

BARSTOW LOG

Vol. 3, No. 48

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

October 14, 1999

Pay, retirement increases in 2000

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

People are at the heart of the first sustained increase in defense spending since the end of the Cold War.

While force readiness and modernization get big boosts, military pay and retirement reform are the real stars of the fiscal 2000 Defense Authorization Act. Surrounded by nation's top military leaders in an Oct. 5 Pentagon ceremony, President Clinton signed the bill that authorizes a national security budget of \$288.8 billion, the lion's share going to DoD, but also portions to the Energy Department, the Department of Veterans Affairs and others.

The act authorizes the administration's proposed personnel compensation measures. The 4.8 percent across-the-board pay increase Jan. 1, is the largest in 18 years. Pay table reform – effective on July 1 – rewards performance.

The act authorizes a major overhaul of the retirement program. Service members who came on active duty after Aug. 1, 1986, under the Redux retirement system face a choice once they reach 15 years of service. They can opt for the previous "High-3" system that starts at 50 percent of basic pay for those retiring after 20 years. Or, they can choose to receive a \$30,000 bonus at 15 years and stay in the Redux retirement system, which starts retired pay at 40 percent of basic pay after 20 years.

In addition, the act opens the federal civilian employees' Thrift Savings Plan to service members. Enabling legislation is still needed, however, and officials said they don't see this happening until fiscal 2001.

The act increases the amounts of a number of special pays and bonuses and creates three new ones. The biggest change is the establishment of career enlisted flier incentive pay and increasing the maximum selective re-enlistment bonus to \$60,000.

The authorization act gives the department permission to go ahead with a program, but it doesn't obligate funds. The money actually will come from the fiscal 2000 Defense Appropriations Bill, still under consideration by Congress.

Senior DoD officials said the act supports the president's budget proposal from February, which called for a total defense spending increase of \$112 billion over six years. Most of that money would be plowed into military readiness.

"The operations and maintenance accounts are fully funded," one official said. "Nearly half of the \$112 billion increase we proposed was devoted to operations and maintenance to ensure our forces will continue to operate as they did during the recent operation in Kosovo."

See INCREASE Page 8



Installation reform, *easy as 'ABC'*

By Cpl. Brian Davidson

BARSTOW LOG staff

Like all major corporations, our Marine Corps has a bottom line to consider.

Base commanders Corps-wide have enlisted the aid of Activity Based Costing and Management to keep us in the black.

"The commanders requested the implementation of Activity Based Costing and Activity Based Management to improve and standardize cost management across the Corps," said Col. Dave Clifton, HQMC ABC/M facilitator.

The use of ABC/M methodologies expanded in the early 90s. Both are commonly practiced in the automotive, food and health industries and, more recently, in government service agencies.

There are high expectations of the methodologies, according to Clifton, who suggests they can aid in satisfying the Corps' near-term cost-management goals. The major goal is to save \$425 million by October 1, 2004. Other objectives are to sustain the effort for the long run by transferring the knowledge

and to transform the way the Corps does business.

MCLB Barstow hopes to save \$378,000 during fiscal year 2000, its wedge-share of the \$32 million the Marine Corps is planning to save during the first year of ABC/M implementation, according to Linda Lingren, base quality manager.

Two installations grasped the value of the concepts much earlier. Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Command Center 29 Palms have been using the money-saving tools for years, according to MARADMIN 339-99.

"The Efficient Healthcare Consumer Response Initiative selected ABC/M to eliminate more than 40 percent waste from their healthcare supply chain. ABC/M has been selected by a broad consensus of worldwide experts as the best method to support continuous improvement and better decision making," said Tom Pryor, senior ABC/M consultant with Integrated Cost Management Systems, Inc.

ABC/M focuses on how costs are allocated. It is based on

See ABC/M Page 5

Finding the best way to do business

By Linda Lingren

Base Quality Manager

Welcome to the weekly column that will discuss the Installation Reform Program at MCLB Barstow.

As the Marine Corps prepares to enter the 21st Century, it faces two critical challenges in meeting national security objectives; readiness of aging ground and air equipment systems and reduced resources dedicated to defense. Combined with readiness issues are the high expectations for improving Quality of Life and the need to invest funding into modernization accounts. In January 1998, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued White Letter 2-98, which challenged Marine Corps leadership to adopt the best practices from public and private sectors. The budget and operational challenges we are facing mandate we maximize efficiencies across the base.

To meet these challenges, the Installation Reform Program has been established throughout the Marine Corps and at MCLB Barstow. The purpose of this weekly column is to keep personnel fully informed of ongoing initiatives that fall under the IR umbrella.

On February 26, 1996, the Deputy Secretary of Defense issued a memorandum to the military service secretaries making Outsourcing and Privatization a service priority. The Commandant has directed implementation of this memorandum. Following initial investments in FY 98, FY 99, FY 00 and FY 01, the Marine Corps expects to start realizing savings in FY 00 that will graduate to a total of \$425 million by FY 05.

These HQMC savings, referred to as the "wedge", are expected to total \$110 million annually thereafter. These projected savings have already been prorated starting in FY 00 and have been repro-



grammed into the Marine Corps modernization account. Installation Reform has been implemented to assist in achieving these cost reduction goals.

There are a myriad of initiatives (A-76, Regionalization, Privatization, Business Process Reengineering) being undertaken within the IR Program. One thing we must do is build a foundation of better accounting policies and procedures. We cannot make wise and informed decisions unless we have the ability to track and compare costs accurately. Activity Based Costing/Management (ABC/M), one means to achieve this, is currently being implemented at MCLB Barstow (see related article this page).

This column will address other aspects of Installation Reform in future articles.

Program management for Installation Reform at MCLB Barstow is in the Quality Management Office, Building 15.

Like all quality initiatives Navy/Marine Corps-wide, we want input from the work force.

To facilitate communicating with the work force, an Installa-

See REFORM Page 5

The Commander's Forum

The "Commander's Forum" is a tool the Base Commander uses to hear and address the concerns of base residents, employees and others. To contact the Commander's Forum, call 577-6535. Send your concerns via LAN to COMMANDERS FORUM@HQTRS1 or SMB Barstow Commanders Forum if you have migrated.

Setting the record straight

Q In times when we must look at every possibility to save money, I would like to know why we are letting the Maintenance Center (MCB) Environmental/Safety Office create more/upgrade positions. I am referring to the Hazardous Material Management System (HMMS) Program Office.

The plan, as I understand it, is to transfer the HMMS Program Manager, GS-12, and a GS-09 to the Base Staff since everyone is now using the HMMS system.

This would leave a GS-11 to manage the program for the MCB. Recently, a support clerk was hired to support the GS-11. This seems like a perfect situation for the MCB.

We save money and the program doesn't suffer because a staff of two full-time people will enable them to effectively manage the system for the MCB.

I understand, they want to upgrade the safety position to a GS-12 to manage the program for the MCB. The base side will have the overall responsibility of the program and the MCB won't

be needing a GS-12 to manage the program.

Why let our very experienced individual go if they just plan on back-filling the position?

A Thank you for calling the Commander's Forum and raising this issue. You've given the Director of the Maintenance Center a chance to correct any misconceptions.

The Environmental/Safety Office is not creating more positions. On the contrary, to consolidate and reduce overhead costs, it is doing its part to save money.

You are correct – the two higher graded employees are being transferred to the Base Staff. With the stand-up of HMMS base-wide, MCB no longer has a need for system administrators.

Ultimately, the MCB HMMS will be staffed with two positions, a GS-11 program manager and a GS-5 clerk. There has never been any intent to back-fill the GS-12 position.

Again, thank you for raising this issue and providing an opportunity to set the record straight.

Acting like a Marine

By GySgt. Frank Patterson
Public Affairs Chief

It sometimes seems that I get a "virtual" pile of e-mail every day from every person in the world whom either wants to tell me something or sell me something. It isn't very often that I receive e-mail like the following:

Yesterday, I was privileged to come upon a group of Marines who were washing cars at the Walmart in Stafford, Va.

They were raising money for the Marine Corps Ball. They offered the car wash free – with donations at the person's will.

Normally, I don't have other people wash my car – high school students tend to scratch the dirt around the paint, and so, even if they are raising money for a good cause, it isn't worth it. In any event, the Marines were so full of enthusiasm, I parked and paid \$3.

Then I watched them work.

Not only did they do an excellent job on the car – better than I imagined – I watched four Marines sitting on the ground, one at each wheel, cleaning inside the ornate hub. I asked one why he bothered, and he said that he had a job to do, and he was going to finish it and finish it well.

I finally had to ask them to stop – the job was more than good enough to suit me, and I had to be elsewhere in any case. And I gave them an additional \$20.

My husband, who arrived later at my bequest to get his truck washed had a similar experience.

My purpose in writing is to tell you and hope that you will forward this to the Commandant of the Marine Corps and all relevant commanding officers and others – that I have hired people in the same generation as these young Marines for business and have had a uniformly bad experience with them – they wanted to be coddled, come to consensus on the job to be done, apply their intuition and other such things which were not relevant to their role (and they didn't have the understanding of the situation to have any useful ideas). They would not stop. I had decided NOT ever to hire from this generation again.

These Marines have changed my mind.

When I am in the position to do so, I will hire from this generation again, but make sure the person was a Marine. I say that the Marines should run the school systems in this country – a mighty job and not one that is taken lightly, but if the Corps can do this with these young people, the Corps can do anything in my book.

