlal concluded.



# Full Ads



# Troops, Veterans Will Benefit From Housing Settlement, Obama Says

**Lisa Daniel**

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, March 6, 2012 – Thousands of service members and veterans whose mortgages were wrongfully foreclosed on, or who were improperly denied lower mortgage interest rates in the national housing crisis, can receive “significant relief,” President Barack Obama announced today.

“It is unconscionable that members of our armed forces and their families are among those who were most susceptible to losing their homes due to the unscrupulous acts of banks and mortgage lenders,” Obama said during a White House news briefing.

Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta issued a statement, applauding the announcement. “These new steps are the result of an extensive interagency effort made by this administration to protect and support service members and veterans, and this initiative will help military families overcome obstacles to purchasing and maintaining a home,” Panetta said.

Helping military families achieve personal and financial security “is a vital part of maintaining a strong national defense, just as home ownership is a vital part of fulfilling the American dream,” Panetta said.

“I thank the president for ensuring that our service members receive the support they need so they and their families can pursue their dreams while carrying out their vital missions around the world,” he said.

Federal and state officials announced Feb. 9 that the nation’s five largest mortgage lenders – Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup, Wells Fargo, and Ally Financial [formerly GMAC] – agreed to pay \$26 billion to settle a government lawsuit claiming mortgage loan and foreclosure abuses. At least \$20 billion is to be returned to aggrieved homeowners, according to White House and Housing and Urban Development Department news releases.

“If you are a member of the armed forces whose home was

wrongfully foreclosed, you will be substantially compensated,” the president said.

The settlement also restores lower interest rates and reduces fees for Federal Housing Administration borrowers for those who were wrongly given higher rates and fees.

Under the agreement, lenders will:

--Review the records of every service member whose home was foreclosed upon since 2006 and provide any who were wrongly foreclosed upon with compensation equal to a minimum of lost equity, plus interest and at least \$116,785;

--Refund to service members money lost because they were wrongfully denied the opportunity to reduce their mortgage payments through lower interest rates;

--Provide relief for service members who are forced to sell their homes for less than the amount they owe on their mortgage due to a permanent change in station;

--Pay \$10 million into the Veterans Affairs fund that guarantees loans on favorable terms for veterans; and

--Extend certain foreclosure protections afforded under the Servicemember Civil Relief Act to those serving in harm’s way.

Obama also announced that the FHA will cut its fees for refinancing loans already insured by the FHA. Two- to three million Americans could save about \$1,000 annually under today’s fee structure, he said.

Still, Obama said, “No amount of money is going to be enough for a family who has wrongfully had their piece of the American dream taken away from them.”

Later on a conference call with reporters, HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan said it was shameful of financial institutions to wrongfully foreclose on service members homes or not provide them the full financial protections that the law allows. In many cases, he said, lenders “did not review or even read the foreclosure documents they were processing.”

“That’s not only wrong, it’s not who we are as Americans,” Donovan said. The settlement, he added, “ensures that the men

and women risking their lives for our country get treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.”

Military families “won’t just be compensated,” Donovan said, explaining that they will be eligible for modifications to their mortgages even for homes in which they are not living.

Holly Petraeus, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s head of servicemember affairs, said the former regulation requiring service members to live a home to have a mortgage lowered, as well as the difficulty of selling a home quickly for a change of duty station, has caused many military families to live separately. Emphasizing the frequency of military moves, she told reporters she and her husband, retired Army Gen. David H. Petraeus, who currently is serving as the CIA Director, moved 24 times in 37 years.

With the “unique challenges” of deployments and frequent forced relocations, Petraeus said, “many see no other solution than to go it alone in military barracks while leaving their families behind” in their homes.

Petraeus said she would urge all financial institutions to understand the Servicemember Civil Relief Act. She also warned service members against a possible “cottage industry” of people who will claim to help them receive help under the new settlement.

Service members and veterans who believe they can take part in the settlement are encouraged to call the Justice Department at 1-800-896-7743.

