

Navy League of the US Yuma, AZ



SERVING OUR COMMUNITY'S MARINES, SAILORS, COASTGUARDSMEN,
US MERCHANT MARINERS & THEIR FAMILIES SINCE 1963



THE ROPE YARN GAZETTE

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 2

JUNE 2017

Scheduled Meetings:

The Patio Restaurant,
Ave A - Yuma, AZ

JUL>AUG

DARK

SEPT 21: General Mtg

6 pm

OCT 19: General Mtg

6pm

Upcoming Events:

JUN 27 Change of Command, CO MCAS
Yuma, AZ (0900, Parade Field)

AUG 25-27 Council's Del Mar & SD Trip

OCT 14 Navy Ball, Dinner & Dance
(1800-2000, Pueblo Club, MCAS)

YUMA NAVY LEAGUE TO HOST UNIVERSITY ROTC

ASU Department of
Naval Science
Arizona State University



Over the past decade, Yuma's youth leadership programs at the JROTC (high school) level have grown, both in size and quality. With this growing cadre of US Naval Sea Cadet Corps, MC JROTC, and Civil Air Patrol cadets in town, parents need for accurate information regarding university-level ROTC programs has never been greater. And what about home schooled students or kids that, for various reasons, never took the opportunity to prepare themselves?

Your Yuma Navy League began asking these questions recently and came to the conclusion that our council should invite senior instructors assigned to ASU and UofA Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) programs to visit Yuma. And what do you know, we got a big YES! So Saturday, September 30th, 1pm (1300 hrs) at the Kofa High School theater, the Yuma Navy League will present an event open to the public:

A ROADMAP TO SUCCESS - UNIVERSITY ROTC

We are very pleased to welcome two senior ROTC instructors from ASU for this event. Plans are to have one Marine Officer and one Naval Officer; at least one to be an aviator. We may add some spice to this event by also hosting a representative from the US Naval Academy. Wow!

So, parents and students, do you trust the standard brochure info you can read on on-line? Do you trust someone's second-hand advice? Or, do you sacrifice a few hours on a Saturday to learn the facts. Attendees will receive a roadmap of what your student/cadet needs - not to meet a minimum, but position themselves to be a top scholarship candidate.

PROGRAM INFO WILL BE AVAILABLE ON-LINE AT:

<http://www.yumanavyleague.com/>



JUNE 2017

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Neptune Council

Chair: Henry Chavez

Media—Facebook, Rope Yarn,

Website: Dean Hager

Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

Contact us at:

NLUS Yuma Council

PO Box 393

Yuma, AZ 85366

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS ~ APR TO JUN



2017 YUMA NL SCHOLAR AWARDS DINNER

What a great turn out for our annual Yuma Navy League Awards Dinner. President Nidiffer presented two high school seniors with scholarship awards of \$1,500 ea. Both young people addressed the membership and shared their dreams and aspirations. We wish them fair winds on their journey.

After a wonderful meal, the lights turned down and everyone was treated to a presentation by Arizona Western College President, Dr. Daniel Corr, PHD. It was very interesting to see their demographic logic and how the college is directly involved in Yuma's future. It's looking bright!



Pictured with their proud parents are 2017 awardees Morgan Frost and Michael Nicholls, along with Council President Nidiffer.



SPRING IS A TIME FOR GIVING

This small council truly is all about "paying it forward".

We started off in April with donations to our adopted US Naval Sea Cadet Corps and Kofa Marine Corps JROTC programs. Each year our council pledges several thousand dollars in support of the Yuma's Naval Sea Cadets, MCJROTC, and Yuma young marines.

Not wishing to stop there, members of our council attended both MCJROTC and Sea Eagle Squadron's annual awards events, bestowing the Navy League's Theodore Roosevelt Leadership Medal on deserving cadets. Not only was it great to see such squared away young men and women, but events such as these are a great way to showcase just how our council is involved.

As is customary, the June meeting ended our Spring Season in great fashion. First off, we presented Mrs. Lora O'Hara of the MCAS Yuma N&MC Relief a check for \$1,200. The meeting was great as many members were still in town, because everyone in attendance was treated to a great presentation regarding what "WTI" - Weapons and Tactics Instruction is all about.