Please pass this along to the appropriate people.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Joan Walsky, CEO
InfoTech Communications, Inc.

This e-mail demonstrates one of the things that I like most about being a Marine: respect. But respect is never freely given – it must be earned.

These Marines earned the respect of Mrs. Walsky by doing what Marines do – by acting like Marines.

They showed her that this generation is not just a bunch of MTV-watching, don't-give-a-damn infants acting like grown-ups. These Marines demonstrated, through sim-

ply being responsible and showing some personal initiative, that Marines care about what they do; that Marines try harder because to not do so is to not be a Marine. Any job a Marine does, he should do to the best of his/her abilities.

I would expect nothing less from myself. I would expect nothing less from a Marine. Because I am a Marine.

Semper Fidelis.

Gunny's Picks

Week 7



Either too many people went with their hearts this week rather than go with who they knew would win, or this was the week of the blow-out.

Nancy Johnson from the Information Systems Office took hold of this week's picks when she broke an eight-game tie with Juan Rivera.

"I am a die-hard Seahawks fan, but I do my picking usually going with my first instinct," said Johnson. "Hey, Big Guy, need some help?"

Don't neglect your knowledge. Now is not the time for taking off your game hat. You can still win. Pick up the sports section, turn on the sports, but always remember, St. Louis is a sure thing.

Cleveland at Jacksonville*
*Indianapolis at New York Jets
Miami at New England*
*Minnesota at Detroit

Oakland at Buffalo*
Philadelphia at Chicago*
*Pittsburg at Cincinnati
*St. Louis at Atlanta

Tennessee at New Orleans*
*Seattle at San Diego
Carolina at San Francisco*
*Green Bay at Denver
*Washington at Arizona

Monday night

*Dallas at New York Giants (42)

Total points: _____

Name, work section and phone number: _____

Monday night's game is a tie-breaker and must include a total score.

Chapel Hours

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.
Catholic Mass Sun. 10:30 a.m.

**Confession services
before Mass**

Yermo Bible Study

Wednesday 11 - 11:30 a.m.
At the Colonel's Workshop

For more info call
Don Brooks at 577-7165.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Mark A. Costa, Commanding Officer

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The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer (B130), Command Headquarters, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Box 110100, Barstow, CA 92311-5001. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 15. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

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BARSTOW LOG is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. BARSTOW LOG is produced at Aerotech News and printed at Antelope Valley Press in Palmdale, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in BARSTOW LOG, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, Lancaster, Calif., phone: (661) 945-5634.

News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact, a phone number, and be received by noon, Friday for the next issue. Submit news briefs via daileyb@barstow.usmc.mil.



CFC Keyworkers

Brenda German	577-7139
Yolanda Scheib	577-7399
LCpl. P. J. Snyder	577-6874
Sgt. C. D. Galbraith	577-7486
David Dillingham	577-7481
Sgt. K. C. Garrison	577-6849
LCpl. K. O. Ramcharan	577-6623
LCpl. I. Melgoza	577-6898
SSgt. J.A. Bassett	256-8974
SSgt. P. S. Holm	577-6334
LCpl. K. S. Carron	577-6457
Cpl. B. E. Price	577-6664
Cpl. S. M. Fisher	577-6494
Bette Poe	577-6307
Bertie Dailey	577-6430
Chuck Moore	577-7039
Pasty Biles	577-6732

The overall CFC coordinator this year is 1stLt. L. L. Conley. She can be reached at 577-6155.

If your section does not have a Keyworker listed please call SSgt. Robert Cole at 577-6843.

224th Birthday Ball

The 1999 Marine Corps Birthday

Ball is just around the corner. Get a jump on your planning, and get your room for Nov. 10 early.

For room reservations at the Primadonna Casino call 1-800-386-7867. The cost of the stay is \$15 per night, per room.

Group code: SMC 1110

Tickets are on sale now:

O-3 and up, civilians, retirees	\$40
E-8 through O-2	\$30
E-6 and E-7	\$25
E-4 and E-5	\$15
E-1 through E-3	\$10

Get your tickets through:

SgtMaj. W. B. Walsh	577-6238
1stSgt. C.J. Allen	577-6700
GySgt. J. E. Daquilla	577-6062
GySgt. P. F. Errigo	577-6192
SSgt. G.S. Duplechain	577-6708
SSgt. C.D. Galbraith	577-7051
SSgt. J. W. Hill	577-6756
Cpl. F. Rodgers	577-7147

And speaking of the Marine Corps Ball, the final Marine Corps Ball golf tournament is Friday, Oct. 15.

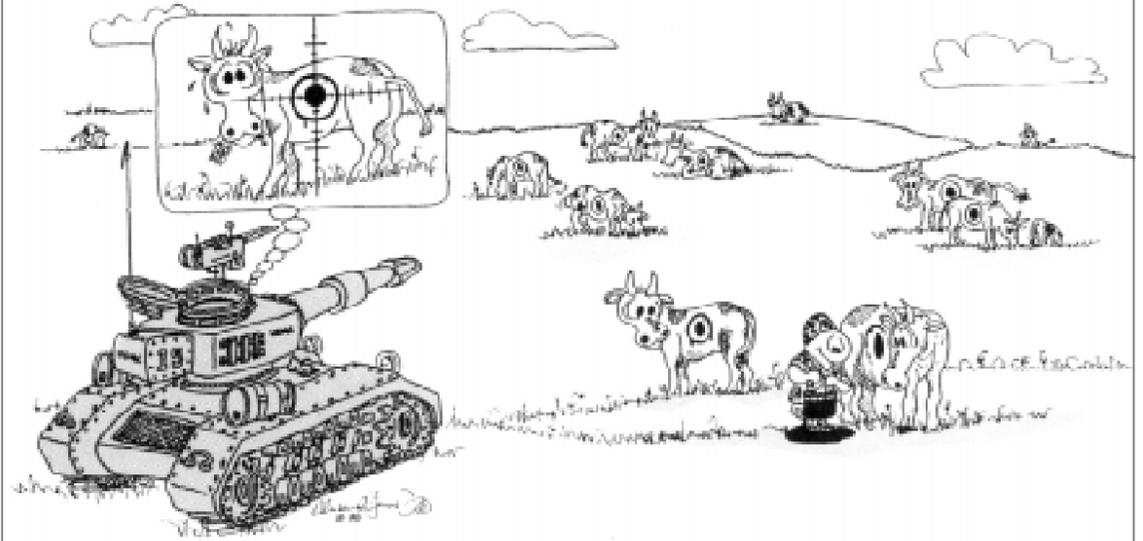
This will be a four-man best-ball tourney. Registration starts at 6:30 a.m. with a shotgun start at 7 a.m.

Stick around for prizes and barbecue after tourney, fill your belly, and possibly win a room at Primm for the Ball.

SNCOs, officers & civilians \$15

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine to make hamburger meat.

Sgt. and below

\$10

stamina includes: leg press, weighted pull-ups, dead lift, bench press, standing military press, strict curl, crunches and four-mile run.

House of Pain Heptathlon

The base gym is hosting a heptathlon physical fitness challenge Oct. 16 at 8 a.m.

The test of combined strength and

Entry fee is \$5. There will be no registration on the day of the event.

For more info, call GySgt. Craig Putnam at 577-6874.

Single Marine Program

The Single Marine Program is rescheduling the fishing trip for Oct. 23.

Thanks to all the single Marines who made the Magic Mountain Trip

See BRIEFS page 5





By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Shop the Base Exchange

Do your holiday shopping early this year – beat the rush and crowd.

We have many early holiday shopping values at the Base Exchange, you'll be surprised at what's available at great low prices.

The Base Exchange/7-Day Store is open Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 256-8974 for details.

The Yermo Exchange is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.

Note: When troops are rotating through Yermo, the Yermo Exchange is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 577-7092 for details.

Lunch menu for this week

This week's lunch menu at the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe offers a delicious variety:

Today – Hamburger pie, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll/butter.

Friday, Oct. 15 – Hoki fish, rice, vegetable, roll/butter.

Monday, Oct. 18 – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, vegetable, roll/butter.

Tuesday, Oct. 19 – Prime rib, baked potatoes, vegetable, roll/butter.

Wednesday, Oct. 20 – Lemon baked chicken, rice, vegetable, roll/butter.

Thursday, Oct. 21 – Fried steak, potato wedges, vegetable, roll/butter.

All above meals served with coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday at the Family Restaurant from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Lunch is served Monday through Friday at the Cactus Cafe from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Price is \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian.

Don't forget the Family Restaurant also offers an a la Carte as well as a Sub Sandwich menu for lunch. The Cactus Cafe offers a limited a la Carte and Sub Sandwich menu for lunch.

For more info on the a la Carte and Sub Sandwich menus at either the Family Restaurant or the Cactus Cafe call 577-6428.

Family Night Dinner Menu

Tonight – Chicken stir fry, steamed rice, vegetable, dessert and beverage (coffee, tea or soft drink).

Thursday, Oct. 21 – Mexican Night - tacos, burritos, Spanish rice and beans, dessert and beverage (coffee, tea or soft drink).

Family Night dinners are served Thursday evenings from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Prices: (All you can eat) \$4.50 adults, \$2.50 children (5 to 11 years), children 4 years and younger are free. Price is the same for military and civilian personnel.