Todd Perez, assistant attorney general for Justice’s civil rights division, told reporters that under the settlement, lenders must have court approval to foreclose on the home of a deployed service member; anyone who was wrongly charged an interest rate above 6 percent can receive four times that back in damages; and all negative entries to credit agencies will be repaired.

Also, Perez said, victims in the housing crisis don’t have to contact the government; the settlement requires the banks to contact them.



## MAG-13 celebrates history as it moves toward the future

**Cpl. Jakob Schulz**  
Desert Warrior

Marine Aircraft Group 13 celebrated its 70th anniversary at their headquarters building March 1, with the rededication of their conference room to Col. Fred L. Cone.

The day started with a motivational run followed by the rededication ceremony where attendants reflected on the group's long fabled history.

"MAG-13 has a long and illustrious history that we feel hasn't been properly appreciated," said 1st Lt. Charles Stewart, MAG-13 adjutant. "Our squadrons have done an excellent job of plugging into their legacies and accomplishments to fuel their squadron pride, and it's time to incorporate some of that up at the Group level. This year provided an excellent opportunity; in our 70th year, we will be seeing a lot of changes beginning with the integration of the Marine Wing Support Squadron 371, and the stand-up of the first operational F-35 squadron in the world. It gives us a time to reflect on our path as we prepare for our future."

During the ceremony, Cone spoke on his memories of the Corps.

"It was never so much what I did," said Cone. "It was the people around me, those I served with, that did the work. No man, no matter how great, can always get the job done himself. Even the president, arguably the most powerful man on the planet, needs help sometimes."

Col. Michael Gough, MAG-13 commanding officer, also spoke about the squadron's history and the importance of the rededication.

"Col. Cone represents the 70 years of history the MAG has been through," said Gough. "This history is about service, and we're in the service because we want to serve. We want to

serve and protect, so that others might live happily."

The newly named conference room also features a timeline of the squadron's history, with plenty of room for future accomplishments.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison

**Top: Col. Michael Gough, center, leads Marines from Marine Aircraft Group 13 on a commemorative run on the morning of the group's 70th birthday, March 1. Right: Col. Fred L. Cone, (retired) former Marine Aircraft Group 13 commanding officer, speaks at the MAG-13 rededication ceremony March 1. Cone spoke about the history of aviation in the Marine Corps and the importance of working together as well as his time in the Corps. During the ceremony, the conference room in the MAG-13 headquarters building was named after him.**



Photo by Cpl. Jakob Schulz

# 1/2 Ads



# Leader's Forum

## *"Arizona Adventures"*

**Col. Robert C. Kuckuk**  
MCAS Commanding Officer

I'm sure by now you have all seen the fantastic new gear that has been bought by Arizona Adventures. Boats, bikes, quads, razors, dirt bikes, paintball gear...the list goes on. I have, however, gotten some feedback about the availability of the gear and whether the average Marine can rent it.

The answer is yes, you can rent it under certain circumstances... Here's the deal.

The new gear was bought with a grant for a new pilot program called "Adrenaline Rush" (I'm sure you've seen the trailer or bus). The idea is to provide supervised "high risk" activities for Marines returning from theater to assist their re-acclimation. There is a science behind ensuring a smooth transition from high stress/tempo combat operations and the return to garrison life. MCAS was lucky to be chosen for the pilot program. The equipment and training is provided free of charge to units participating in Adrenaline Rush. This is the primary use of the fancy gear in the AZ Adventures parking lot.

The secondary use is for unit sponsored events. Units can rent the equipment for outings and activities. The participating

units work up a plan with AZ Adventures to get their people checked out on the gear. All of us understand that they won't rent a dirt bike (or razor, pontoon boat, ski boat, etc) to a Marine that has no experience riding/driving them. Units are limited by their own imagination. Do what you want, but understand there has to be a small amount of training involved.

Finally, and we aren't there yet...we intend to rent the equipment (when not in use by either of the two programs above) to individuals. But, there are many issues to work through. For example, what about insurance for family members? We are working through these issues with an eye on making the gear available to all. Believe me...I want to rent the pontoon boat, too. It's not as cut and dried as it may seem.

