

BARSTOW LOG

SERVING MCLB DURING TRANSITION AND CHANGE

Vol. 5, No. 18

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

March 15, 2001

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society

Prizes galore. Check out this year's give-aways.

Page 3

Sergeant Major MARFORPAC

Breakdown on things coming up, things going away and things that never were.

Page 2

Happy St. Patrick's Day

March 17

Check out the MCCA page for St. Patty's Day fun.

Page 11

MCB combines events for special ceremony

By Gunnery Sgt. Frank Patterson
Public Affairs Chief

The maintenance center here celebrates three monumental events March 21 starting at 10 a.m.; their ISO 9000 qualification, the 40th anniversary of the activity, and the grand opening of their new test track.

In March 1961, the maintenance activity at Marine Corps Depot of Supplies – now MCLB Barstow – was established as Repair Depot, Marine Corps Supply Center Barstow, Calif. The maintenance center was chartered as an industrial-funded maintenance activity seven years later.

The maintenance center is currently the second-largest employer in the Barstow area providing employment for more than 800 civilian and military personnel, most of who are local residents.

It provides equipment maintenance and repair support to operational forces. It also provides training on military equipment maintenance to the United States' allies.

As part of the Marine Corps' overall logistical process the facility directly contributes to the Corps' warfighting capabilities. Any item in the Marine Corps inventory, except aircraft and associated flight line equipment may be modified, repaired or completely rebuilt here.

After scheduled remarks by Brig. Gen. Richard S. Kramlich, commander, Marine Corps Logistics Bases, the ceremony moves on to the ISO 9000 qualification announcement.

More than three years ago, MCB department and work center personnel began the daunting task of making the maintenance center a world-class organization. For an organization to be considered "world-class" it must meet certain international standards. This is what ISO 9000 is all about.

ISO 9000 is a

family of international standards that aids in defining an organization's quality assurance program. Companies conforming to these standards are said to be "ISO 9000 certified" or "ISO 9000 qualified."

Essentially speaking, ISO 9000 is a business operations manual. Each standard in the ISO 9000 family must have documentation reinforcing the standard that defines who, what, when, where, why and how a particular task is performed.

Maintenance Center Barstow is the first Department of Defense ground maintenance depot to receive the qualification.

In appreciation for all the work that the monumental transformation required, each employee will be individually recognized for their efforts.

The ceremony wraps up with the dedication of the activity's new \$3.4 million test track facility.

The test track is important to the maintenance center because vehicles that have been repaired and modified here must be functionally tested as part of the quality assurance inspection before being returned to the operational forces. The test track can accommodate the M1A1 Main Battle Tank, Light Armored Vehicles and Amphibious Assault Vehicles along with other vehicles like the high-mobility, multi-purpose wheeled vehicle and five- and 10-ton trucks.

The different stations on the track simulate the conditions a combat vehicle meets when it returns to the operational forces.

The track incorporates a 1 1/2-mile oval concrete track surrounding a fording pond, a floating and operation pond, a hill climb, turning circle, three vertical obstacle courses and 3 trench crossing courses.

The test track, which took a little more than a year to build, covers 116 acres just east of the maintenance center.

All base military personnel, civilian Marines, MCB family members and retirees are invited to attend the ceremony. Bus transportation to the Yermo Annex from Nebo departs the base headquarters, Building 15, at 9:15 a.m.

FSD Stands Down For Safety



Photo by Cpl. Cory Kelly

Dell Warfield, MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division firefighter, gives some Fleet Support Division employees an in-depth brief into the inner workings of the fire engine at the first-ever FSD Safety Stand Down March 8. For more on the FSD Stand Down see page 9.

PMO to launch Web Site

By Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Provost Marshal's Office is now making information more easily accessible via the Internet.

They are creating a Web page that will be placed on the base intranet as well as the base's Internet Web site.

Gunnery Sgt. David Paul, Criminal Investigation Division chief, is heading up the project.

The site contains many links pertaining to base orders and California laws.

One of the main links is the Law Enforcement Week link. It explains what takes place and the events scheduled that will happen during Law Enforcement Week when it rolls around in May.

It also has a Phone Directory link that gives the numbers of all sections as well as the high-ranking members of PMO. The PMO link provides information about different things.

It explains housing regulations on base, base road laws and certain base orders. It also has a base map as well as directions to the base's vehicle registration office, said Paul. Information about the paperwork it takes to get a car on base is also provided.

The page also provides links to related sites like the California Highway Patrol site. Information about laws regu-

lating weapons is provided along with directions on how to register them as well as answers to frequently asked gun control questions. It provides the California state law on concealed weapons too. The PMO page explains what to do about citations received on base. It explains the point system as well as the different types of tickets and which ones result in fines.

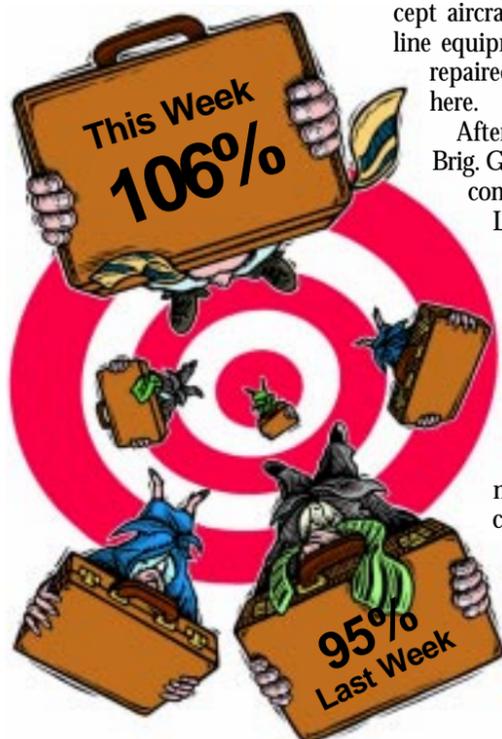
There is also a Physical Security Web page. It displays the Department of Defense order on search and seizure aboard a military installation and the base order on random searches. It also contains vital information pertaining to the Physical Security Division.

