



Photo By Cpl, Thomas A. Bricker

Children of several service member families aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow receive their "treats" from the home of Army Sgt. Sean Marks and his wife Lauren at base housing the evening of Oct. 31 while trick or treating. Children of workers on base were invited to participate in the annual tradition. Many of the residents of base housing decorated their homes to celebrate the holiday and add a touch of spook to the visiting children.

Marines look to new tuition assistance program

By Pfc. Victoria Fairchild
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps has reverted from the tuition assistance cuts recently announced more than two weeks ago, to the former 2011 TA policy for the upcoming year.

According to MARADMIN 639/11, the policy was restored to 2011 levels, which set a cap at \$250 per credit hour and \$4,500 per fiscal year. It also adds that students affected by the MARADMIN released Oct. 17, will be eligible for TA coverage for any costs that would have been covered prior, under the TA in 2011. "The policy hasn't changed but the Marines should

look for help now," said Francis Villeme, the education services officer aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. "It's important that they get started now so they can get all the help they need with financing."

The message advises Marines to wisely use tuition assistance to maximize Marine Corps financial resources.

Stated in the MARADMIN, "Even with prudent utilization measures in place, it is likely that FY-12 tuition assistance funds will be exhausted well before the end of FY-12."

According to the MARADMIN, the TA policy covers the price of tuition, labs and distance



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There's barely a chill in the air, but fall is the perfect time to have a professional inspect your furnace, fireplace and other heating appliances.

Use the following Home Safety Council's tips to keep yourself and your loved ones safe and warm at home.

Portable Space Heaters: Make sure your heater has been tested for safety. Look on the bottom for a label such as ETL, UL or CSA.

Space heaters need to have plenty of space around them.

Place space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn including furniture, people, pets and curtains.

There should always be an adult in the room when a space heater is on. Turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.

Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.

Never use space heaters to dry clothing or blankets.

Fireplaces and Wood Stoves:

Burn only seasoned hardwood like oak, ash or maple. Do not burn trash, cardboard boxes or Christmas trees because

these items burn unevenly, may contain poisons or cause a home fire.

Have a professional chimney sweep inspect chimneys every year. They will fix any cracks, blockages and leaks and clean out any build-up in the chimney that could start a fire.

Open flues before fireplaces are used.

Use sturdy screens or glass doors to keep embers inside fireplaces.

Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home and inside or near sleeping areas.

Keep young children away from working wood stoves and heaters to avoid contact burn injuries.

Chaplain's Corner

When definitions matter

By Lt. Benjamin Warner Base Chaplain



There's a measure of pride in my life when I tell you that I've never watched an episode of American Idol. Jersey Shore has never appeared on my television set. The only reality television I've ever watched was with my wife—a fan of The Biggest Loser. But, I gave up on that a few years ago when it became too dramatic for me (note that real life is rarely as dramatic as "reality" television). That being said, I am aware of reality television—apparently it's the only thing that keeps the 24-hour news cycle going.

Now, before I go any further with this article, I want to speak to you people who have been through a divorce. This article was not in-

tended to individually judge you. Let's face it, I don't know who reads this, and there's no way I could have evaluated your situation. My guess is that you didn't take a marriage vow lightly, and that you didn't get married intending to get divorced. Having said that let me point something out about the state of marriage in our culture. We have two major problems: we start with the wrong goals and we celebrate the wrong examples. First, the wrong goals: as a society, we have tended to define love in only one fashion. We talk about the butterflies-in-the-

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Chapel Services

Catholic Mass St. Joseph's Catholic Church 505 E. Mt. View Barstow Sundays, 7:30 a.m. Misa En Espanol 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. English

Protestant Services Sunday 9 a.m. Jewish Congregation Call 253-3532 for more information

Barstow Log

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California Colonel Daniel P. Ermer, Commanding Officer

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Just doing my job...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Dominic A. Smarr

Sergeant Seth Mallet, automotive maintenance mechanic aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, poses in his Halloween costume, Oct. 31. The 28-year-old's western gambler costume took first place in the Warehouse 406 costume contest.

Aspiring Leadership Program

The Lejeune Leadership Institute (LLI) is soliciting Civilian Marine nominations for the Aspiring Leadership Program (ALP) 2012-1. Full time permanent status GS-4 through GS-6 grade level non-appropriated employees can prepare for positions of greater responsibility and career development.

The ALP is a two-month program structured around classroom learning and self-study assignments which allow participants to tailor the program to specifically fit their developmental needs.