I've directed the AZ Adventures staff to minimize the use of the equipment to training only. There were complaints that the staff was able to ride them around base but Marines couldn't check them out. That shouldn't happen anymore, but understand that you may see them being used for the required training.

So that's the deal. Adrenalin Rush first, then unit functions, then (soon) individual check out and rental. Keep an eye on the website and this paper for equipment that is available for individual checkout and the required training to do so.

# 1/2 Ads



# BATTLE

# CO

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# DETAACHMENT



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta

Members of the Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps stand poised to play a set at the Marine Corps Air Station Yuma parade field, March 1.

## ***BCD kicks off West Coast Tour in Yuma***

**Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison**  
Desert Warrior

The Marine Corps Battle Color Detachment kicked off its West Coast tour with a performance at MCAS Yuma, March 1.

The detachment performed for station personnel on the parade field, moving toward the public with a performance at Kofa High School the same evening and Gila Ridge High School Friday.

The Battle Color Detachment, comprised of the Marine Drum & Bugle Corps and the Silent Drill Platoon, come to Yuma annually to practice in its agreeable climate.

The detachment's time in Yuma is spent perfecting its drill and marching technique, entreating viewers to a performance built upon several

decades of Corps tradition.

"It's really getting to represent all the Marines in the Marine Corps, especially the Marines that are deployed out in Afghanistan and overseas and stuff like that," said Lance Cpl. Carlton Williams, Silent Drill Platoon rifle inspector.

The Battle Color Detachment literally travels all over the world, bringing their talents to the public and expressing the perfectionist myths surrounding Marines.

Williams also stated being part of the Battle Color Detachment is a way to represent Marines who are deployed to combat zones.

"The public can't see what they're actually doing so we just want to have a good face for the entire Marine Corps," he said.



The following photos display the finesse of the Battle Color Detachment's performance. The detachment played three shows from March 1-2, one at the station parade field, one at Kofa High School, and one at Gila Ridge High School.



Photo by Cpl. Jakob Schulz



Photo by Sgt. Daniel Malta



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



Photo by Lance Cpl. Sean Dennison



# Full Ads



## How to Protect Yourself from Financial Fraud, Theft

**Stephanie K. Swinerton**  
FDIC

A big concern today is identity theft or "ID theft," which occurs when an individual learns someone's Social Security number (SSN), bank account information or other details that can be used to go on a buying or borrowing binge. While law enforcement agencies, financial industry regulators, financial institutions and other organizations are working together to prevent ID theft and other financial crimes, consumers need to take precautions.

- **Protect your Social Security number, bank account and credit card numbers, PINs (personal identification numbers), passwords and other personal information.**

- **Keep your financial trash "clean."** Don't throw away old ATM or credit card receipts, bank statements, tax returns or other documents containing personal information without shredding them first.

- **Guard your mail,** which may include a credit card or bank statement, an envelope containing a check, documents showing confidential information, or other items that a thief can steal from a mailbox.

- **Use extra care with personal information on a computer or over the Internet.**

- **Beware of offers that seem too good to be true.** Con artists often pose as charities or business people offering jobs, rewards or other "opportunities."

## Depression

National Institute of Mental Health

### What Is Depression?

• Everyone occasionally feels blue or sad. But these feelings are usually short-lived and pass within a couple of days. When you have depression, it interferes with daily life and causes pain for both you and those who care about you. Depression is a common but serious illness

• Many people with a depressive illness never seek treatment. But the majority, even those with the most severe depression, can get better with treatment. Medications, psychotherapies, and other methods can effectively treat people with depression.

