

PROSPECTOR

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW



Semper



Fidelis



Vol. 1, No. 17

September 27, 2012



Customer Appreciation Day

Base employees enjoy day filled with product displays and demonstrations

Jane Wayne Day

Military spouses experience a day in the life of their husbands

Top Squad

Retired Marine Master Sergeants bring lessons learned to new roles as civilian leaders

Hispanic Heritage Month

Marine Corps recognizes and celebrates diversity through heritage month



Fire Prevention

Safety Standown and BBQ

VPP & Safety Information
FREE Door Prizes – Fire Safety House

Thursday October 11, 2012
1100 to 1230
Nebo Fire Station
Building 18

BBQ

Hamburger, Hot Dog, Chips & Drink
\$5.00 a plate

All Proceeds go to Marine Corps Ball

For tickets call
Terry Jenkins at 577-6966
Gabe Hammett at 577-6093
Joann Williams or Michelle Bledsoe at 577-7039
1st Sgt Hernandez at 577-6700
Sgt Villalobos at 577-6114
Cut-off date for tickets COB 8 October

Everyone is invited to attend with supervisor approval.

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On The Cover:

Photo by Cpl. T. Allen Bricker

Spouses of service members living aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., lift ammo cans during their combat fitness test during Jane Wayne Day held Sept. 21 aboard the base. During the event, spouses were given a tour of base facilities and participated in several aspects of Marine Corps life including the CFT, uniform inspections, and the rifle range.

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Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Michael L. Scalise, Commanding Officer
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Montford Point Marines receive recognition



Photo by Cpl. T. Allen Bricker

First Sergeant Arthur Hernandez, presents Montford Point Marine Sgt. William L. Land the Congressional Gold Medal, Sept. 16, in Victorville, Calif. Land served honorably in the United States Marine Corps from 1943-1946. During his time in the Corps, Land participated in the Island Hopping Campaign in the Pacific during World War II.



Photo by Cpl. T. Allen Bricker

Col. Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and 1st Sgt. Arthur Hernandez, pose with Montford Point Marine Staff Sgt. Haston Cox, as he holds his Congressional Gold Medal, Sept. 17, at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center aboard the base. Cox honorably served in the United States Marine Corps from 1945-1965. Upon his retirement at Camp Pendleton, Cox moved to Barstow where he currently resides.

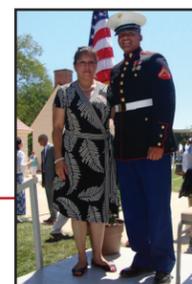
Contents



News Briefs 4



Top Squad 8&9



Hispanic Heritage 5



Jayne Wayne Day 10



Customer Appreciation Day 6



Chaplain's Corner 11

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Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations: **Lawrence Agins, Brandi Dew, Paul K. Flores, Eileen Garcia, Kendra Huyck and Cindy Khelfaoui, and Gerald Smartwood.**

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Sharing Program may do so by obtaining a leave donor application form from the Human Resources Office. Ensure completed forms are turned into HRO as well. For more information, contact Michelle Eichler at 760-577-6915.

Library Services

Marine Study Program—Are you taking a class? Want to brush up on your foreign language skills? Your library has quiet study space, which includes four carrels. Bring your laptop or if you like to keep it old school, pencil and paper. Work towards that degree or choose an item from the Commandant's Professional Reading Program. Just a few hours a week is all the effort that it takes and you will succeed. Let us help you meet your professional development goals, every Saturday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for more information call 577-6395.

New Parent Support Program

Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Marine & Family Programs Conference room bldg. 129 New Parent Support Program presents: Nurturing Parenting for Military Families. Whether you're a first time parent or a seasoned parent, being in the military is no easy task. Nurturing yourself so you can nurture your children is the key to Nurturing Parenting. Please join us in discussion: October 4th -Rewards and Punishments. Free childcare is provided for active duty only at the CDC. Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call New Parent Support Manager at 577-6533

Victim Advocacy Program

Learn about what domestic violence resources and Family Advocacy Program provides Thursday, Oct. 4 at 2 p.m. in the McTureous Hall Classroom, Bldg. 218. Descriptions of abusive behaviors, warning signs and cycles of abuse will be explained, as well as services available to survivors and their families. For more information, contact Victim Advocacy at 577-6533.

Texas Hold' Em Poker Tournament Series

Join us at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center for the next tournament series game Oct. 16. Registration, appetizers and finger foods will begin at 5:30 p.m. and game play begins at 6. There is an initial \$25 buy-in per person, which includes \$2500 in chips but if you register and pay by Friday, Oct 12, you will receive an early bird bonus of \$500 in extra chips. Sign up locations are the Sugar Loaf Hill Bar, the Family Restaurant, and the Oasis Temporary Lodging Facility. We must have a minimum of seven players to host the game or we will be forced to cancel. Prizes will be awarded depending on participation. This event is open to all MCLB patrons 18 years or older. For more information, call 577-6269.