Contact Chad Trusty, Employee Development Officer at 577-6298 or chad.trusty@usmc.mil for applications or any questions.

Executive Leadership Program

The Lejeune Leadership Institute (LLI) is soliciting Civilian Marine nominations for participation in the Executive Leadership Program (ELP) 2013-1. This program is open to full time permanent status GS-11 through GS-13 grade level or equivalents to include non-appropriated employees.

The ELP seminars are tailored to the federal work environment and focus on leadership skills and experience to help participants move to higher levels of leadership responsibilities.

Contact Chad Trusty, Employee Development Officer, at chad.trusty@usmc.mil for applications or 577-6298 for any questions.

News Briefs

Leave share requests

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and who are in need of your leave donations: Patricia Benavidez, Katrina Sanchez, Anthony Santillanes, Amanda Zamora, Barbara Holt, David Nieman, Daisy Morales, and Alma Rodriguez.

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 577-6915.

Daylight Saving Time ends

Daylight Saving Time ends the first Sunday in November. This year DST ends at 2 a.m. Nov. 6, and everyone gains an hour of sleep. Set all clocks and watches back one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

236th United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball

All military, civilian personnel and retirees affiliated with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are invited to attend the 236th United States Marine Corps Birthday Ball. The ball will be held at Bally's Resort and Casino Saturday, Nov. 12 in Las Vegas.

Tickets are on sale now. Prices are \$60 for civilians, retirees and officers, \$50 for SNCO's and \$40 for sergeants and below and their guests. Tickets can be purchased at Nebo in Building 15 or by contacting Sgt. Maj. White at 577-6238 or 1st Sgt. Hernandez at 577-6700. Tickets can be purchased at Yermo by contacting Staff Sgt. Jackson at 577-7381.

Going Green

Advice from www.ca-petown.gov.za, suggests adding a few drops of food coloring in your toilet tank to check for any signs of a leak. Also, fill a half gallon water bottle with water or sand and place in the toilet tank to reduce the amount of water per flush.

Energy Tip

Set the furnace thermostat at 68 degrees or lower, and the air-conditioner thermostat at 78 degrees or higher, health permitting. A total of 3-5 percent more energy is used for each degree the furnace is set above 68 degrees and for each degree the air conditioner is set below 78 degrees. This is another Green Energy Tip from your MCLB Energy Team.



TGIF! TGIFY!

Each Wednesday in November is TGIF! TGIFY! Thank Goodness It's Friday - Thank Goodness For You! The month of November is "Communication Refresher," Nov. 9- Defense Mechanisms, Nov. 16- Irrational Beliefs. Classes are held at the Desert View Housing Community Center from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, please call Betty Murphy, LMFT, General Counseling, Marine and Family Services, at 577-6533.

Burn Your Own Steak and Family Dining Nights

Effective Immediately, Burn Your Own Steak Night and Family Dining Nights return to the Major General James L. Day Conference Center and Sugar Loaf Hill Bar. Burn You Own Steak and Family Dining Nights from 4:30 to 8 p.m. The Sugar Loaf Hill Bar will be open as well but only

on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Burn Your Own Steak Night on Tuesdays- Pricing: Active Duty \$10.95 and civilians \$12.95. Family Dining on Thursdays-Pricing: Military \$6.50, Children ages 5-12 \$6.50, civilians \$7.25, (children under five are free). For questions or comments, call 577-6296.

Story Time

It's story time each Tuesday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come to the Base Library at McTureous Hall (Bldg. 218) for our weekly story time. We will have crafts, puppets and great stories. For more information, contact the Library at 577-6395, or e-mail at LibraryBarstow@usmc-mccs.org. Visit our website at www.mccsbarstow.com/library.

Annual Retiree Open House

The annual Retiree Open House takes place Tuesday, Nov. 15 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Semper Fit Gym, McCarver Hall (Bldg 44). If you would like to be added to the invitation list, or for more information, call 577-6968.

Family Bingo Night

Dinner and Bingo Nov. 8, at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center (Bldg. 38), open to all authorized MCLB Barstow patrons and their sponsored guests, \$12 per person (includes dinner) game play from 6 to 8 p.m., dinner served at 5:30 p.m. For more information, call 577-6269.

