



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 2, ISSUE 1

JAN-MAR 2015

Scheduled Meetings & Theme:

APRIL 14: Youth Programs, 6 pm

YUMA MC JROTC Update

MAY 12: Awards Dinner, 6 pm

2015 NL Scholars Recognized

JUNE 09: Marines "WTI", 6 pm

MAWTS Explained

JULY - AUG (DARK)

Upcoming Events: August 28 - 30 2015

**YUMA NAVY LEAGUE'S
DEL MAR ADVENTURE !!**

- FRI: Tour the Navy's Hospital Ship, USNS Mercy, Evening Dinner San Diego
- SAT: Del Mar Races, BBQ Mission Bay, SD
- SUN: Champagne Brunch - woo hoo!

YUMA COUNCIL *ADOPTS* MC BRANCH DENTAL CLINIC, MCAS YUMA

20 FEB 2015: After a morning's hike with 1st Dental Battalion Commander, CAPT Peter Ruocco (DC USN) and Branch Clinic OIC, LCDR Matthew Chang (DC, USN), branch clinic personnel gathered round to celebrate their adoption by the Navy League's Yuma Council. Several local League members were in attendance and offered their congratulations to all those gathered for their service to our nation.

Yuma's Navy League Council is committed to maintaining a long term relationship with all our MCAS adopted commands. Whether it's cash donations in support of our marines and sailors, or participating in award/recognition events, members of the Yuma Council are dedicated to making sure each and every Yuma marine and sailor understands the community appreciates their service.

BRAVO ZULU - MC BRANCH DENTAL CLINIC YUMA!



Yuma Council— MC Branch Dental Clinic
Adoption Ceremony 20 FEB 2015
MCAS, Yuma AZ



APRIL 2015

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Questions / Comments?

Letters to the Editor?

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FROM THE QUARTERDECK

~ a message from the President, NLUS Yuma Council



Dear fellow Yuma Council members,

Each new year I think to myself "this time it'll be routine" and then come the surprises! 2015 again is no different and shaping up to be another exciting one for our council the and community we serve.

First off, we enlarged our local "family" by adopting the 1st Dental Battalion's Dental Clinic at MCAS Yuma. This event consolidates our consolidated our sailor-family assigned to Yuma's Branch Health Clinic - both medical and dental sides. Second, our communications and relationship with the MCAS' Headquarters & Headquarters Squadron (H&HS) has never been stronger; thanks to our most recent new council member, Dena Swift. Over the next year, we hope to support their various charity efforts in addition to recognizing their unit marines' accomplishments.

Another arrow in the quiver is the announcement that our brand new Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC) unit has been authorized to "stand up" this March by NSCC national HQ in Washington DC - 5 months ahead of schedule! This is a direct reflection of our Yuma community who thus far have banded together to make this happen.

April Meeting's Theme is Youth Leadership: It is with great pride then that we welcome to our April General Meeting MAJ Brian Bell (USMC ret) and SgtMaj Laarman (USMC ret); Sr. Instructors, MCJROTC. Don't forget to come on out and hear how Kofa's program is growing!

MAY's Meeting, don't forget, is our annual NL Scholar Awards Dinner! Can't wait to see our 2015 winners get their \$1,000 awards! Let us keep up the great work, it is much appreciated!

Dean 'doc' Hager
Yuma Council President, NLUS

YUMA NL COUNCIL HISTORY

Back in 1963, the Yuma Council adopted MCAS Yuma. Since that time, several 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. More recent adoptions by Yuma's Navy League Council are MCAS Yuma's Navy Branch Health Clinic (2014) & Marine Corps Branch Dental Clinic (2015).



"Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation" flies Vietnam Vets for free!

At the Yuma Mil. Affairs Committee recently, Mr. Ken Whiddon gave an us update on the foundation:

The Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation is a non-profit organization established and dedicated to seniors and United States military veterans, living in long-term care communities that have always had a burning desire to soar like an eagle. For these "Golden" individuals, we provide the opportunity to experience the thrill of an Ageless Aviation Dreams Dream Flight that includes riding in the cockpit of a Boeing Stearman, the airplane used to train many military aviators in the late thirties and early forties. Today, many of our former United States military pilots live in senior communities. We want to take them back to a place in time when they were invincible, ruling the sky as proud military aviators.

