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DLA Disposition Services

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Yuma pews kept from landfill

By Jeff Landenberger

Marine Corps Air Station Yuma recently replaced aging pews in its main chapel. Naturally, a question arose. What do you do with the old ones?

The Marines contacted DLA Disposition Services Yuma Site Lead John Wilcox. Wilcox said he reviewed the property and discovered the pews were over 16 feet long. Wilcox has limited storage space at his site and the Marines needed the pews removed quickly to make room for the new ones.

Lt. Cmdr. James Bradshaw is the command chaplain at the installation. He said the chapel is used over 400 times a year, from religious services to intelligence briefings to Border Patrol graduations.

"The chapel has the highest seating capacity on the air station, thus we see more than our share of use, something we encourage," Bradshaw said.

Wilcox worked with Carol Fix in the DLA Disposition Services RTD Branch office in Battle Creek.

"Property was offered to DoD and State agencies, but due to time constraints no one was interested," Wilcox said. He then offered the property to Government Liquidation but it declined due to storage and time constraints.

Keeping this property out of a landfill was Wilcox's goal, but with the new pews about to arrive, he was running out of options and time.

"Carol Fix and I found a Donation in Lieu of Abandonment and Destruction with the Yuma Cross Roads Mission," Wilcox said.

Sandy Freeman manages the Second Chance Thrift Store in Yuma, run by the Cross Roads Mission.

"We have three or four churches who may take them we are waiting on to come and look at the pews," Freeman said.



Marines move pews from the base chapel at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma. The pews will go to a local charity. DLA photo.