Texas Hold 'Em Poker

The next tournament is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 15, at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center (Bldg. 38). Check-in begins at 5:30 and game play starts at 6 p.m. A \$25 buy-in (includes \$2,500 in chips). Sign-up at the Family Restaurant (Bldg. 301), Oasis Temporary Lodging Facility (Bldg. 185A), or the Marine Corps Exchange Community Store (Bldg. 319).

Understanding the Child with Autism

Learn to see how a child with autism looks at the world. Come to "Understanding the Child with Autism" discussion Nov. 8, Marine and Family Services, in Bldg. 129 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. For more information, contact Exceptional Family Member Program Manager, Deborah McGough at 577-6533.

SMP Night at the Movies

The Single Marine Program is having a Night at the Movies courtesy of Ultra Star Cinema in Apple Valley Nov. 18, 7 to 10 p.m. We will meet in front of Pettit Hall at 5 p.m.

STAY IN THE LOOP!

Visit www.mccsbarstow.com or pick up a Quarterly Connection Magazine at any of our MCCS facilities.

Native American Heritage Month promotes pride, understanding

By Cpl. Sean Palmer
Combat Correspondent

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution in designating the month of November: "National Native American Heritage Month." This year's theme for the month is "Service, Honor, and Respect: Strengthening our cultures and communities."

What started as an effort to gain only a single day of national recognition for Native Americans at the turn of the century eventually became a month devoted in marking the positive influences and contributions the first Americans made to the U.S.

"I believe Native American Heritage Month helps in

keeping a dying culture alive," said Cpl. Brian Chandronnet, base armory chief aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and a member of the Penobscot Indian tribe. "It reminds people that America wasn't just discovered and that there were people here before."

American Indians have a long history of eagerly serving their government and defending a country, which did not always keep its word to their ancestors. According to the Library of Congress, the Navajo Code Talkers who fought the Japanese in World War II, were prized by the military for speaking their own language and developing their own unbreakable code used in communications across the battlefield.

"Being a service member and a Native American has

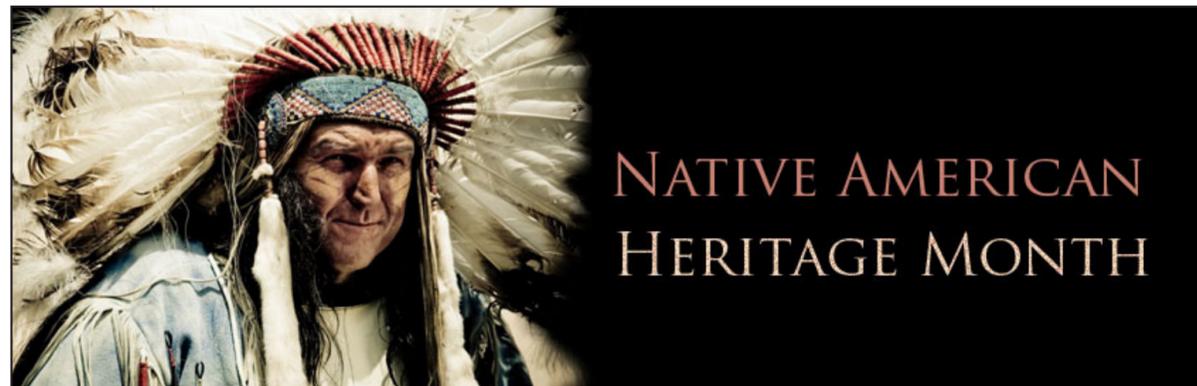
helped me embrace this country and put off previous transgressions done to my people in the past, said Chandronnet. I do my best to protect what this country has become."

According to defense.gov, the Native American population at the time of Christopher Columbus's arrival to the new world was estimated to be about one million. By 1940, the population was estimated at only 350,000 and more than 44,000 Native Americans served in World War II on all fronts. In fact, Native Americans served so extensively in World War II that their service became a part of American history.

"There are less than 10 people who speak the Penobscot language fluently and just knowing that we're such a small percentage of people belonging to the same group who originally settled this country gives me my pride in being Native American," said the 21-year-old Chandronnet.

"It's just like being part of the Marine Corps family," said Chandronnet, "I can be around any other Native American and relate to them in the same way I can relate to any other Marine."