### What are the different forms of depression?

- Major depressive disorder, or major depression
- Dysthymic disorder, or dysthymia
- Minor depression
- Psychotic depression
- Postpartum depression
- Seasonal affective disorder (SAD)
- Bipolar disorder

### What are the signs and symptoms of depression?

- Persistent sad, anxious, or "empty" feelings
- Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness, or helplessness
- Irritability, restlessness
- Loss of interest in activities or hobbies once pleasurable, including sex
- Fatigue and decreased energy
- Difficulty concentrating, remembering details, and making decisions
- Insomnia, early-morning wakefulness, or excessive sleeping
- Overeating, or appetite loss
- Thoughts of suicide, suicide attempts



Courtesy of National Institute of Mental Health

## LEAVING THE CORPS

### Post 9-11 GI Bill Information

Department of Veterans Affairs

- Full tuition and fees are paid directly for all students living at a public school. For those attending private or foreign schools tuition & fees are capped at \$17,500 per academic year.

- If you are attending a private Institution of Higher Learning in AZ, MI, NH, NY, PA, SC or TX you may be eligible for a higher tuition reimbursement rate.

- For those attending a more expensive private school or a public school as a non-resident out-of-state student, a program exists which may help to reimburse the difference. This program is called the "Yellow Ribbon Program".

- A monthly housing allowance (MHA) based on the Basic Allowance for Housing for an E-5 with dependents at the location of the school. For those enrolled solely in distance learning the housing allowance payable is equal to ½ the national average BAH for an E-5 with dependents (\$673.44 for the 2011 academic year & \$684.00 for the 2012 academic year). For those attending foreign schools (schools without a main campus in the U.S.) the MHA rate is fixed at \$1,346.88 for the 2011 academic year & \$1,368.00 for the 2012 academic year.

- The academic year begins on August 1. (Active duty students & their spouses cannot receive the MHA).

- An annual books & supplies stipend of \$1,000 paid proportionately based on enrollment.

- A one-time rural benefit payment for eligible individuals.

- This benefit provides up to 36 months of education benefits, generally benefits are payable for 15 years following your release from active duty.

## Keeping Kids Safe Online

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Summer is fast approaching, and with it comes the infamous Yuma heat.

During these ultra-hot months, it's important to keep the four-legged family members safe from the scorching temperatures.

Every summer at least one family in military housing is forced to say goodbye to its beloved animal because of an easily prevented heat injury.

These tips from Provost Marshal Animal Control Office will help protect pets this summer.

-It is too hot to leave your pets outside all day. Water can spill and available shade moves.

-It is too hot to leave your pet in the car. The inside temperature can increase 30 degrees within minutes when left in direct sunlight. Not to mention it's against the law.

-It is too hot to walk your dog in the afternoon. Paws can burn on the sidewalks and sand.

-It is too hot to travel with your pet in the back of a pickup truck. Their paws can burn on the hot metal, and there isn't an available water supply or escape from the sun.

If a pet must be left outside during the day, make sure there is plenty of constant shade and fresh water. Placing a brick in the bottom of the water bowl can help prevent spilling.

Providing a shallow dog pool or misting system can also help prevent heat injury.

Just like humans, if left outside in the heat pets can suffer from heat stroke and possibly die.

Some of the signs of heat stroke in your pet may be: heavy panting, rapid pulse, wobbly gait, weakness, fainting, excessive salivating, lethargy or a bright red tongue.

It is important to seek immediate veterinary attention if you suspect your pet may be suffering from heat stroke.



# Full Ads



# War Dogs in the Marine Corps in World War II

[www.tecom.usmc.mil](http://www.tecom.usmc.mil)

In the late summer of 1942, the Marine Corps decided to experiment with the use of dogs in war, which may have been a new departure for the Corps but not a new idea in warfare. Since ancient times dogs have served man in various ways: the Romans used the heavy Mastiffs with armored collars to attack their enemies in the legs, thus forcing them to lower their shields; first aid dogs were used in World War I; and, of course, all kinds and breeds of dogs have been used for centuries for pulling small carriages and sleds or as pack animals to transport light loads over difficult trails.

In the 1920's, a Marine serving as an officer in the Garde d'Haiti trained a dog to work in the point of his patrols for the purpose of exposing bandit ambushes. It is probable that his experience was responsible for the suggested use of dogs in jungle warfare in Chapter 24 of the 1935 revision of Small Wars Operations, published by the Marine Corps Schools at Quantico, Virginia, which reads:

"Dogs on Reconnaissance, - - Dogs have been employed to indicate the presence of a hidden enemy, particularly ambushes."