A tentative month for kicking off the program is set for October focusing on Viet Nam Veterans.

Applications can be found on their website:
www.agelessaviation.org.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ~ JAN-MAR 2015

JAN: Yuma's Military Appreciation Day



10 Jan: A Yuma city Heritage Event, Military Appreciation Day was the culmination of many months of planning of which your Yuma Council

was a key player. Adjacent to MCAS Marines' displays, event attendees were treated to unique and informative sea service presentations centered around USS Arizona and USS Barbell replicas. Participating organizations offered information booths; including our very own Yuma NL Council, Yuma's MC JROTC cadets, Glendale's Naval Sea Cadet Corps, AZ Western College Student Nursing Association and the YMRC Veterans Rural Healthcare Program. Feedback from attendees and participants has been overwhelming positive - a direct reflection on all parties that supported this event.

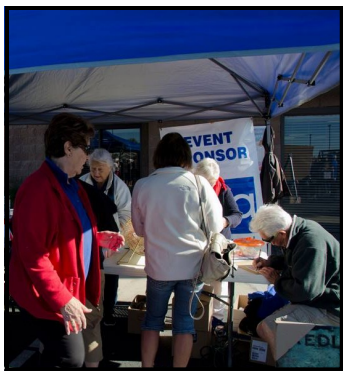




Latest USNS Yuma Update



Hey gang, remember the new US Navy ship to be named Yuma? Well, the latest word is that she is next in line to begin construction with her completion scheduled for late 2016.



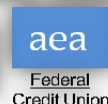
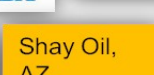
EVENT HIGHLIGHTS ~ JAN-MAR 2015

JAN: Crusin' Yuma Charity Car Show



24 JAN: The Yuma Council's annual charity fund raiser for student scholarships opened on a sunny day with autos of every type, nationality and color arriving to show off and have their owners support the Navy League Scholar Awards Fund for 2015. A special thanks to all council member volunteers who made this day special. And extra special thanks to our Neptune Council members who worked so diligently to grow our family of Business sponsors.

Without much time to take a breath and with volunteers battling the dreaded Yuma winter crud, merchandise was sold, raffle (oh, we mean "drawing") prizes dispensed, show awards presented, and a few beverages of choice consumed. Feedback from vehicle registrants and public attendees alike were very positive - with many stating they will be back in 2016! Most importantly, our charity fund account is right on budget... Thanks again to Fortuna del Sol RV Resort and CAL-AM for supporting this event. See you guys next year!





YUMA Naval Sea Cadets

Wow - what a difference a few months makes!

Since our last publication, a brand new Sea Cadet Unit has been created. Yuma volunteers have stepped forward, drill sites are confirmed, and sponsor businesses and veterans groups donated the necessary funds.

So what can you expect over the next few months?

- Public Presentations
- Sign Up Events

Plus, members of the Yuma NL Council will have the opportunity to participate in the Yuma NSCC Oversight Committee that will meet twice yearly.

GO YUMA
SEA EAGLES!