Family Bingo Night

Today in U.S.M.C history

September 27, 1813: Marines served aboard the ships in battle against the British on Lake Ontario.

September 27, 1942: First Class Signalman Douglas A. Munro, U.S. Coast Guard, rescued Marines of 1/7 during Operation Pestilence on Guadalcanal. He is the only Medal of Honor recipient for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Join us at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center for Family Bingo Night Tuesday, Oct 9 at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 577-6269.

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For more information about upcoming special events, classes, programs, dining, recreation, special offers and more, visit us at MCCSBarstow.com, grab a Quarterly Connection (available at any MCCS facility) or call 577-5893/6968 for assistance.

237th Marine Corps Birthday Ball Tickets for sale

Tickets for the 237th Marine Corps Birthday Ball are on sale now until October 5. Service members, retirees, base employees and their guests are invited to attend this event, which will be held aboard the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif. For more information contact Capt. Shawn R. Cash, (760) 577-6304.

Ticket costs for this year are as follows: Officers/Retirees/Base Employees (and guests) : \$35
Staff Noncommissioned Officers (and guests) : \$30
E5 and below (and guests) : \$25

Many backgrounds, many stories, one American spirit

Story and Photos by Pfc. Samuel Ranney Combat Correspondent

Many Americans have paid the ultimate sacrifice for this country, however it wasn't only U.S. citizens who shed blood for the freedom of this nation.

According to Immigration Policy Center, as of 2009, more than 100,000 immigrants were serving in the U.S. military. Many of these service members were not naturalized citizens.

It is for this reason, among many other contributions made by people of Hispanic heritage, that the Marine Corps, Marine Administrative Message 445/12, and America as a whole, recognize Hispanic Heritage Month, Sept. 15 through Oct. 15.

This recognition started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week, under President Lyndon B. Johnson. In 1988, it became Hispanic Heritage Month, Public Law 100-402, under President Ronald Reagan. The beginning of the 30 days of recognition, Sept. 15, marks the independence of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18 respectively. Día de la Raza, Day of the Race, celebrated as Columbus Day in America, is marked toward the end of the 30 day period, Oct. 12. These Hispanic anniversaries set the time frame for America as a whole to recognize and celebrate the contributions

made by people of Hispanic descent.

Not only do Hispanics make up a large portion of our military, many of them decided to serve this country prior to obtaining citizenship. For example, Lance Cpl. Jose Antonio Gutierrez, 22, one of the first service members to be killed in Iraq, first entered America illegally from Guatemala and enlisted in the Marine Corps as a legal resident. Gutierrez received his citizenship posthumously after dying for "his" country.

"My friends, I want you, the next time you're down in Washington, D.C., to go to the Vietnam War Memorial and look at the names engraved in black granite," said Senator John McCain, U.S. senator from Arizona. "You'll find a whole lot of Hispanic names."

According to Immigration Policy Center, more than 100 service members were granted

U.S. citizenship posthumously during combat in Iraq and Afghanistan.

"The United States gave me and my family a new life to pursue, the American dream... joining the service is how I show my appreciation to America," said Cpl. John C. Ordonez, an administrative clerk aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

Ordonez is one of the many service members who obtained citizenship through the military. He arrived in America from Colombia July 7, 2000, when he and his family applied for political asylum.

For non U.S. citizens to be granted political asylum, a claim must be made to an immigration judge. The claim must prove their safety, while in their home country, was at risk due to race, religion, social groups, or political preferences. Since the 1960s,

Colombian people have often been kidnapped and prosecuted by terrorists. The Ordonez family proved they were in danger and were given one year and one day to apply for legal residency, a step before becoming a citizen, Ordonez explained.

After becoming a legal resident Ordonez enlisted in the Marine Corps. He was 19 years old.

"Becoming a United States Marine was my dream since high school," Ordonez said proudly.

"After I completed my citizenship test I waited for a ceremony held at Mount Vernon in Washington D.C., the ceremony was held for 101 new citizens including myself. At the time I was a lance corporal and the only service member at the ceremony,"

Story continued on page 11



Corporal John C. Ordonez, administrative clerk with Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, stands as a proud American citizen in front of Mount Vernon July 4, 2010.