MCCS Semper Fit Single Marine Program plans fishing trip

The MCCS Semper Fit Single Marine Program has a fishing trip planned for Saturday, Oct. 23 to Dana Point. Great fishing from boatside out in the ocean. The boat trip is 5 hours from noon to 5 p.m. departing from Gym at 8 a.m. There is an \$8 deposit required by Oct. 19. For more info call SSgt. Bruce Raymond at 577-6899.

ITT trips scheduled

A Tijuana trip is scheduled for Nov. 13. Reservations must be in by Oct. 29. The round trip cost of \$15 per person is due when reservations are made. This is a great shopping trip for Christmas gifts.

Experience the most terrifying night of your life as you venture into a sinister and evil vortex delivered by the Masters of Horror, Universal Studios Hollywood.

Tunnel deep inside the maze of the

Semper Fit Questionnaire

Date: _____

How satisfied are you with the existing equipment in the gym?
Not satisfied ___ Somewhat satisfied ___ Satisfied ___ Very Satisfied ___

What kind of exercise equipment would you like to see in the gym?

What improvements would you like to see made?

Are the hours of the gym satisfactory? Yes ___ No ___
If no, please explain.

How many days a week do you use the gym?

Which areas of the gym do you use most?

What kind of sports would you like to participate in?

Please turn in survey at the Base Gym, Bldg. 44 or send through distribution – Base Gym stop 44

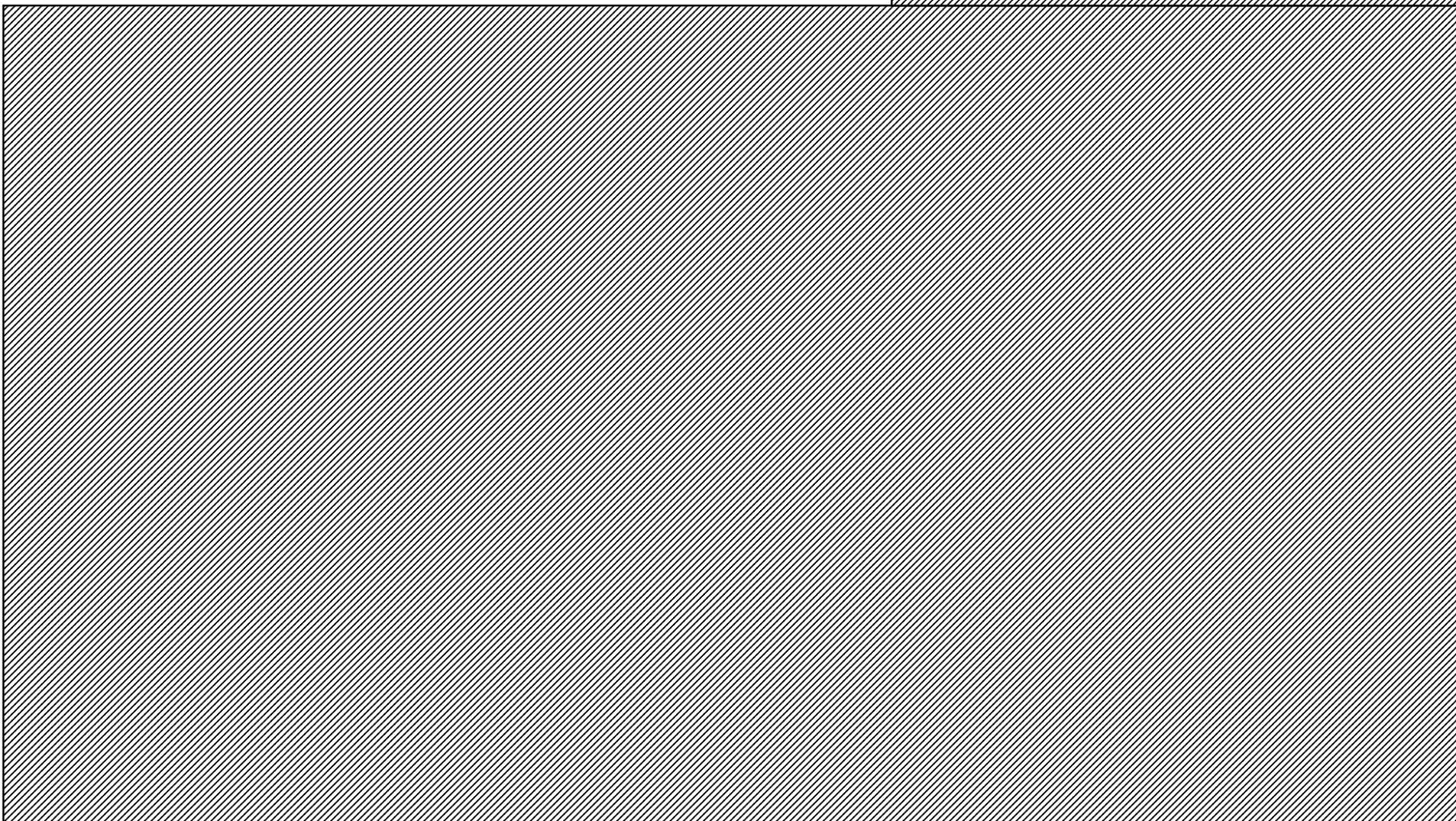
chilling world of Rob Zombie where the living dead reign supreme.

Enter Clive Barker's Hell Maze and confront the Wretched Devils of Doom.

Call 577-6541 for more info on

these trips or any other trips and tickets.

ITT is located in the Bowling Center and is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturday and Sunday.



REFORM from Page 1

tion Reform "Info Line" has been established in the QMO.

This line is intended for employees to address concerns and request information pertaining to any aspect of installation reform. The number is 577-6288.

An organizational mailbox has also been established for employees who wish to address concerns via the LAN.

The address for e-mail inquiries is: SMB BARSTOW QMO.

Personal responses will be provided to employees who leave their name and phone number for us to contact them.

Questions and Answers will be printed in the BARSTOW LOG and on the QMO Intranet site on a regular basis to keep the work force informed of program issues.

Do you have questions or need additional information relating to Installation Reform? Please contact the QMO staff either by phone or LAN.

Do you have a specific aspect of Installation Reform you want addressed in a future issue of the BARSTOW LOG?

Let us know and we can provide that information for you.

Until next week ...

ABC from Page 1

the principle that products, services and customers consume activities. ABC/M reduces cost by providing decision-makers with clear, precise activity costing information to make better informed decisions.

Base commanders jointly requested the use of methodologies in April and implementation, contracted with ABC Technologies Inc., started Aug. 17.

MCLB Barstow initiated its 12-week training cycle conducted by Col. Clifton and an ATI team Sept. 21. Senior staff members underwent four

days of initial training to develop a base-wide model for the foundation of ABC/M implementation. Section managers began building on the foundation, making it more area-specific and in-depth.

Like other Installation Reform tools, ABC/M will be used to improve efficiency, making the installation agencies more competitive with private industry, according to Lingren.

"ABC/M is one of the tools we're using in our Installation Reform Program to help move us in the direction of exercising better business practices," said Lingren.

"My expectations are that everyone involved begins to get a new mindset about the way we do business and to function more like a business. When we start cross functioning and breaking down barriers between organizations, not just within, we can begin to make improvements," said Col. Mark A. Costa, base commander.

The command has designated personnel to function as ABC/M representatives. Their primary task is to help the base assume ownership of the methodologies and accompanying software to ensure that the effort is maintained.

One of the major pitfalls companies using the cost-savings systems encounter is sustaining use after initial training, according to Pryor.

There is a strong emphasis on learning during the implementation process, but also in the command's sustainment effort. Base representatives will conduct annual skills, software and report management training in addition to participating in user's conferences, according to the base's ABC/M outline brief.

For more information ABC/M log on to <http://www.abctech.com> or ask your supervisor.

BRIEFS from Page 3

fun.
For more info, call SSgt. Raymond at 577-6899 or stop by the Semper Fit 2000 Base Gym/Fitness Facility.

Navy Cupid's Quest Golf Tournament ...

And prime rib dinner will be held Saturday Nov. 6, at the Tees and Trees Golf Course.

The tournament is limited to the first 15 teams, make your dinner reservations by Nov. 1.

Rank	Cost
E-1 to E-5	\$20
E-6 to E-9	\$24
Officers and civilians	\$27

\$1 per mulligan with a maximum of five. Come out and have fun.

Did you know ...