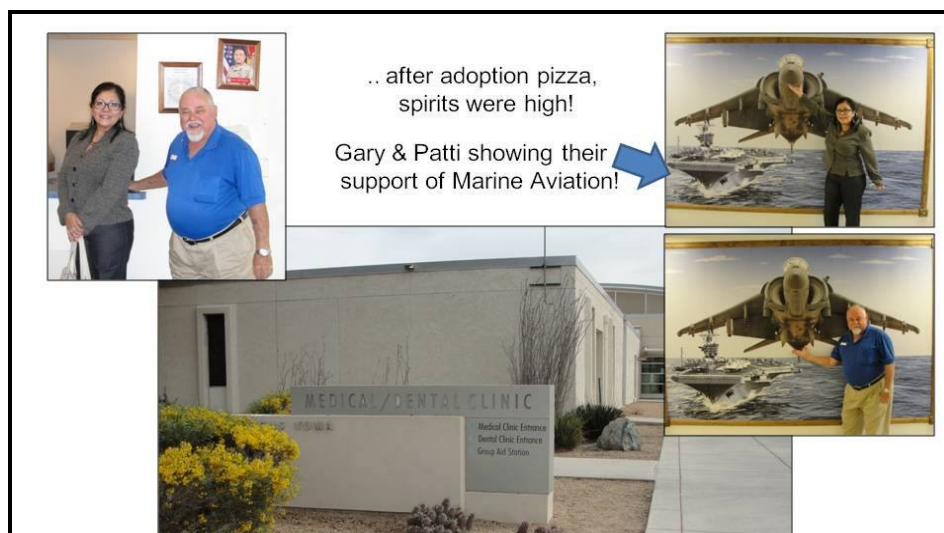
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JAN MTG: Yuma Council's January 2015 Meeting was great!. Our guest speaker was Ms. Lisa Gallinat, NLUS National Vice President for Membership & Council Operations. We also were please to have, as our MCAS Yuma VIP, the CO of Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS, LtCol "hasty" Swift USMC and his wonderful bride, Dena (pictured w/our 'doc' H).

Good food, good times and great info for all assembled members!



FEB: As shown on our cover page, February was a historical month as it recorded the Yuma Council's formal adoption of yet another MCAS command. With the MC Branch Dental Clinic in our family, our Council now includes all officers and sailors within the Marine Air Station's Health Care Facility.



.. after adoption pizza, spirits were high!

Gary & Patti showing their support of Marine Aviation!



MAR MTG: March ushered in fair weather and a wonderful guest speaker in Bill Heidner, curator of YPG's Heritage Museum. Members marveled at Bill's speaking w/o slides or notes.. Guess he's done this before! Thank you Bill...

MAR: As most of you know, MCAS had a tragic accident that took the life of a H&HS marine, 23-year-old Lance Cpl. Anthony T. DuBeau. The Yuma Council was contacted and played a small part in ensuring arriving family (Illinois) were taken care of and flowers made available for the memorial service. Our own Barney B. also participated in the Patriot Guard escort, as family and Lcpl DuBeau were transported to Phoenix for their flight home. Thanks to all the members who stepped up at the last minute and thanks also to NL member Dena Swift who coordinated our efforts.

“Know your Marine”

Sergeant Major, MCAS YUMA AZ

SgtMaj Smythe USMC



Sergeant Major Smythe enlisted in the Marine Corps on 14 October 1987 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA where he graduated a Lance Corporal. After completing the Motor Vehicle Operator's Course at Camp Pendleton, CA he received orders to the Ground Defense Security Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in April 1988. In Cuba he held billets as driver and dispatcher; in August 1988 he was promoted to Corporal and became the tool room Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) and later, licensing NCO.

In April 1989, he received orders to 7th Motor Transport Battalion where he held billets as line NCO and driver. In August 1990 Corporal Smythe deployed to Saudi Arabia in support of OPERATIONS DESERT SHIELD/STORM.

In July of 1991 Corporal Smythe was ordered to Mare Island Naval Ship Yard to attend Marine Corps Security Forces School where he received orders to the Marine Detachment afloat, USS Abraham Lincoln. While serving aboard USS Abraham Lincoln Corporal Smythe saw duty as Corporal of the Guard, Sergeant of the Guard and went ashore for operations in Somalia for OPERATION RESTORE HOPE. In December of 1993 Sergeant Smythe reported to 1st Surveillance Reconnaissance Intelligence Group, where he served as platoon Sergeant until later that year when he made a lateral move to Corrections and attended the Corrections Specialist Course at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX.

From August 1994 to August 1997 Sergeant Smythe served as an Assistant Section Leader and Section Leader at the Camp Pendleton Base Brig before being promoted to Staff Sergeant and transferring to the Joint Forces Brig, Okinawa, Japan where he spent 1997 to 2003 holding various billets as Duty Brig Supervisor, Training Chief and Chief Corrections Counselor. In January 2001 he was promoted to Gunnery Sergeant and saw the reopening of the Correctional Custody Program in Okinawa where he held the billet of Sr.NCO-in-Charge (SNCOIC).

