

2024 DoD MWR Libraries **ANNUAL REPORT**



DOD MWR LIBRARIES
SUMMER READING PROGRAM
on Military Installations Worldwide

BY THE NUMBERS

2024 DoD MWR Summer Reading Program Totals

ARMY

23,049,832 MINUTES READ

MARINE CORPS

14,087,724 MINUTES READ

NAVY

9,846,297 MINUTES READ

AIR FORCE

47,186,197 MINUTES READ

DoD VIRTUAL PROGRAM

1,059,895 MINUTES READ

95,229,945 MINUTES READ
THE EQUIVALENT OF 181 YEARS!



Summer Reading

Meet Thelma & Louise: The Desert Tortoise Duo at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms!

Written by Rachel Drake

This summer, we had a blast at the Combat Center Library aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center (MCAGCC) Twentynine Palms, with a unique event that had everyone saying, "Tortoise-tastic!" As part of the Summer Reading Program (SRP), we welcomed two very special guests—Mojave Desert Tortoises (*Gopherus agassizii*) named Thelma and Louise. These charming little reptiles have made MCAGCC their forever home, and they're not just adorable; they play a crucial role in the conservation efforts for their endangered species.

Thelma and Louise are no ordinary tortoises. They've adapted to thrive in the blazing heat of Twentynine Palms and surrounding areas, where summer temperatures can soar into the 110's and even tiptoe into the 120's. These resilient critters can live up to a whopping 80 years, making them the ultimate survivors of the desert. But don't let their tough exterior fool you; they need our help. Encroachment, off-roading, invasive species, and land development have put a strain on their natural habitats, which is where MCAGCC comes in. MCAGCC's Environmental Affairs Division in partnership with the Tortoise Research and Captive Rearing Site (TRACRS), has a head start facility, where tortoises are hatched and raised for 3-5 years before being safely released into the wild. Part of conservation efforts include educating those that live and work aboard the Combat Center about these tortoises. It's not unusual to come across these little guys in training and housing areas!

Families and military personnel gathered around to witness the slow-moving charm of these tortoises. We were all captivated as we learned what to do if we ever spotted a desert tortoise in the wild. Spoiler alert: Keep your distance, don't pick them up, and definitely don't feed them anything other than their natural diet. It was a fun and educational day at the Combat Center Library, that left all of us feeling a little more connected to nature and inspired to protect it.

This year's SRP theme of "Read, Renew, Repeat" couldn't have been more fitting. It served as a reminder of the importance of preservation and the steps we can take to protect these amazing animals. At the event, we were treated to a rare hands-on experience, getting to pet and feed Thelma and Louise while learning the ins and outs of desert tortoise conservation. Talk about a memorable afternoon! 160 patrons stopped by to see Thelma & Louise on July 26th from 2-4pm. They are local celebrities, after all!

The efforts at MCAGCC highlight how important conservation is in a world where many species are facing extinction. By hosting events like this, we not only educate ourselves but also foster a community that cares about preserving wildlife. It's a reminder that each of us can make a difference—whether it's through participating in local conservation programs, diving into nature-themed books, or simply sharing what we've learned with others. Our patrons learned that through these conservation efforts, over 230 tortoises have been released into the wild!



Summer Reading

Read, Renew, Repeat!

By Vanessa Schell, CommStrat Specialist

Staff at McTureous Hall, the base library, are holding the Annual Summer Reading Program, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 3 to July 27.

All ages can participate for the opportunity to win prizes for the most minutes read, attend CreateSpace classes, join storytimes and movie days and take home maker kits.

The Summer Reading Program at MCLB Barstow is part of the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation Summer Reading Program, which MCLB Barstow is participating in with support and directive from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. The wider summer program is in partnership with iREAD Summer Reading. Military OneSource gives an overview of the program as “a flexible, nonprofit reading program designed by librarians featuring appealing incentives, compelling and adaptable themes, and a comprehensive resource guide chock full of ideas, handouts and activities that can be used.”

This summer, the iREAD theme is “Read, Renew, Repeat,” featuring conservation practices. According to iREADprogram.org, “conservation as a movement focuses on protecting species from extinction, maintaining and restoring habitats, enhancing ecosystem services, and protecting biological diversity.”

The DOD MWR Libraries personnel believe that this program will help children by giving them an incentive to read this summer. Their aim is to fill the gap in learning during the summer break by providing resources and access to reading and other creative outlets.