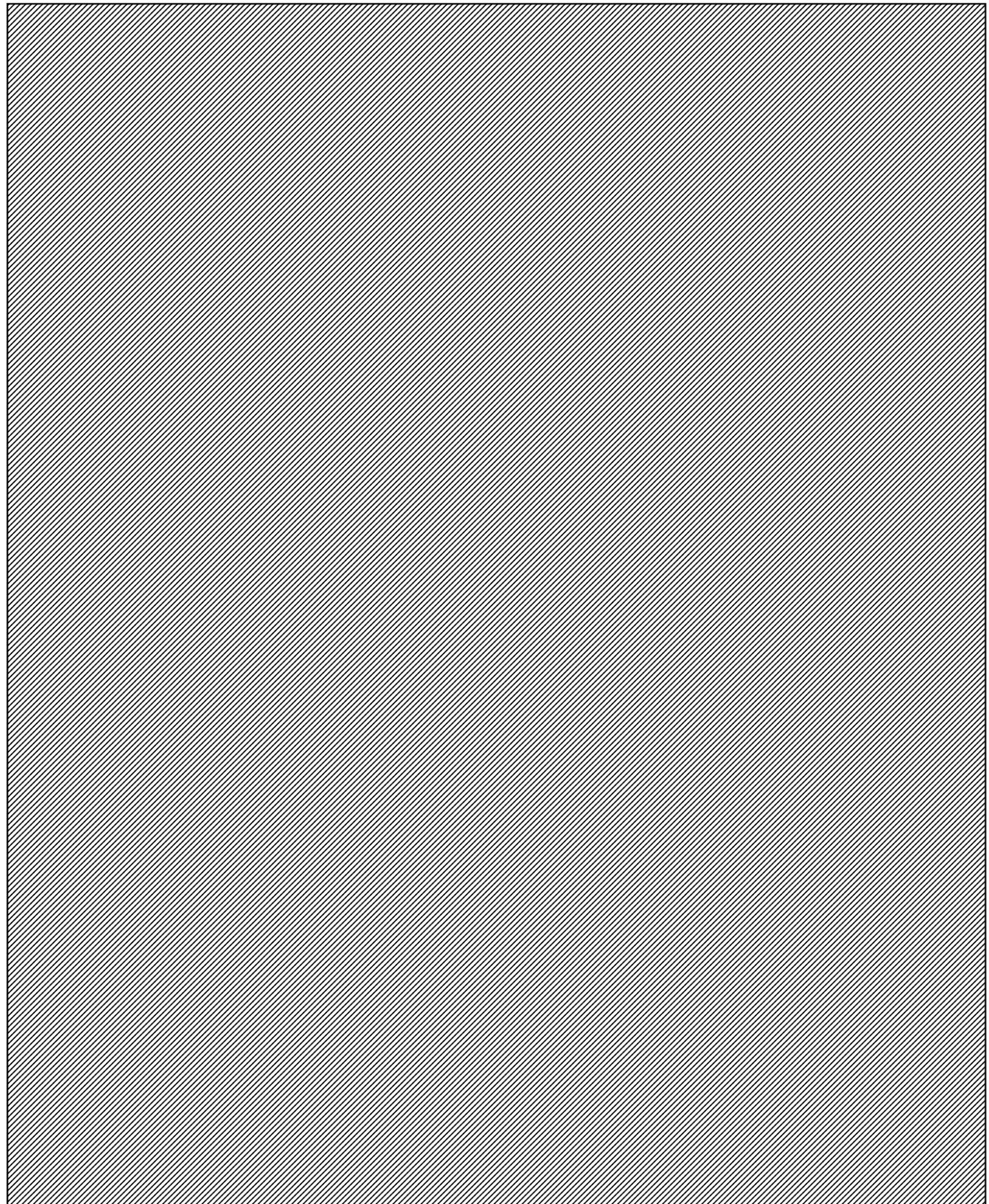
Budget counselors employed by the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society will conduct classes at your command on wide variety of subjects?

- Topics include:
- Financial Responsibility
 - Managing a checking account
 - Understanding Credit
 - Car buying strategies
 - Budgeting for a baby
 - Preparing for deployment
 - and other topics.

Society Budget Counselors offer group presentation or one-on-one, confidential counseling on responsible money management.

Contact the nearest Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Office today at 256-1378 or 577-6627, or stop by our office in Building 117 across from the Child Development Center.

Walk-ins welcome.



Quarters of the Month



Sgt. John Kenny and his son, TJ, accept the award for Enlisted Quarters from Col. Mark A. Costa, base commander.

Photo by Curt Lambert

Making the desert green

Col. Mark A. Costa, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, makes it his duty to personally congratulate the winners of the yards of the month.

Along with his congratulations, winners receive a certificate of appreciation, plants, supplements for their yards and valuable coupons.

A yard is judged by a staff of Barstow's top enlisted service members by how green and lush it is, maintenance and landscaping. But it is not just the front that counts, according to MSgt. David W. VanHovel. Many yards are very nice in the front but lagging in the back, he said.

Just as the colonel makes it his duty to congratulate the winners, you should make it your duty to try to be one of the winners.

"The appearance of the base is very important to those of us who work at MCLB Barstow," said Costa.

The family of Army Sergeant First Class Richard Lainberger received the award for the Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Quarters. His wife, Sherry, accepts the award from Col. Mark A. Costa, base commander.



Photo by Curt Lambert



Liz Tennyson, wife of Chief Warrant Officer David Tennyson accepts the award for Officer's Quarters from Col. Mark A. Costa, base commander.

Photo by Curt Lambert

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Maintenance Center Barstow

From the Director ...

MRP II implementation:

building a better way to do business

By Col. J. Martin Jr.
Director, MCB

The world of MRP II encompasses many levels of improved business practices.

From sales forecasting, business strategies and supplier partnerships, through detailed material and capacity requirements planning, the automated tools and disciplined procedures provide detailed information to allow methodical production planning, maintenance of the plans, and execution of itemized daily production schedules.

The integration of these tools provides an ability to anticipate problems – and correct them – before they have an impact on the manufacturing processes.

We cannot hope to take an instantaneous leap from our current processes into this difficult-to-imagine future to attain these benefits.

The implementation process must move through carefully defined phases, helping us to develop the disciplines that will ensure our success.

For example, before we can expect to view a graphic representation of how the workload is spread across the shops over time, we need to define the work in terms of operations and material requirements, define the shops in terms of tools, equipment, skills and availability, and determine the time-phased sequencing of these interrelationships.

In short, we need to define our business in a way that MRP II will be able to manipulate to produce plans and data that will be meaningful to our business.

The initial steps have already taken place. We've adjusted our view of "inventory" to recognize all of the phases that material may exhibit: repairable items, assemblies, components requiring refinishing, and scrap, in addition to new parts and finished items.

Work-in-process, or WIP, is being tracked as individual items, no longer being submitted to "the system" to be chased down when needed at a later time. And we've learned that disassembly is a critical first step for building the inventory necessary for assembling the final product, so we've established standard configurations for how we identify the various assemblies and collections of components. We're making good progress.

We're re-examining bills of materials, routes, and even how we identify where an operation will be performed. "work centers" or "work cells" are being designated as units of one or more people with identical capabilities that will be considered as units for capacity requirements planning and detailed scheduling; a detailed mapping of these work cells to Cost Work Centers and material handling drop points is near to completion.

Responsibilities within MRP II are more narrowly defined than what we are used to, and we are struggling with the increased requirements for data entry. As we learn to rely on the information provided by MRP II, the need for timely data entry will become more obvious and will, hopefully, be supported more forcefully.

The schedules, inventory information and work order status information will prove very useful to all of us, once we develop the individual habits, across the work force, of keeping the in-

formation up-to-date.

And, of course, we all need to provide feedback to the personnel maintaining the databases, identifying any errors that exist in the planning data; if we continue to plan with bad data, all we can expect to receive out of the system is bad plans.

The earliest phases of implementation are the most difficult. We are being asked to accept a different way of doing business, giving up the informal system that we are already familiar with, and it's not always obvious that we are moving in a positive direction.

But don't give up! Even though the personnel issues and unfamiliar practices are frustrating, time-consuming and even painful, we are already beginning to see benefits in the visibility of inventory, in the standardized configurations, and in the advance notice of problems. The data we are collecting will improve our ability to estimate future jobs, and enhance our ability to meet our delivery commitments. Although it may appear we are climbing an insurmountable obstacle, the path is becoming clearer and the worst part is almost behind us.

Keep up the good work!

"We cannot hope to take an instantaneous leap from our current processes into this difficult-to-imagine future to attain these benefits ... But don't give up ... Although it may appear we are climbing an insurmountable obstacle, the path is becoming clearer and the worst part is almost behind us."

Activity Based Costing

Changing focus,
Reducing costs,
Increasing productivity

By Captain W. Hagerott
MATCOM, MCLB Albany

Activity Based Costing is a means of focusing on what an organization is doing, rather than what it is spending. This highlights what it truly costs an organization to produce products and services. The end result is the capability to look at processes and analyze activity costs and cost drivers, support "what-if" pricing strategies, and improve cost-estimating capabilities. Management gains the ability to make fully informed decisions in pursuit of increased productivity.

The Business Innovation Division of Marine Corps Logistics Bases began implementing ABC in September 1998, using an Integrated Product Team approach. The ABC modeling sessions focused on major maintenance center production processes and activities within those processes such as vehicle disassembly, painting, hull welding and reassembly.

The ABC IPT initially focused on MCLB's maintenance centers at Albany, Ga. and Barstow, Calif. This focus has expanded to include all MCLB organizations that impact the centers' costs.

This initial ABC effort (and other preliminary analysis efforts) has enabled MARCORLOGBASES to identify high payoff "focus areas," identify and quantify quick payoff targets (called Quick Wins), identify root causes of cost drivers, and prioritize future Business Process Improvement and Re-engineering efforts.

Future plans of the ABC IPT include remodeling the centers' processes using FY 99 data.

Prior to this FY 99 effort, the ABC IPT is identifying cost and output data sources that possess even greater accuracy. The IPT will also create a systematic process to collect the data on a recurring basis, and develop a process to monitor data collection for accuracy and reliability. The ABC IPT will then systematically remodel on an annual basis. Annual remodeling will support our continuous improvement effort and ensure the information gleaned from ABC becomes increasingly relevant to strategic and operational decision-making, planning and policy formulation.