In June of 2003 Gunnery Sergeant Smythe received orders to Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, TX to be an instructor at the Corrections Specialist Course. After promotion to First Sergeant in February of 2006 he was ordered to 1st Combat Engineer Battalion where he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In April 2010 he was promoted and assigned as Squadron Sergeant Major for Marine Heavy Helicopter 462, Miramar, California. In February of 2012 he reported to 3rd Battalion 12th Marines and assumed duties as the Battalion Sergeant Major. In June of 2013 Sergeant Major Smythe received orders to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to serve as the Station Sergeant Major.

In December of 2014 SgtMaj Smythe was posted to his current assignment as the Station Sergeant Major of Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona.

Sergeant Major Smythe's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star in lieu of second award, the Outstanding Volunteer Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon.

In the United States Marine Corps, sergeant major is the ninth and highest enlisted rank, just above first sergeant, and equal in grade to master gunnery sergeant, although the two have different responsibilities. Sergeant major is both a rank and a military billet. Marine Corps sergeants major serve as the senior enlisted marine in the Corps' units of battalion, squadron or higher echelon, as the unit commander's senior enlisted advisor and to handle matters of discipline and morale among the enlisted marines.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps is a separate and unique position.



SEA SERVICE NEWS

The aging F/A-18 Hornet fleet will remain the bulk of the Navy's strike fighter power into the next two decades, forcing the service to extend the air frame's life from its initial 6,000 hours to 10,000 and possibly beyond.

About 40 F/A-18 A-D Hornets went through upgrades at Fleet Readiness Center Southwest in San Diego in the last fiscal year, according to Naval Air Systems Command statistics, and 50 more are scheduled for the current fiscal year.

Those revamped Hornets will stay in service as the Navy transitions to the F-35C Lightning II joint strike fighter in the next decade, with F/A-18 E/F Super Hornets remaining in squadrons through the 2030s, the Navy's air boss said in his first sit-down interview with Navy Times.

"[The Super Hornets] are kind of — I don't want to say gap-fillers — but they will be the biggest chunk of our carrier fleet through the middle to the end of the next decade," said Vice Adm. Mike Shoemaker, who took over Naval Air Forces Jan. 22. "So as we have used those legacy Hornets, we have had to extend their life to get through to when we can introduce JSF."

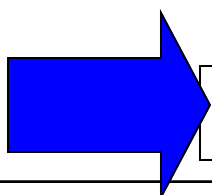
In 2014, the head of Navy Fleet Readiness Centers told Seapower magazine that plans were in the works to extend *Super Hornets* to 10,000 hours during fiscal '15, to keep them in service when the last of the original legacy Hornets is retired in 2022. The Navy has been the F-35's smallest customer so far, ordering two new aircraft for 2015, which lawmakers doubled to four. In the first seven years of production, the Navy has ordered 30 F-35s. The Marine Corps, by contrast, requested six F-35Bs and the Air Force requested 26 F-35As, bringing their totals to 66 and 130, respectively. Super Hornets will leave service around 2035.



ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A historic Alaska gold-mining city could be the first place where the federal government invests in a deep-water port to serve vessels in Arctic waters.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is preparing to release a study for public comment that suggests expanding the Port of Nome as a first step in improving infrastructure along Alaska's west and north coast. Nome is south of the Bering Strait but far closer to Arctic waters than the nearest Coast Guard base in Kodiak, an island east of the Aleutian Chain.

The lack of a deep-water port along Alaska's north and west coasts has been a point of concern as climate warming has made Arctic waters more accessible. As ship traffic has increased, the corps, the Coast Guard and other federal agencies have expressed concern about responding to vessels in distress, industrial activities and oil spills.



**STAND BY YUMA - YOUR SEA
EAGLE SQUADRON IS HERE!**

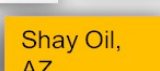


**NLUS YUMA
COUNCIL**

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ADDRESS HERE

OUR GRATFUL THANKS TO ALL OUR MAJOR 2015 SPONSORS - SEMPER FI !!



**Welcome to Yuma's latest youth leadership program,
US Naval Sea Cadets Corps (US NSCC),
our aviation squadron SEA EAGLES!**

E-mail:

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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*

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