For more on this story contact the author at sean.palmer@usmc.mil



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stomach, new relationship experience, happy giddy days as love. That *may* be one definition of love, but experiences makes me think more and more that we could describe that as affection or even chemistry. This part of a relationship is important; I'm not trying to be unromantic. We need that—we who have been married for more than a decade need to cultivate it. But, if that is our only goal for love (and thereby for marriage) we will always be disappointed. One of my favorite Biblical examples is the prophet Hosea—he has a book named after him that you can read. God commands Hosea to marry a prostitute, knowing that she will be unfaithful. You have to wonder how that pre-marital counseling went! The point being is that Hosea had to enter marriage without any pretenses about non-stop happiness. We need to remember that—if our goal for marriage is unachievable, so too will be our vow "as long as we both shall live."

As to the examples of marriage: you remember this summer when some sort of "Royal Wedding" happened (again, I'm out of the loop on some of these things)? The hype that surrounded this thing was

excessive. If all we worry about is the dress, the venue, and the guest list, instead of the character of the two main participants, we're guilty of contributing to a culture in which marriage is undervalued. We love the *idea* of marriage, and I'm pretty sure the booming bridal industry would agree that we like the act of actually getting married (a wedding). What I don't know is if we like the actual "being" married. My suggestion to those of you who are single: figure out what you believe love is, *then* figure out if your definition is both achievable and sustainable before you promise to love someone in that manner for the rest of your life.



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learning fees, although graduate students are only afforded \$250 per semester hour instead of the original \$350.

Active duty military spouses are still eligible to receive up to 100% TA for education. Pursuing off-duty education is beneficial to service members, whether they continue their service or decide to leave the military, said Staff Sgt. Arturo D. Padilla, a career retention specialist at Marine and Family Programs aboard MCLB Barstow.

Not only does it enhance your career but it creates a sense of accomplishment as an individual, Padilla added.

MCLB Barstow is an ideal place to pursue further education with its small Marine population and its unique work tempo.

"Being stationed here makes it easier to go to school because the work load is smaller due to the

number of Marines on base," said Lance Cpl. John C. Ordonez, an administration specialist at S-1 Manpower aboard MCLB Barstow. "I have more time to myself to go to school and complete my homework. There are many online schools you can enroll with and there are two colleges in town." Barstow Community College and Victor Valley Community College both offer a variety of classes for Marines and their dependents.

For more information on how to utilize tuition assistance, contact Francis Villeme at the education office at (760) 577-6118 or villeme@usmc-mccs.org.

For more on this story contact the author at victoria.fairchild@usmc.mil



Colonel Daniel P. Ermer, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, uses his Campaign Plan 2011 - 2015 brochure and a computer slide show to talk about the future of MCLB Barstow during the Visions of Barstow 2011 to 2012 breakfast at the Hampton Inn and Suites in Lenwood, Calif., Oct. 26. San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Brad Mitzlefeldt, Army Col. Kurt J. Pinkerton, garrison commander, Ft. Irwin, Calif., and City of Barstow Mayor Joe Gomez also outlined what is ahead for their various organizations during the coming year. Hosted by the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, the Visions breakfast, formerly called the State of the County, Base and City address, was attended by nearly 100 people.

Top's Picks

This week's Top's Picks is really going to be challenging! There are a number of matchups which feature smashmouth rivalries, the most brutal of them being the rematch between the Baltimore Ravens (5-2) versus their archenemies the Pittsburgh Steelers. Generally thought of as the premiere rivalry in the game today, both teams seek to position themselves atop the AFC North. Elsewhere, the surprising 49ers head east to lock horns with the Redskins in the Nation's capital, while Green Bay places their undefeated record on the line down the road in San Diego. Should be an awesome weekend of professional football this week! Here are the rest of the matchups:

- Miami @ Kansas City*
- *Atlanta @ Indianapolis
- Tampa Bay @ New Orleans*
- NY Jets @ Buffalo*
- Seattle @ Dallas*
- Cleveland @ Houston*
- *San Francisco @ Washington
- *Cincinnati @ Tennessee
- Denver @ Oakland*
- NY Giants @ New England*
- St. Louis @ Arizona*
- *Green Bay @ San Diego
- *Baltimore @ Pittsburgh

Monday Night
Chicago @ Philadelphia

Byes: Detroit, Minnesota, Carolina, Jacksonville

Remember to drop your selections off at the Public Affairs Office, Bldg. 204 on Nebo, or submit by e-mail to BSTW_PAO@usmc.mil, by close of business Friday. Good luck!