One of the authors of this book later stated that



USMC Courtesy photo

**NOT SO SECRET WEAPON:** Ronald T. Roane guides his 75 pound German Shepherd scout dog, Hobo, as they track down the elusive enemy.

at the time the book was written it was the thought of the writers that dogs could play a part in jungle warfare and the above paragraph was inserted in the book to keep the idea alive.

The Marine Corps' war dog training program was initiated by a letter from the Commandant of the Marine Corps to the Commanding General, Training Center, Fleet Marine Force, Marine Barracks, New River, North Carolina (designated Camp Lejeune on 20 December 1942), dated 26 November 1942, directing the latter to "inaugurate a training program for dogs for military employment when personnel and material become available." At that time 1 officer and 19 enlisted Marines were under training at the dog school at Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and 4 enlisted Marines were on temporary duty at Fort Washington, Maryland, in connection with training with dogs.

In his letter the Commandant pointed out that the group of Marines at Fort Robinson was to return to New River upon completion of the course in late December 1942, and that each man was to bring back two dogs.

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

## 1/2 Ads



## Das Bratwurst Haus

**Sgt. Daniel Malta**  
Desert Warrior Staff

When you pay for a meal at one of your favorite restaurants you're not just paying for the meal, but the service and ambiance that is always expected but rarely appreciated.

Das Bratwurst Haus is a quaint little restaurant near Main St. in downtown Yuma that offers a little slice of Germany for anyone looking for a culinary adventure.

As soon as you walk in, the restaurant might seem a little simple, but once you sit down and begin to look around you'll notice everything from old Germany style clothes the waitresses are wearing to the many shelves full of German memorabilia and souvenirs you can purchase.

The menu has many German favorites such as Schnitzel. I ordered the Jaeger Schnitzel, which was a seasoned pork loin, hand pounded, lightly breaded with a delicious sauce made from fresh mushrooms and butter cream. The meal was a bit plain but was a nice break from the typical Mexican, Italian and American cuisine you find everywhere else.

I then ordered the Tiramisu, which was probably the most delicious desert I have ever had. It was light, full of flavor and disappeared soon after the first fork-full hit my mouth.

Also available is an assortment of German beers for those interested.

Das Bratwurst Haus offers great service, delectable deserts, great environment and even though the main course was a bit plain, it offers a great break from the norm.

# Book Review: Fix Bayonets!

**Cpl. Jakob Schulz**  
Desert Warrior Staff

In the book "Fix Bayonets" by former Marine Lt. Col., John William Thomason, Jr., the reader follows Marines through WWI, where they suffer unbelievable casualty rates. For a book that was published in the 1920s, it has a surprisingly contemporary feel, and is an easy, "must" read for anyone with an interest in the Marines or an American unit in WWI.

One of the best quotes in my mind was Thomason's description of Marines.

"A number of diverse people who ran curiously to type, with drilled shoulders and a bone-deep sunburn, and a tolerant scorn of nearly everything on earth. They drank the eau de vie of Haute-Marne, and reminisced on sake, and wine, and Bacardi Rum-- strange drinks in strange cantinas at the far ends of the earth; and they spoke fondly of Milwaukee beer. Rifles were high and holy things to them, and they knew five-inch broadside guns. They talked patronizingly of the war, and were concerned about rations. They were the Leathernecks, the Old Timers."

I couldn't put it down. Even though it's been 80 years since WWI, I felt that I was there in the trenches and no-man's land with the 49th Company, 5th Marine Regiment.