ABC is appealing because it looks at dollars in terms of how people work and perform activities, rather than through the accounting process of tracking the resources consumed each day. This is a crucial part of understanding and improving the way

people perform daily work activities. The typical accounting system divides dollars into resource categories, such as salaries, equipment, travel and supplies. The ABC view divides those dollars into activities, such as paint, blast, steam and welding.

Overall, ABC looks at three different areas of an organization: resources, activities and outputs. Resources are the people, equipment, facilities, supplies and so forth, represented in dollars. Activities are the work done each day with those resources. Outputs, also called cost objects, are the final products or services the organization produces for its customers. This new method of looking at an organization allows managers to see clearly, often for the first time, how much of their resources go into different activities.

This is why, in large part, ABC and the other Better Business Practices are being implemented. These improvements improve our chance to compete and win against the private sector. ABC technology shows exactly the cost to order supplies, process travel vouchers, or even cut our grass. This information assists in making better informed decisions. At its core, ABC is about producing meaningful information that management can use in its pursuit of increased productivity which will keep work at our depots.

Maintenance Center Director: Col. J. Martin Jr.
Maintenance Center Deputy Director: Gary Baker

Editor: Dianna McCormick
Director's Corner phone numbers: 577-7054/7055

Think 'ability' not dis-ability

By Randy Meyer
Comptroller Department

The ability to achieve, to contribute and to make an impact on the work force are the qualities we all hold dear. That holds true for individuals with disabilities as well.

Disabilities can happen in any stage of life. It can occur at birth, or late in life when family genetics causing dexterity or visual disabilities kick in.

Hearing problems can occur through years of working in a noisy environment or mobility problem can occur as result of an accident at home, the road or in the work place.

Being disabled doesn't mean one is completely blind, deaf or confined to a wheelchair, it can appear in much lesser ways that may not even be noticeable by coworkers or supervisors.

The Department of Defense has a long standing commitment to providing equal employment opportunities for people with disabilities.

DoD has established the Computer/Electronic Accommodation Program (CAP) to support this goal. CAP strives to make DoD working environments more accessible to its employees with visual, hearing, dexterity, and cognitive impairments. The CAP serves the DoD work force by offering:

Accommodations for those with dexterity impairments would include voice recognition

systems, alternative keyboards, keyboard enhancement programs, alternative pointing devices, alternative input systems, hands-free computer interface, and sequential keystroke input.

Accommodations for those with cognitive impairments and communication disabilities would include scanner/readers, screen readers, assistive listening devices, and augmentative communication devices.

Accommodations for those with visual impairments would include scanner/readers, print enlargers, Braille displays, portable note takers, and Braille embrossers.

Accommodations for those who are deaf or hard of hearing would include teletypewriters (TTY's), personal computer TTY's, amplification devices, speech amplification — telephones, closed caption decoders and captioning for training tapes, signaling devices, augmentative communication devices, and TTY telephones.

Training Support provided to individuals with disabilities would include sign language interpreters, readers, personal assistants, and training to help people with disabilities learn to use assistive equipment.

"You don't have to be listed as disabled with HRO to be eligible for CAP", stresses Lucianna-Wais, HRO Personnel Specialist, "You just need show that an accommodation will help you perform your job more efficiently".

On Oct. 21, Paul Singleton from CAP will be on base to assess CAP applications for assistive devices and services.

Paul Singleton is the Program Analyst for the DoD Computer/Electronic Accommodation Program (CAP).

If you are interested in an assessment or would like a CAP application, call Lucianna Wais, Human Resource Office, 577-6487.

If you need assistance to select computer-related hardware or software that will help accommodate you but unsure if it's compatible with your computer system, call Susan Snow, Information System Branch, 577-6993.

More information on the CAP program can

be obtained through their web site, <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/cap/>.

Paul Singleton will also be speaking at the Disabled Employee Awareness Program (DEAF) luncheon on Oct. 21, 11 a.m. at the MCLB Barstow Oasis Club. Reservations are required by Oct. 15. Luncheon tickets are \$5.00 and the menu is Country Fried Steak, Potato Wedges, vegetable or Chefs Salad, all served with iced tea or coffee.

Tickets may be purchased by the following DEAF committee members:

Rick Wilson	577-6214
Paul Johnson	577-7460
Randy Meyer	577-6366
Lucianna Wais	577-6487
Nora Moran	577-6419
Marva Johnson	577-6965
Rick Kastner	577-7208

INCREASE from Page 1

Another emphasis in the act is on modernization. The act authorizes a total of \$56 billion for procurement. "We're progressing on a program to \$60 billion per year and beyond for procurement," said the official.

The authorization act is not just about money. It contains quality of life initiatives that include the establishment of a military-civilian task force on domestic violence in the military. It calls on the defense secretary to establish a central data-

base and report annually to Congress on the problem.

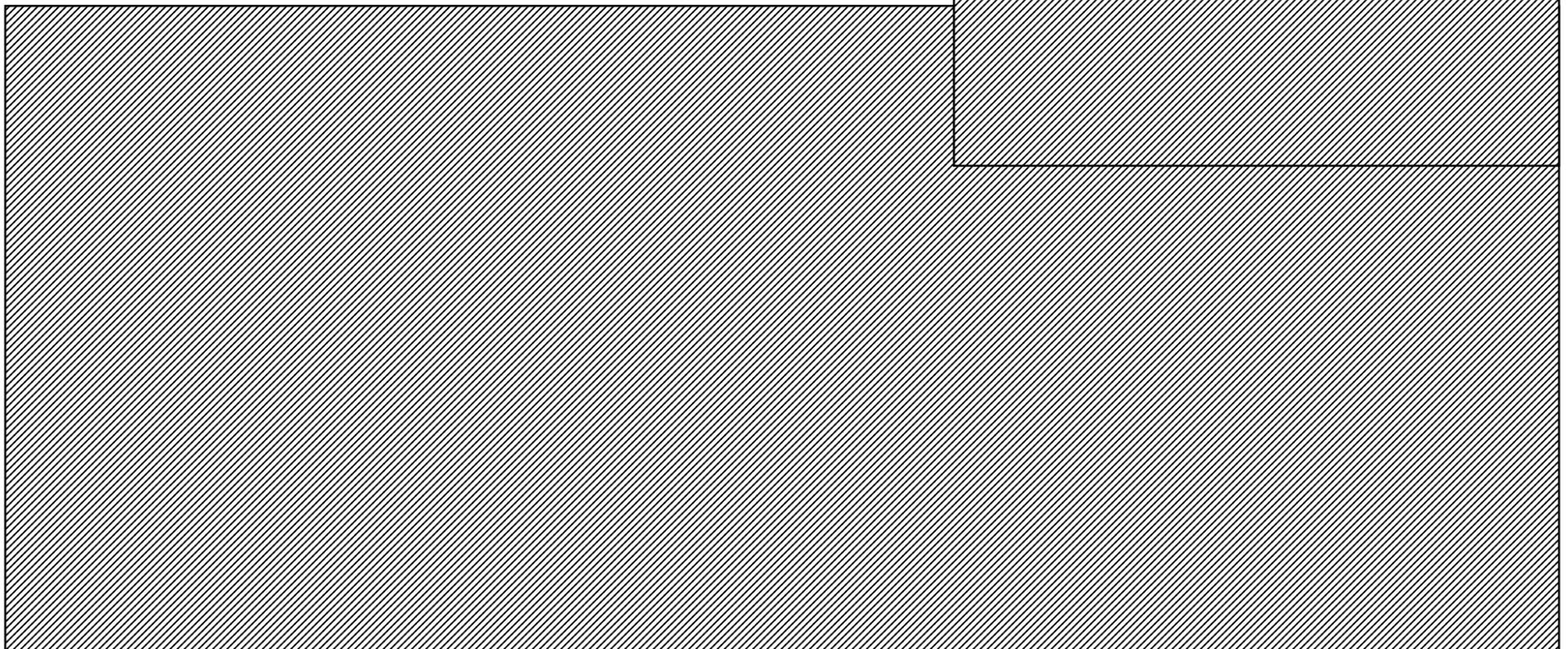
The act also directs DoD to provide two uniformed service members for the funerals of honorably discharged veterans. It expands the Junior ROTC program. It includes a provision to award the Medal of Honor for heroism to Army Vietnam War veteran Alfred Rascon.

In the medical arena, the act contains a provision authorizing DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs to carry out joint medical care demonstrations at five locations for three years.

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEA-298-99	Computer Specialist GS-334-11/12	07-22-99	10-18-99	08-05-99	San Diego
DEA-308-99	Pipefitter WG-4204-08/10	07-27-99	12-31-99	08-10-99	China Lake
DEA-309-99	Electrician WG-2805-08/10	07-26-99	12-30-99	08-09-99	China Lake
DEA-314-99	Boiler Plant Operator WG-5402-08/10	07-26-99	12-31-99	08-09-99	China Lake
DEA-389-99	Pipefitter WG-4204-10 (Term NTE 2 yrs.)	08-27-99	11-30-99	09-10-99	San Diego

For more information contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6484.



DoD forms Domestic Violence Task Force

By Linda Kozaryn

American Forces Press Service

The Defense Department has 90 days to form a 24-member task force on domestic violence, in accordance with the fiscal 2000 Defense Authorization Act signed Oct. 5 by President Clinton.

Over the next three years, the act requires the task force to determine ways to address domestic violence within the military more effectively. The overall goal is to link the military and civilian communities to improve, strengthen or coordinate prevention and response efforts to domestic violence involving service members.