Security tip of the week



Bullying is often dismissed as part of growing up. But it's actually an early form of aggressive, violent behavior. Statistics show that one in four children who bully will have a criminal record before the age of 30. Some bullies get their way by brute force. Other bullies use cunning, manipulation, and deception. The typical victim of a bully is often shy, sensitive, and perhaps anxious or insecure. Take children's complaints of bullying seriously. A few signs of being bullied include withdrawal, a drop in grades, torn clothes, or needing extra money or supplies. Tell the school or organization immediately if you think your child is being bullied. Work with other parents to ensure that the children in your neighborhood are supervised closely on their way to and from school. Help children learn confidence so they are less likely to be bullied or to bully others. Praise children's kindness toward others. Teach children ways to resolve arguments without violent words or actions. Learn to recognize if your child is a bully.



ARTICLES SUBMITTED FOR PUBLISHING IN THE BARSTOW LOG MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE MCLB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE (BUILDING 204) NO LATER THAN THE THURSDAY PRIOR TO THE DESIRED PUBLICATION DATE.

Today in U.S.M.C. history
Nov. 3, 1943: A detachment of the 3rd Raider Battalion occupied Torokina Island, Solomon Islands, in support of operation Bougainville, Papua New Guinea.

Halloween Haunt proves to be a 'spooky' time for all

By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker
Combat Correspondent

As darkness fell across the land and the midnight hour drew close to hand, creatures crawled, both stout and gaunt, to attend the annual Halloween Haunt.

The event held at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow was for patrons of the base including service members, retirees, reservists, Civilian Marines, and families.

The night consisted of dinner, music, dancing, a puppet show and contests for best costumes, and best carved pumpkin of the evening.

The Halloween Haunt is an annual event held on base that brings

folks of the installation together for a night of fun.

"There was anywhere from 250-300 children and adults at the Halloween Haunt," said Jennifer Silva, marketing manager of Marine Corps Community Services aboard the base.

For some Marines and their families on base, this was their first Halloween Haunt aboard Barstow.

"It was the first year my family and I went to the party," said Sgt. Jacey Marks, an S-3 clerk with Headquarters Battalion aboard MCLB Barstow. "Watching my kids jumping around, dancing, and having a good time would probably be my favorite part about the night."

The event was also a way for others to part with the base with fond

memories.

"It was a great way to spend one of my last nights here before I leave Barstow," explained Lance Cpl. Lyonel Vilfort, an adjutant clerk with Headquarters Bn. Vilfort, who's active service with the Marine Corps ends this December, attended his last haunt. "It was fun. My wife and I really enjoyed it," said the Chicago native.

The event has been, and continues to be, a staple in community get-togethers aboard the base.

"This year's Halloween Haunt was definitely a success," said Theresa Odom, a commercial sponsorship technician with MCCS. "We already have thoughts on next year's including a haunted house outside," she concluded.



Barstow's 79th annual Mardi Gras Parade



Photo By Cpl. Sean Palmer

Photo By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker



Photo By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker



Photo By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker



Photo By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker



Photo By Cpl. Sean Palmer



Photo By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker

Award-winning MCLB Barstow fire chief ready for Camp Pendleton top spot

By Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

The man who guided the Marine Corps Logistics Base Fire Department to become number one in the Department of Defense is leaving for greener, and much larger, pastures.

Fire Chief Tommy Thompson announced via base-widest email Oct. 14 that he was leaving effective Nov. 5 to begin in his new post as chief of the Camp Pendleton Fire Department Nov. 6.

"I applied (at Pendleton) through USA jobs and went for my interview (Oct. 12) at 10:30 and halfway home I got a call from (the Security and Emergency Services Battalion commanding officer) offering me the job. I accepted and they want me by Nov. 6," Thompson said.

Thompson's work is cut out for him while he tries to do for massive Camp Pendleton what he did for much smaller MCLB Barstow.

The fire department at Pendleton covers some 200 square miles compared to MCLB Barstow's 6.25 square miles, said Thompson.

"(MCLB) has 57 (fire personnel), (Pendleton) has 176 people. There are two fire stations here at Barstow while Pendleton has eleven."

The number of people falling within the Pendleton wire works out to about thirty times the number under Thompson's jurisdiction now.

Thompson's hard work has earned MCLB Barstow massive amounts of recognition during his two years as chief, including: Best Fire Department in the Marine Corps in 2005, '09, '10; Best Fire Department and Best Fire Prevention Program in the entire DoD in 2007; DoD heroism awards in 2008 and '10; Best Firefighter and Best Firefighter Emergency Medical Technician in the Marine Corps; Best Fire Officer in the DoD in 2010 and the GEICO Public Service Award in 2008 and 2010, which has been won only twice by the Marine Corps and both of those were won by MCLB Barstow.