Wow, it sure is more than a few more aircraft overhead. For more on our distinguished guests, see pages 6-7.



**2017 US NAVY
BIRTHDAY BALL**

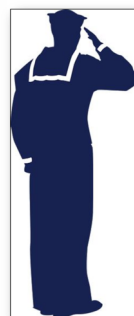
**OCT 14th
MCAS, YUMA AZ**

SEA EAGLES ANNUAL AWARDS DAY

WESTWINDS RV RESORT

On a sunny afternoon this June, Navy League Cadets of Yuma's Training Ship Sandburg and Naval Sea Cadets of the Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron assembled to be recognized for their achievements throughout the year.

While only in it's second full year, we all can be justifiably proud of our cadets, our adult volunteers, parents, and Yuma community sponsors - for we have grown faster and produced a winning organization quicker than most of the so called experts anticipated. Despite the inevitable bumps in the road, our sea cadet program has provided local young men and women the opportunity to challenge themselves—and in many cases excel.



YUMA AWARDED 2017

**TOP SEA CADET
UNIT**

REGION 8-8 (AZ./ NMEX)

This year saw several cadets receive a mix of academic, athletic, technical skill, and community service awards. This truly reflects our commitment to providing a blend of challenges for both mind and body. Next year, we plan to add SCUBA and Pilot License Training for eligible sea cadets - wow!

Our thanks to the many sponsors, family members, veteran service groups, and Navy League members who showed up to watch what can be accomplished if just a few of us get off our butts!

Special thanks to our own Bill Esmier for his inspiring evocation, and CDR Chang, DC, USN for a wonderful keynote speech (hint: the cadets stayed awake!).





Year Two showed a packed house!



LTjg Bacon, NSCC shows us our program is a real family affair!



Squadron Side Boys "Sound Bells" for Distinguished Visitors



Hey, aren't those guys w/sea cadets Navy League members ?





***YUMA COUNCIL HOSTS SR. LEADERSHIP
MARINE WEAPONS AND TACTICS SQUADRON ONE
(MAWTS-1)***



The mission of MAWTS-1 is to provide standardized advanced tactical training and certification of unit instructor qualifications that support Marine Aviation training and readiness and to provide assistance in the development and employment of aviation weapons and tactics. The WTI Course is recognized as the most comprehensive graduate level aviation course of instruction in the world today. It is through the dedication and untiring efforts of its personnel that MAWTS-1 has earned its reputation as the vanguard of Marine aviation. MAWTS-1 was awarded the Navy Unit Citation for the period 1982-85. In 1986 and 1995, MAWTS-1 was named Marine Corps Aviation Association Special Category Squadron of the Year and it also received the Meritorious Unit Citation in 1988, 1990, and 1995.

AHOY SHIPMATES !! WE HAVE A NEW WEBSITE



THE YUMA NAVY LEAGUE COUNCIL IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE WE HAVE UPGRADED OUR WEBSITE .

YOU ARE INVITED TO CHECK US OUT AT: <http://www.yumanavyleague.com/>



Colonel James B. Wellons grew up in Victoria, Virginia. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May of 1992, earning his commission as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. After completion of The Basic School and Naval Flight Training, he reported to VMAT-203, Cherry Point, NC for AV-8B Harrier training.

Colonel Wellons completed AV-8B Harrier training in 1997 and reported to the VMA-231 "Ace of Spades," where he served in various assignments and deployed twice with the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, first in 1998 and again in 1999. In March of 2000, Colonel Wellons returned to VMAT-203 for duties as an AV-8B instructor pilot and graduated from the MAWTS-1 Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) Course. In January of 2002, Colonel Wellons returned to VMA-231 as WTI and was promoted to Major. He then deployed as Future Operations Department Head for HMM-263 with the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit from August of 2002 through May of 2003, during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM I. In July of 2003, Colonel Wellons reported to MAWTS-1 in Yuma, Arizona for duties as an AV-8B instructor pilot. While at MAWTS-1, Colonel Wellons served as AV-8B Division Head and TACAIR Department Head; he also flew as an adversary pilot in the F-5E with VMFT-401.