Defense Secretary William S. Cohen is to appoint the 12 military and 12 civilian members of the task force. Military appointees will include staff judge advocates from each service and senior executive level representatives selected by the services. Cohen will appoint a military co-chair and the civilian members will choose a co-chair from among their ranks.

Civilian appointees will include representatives from the Department of Health and Human Services' Family Violence Prevention and Services office, state and national sexual assault and

domestic violence advocacy organizations, civilian law enforcement organizations, state and national judicial policy organizations, and a national crime victim policy organization.

Within 12 months after its inception, the task force will present a long-term strategic plan to the secretary. The plan will include recommendations to improve ongoing victim safety programs, offender accountability, coordination between military organizations as well as with civilian communities, training for military commanders, data collection, case management and tracking.

The task force will also recommend guidelines for negotiating agreements with civilian law enforcement authorities regarding domestic violence involving service members. They will initiate a requirement for copies of no-contact orders issued to service members by military commanders to be provided within 24 hours to the person whom the service member is not to contact. A system is to be developed for recording and tracking such orders.

The task force will recommend guidelines on factors for commanders to consider when seeking to substantiate allegations of domestic violence by a person subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice, and for determining appropriate disciplinary ac-

tion when such allegations are substantiated. The task force will also recommend a standard training program on handling domestic violence cases for all commanding officers.

The act requires the task force to detail its activities, successes and failures in an annual report to the defense secretary. The report will also include the panels analysis and oversight of the services' response to domestic violence and any barriers to implementing and improving those efforts. It will describe pending, completed and recommended DoD domestic violence research.

Each subsequent report will detail achievements in response to domestic violence in the military, pending research on the subject and recommendations to improve the armed forces' responses to the problem.

The defense secretary will then have 90 days to submit the report and his evaluation to the Senate Armed Services and House National Security committees.

Task force members will serve for three years and receive no compensation beyond their regular salaries. They will be authorized travel expenses and per diem if required to travel in connection with task force duties.

Domestic Violence Prevention Month

October has been designated Domestic Violence Prevention Month.

Each of us can play an important role to end Domestic Violence. As we approach the 21st Century, we should reflect upon and celebrate the significant milestones and accomplishments of advocates who have raised the consciousness of our nation. The Violence Against Women Act of 1994 and related provisions have proven extremely effective nationwide in curbing domestic violence offenses and providing protection and peace to victims and their families.

Some facts about domestic violence:

- Research indicates an estimated 2 to 4 million women are victims of family violence annually in the United States.

- Domestic violence is one of the leading causes of injury to women.

- An estimated 3.3 million children are at risk of being exposed to domestic violence every year.

The Navy is committed to ending domestic violence. We provide education, support resources and referrals for victims and offering intervention for offenders while holding them accountable.

The challenge is for all hands to become involved and make it our mission to stop violence.

If you suspect someone is being abused, or you are a victim of domestic violence, contact your local Family Advocacy Program representative at 577-6533.

The Domestic Violence Hotline number is 1-800-799-SAFE (7233).

Community Checklist: Important steps to end violence against women

By the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women

The following checklist is excerpted from the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women's, Community Checklist.

Copies are available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/vawa>.

Checklist for the Workplace

Men and women spend more and more of their daily lives in the workplace.

Domestic violence is a workplace issue which affects the safety, health, and productivity of all of America's workers. Business and labor leaders have identified several strategies that can be used to create safer and more supportive workplaces.

Start with the top and get leadership on board.

Encourage management to establish a workplace which is intolerant of domestic violence and aids a victim in obtaining assistance and protection.

Establish employee policies that meet the needs of victims of domestic violence.

Work with your management and union to develop and negotiate paid leave and benefit policies which recognize and are responsive to the particular needs of your employees who are victims of domestic violence.

Ensure employee assistance programs are responsive to victims of domestic violence.

Determine whether employee assistance pro-

grams include domestic violence services or referrals. If it does not, speak with your community services director or the appropriate manager about the possibility of expanding the program to address the needs of employees facing violence in their homes. All EAP personnel should receive domestic violence training and have an understanding of the dynamics of domestic abuse.

Provide management with the tools to respond to domestic violence.

Establish a training program for all supervisors and managers at your workplace to give them guidance on how to respond when an employee is a victim or perpetrator of domestic violence.

Join in local community efforts to combat domestic violence.

Conduct a drive to collect items for local domestic violence shelters. Be sure to contact the shelters first to find out what they want, but common needs are toys, clothing, diapers, furniture, office equipment, office supplies and food.

Share materials about domestic violence.

Distribute educational materials about domestic violence to all employees in your workplace and display posters and brochures in public places which explain the issue. Send the message that there is no excuse for domestic violence. Make victim safety information available in private places such as restrooms or in paycheck envelopes. All information should include the National

Domestic Violence Hotline number: 1-800-799-SAFE (7233) or 1-800-787-3224 (TDD).

Educate employees about domestic violence.

Sponsor a workshop or a series of workshops at your workplace on domestic violence. Invite a domestic violence survivor to speak about her experiences and to discuss the impact of domestic violence on her life and her work.

Increase safety at the workplace.

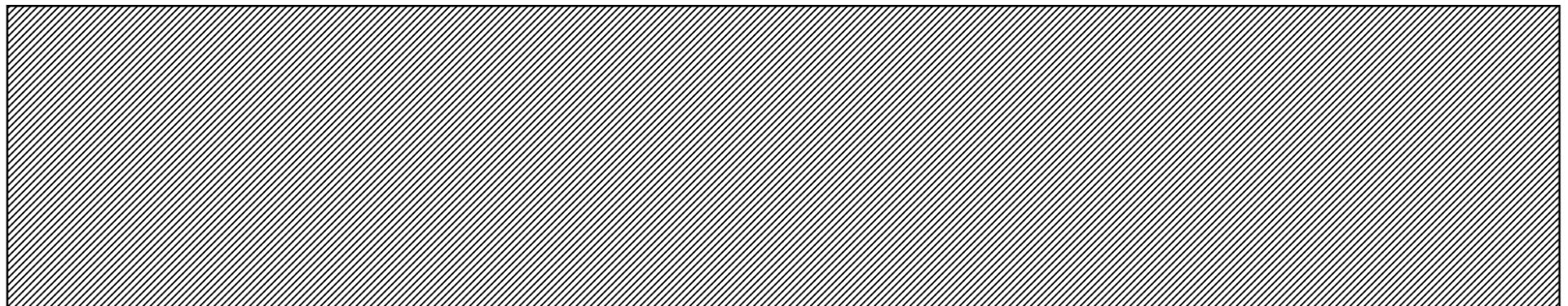
Find out whether security guards at your workplace have been trained to handle the special needs of battered women, who may be stalked at work. If they have not, speak with the appropriate manager to arrange training and help security personnel develop safety procedures.

Coordinate with local law enforcement.

Arrange a meeting between security personnel at your workplace and local law enforcement agencies to facilitate appropriate information sharing and the development of collaborate working relationships.

Donate time and resources.

Adopt a local domestic violence shelter by getting a group of coworkers to make a commitment of volunteer hours. For example, organize groups of volunteers to paint a shelter, do yard work around the shelter, assist with a special event, or provide other specialized skills.



SPORTS

The pins never saw it coming when Odis Gentry walked through the door. He didn't know it was his night for a ...

Perfect 300

By Cpl. Matthew R. Weir
BARSTOW LOG staff

120 pins never even knew what hit them. Odis Gentry, safety occupational health specialist, and amateur bowler, saw 29 years of patience and practice come together Sept. 30 when he bowled his first ever 300 game at Paradise Lanes in Barstow.

The softspoken gent found it hard to put his accomplishment into words.

"It was hard to describe," said Gentry. "I always knew I could do it. After I did it there was a lot of congratulations from everyone in the alley."

Gentry received a ring from the American Bowling Congress and \$300 from Paradise Lanes for bowling a 300 game.

Although the \$300 might entice new bowlers to practice more, Wess Sperry, owner of Paradise Lanes said the money is more of an award for bowlers who can roll a 300, rather than a goal for others.

"Some people have been bowling for a long time, like Gentry, he has been bowling for 29 years," he said. "He deserves it."

The logistics base can rest easy though, Gentry says he does not have plans to join the Professional Bowlers Association any time soon.

"I just do it for fun," Gentry said. "I picked up bowling overseas. I was into a lot of sports, and I knew this was a sport I could continue to do as I got older."

If you have been or just started bowling, keep trying, said Gentry, everyone's ultimate goal should be to bowl a 300 game.

