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MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA

Media Release

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MCAS Yuma Awards Volunteers of the Year

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION YUMA, Arizona (June 1, 2022) – Staff Sgt. Josebel Gaspar, Melissa Tournay and retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. George Vogel were recognized for volunteering during an award ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona, May 16, 2022.

The Volunteer of the Year award recognizes the outstanding performance of volunteers for their noteworthy assistance to a program or unit on MCAS Yuma. The recipients lead, mentored and contributed their time to programs that help active duty service members across the installation.

“Volunteers give their time. They could choose to do a lot of things with their time. These volunteers choose to help others,” said Anastasia D’Ambrogi, Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Director. “They also consistently made that choice. I find it wholly appropriate to acknowledge and thank volunteers for the gift of their time. Our volunteers are here to serve those who serve. All of our volunteers are passionate about our mission and the services they provide. NMCRS would not be able to provide the services we do without our volunteers.”

The Active Duty Volunteer award was awarded to Staff Sgt. Josebel Gaspar, who recently left Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 211 (VMFA-211). Gaspar received her award for the numerous hours she spent volunteering at the Yuma Humane Society as well as the Saddles of Joy.

The Civilian Volunteer of the Year award was presented to retired U.S. Marine Corps Master Sgt. “Big” George Vogel, a donation sorter for the NMCRS. In total Vogel has submitted over 200 hours of Volunteer work with the NMCRS.

The Military Family Member Volunteer of the Year award was presented to another NMCRS volunteer, Melissa Tourney. After COVID she was one of the first volunteers to return to the office, answering phones, greeting costumers, and scheduling appointments. She also volunteered as a cashier when the Thrift Shop reopened and assisted in the recruitment and training of additional volunteers. Tourney volunteered over 365 hours with the NMCRS.

For additional information please contact the Communication Strategy and Operations Office at MCASYuma_Media@usmc.mil .