Library staff urge families and base personnel to join them for the Summer Reading Program kickoff event to be held June 4, 10 A.M. Registration for the Summer Reading Program begins June 3. Register can be done online at barstow.usmc-mccs.org/library (or using the Beanstack application, seen within this article), or in-person at the library.

All ages can participate in the Summer Reading Program and will be grouped by age brackets. Prizes vary, from most minutes read in each age category, to most read within a family.

Age group breakdowns:

- Children Summer Reading Program Ages..... 0 - 12
- Teen Summer Reading Program Ages 12 - 17
- Adult Summer Reading Program Ages 18+

The first 100 participants who sign up will get a free T-shirt, with different designs for children and adults, which can be claimed at anytime. Participants can register how many minutes they have read online, at the above website or using the Beanstack application, to receive prizes. They will then return to the library on or before July 27 to pick up their final prizes.

Library staff will host an End of Summer Reading Program closing party on July 25, 10 A.M., where there will be ice cream and activities.



Casey Memorial Library Offers Much More Than Books

By Janecze Wright, Sentinel Living Editor, Fort Cavazos, Texas | July 11, 2024

During the lazy days of summer there's nothing better than a good book to pass the time. Luckily, the Casey Memorial Library at Fort Cavazos offers a massive variety of books for all ages and so much more.

The crew of the Great Big Podcast sat down with Rachel Bethel, Casey Memorial Library public services librarian, to discuss the many resources and services the library offers.

Bethel said it's important to offer a variety of books and access to other resources to accommodate the ever-changing diversity of military families.

"We try very hard to provide the entire installation with opportunities for entertainment," Bethel explained. *"We try to make sure that there's something for everybody and that everybody has access."*

The library currently houses more than 50,000 books by authors catering to every age group, a large selection of video games, board games, audiobooks, DVDs and Blu-Ray discs.

Casey Memorial also offers free streaming services that provide access to movies, music, videos and even the library version of Ancestry, the popular genealogy website.

Multiple computers are available for use and visitors can print for a nominal fee.

Bethel conveyed the library goes out of its way to support Soldiers and their families and maintain the quality of life that defines the Great Place.

She added it's important to ensure children feel just as supported as the adults. As such, the library features a dedicated space that caters to the unique needs of youngsters.

The colorful and vibrant space features bookshelves, tables and chairs that are just right for pint-sized guests to comfortably enjoy an assortment of books, games and computer usage.

Bethel said children are often overlooked and it's important to support them and let them know they matter.

"(Children) need all the help they can get," she said. *"So, the library is key for families. Having access to everything is really important."*

To support families and promote reading and literacy, the library offers an all-ages summer reading program.

Readers register online and log the time they spend reading at home and in the library. Age appropriate prizes are provided as incentives.

Bethel explained the summer reading program is designed to promote the habit of reading and bring awareness to the library, its resources and services.

She said the program prevents people of all ages from losing their reading skills and comprehension abilities.

"It's important for adults to read as well," she explained. *"And little ones who can't read learn an enormous amount of language and other skills by other people reading to them, so it's beneficial for everybody."*

"It has been demonstrated by studies repeatedly that kids who don't read during the summer, or, for that matter, adults who don't read for a long period of time lose their comprehension abilities and their ability to keep up with reading and learning," she added.

Families can still register for the summer reading program at www.beanstack.com/ and log reading time through July 29.

The library will announce top readers at a finale party at 2 P.M. Aug. 3.

Casey Memorial Library is open from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, and 9 A.M. to 7 P.M. Tuesday and Wednesday.

Visit <https://cavazos.armymwr.com/programs/casey-memorial-library> for more information.



ARMY



Darby Military Community, Italy



Fort Eisenhower, Georgia



Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Darby Military Community, Italy



