



# MARINES

## MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

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### Media Advisory

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma  
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### Laser Use Cause for Serious Concern Around MCAS Yuma

**MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Ariz. (March 9, 2016)** – Over the past few months, incidents involving lasers aimed at low-flying aircraft, to include the station’s search and rescue helicopter, have significantly increased.

A laser is ultra-focused light that can travel a great distance before it diffuses. The high-powered, focused energy from a laser can quickly injure or permanently damage a pilot’s eyes. Even a low-power laser can injure, disorient or temporarily blind a pilot. Pilots in low-flying aircraft are especially susceptible to these dangers.

With the high number of aircraft flying around MCAS Yuma, the mishap potential is increased if a pilot’s eyesight is affected by a laser. Whether people are using lasers recreationally or maliciously, it is a federal crime to direct them at aircraft and users may be prosecuted due to the impact on pilots’ eyesight, safety of flight operations, and danger to human life.

Every time an incident occurs, it is taken very seriously and the information is reported to the Federal Aviation Administration, local authorities, and Homeland Security offices around the country.

Anyone with information about individuals targeting aircraft is encouraged to notify local law enforcement, or provide details to the appropriate agencies below:

MCAS Yuma: (928) 269-2204/2205  
City of Yuma: (928) 78-CRIME (782-7463)  
Yuma County: (928) 783-4427