Customer Appreciation Day returns to MCLB Barstow

Story and Photo by
Pfc. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow held its third annual Customer Appreciation Day at Marine Depot Maintenance Command, building 573, Sept. 19 for all base employees.

The event was held to keep federal customers and base workers supplied with what they need to accomplish their mission aboard, and in support of, MCLB Barstow.

Vendors such as DeWalt, Grainger, Rigid, Office Depot, Makita, Edge Safety Eyewear, 3M and several others showcased their products for base employees.

As each year has gone by, the crowd of base employees has grown each time we hold this event, said Richard Green, the director of the base supply division aboard MCLB Barstow.

“The vendors here today just want to give the employees aboard MCLB Barstow a chance to see what they have to offer,” added Green.

Vendors showcased more than 400,000 office products, cleaning supplies, tools, hardware industrial products and equipment solutions, explained Green.

Base employees were given an opportunity to see products that would help them in completing their mission on an everyday basis.

“As I walked around I realized that there was a lot of

equipment that the vendors brought with them,” said Cpl. Jonathan Norita, a supply clerk with Headquarters Battalion. “I realized some of the tools showcased are ones [we] use at work.”

Green explained that the USMC Serv-Mart Enterprise is part of the Marine Corps Logistics Modernization Program, a continuous process improvement program designed to transform its operations quickly, in support of its customers.

Items not stocked at the issue point are normally available within two working days, explained Green.

Serv-Mart holds this event, not only for Marine Corps personnel but to its other DoD

customers as well.

“We have a lot of Army customers who come to the Maintenance Center,” said Green. “A lot of the Army units will come to the USMC Serv-Mart to get equipment and products they need to complete their mission in the High Desert.”

As base employees and service members walked around, the vendors explained their products. Vendors explained to patrons everything there is to know about their merchandise, whether showcasing tools, keyboards or items used for deployment. This gave the vendors a chance to show their newest products and upgrades since last year, added Green.

The intent of the vendors is

for base employees to walk away knowing how the product functions and what makes their product one-of-a-kind.

“Going around to each vendor and talking to them really gave me a chance to learn about each tool and know a little more about the tools that I work with,” said Norita.

As the vendors packed their products and left the High Desert, employees and Marines aboard MCLB Barstow walked away with a little more knowledge about the products, tools and equipment they use on a day-to-day basis. With the knowledge they received, the base employees can do their jobs and complete their missions as fast, proficiently and safely as possible.



Jennifer Wilson (Right), an Office Depot and Tops representative, shows off her product to Cpl. Aaron Thornton, (Left) and Lance Cpl. Blog Yang (Center), calibration technicians with Fleet Support Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Calif., Sept. 19. Base employees were able to talk with, and browse products brought by vendors.

MCI Command Sergeant Major visits MCLB Barstow

Photos by Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent



(Right) Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations Command, congratulates Cpl. Joleen Quitano, a supply clerk aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Sept. 24. Quitano is the vice president of MCLB's Single Marine Program. She has been named Marine of the quarter twice, noncommissioned officer of the quarter twice, and has been recommended for meritorious sergeant.



(Above) Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations Command, recognizes Cpl. Anthony L. Lewis, ammunitions chief aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., for going above and beyond as a Marine and being nominated for MCLB's Marine of the quarter. Ploskonka gives Lewis a challenge coin in the form of a dog tag as a sign of his recognition during his visit to MCLB at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center, Sept. 24.

(Left) Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations Command, points to his U.S. Marines name tape as he talks to Marines and civilian Marines aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. Ploskonka talks about the Marine Corps and the importance of staying motivated, Sept. 24 at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center.



'Top' Squad: MCLB civilian employees use past military experiences to reach mission accomplishment

By Cpl. T. Allen Bricker
Combat Correspondent

Leadership skills and traits learned by Marines can not only help them with their careers in the military, it can serve a purpose afterward as well.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., holds a ratio of active duty service members to civilian employees unlike many other bases, with a vast majority falling on the latter of the two.

Some of these civilians once wore the uniform of a United States Marine and even fewer achieved the rank of master sergeant. Several departments aboard base are either headed by, or have in them, these Marines formerly known as "Top."

Marines serve a minimum of 20 years before they become eligible for retirement. During their time in service, Marines climbing up the ranks learn how to lead others under their charge.

"I started learning how to become a leader in the Marine Corps since day one," explained Martin Durette, a supervisory logistics management specialist with Fleet Support Division aboard the Yermo Annex of MCLB Barstow.

"I didn't start to use these skills though until I was a lance corporal. A gunnery sergeant of mine really inspired me when I was younger and taught me to act the rank above you," the Cleveland, Ohio, native added.