Fort Eisenhower, Georgia



Fort Jackson, South Carolina



Fort Belvoir, Virginia



Fort Eisenhower, Georgia



Fort Gregg Adams, Virginia



Fort Carson, Colorado



Fort Gregg Adams, Virginia



Fort Hunter Liggett, California



Fort Jackson, South Carolina



Fort Jackson, South Carolina



USAG Rheinland-Pfalz, Germany



Fort Jackson, South Carolina



USAG Bavaria, Germany



Fort Sill, Oklahoma



Fort Sill, Oklahoma

MARINE CORPS



Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona



Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona



Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni, Japan



Camp Butler, Japan



Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, California



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California



Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, California



Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

NAVY



Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae, South Korea



Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida



Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy



Naval Air Station Sigonella, Italy



Naval Station Norfolk, Virginia



Commander, Fleet Activities Chinhae, Korea



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba



Naval Support Activity, Bahrain

AIR FORCE



Aviano Air Base, Italy



Cannon Air Force Base, New Mexico



Ellsworth Air Force Base, South Dakota



Goodfellow Air Force Base, Texas



Patrick Space Force Base, Florida



Dyess Air Force Base, Texas



JBSA Lackland, Texas



Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida



Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi



Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas



JBLE Langley, Virginia



US Air Force Academy Base, Colorado



Kadena Air Base, Japan



Ramstein Air Base, Germany



Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri



Peterson Space Force Base, Colorado



McConnell Air Force Base, Kansas



Edwards Air Force Base, California



MacDill Air Force Base, Florida



RAF Lakenheath, England



Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska



Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina

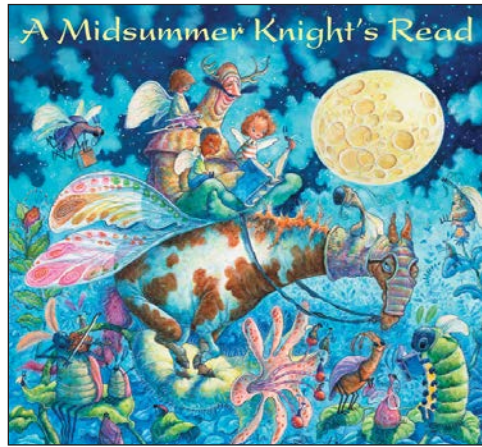


Osan Air Base, South Korea

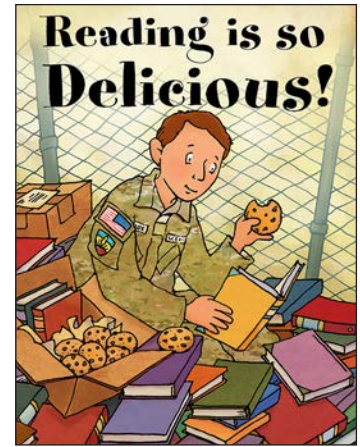
DoD MWR Libraries Summer Reading Posters



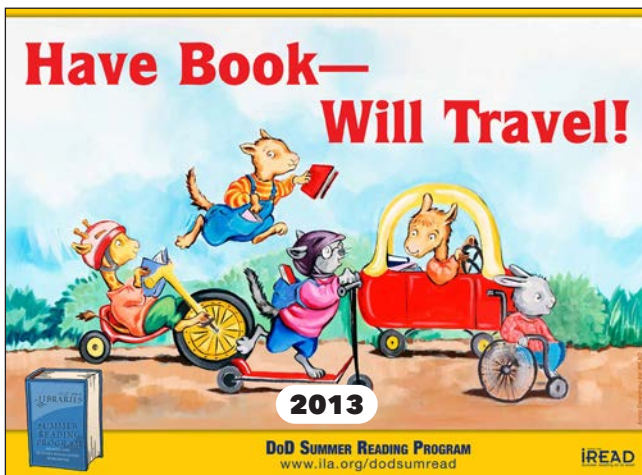
2010
Voyage to Book Island
 Oceans, vacations, treasure hunts
 Featured artist: Kevin Luthardt



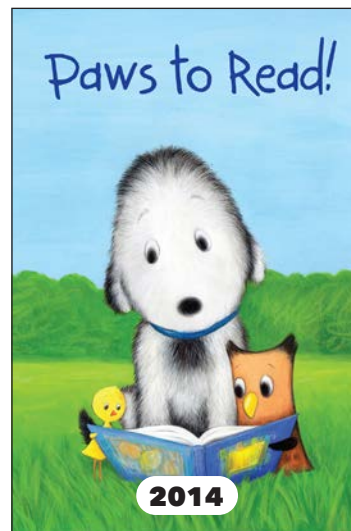
2011
A Midsummer Knight's Read
 Medieval times and fantasy
 Featured artist: David Catrow