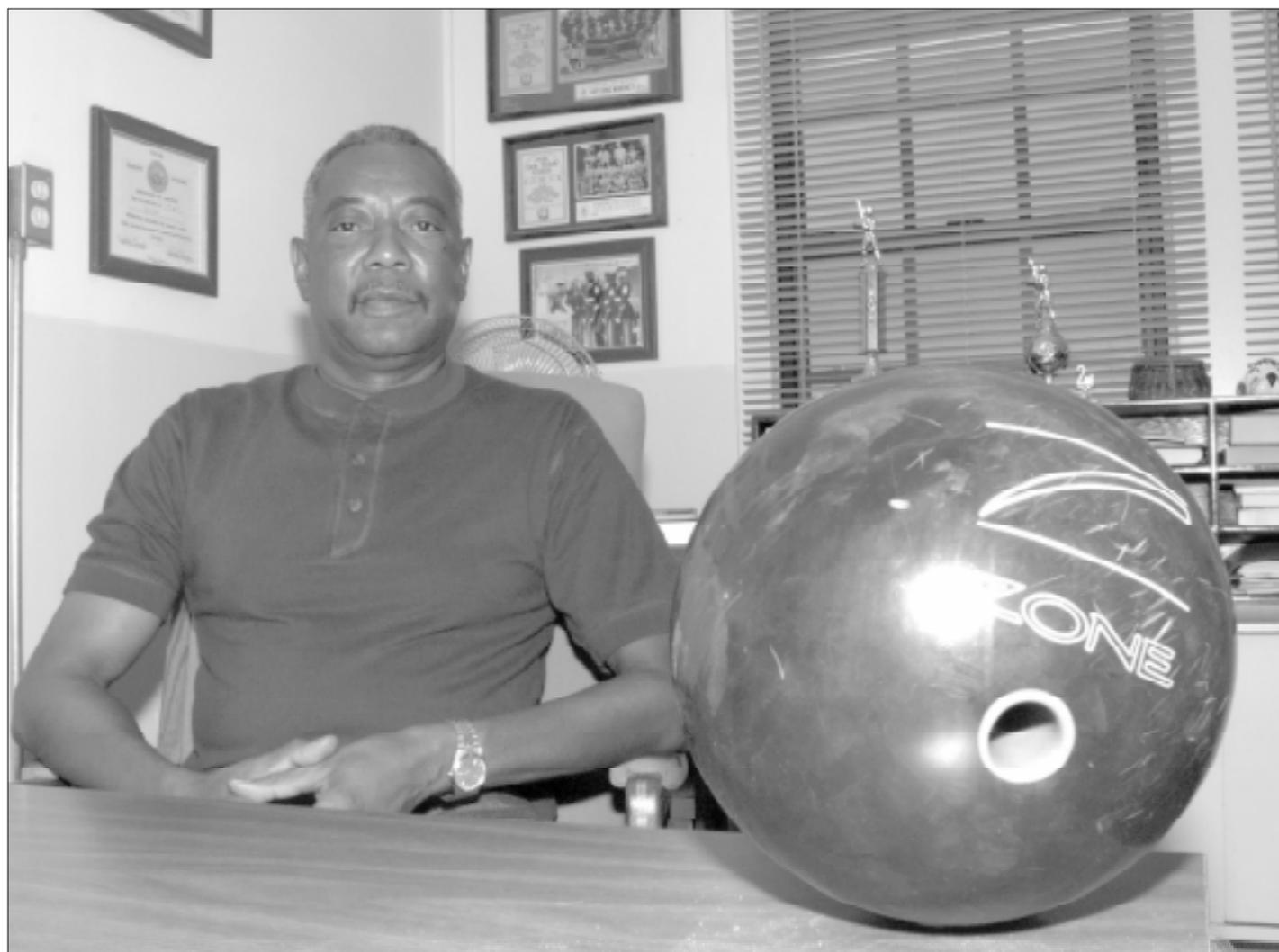


Photo by Cpl. Matthew R. Weir

Odis Gentry, safety occupational health specialist, and amateur bowler, bowled his first ever 300 game at Paradise Lanes in Barstow.

Armed Forces Cross-country Championships coming soon Can you handle the burn?

Tighten up your laces and start pounding you carbs, The Armed Forces Cross-Country Championships are just around the corner.

The Armed Forces Cross-Country Championship will be held Feb. 8-12, at Patrick Air Force Base, Florida.

The top place finishers will compete in the Conseil International Du Sport Militaire (CISM) Championship Feb. 21-26, in Algiers, Algeria.

The All-Marine team will be comprised of 10 men and 5 women.

Marines interested in competing

must submit resumes to Headquarters Manpower and Reserve Affairs 3280 Russell Rd. Quantico Va. 22134-5103, no later than Dec. 20.

Resumes must list dates places and finish times of 10- and 5-kilometer races run in the past two years.

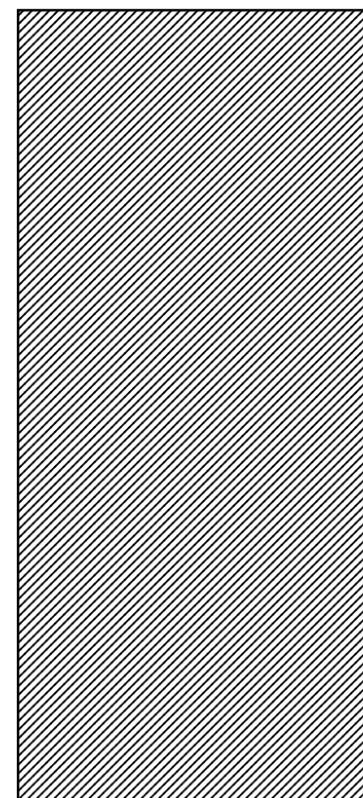
Resumes must also have command endorsement stating the Marine will be made available for Feb. 8-26.

Marines wanting to be considered for the Armed Forces Team competing in CISM in 2000 must have a passport.



Photo by LCpl. Johnathan Newburger, 22nd MEU

LCpl. Josh Perry, Battalion Landing Team 3/6 scout sniper, participates in a 5K fun run on the flight deck of the USS Bataan during the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group's trip across the Atlantic.



1993 FORDTEMPO: Looks and runs great, automatic, 4 door, A/C, 84,000 miles. \$3,500. OBO. Call 252-1145 ask for Jeff.

1991 MUSTANG: Needs work, asking \$1,000. OBO. Call 254-2368 ask for Glenn.

1994 TOYOTA: Pick-up, 5 speed, 32 miles/gallon, clean inside and outside, dark green, no A/C, carpet package, bumper, only 75,000 miles, owner may consider financing, \$5,900. Call 255-3045.

1972 HONDA: 350 CL motorcycle, 27,000 miles, good cond, needs minor work. \$500. OBO. 254-1114 lv msg.

1964 VW BEETLE: Rebuilt 1640cc engine, new interior, window seals, brakes, tires and Porsche rims. \$2,400. OBO. 252-3573.

1995 DODGE SPIRIT: 40,000 miles, xlt cond., \$8,000. Call 252-1415.

FOR SALE: 1974 Hickory King, 2-Horse bumper pull trailer, new tires, chrome wheels, white, completely enclosed, excellent floor, new pads, tinted windows, must see to appreciate. Call 253-5367 lv msg.

FOR SALE: Dryer, Whirlpool, electric, large capacity, xlt cond. \$200. Call 255-9115 after 2 p.m.

FOR SALE: Beanie Babies. Call 252-1554 after 6:00 p.m.

FOR SALE: VCR, RCA, good cond., \$45. Call 242-8839.

FOR SALE: Beautiful china hutch, silverware drawer, wood and glass shelves, xlt cond., must see to appreciate. \$400. Call 252-8442.

FOR SALE: Dryer, gas, Whirlpool, large capacity, works well, will deliver \$100. Call 255-3045.

FOR SALE: Cherrywood waterbed frame, queen size, complete with elegant headboard, has been used with box spring and mattress included. Looking for comfort at a low price, this is it. \$75. Call after 6:00 p.m. 252-8785.

FOR SALE: Grey dash cover and floor mats for '97 Ford, F150 truck. \$25. Call 256-7412 after 6:00 p.m.

FOR SALE: Dress blue blouse, 44R, with anodized buttons, \$32.; dress blue trousers, 35R, \$8. Call 252-4530

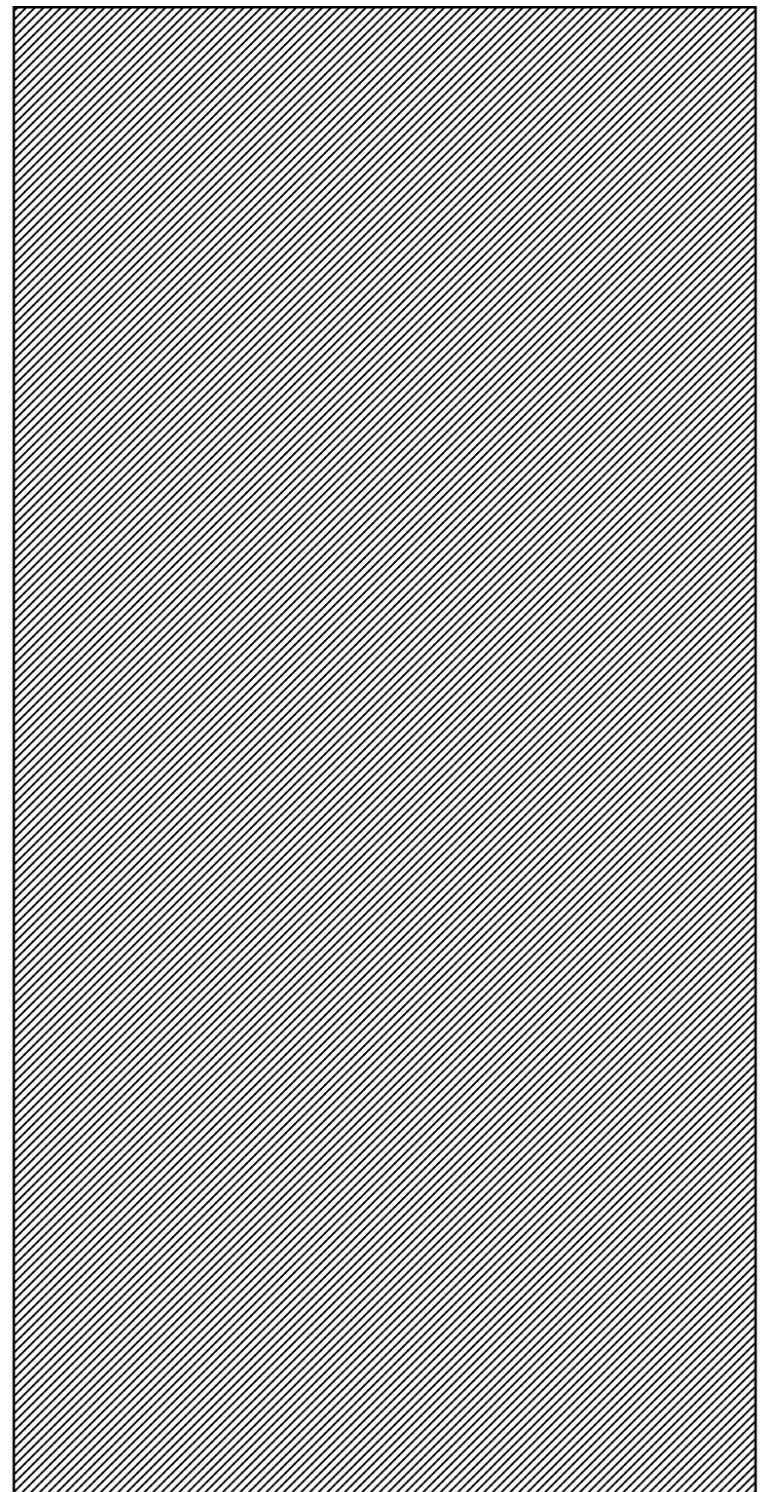
WANTED: Looking for drivers to drive from Multi-Commodity Maintenance Center to drive from Apple Valley to Yermo Annex Bldg. 573. No gas payment required. Work Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 6:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 240-4218. Ask for Phillip.