In June of 2006, Colonel Wellons reported to the School of Advanced Air and Space Studies (SAASS) at Maxwell Air Force Base, AL, graduating in June of 2007 with an M.A. in Airpower Art and Sciences. Upon graduation, Colonel Wellons reported to Marine Corps Forces Central Command (MARCENT) for duties as an operational planner. In August of 2009, Colonel Wellons reported to Eglin Air Force Base, FL, to stand up and command VMFAT-501, the F-35B Fleet Replacement Squadron. In February of 2012, Colonel Wellons reported to the U.S. Naval War College, in Newport, RI, where he graduated with highest distinction in March of 2013 with an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies. In March of 2013, Colonel Wellons reported to U.S. Southern Command in Doral, FL for assignment as Executive Officer. Promoted to Colonel during this tour, he reported to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One, assuming command in May of 2016. Colonel Wellons has held qualifications in the AV-8B, F-5E/F, and F-16C/D. His decorations include the Defense Superior Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of third award, Air Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and various unit and campaign awards.



Sergeant Major Thomas W. Foster entered the United States Marine Corps in 1990. He attended MOS School at Camp Del Mar, California for training as a Legal Service Specialist/4421, and meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. In October 1990, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, SC. and assigned duties as Legal Assistant Chief. In August 1992 he was sent to Airborne school where he earned the additional Airborne MOS. In November 1992, he was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant.

In 1993, Sergeant Foster was transferred to 3rd Marine Division in Okinawa, Japan. In 1996, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant. In January 2004, as a Gunnery Sergeant, he was assignment to the Coalition Military Assistance Training Team (CMATT) and deployed to Iraq. In January 2008 he deployed with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to Okinawa, Japan conducting bi-lateral training with units operating in the Philippines, Thailand, and Okinawa, Japan. In February 2010 he attended the Naval War College Senior Enlisted Academy Class, Newport, Rhode Island. Promoted to the rank of Sergeant Major in 2011, he has served with Marine Wing Communication Squadron 28, MCAS Cherry Point; 2d Marine Aircraft Wing (Fwd); 2dMAW (Fwd); and Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron 2, He was assigned to Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One (MAWTS-1) in the summer of 2015.

Sergeant Major Foster's awards include Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Services Commendation Medal, Navy Commendation Medals, Navy Achievement Medals, Army Commendation Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon.

NLUS YUMA COUNCIL

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American liberty is built on a
strong national sea service.

"Speak softly and carry a big stick;
you will go far"
US Pres. T. Roosevelt

We're on the web!

<http://www.yumanavyleague.com/>

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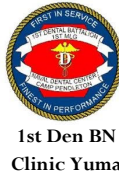
2017 SPONSORS - THANK YOU, ALL



Your YUMA NL COUNCIL

In 1963, the Yuma Council adopted it's first command, Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Yuma. Since that time, several base reorganizations have occurred. Currently, in-garrison adoptees include both MCAS Headquarters Staff and the Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron (H&HS). H&HS is responsible to the Base CO for the day-to-day operations aboard the air station to keep it running as a small "community within the community". Approximately 600 Marines and Sailors are assigned to H&HS. With assistance from roughly 1,200 civilians who work aboard MCAS Yuma, they work to keep the station operational through the efforts of a variety of units and sections. Adopted sections include air traffic control, airfield operations, administration, logistics, range management, explosive ordnance disposal, communications, combat camera, aircraft rescue and firefighting, military police, postal, legal, public affairs, search and rescue, financial operations, and the dining facility.

Other adopted units include the USNS YUMA (EPF8), MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic, MCAS Branch Dental Clinic, US Navy Sea Cadet Corps' Yuma Sea Eagle Squadron, and US Navy League Cadet Training Ship Sandburg. Supported units include Yuma Young Marines and Yuma MCJROTC.



PLAN AHEAD !

OCTOBER

AFTER THE NAVY BALL ,
TIME TO GET YOUR SEATS
FOR THE

**NAVY LEAGUE'S FALL
DINNER CONCERT**