2012
Reading Is So Delicious!
 Food, eating right, exercise
 Featured artist: Patrick Girouard



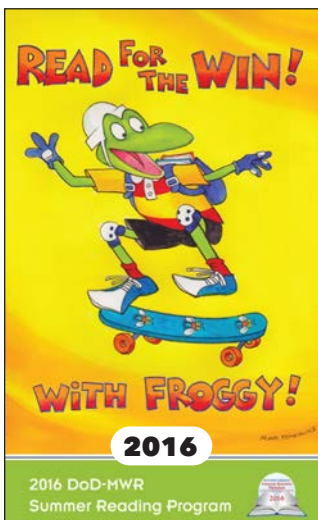
2013
Have Book—Will Travel!
 Travel, types of transportation, geography
 Featured artist: Anna Dewdney



2014
Paws to Read!
 Pets and other animals
 Featured artist: Tad Hills



2015
Read to the Rhythm
 Music and dance
 Featured artist: Don Tate



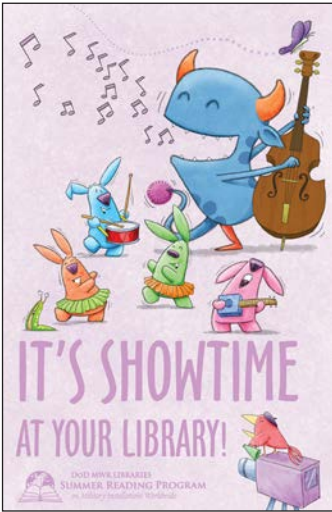
2016
Read for the Win!
 Sports, the Olympics, achievement
 Featured artist: Frank Remkiewicz



2017
Reading by Design
 Technology, engineering, design, STEAM
 Featured artist: Nick Dragotta



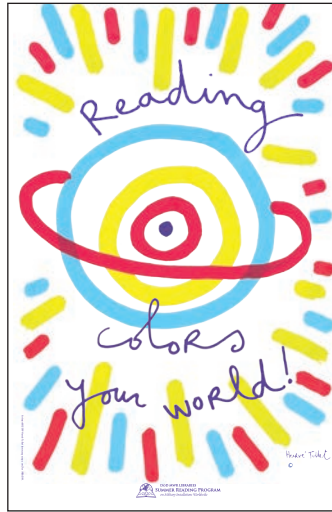
2018
Reading Takes You Everywhere!
 Exploration, discovery, adventure
 Featured artist: Terri Murphy



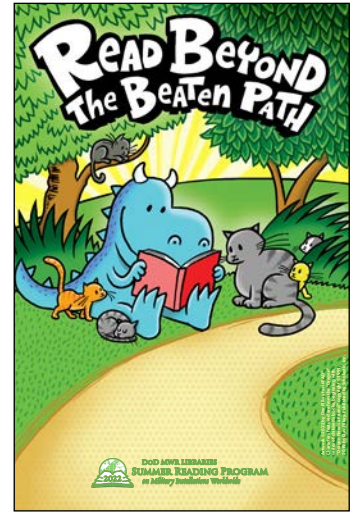
2019
It's Showtime at Your Library!
 Movies, theater, dance, music
 Featured artist: Kevan Atteberry



2020
Dig Deeper: Read, Investigate, Discover
 Investigation, discovering hidden information, exploring mysteries
 Featured artist: Rafael López



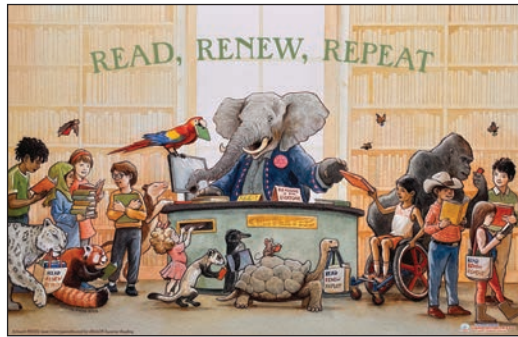
2021
Reading Colors Your World!
 Color science, art, creativity, kindness, growth, community
 Featured artist: Hervé Tullet



2022
Read Beyond the Beaten Path
 Summer camp, nature, outdoor activities
 Featured artist: Dav Pilkey



2023
Find Your Voice!
 Expression through words, music, art
 Teen artist: Hannah Templer



2024
Read, Renew, Repeat
 Environmental and personal renewal
 Elementary Age artist: Jason Chin



2025
Level Up At Your Library
 Play, puzzles, and games
 Teen artist: Carey Pietsch





LEVEL UP AT YOUR LIBRARY

COMING IN 2025!