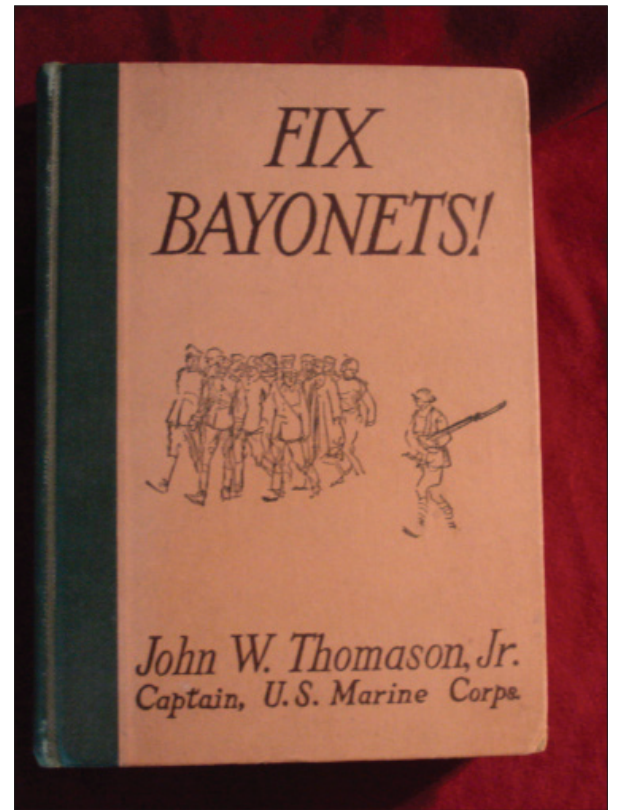
There are scenes that made me laugh, cry, and just stare in amazement.

And the artwork was amazing, I was most amazed by sketches that were done "in the field." Some of these were done while under fire.

What I found most enjoyable about the book

was the honesty. Thomason did justice to himself and his fellow Marines.

I would recommend this book to every Marine, from the first-hand accounts of the Marines in WWI. The book is engaging and draws the reader into Thomason's experiences. His accounts, while not a day-by-day rendering of the Marines, delves into the emotional and personal aspects of the war.



Courtesy photo by bookmine.com

## Opinion Article: The importance of appearances

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

Perception is not always reality, but due to the standards set by and the social view of the military, more often than not, perception is reality.

This is a source of contention I am still coming to terms with. Since our earliest years we are conditioned to groom ourselves in a way that's kosher, appealing. There are those that deviate from this path and those that walk it straight through their entire lives. I fell into the former category up until I enlisted, where I was thrust in a world that used words like "uniformity" and "regulations."

I've never been one to spend too much time on my appearance, eschewing gel for a quick comb-over, and I am one of the fashion unfortunates with that rare inability to look good in anything.

Like judging books by their cover, people are inclined to judge others firstly on their appearance. There are people who are friendly or rude

to everybody they meet, but for the most part one is more liable to smile at a well-groomed stranger rather than a mangy one.

This is supported in several studies conducted on appearance and the social reactions it garners. The Marine Corps understands this; we are the most respected and the most scrutinized branch within the United States Armed Forces. Our standards, uniform, grooming, operational readiness, what have you, are strict.

The haircut, for example, is generally considered an indicator of a Marine's morale, with the shaggier bunch being considered on a lower tier than those with a high-a-tight or high regulation fade.

Sometimes people hook their self-worth on their appearance, tying beauty to their perception of themselves, said Heather Patrick, a researcher at the National Institutes of Health, in a recent CNN article regarding beauty and appearances.

"We compare how we think we look to how

other people look, and we make a decision about whether we're much better or much worse," she said.

With this quote in mind, it's easy to infer appearances are key in progression and success. It's one of those unpleasant truths that's both sad and obvious, the sort of facts free spirits love to hate. For example, official photos used by service members for promotion or merit boards are used to assess what sort of face the individual presents to the public. How the service member looks is conducive to his or her success.

Recently, I was reprimanded for failing to adhere to military grooming standards. I'm still not one to concentrate too much on appearances, but it did get me thinking about representation of oneself and the institution one works for. It's important to appear clean and presentable, regardless of how you really feel about it, if anything to let that first impression really sink in.



# AIR SHOW

## A preview of the best *MCAS Yuma Air Show and Open House* Free Event in Yuma *Next Saturday, March 17, 2012*



1/2 Ads