While Durette learned about leadership during his time as a junior Marine, others had a head start on their training.

"I like to look at it like I had a leg up on everyone when I was developing my skills

"It's great working here with so many guys I served with here on active duty. Establishing relationships with one another is already done and now we have a circle of trust built that we can rely on. This network we have built really makes working here a lot easier, knowing that you've already worked with these guys."

- retired Master Sgt. Martin Durette

as a leader," explained Robert Jackson, the public affairs officer aboard MCLB Barstow. "Growing up, I lived in a single-parent household that had seven kids in it. Being one of the oldest, my siblings looked up to me for guidance. I feel like this helped me out a lot in learning those leadership skills."

While serving in the Marine Corps, these retired master sergeants made it through the ranks of the fan-favorite sergeant or gunnery sergeant before reaching the rank they had when they retired. Although attaining master sergeant is an achievement in its own right, many of these veterans recollect on their days as the "sergeant of Marines" or "the gunny."

"I'd have to say my favorite rank in the Marine Corps was

when I was a gunnery sergeant," said Deputy Chief William Atkinson, of the Marine Corps Police Department aboard MCLB Barstow. "I mean, master sergeant was a great rank to have; I'm glad I retired as one, but being the 'gunny,' now that was where the fun was. I got to remain

working with the troops while still acting as their leader. The rank of master sergeant had a lot of politics to it I could have dealt without," Atkinson recalled at his desk at the Security and Emergency Services building aboard the base.

One of the retired master sergeants aboard MCLB Barstow uses his leadership skills in a different way now. Rick Holman, chief instructor with Homeland Security Solutions Incorporated, the company responsible for training members of MCPD, teaches what he's learned while in the Marine Corps to others now.

"When I was retiring from the Marine Corps in 2005, I had already interviewed for the job I have now. It was when they were standing up the civilian law enforcement on military bases and I was assigned as team leader for the West Coast's training team," explained the Sedalia, Mo., native. "I think the leadership traits I had instilled into me while in the Marine Corps go hand-in-hand with my job now, helping these officers learn."

Being with any organization for more than 20 years can create habits. Being surrounded by the same organization

after retiring can make old habits hard to break.

"When I walk through our warehouse and I see Marines practicing drill, I can't help but stop and watch for a bit," explained Edwin Wisemon, FSD's administration officer. "It's just who I am now. I'll help them out if they look like they need it and offer some advice to their unit leader," the former drill instructor said.

The Marine Corps is the smallest military branch in the United States and it's not uncommon for Marines to find themselves running into others they met earlier in their career. While Jackson and Holman were both stationed in Iwakuni, Japan together at one point, other retirees here served with one another aboard this base while wearing the uniform on active duty.

"It's great working here with so many guys I served with here on active duty. Establishing relationships with one another is already done and now we have a circle of trust built that we can rely on," explained Durette. "This network we have built really makes working here a lot easier, knowing that you've already worked with these guys for so long already."

Even though these retired Marines are in careers that keep them around the Corps, there are several differences they had to adjust to. According to Durette,



From left to right, Darwin O'Neal, Chief of Marine Corps Police Department aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Edwin Wisemon, administration officer with Fleet Support Division aboard the base, Robert Jackson, MCLB Barstow's public affairs officer, William Atkinson, deputy chief of MCPD aboard the base and Richard Holman, an instructor with Homeland Security Solutions Incorporated, pose for a group photo Sept. 20. Each of the gentlemen, along with several others aboard MCLB Barstow, retired from the Marine Corps as master sergeants and now work in supervisory roles aboard the installation.

working as a civilian took some time to get used to. Things like unions and new regulations come into play in his new career he explained.

When not hard at work, these employees of MCLB Barstow can sometimes be found in each other's office carrying on and having a good laugh about current events or past experiences in "the old Corps."

"We like to get together once in a while to have a talk with one another," said Wisemon. "This strong network we have built makes working here a lot better because of the relationship we all have with one another. We can get angry at one another every once and a while but more often than that, we can also sit down and have a good laugh," he added.

Not only is the rank

of master sergeant a common factor between these men, what they've learned as both, Marines and civilians, is a trend as well.

"We've all learned that if you take care of your troops and the civilians you have working for you, mission accomplishment is a lot easier to reach," Jackson said. "That's the most important part."

Spouses load, make ready for MCLB Barstow Jane Wayne Day



(Above) Service member's significant others aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., pose for a group photo at the rifle range, Sept. 21. The women fired the rifles from the sitting, standing and kneeling positions as part of Jane Wayne Day.