Typically, Thompson credits those around him with earning the recognition.

"When I took over as fire chief and we started this drive for excellence there were a lot of holes in the program.

"The awards we've achieved with MCLB and the support I've gotten from my folks here and the command have set me up for success," Thompson said.

He thinks his method of going for excellence will translate well to the much larger Camp Pendleton fire department.

"I hope to take the stuff that we've done here and align in to that mission through the (Commission on Fire Accreditation International) model which we have obtained here and start building



Official File Photo

Tommy Thompson, fire chief, Marine Corps Fire Department, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., poses with his Fire and Emergency Service Accreditation Award.

our program from there," Thompson said.

With the right planning, Thompson said he'll be able to take on the number one department in the Marine Corps.

"I plan on within two years of hard work and selling those folks that we'll be accredited and competing with the best in the Marine Corps ... which is Barstow," the native of Inglewood, Calif., said.

In the meantime, Assistant Chief Lance Milanez will be taking the reins until the new chief is named.

"That's up to the commanding officer and the director on who they want to recruit for chief," Thompson said. "I've given them my recommendations, but it's up to them to make the choice."

Meanwhile, Thompson said he's never going to forget his time at MCLB Barstow.

"I'm going to miss everybody, especially my folks. I've got the best product in town and it's successful.

We've done some amazing things here in a very short amount of time," Thompson said.



Official File Photo

Tommy Thompson (right), fire chief, Marine Corps Fire Department, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., and Fire Captain Craig Posey admire one of the many awards the department and its employees received during his tenure as chief.

For more on this story contact the author at keith.hayes@usmc.mil

Base auto worker assists motor heads at Hobby Shop

Photos and story by
Staff Sgt. Houston White Jr.
Chief of Public Affairs

Centrally located at the intersection of Joseph Boll Ave. and South Iwo Jima St. aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, the Auto Hobby Shop is a valuable resource available to members of the base community.

A building where metallic overhead surfaces join with cinderblock walls and concrete deck to store a collage of machinery, technical manuals, work tables, tools, rags and an assortment of vehicle-related items, the garage is open seven days a week.

On hand to assist patrons of the shop is auto worker Robert Michaels, who has worked there for two years and

has a lifetime of vehicle repair knowledge and family ties to the installation.

"I've been turning wrenches since I was in diapers," said the native of Barstow. "My father was a mechanic at (Maintenance Center Barstow) Yermo for 35 years from 1952 to 87, and I worked with him back then while I was growing up."

According to Michaels, the automotive facility offers motorists a full array of typical vehicle services they would find outside of MCLB Barstow gates at a much less expensive price.

"Here I can assist you with anything from fixing tires to changing your vehicle's fluids and performing minor repairs that might need to be done," he said. "We have two indoor car lifts and one outdoor lift and I've seen customers do everything from oil changes to pulling a motor and swapping out an engine.

"It's a lot cheaper than out in town," Michaels added, "because out there you would end up paying a certified mechanic about \$80 an hour, when at the Hobby Shop you can use our lifts for \$5 an hour and do your own work."

Known for his trademark head bandana, the 42-year-old mechanic is also an avid motorcycle rider who said that his unique choice of fashion is also for safety reasons.

"Working around a place like the hobby shop with long hair, it only took me getting it caught in something a couple of times for me to learn to keep it tucked in," Michaels said with a chuckle. "I also wore the bandana when I raced dirt bikes for seven years."

In addition to aiding patrons in maintaining their vehicles, Michaels performs general maintenance and minor repairs to a fleet of more than 130 General Services Administration vehicles on base.

"I service cars, trucks, jeeps and (sports utility vehicles)," he remarked. "I also take care of the vehicles for the base fire department and the Marine Corps Police Department on Nebo and Yermo and make sure they stay up and running."

Although the help Michaels provides for those whose



vehicles play an important role in their very livelihoods can be critical, he doesn't think of himself as a hero by any means, though he is proud of his role on base.

"Helping people is what we're here for," he said. "It's my job to lend my knowledge and expertise to those who need it. The majority of my customers are active duty military and it's just one of the little things I can do for them to thank them for what they do for their country."

The Auto Hobby Shop is open Monday through Friday from noon to 8 p.m. and Saturday through Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, contact Michaels at 577-6441/6228.