WANTED: Car pool/drivers for Car Pool from Victorville area to Nebo, Monday – Friday, 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Call 951-2060 after 5:00 p.m.

MOVING SALE: Universal weight center, entertainment center, recliner, microwave cart, lots of misc, Friday only 8:00 a.m. to ? 1108 Borrego Drive, cross street is Rimrock.

PET CARRIER: Kennel 21" long, 16" wide, 16" high, good cond. \$25. Call 242-8839.

PETS: Free, female dog, Pit Bull, very timid and gentle. Call 252-7012



DoD civilians, military qualify for vacation club

By Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

Service members and DoD civilians can sign up to participate in a new vacation club arranged between Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation and Resort Condominiums International.

The deal allows service members and DoD civilians to stay in condominium units for \$209 per week at selected resorts. The normal rates are \$600 to \$1,500 per week in season, according to John Cully, RCI national vice president.

"I have gotten phone calls from scores of individual MWR offices talking about how great the program is - gotten e-mails from places like Roanoke, Va., asking how to sign up," said Dan Yount, chief of Army leisure travel services. "The program seems to have a lot of response from people."

Yount said he thinks the program is a good deal for service members and DoD civilians. "I've stayed in some of these places at a much higher rate," he said. "It costs me \$1,000-plus. So \$209 a week for anything from a three-bedroom unit to an efficiency [unit] is a good deal. Also, these units are renovated every three years. These are great places."

Army MWR tested its Armed Forces Vacation Club at 18 military installations in the Washington, D.C., area from November 1998 to February 1999. Officials called the response excellent and expanded the program nationwide Aug. 1. It is not available for service members and civilians overseas, but Army officials say it may expand in the future.

RCI is a managing company affiliated with more than 3,500 time-share resorts worldwide. Because not all resort units are used by owners or rented all the time, the company must still pay upkeep costs, but receives no revenue while units are vacant. Sales vice president Mike Overfelt and Culley, both retired Army officers, suggested RCI offer condo rentals at cost to military members and DoD civilians.

"This way we're able to cover expenses and the service member is getting a fun, cheap vacation," Overfelt said.

In an arrangement between the Army and RCI, service members and DoD civilians can go to any military morale, welfare and recreation office and pick up an Armed Forces Vacation Club space-available voucher. They then call (800) 724-9988 and speak to an RCI representative, who will describe what's available.

Service members or civilians give the voucher number and reserve a condo using a major credit card. The MWR office receives \$20 for every voucher it issues that is used.

Some restrictions apply. Confirmed vacations are not transferable. The customer purchasing the space-available voucher must check in to the resort and be at least 21 years old. Pets are not allowed at any resort location.

Cully said service members and civilians must be flexible with their requests. "You're not going to get Vail (Colorado) at Christmas," he said. "Generally what's available is off-season."

Participating resorts have different amenities.

Typically, condos feature up to three bedrooms, a living room and fully equipped full or partial kitchens. Many units have laundry facilities or such amenities as whirlpool tubs or fireplaces.

Guests have access to on-site or nearby facilities, such as beaches, golf courses, tennis courts, spas, ski slopes, fishing lakes, hiking paths, horseback riding, restaurants and shops. Many resorts also provide planned adult and children's activities.

RCI is a time-share company, but service members and DoD civilians have no obligation to sit through sales pitches or other presentations, Yount said.

For information on the program or to pick up a voucher, stop by your local MCCS office or check out <http://www.RCI.com> on the Internet.

In an arrangement between the Army and RCI, service members and DoD civilians can go to any military morale, welfare and recreation office and pick up an Armed Forces Vacation Club space-available voucher.



Circus honors Hispanic heritage

Submitted by

Barstow Chamber of Commerce

It is not surprising that when the Carson and Barnes Great American Circus comes to town on Wednesday, Oct. 27, it will appear as a Spanish spectacular. The circus' four generation family ownership is proud to honor its many Hispanic employees, performers and family members. This year's edition will feature exquisite hand-made Spanish costumes and animal blankets. You won't want to miss the opening Spectacular parade and Aerial Ballet at both the 4:30 and 7:30 p.m. performances. Midway attractions open one hour before each show.

Setting up this gigantic circus is a show in itself. The Barstow Chamber of Commerce invites your entire family to come out to the Barstow Community College around 8 a.m. on circus morning and watch the animals unloaded, watered and fed. Also see the biggest circus tent on earth erected with the use of elephants like they did a century ago, all for free. This is truly the largest and the only traveling five-ring circus in the world. In just a few hours an empty field is transformed into a circus fantasyland. Later, you're encouraged to return for one of the two fast-paced action-filled family entertainment shows.

This year's attractions include "Jennie," one of a few baby elephants born in captivity. Basketball playing Russian bears. Princess Roxanne and her almost human gorillas. Multi-ring aerial displays; the incredible perch pole balancing of the Gonzalez Troupe; head balancing on the high swinging trapeze; a thrilling teeterboard exhibition presented by the Cavallini Family from Peru.

More than 17 elephants and 100 exotic and domesticated animals performing astonishing tricks and the only Liberty Horse act in the United States composed entirely of Friesian Stallions.

Tickets are available at the Barstow Area of Commerce, Barstow Office Supply, Desert Community Bank, Factory Merchants Barstow, Fosters Freeze and Kathy's Copies. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 256-8617 for ticket information.

See you at the Circus.

VA Secretary ensures 'Group 7' veteran treatment

Submitted by

Department of Veteran's Affairs

Secretary of Veterans Affairs Togo D. West Jr. announced today that VA medical facilities would enroll all honorably discharged veterans who seek VA health care during the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The VA Secretary's announcement ensures continued treatment next year for "Priority Group 7" veterans, the lowest in a seven-group listing of veterans that began in 1998 under a nationwide VA enrollment system.

"Priority Group 7" veterans do not have service-connected disabilities; they are rated as "zero-compensable" for service-connected disabilities; or their incomes exceed a threshold level.

"It is my intention to serve as many veterans as possible under the law and give them access to the full range of services they need," Secretary West said.

West's decision today assures veterans in all priority groups that they are eligible to enroll during fiscal year 2000. VA officials still recommend that veterans retain private health insurance, since it may cover services, such as emergency care, that VA does not usually provide.

The VA's enrollment program was established by the Veterans Health Care Eligibility Reform Act of 1996. It requires most veterans to enroll to receive health care at VA medical facilities. Veterans can apply at any time. Veterans who fall into the following groups are not required to enroll:

Veterans who have received VA health care

since Jan. 1, 1996;

Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50 percent or more;

Veterans seeking care for a service-connected disability; and

Veterans discharged from military service for less than one year for a disability determined to have been incurred or aggravated in the line of duty, but that VA has not yet rated.

While not required, these exempted veterans are still encouraged to enroll so VA can plan more effectively to meet their health-care needs.

Under the enrollment program, VA offers an expanded array of healthcare services, such as preventive care; primary care; inpatient and outpatient services; rehabilitation; mental health and substance abuse treatment; home health, respite

and hospice care; and drugs and pharmaceuticals in conjunction with VA treatment.

Veterans can use these VA services even if they have Medicare, Medicaid, Department of Defense, or private health insurance coverage.

To apply for enrollment, veterans can call, write or visit their nearest VA healthcare facility.

Most facilities have designated special enrollment coordinators to assist veterans and their families, and to answer any questions they may have. Information, brochures, etc., are also available by calling the VA Health Benefit Services Center at 1-877-222-VETS (8387).

The Services Center operating hours are Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EST)