(Left) Sergeant Anthony Villalobos, assistant S-3 chief aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Calif., assists Anne Scalise, spouse of Col. Michael L. Scalise, by holding the rifle as she fires down range for MCLB's Jane Wayne Day, Sept. 21. Jane Wayne Day consists of service member's spouses participating in activities Marines do on a regular basis, such as a combat fitness test, a uniform inspection and shooting rifles.

(Right) Lance Corporal Diomar Guano, a postal clerk aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Calif., coaches Celeste Miller, the spouse of Maj. Duncan W. Miller, base adjutant officer aboard MCLB, as she prepares to fire a rifle down range. Guano explains how to position the buttstock of the weapon in the shoulder for stabilization. This is the same technique Marines use every year when qualifying on the rifle range. Spouses of service members shot 25 rounds as part of Jane Wayne Day, Sept 21.



Know Thyself

By Lt. Benjamin Warner
Base Chaplain

There was an interesting story last month wherein a female tourist in Iceland unwittingly joined a search for herself. Basically, she changed clothes at a tour bus stop, got back on the bus, and no one recognized her. Someone realized the woman they remembered from the other clothes was missing, so they began a frantic search for the non-missing woman. She didn't realize they were looking for her because she didn't recognize herself from the description of the "missing" woman. I thought that was pretty funny—at least in hindsight. How many of us would recognize ourselves based on a description given out trying to find us? It brought to mind a passage from the New Testament book of James: *If anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like* (James 1:23-24).

That got me to thinking. How many of us would recognize ourselves from a description of our character? I would hope we'd recognize ourselves based on physical description, even though the story above may prove otherwise. But, what if someone described you using character traits? If we said missing person: bossy, not considerate of others, quick temper, stingy—would any of us hope to be identified by these descriptors? Or what about some other words: generous, kind-hearted, willing to serve others, etc.? Would we jump up and say, "Oh yeah, that's me." Or, would it be possible for you to not even recognize who you are from such a description? One of life's more difficult challenges is understanding not just who we are but how we communicate ourselves to others.

While none of us would likely say that we intend to be any of those negative traits above. No one intends to be bossy, inconsiderate, or quick tempered. Or, if we do intend it, that's

not necessarily how we always want to be known (but if that is how you want to be known, what are you doing reading *this* column?). Yet, despite our good intentions, we can develop character habits that we never wanted for ourselves. Then, we wind up in a place where we hopefully realize how we communicate with others, and desire some sort of change. This is the process of self-awareness. It can be its own struggle of figuring out who we are and why we do what we do. The eventual goal, as I said, is to change those things we realize we want changed.

Fair warning—that's never easy. We are who we are for a reason; for a variety of reasons, actually. Family, circumstances, genetics—all of these things and more contribute to how we view ourselves and the world around us. This, in turn, shapes how we communicate ourselves to that world around us. That's when we find out who we are. This knowledge is a genie that can't be put back in the bottle. Like James' ludicrous example of someone who looks in a mirror and forgets what they look like, we can't escape knowledge of ourselves once we have it. Certainly we may end up with inaccurate knowledge, but most of us know that "ring of truth" when confronted by the reality that we give off character traits we don't really like. That reality and awareness really is a gift, though. Like the woman who was able to call off the search once she realized they were looking for her, we can call off the search once we find out who we are. Then we can get down to the hard work of finding out what we want to change, and how to do so.



Heritage continued from page 5

Ordonez said, recalling this proud day. "They gave me the honor to do the Pledge of Allegiance, I was very proud of that moment."

Because Ordonez was already serving in the military, it took him three years to obtain his citizenship, as opposed to the five years it regularly takes.

"I was the first U.S. citizen in my family," he said.

Every Marine knows that proud feeling of accomplishment after boot camp and receiving the Eagle, Globe and Anchor, and becoming a Marine. The majority of them however, were privileged enough to have been born a citizen of this country, and never felt the pride of "becoming" an American.

"I felt as [if] I achieved something even greater once I received citizenship. Becoming a Marine was also great, but now I have full

rights, I'm able to vote and be fully involved with the country," Ordonez said with pride.

Today Ordonez is still a proud Marine, now a corporal, and a proud American. His mother, father and brother are now also citizens who are very proud of their Marine's accomplishments in the military.

Although an American citizen, Ordonez still takes pride in his Colombian heritage, through cooking, cultural activities and

language. He is grateful for his hard work ethic, which he says he acquired from his heritage.

"Many backgrounds, many stories... one American spirit," is the theme for this year's Hispanic Heritage Month.

There are more than 50 million Latinos in this country, according to census.gov. Take the time this month to learn about where they came from and reflect on the many contributions the people of Hispanic descent have made for this country.