The Web page is designed to better educate military personnel on base as well as the civilian Marines who work here on PMO's mission and the regulations in place.

It is also designed to inform anyone who may be coming here on housing regulations and directions on how to get here. It answers many questions a person moving here might have, said Paul.

The site is about 90 percent complete and it will be on the base intranet soon, said Paul.

"Right now it is in the field test stage," said Paul. Soon the Web site will be done and will be sent to the Information Systems Office to be uploaded on the base intranet and the Internet," said Paul.



Current VITA Participation

Corps' top dogs answer questions raised at EOS

By **Sgt. Maj. Stephen H. Mellinger**
Marine Forces Pacific

CAMP H.M. SMITH, Hawaii - Recently, Camp Pendleton hosted the latest Executive Off Site (EOS). These EOS are conducted by the Commandant of the Marine Corps every three months. The Commandant brings together his senior general officers and senior civilian employees for a three-day 'meeting of the minds.'

The Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps also meets with the three Force sergeants major (PAC, LANT and RES), along with the MCCDC and Manpower and Reserve Affairs sergeants major.

To all the Marines, who supported

this important event, thank you all for working throughout the long weekend and being such professionals.

I was very impressed with the number of issues that get resolved at these gatherings, which greatly impact not only individual Marines, but also our Corps as a whole. The commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps listened to every issue and concern brought to the table. They both were eager to engage in every issue that would provide the best care for Marines.

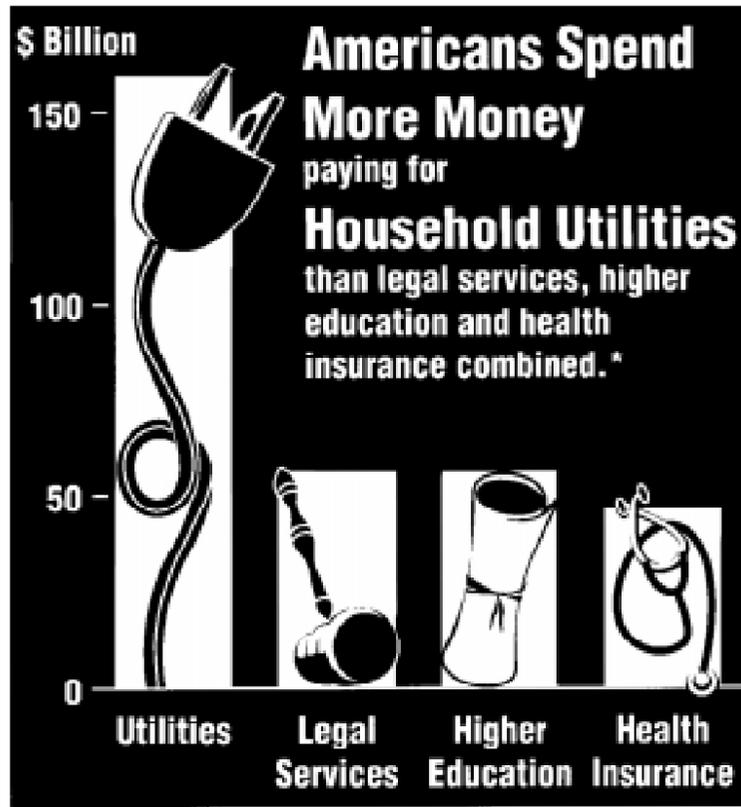
Although not everything discussed or recommended to the Commandant was resolved, it's important each of you know that he is dedicated to ensuring that our

Corps (and its Marines) be provided for both now and in the future.

Below are some of the issues and recommendations discussed and some of the Commandant's guidance.

Safety - for the 1st quarter of FY-01, the Corps experienced a 68 percent decrease in Privately Owned Vehicle traffic deaths compared to the same period last year. This is great news for all of us. It shows our commands' safety message to Marines is on target and being received by more Marines. However, our safety education efforts must continue because we don't want to lose even one Marine to a preventable vehicle death.

See EOS Page 7



The ability to rationalize may just be a handicap

By **Lt. Cmdr. Elmon R. Krupnik**
Base Chaplain



I was sitting in my car waiting for a store to open when another car pulled up next to me and parked in the handicapped parking space. The person driving (the only person in the vehicle)

reached down and pulled out the handicapped parking permit and hung it on the mirror.

When the store opened, the person got out of the vehicle to go into the store. No physical impairment was visible. In fact, the person was walking better than I do. I thought to myself how selfish this person's actions were.

What makes a person act in such a manner? Is there a pattern of behavior that develops?

Granted, I do not have all of the facts, but it

appears that this person was doing something selfish and illegal. Proverbs tells us as a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool does to his folly.

In our own lives, we develop patterns of behavior that we have justified to be okay when in reality the behavior is not okay or appropriate. If such behavior is left unchecked in our lives, we will probably develop patterns of behavior that are worse for our lives and the lives of those around us.

It is my hope that if we love someone, we will take the steps necessary to get rid of those patterns of behavior. We need to make ourselves accountable to someone else to help us get rid of those little behavior patterns that we need to correct, so they do not turn into a big problem.

We should all take the time to evaluate our actions and patterns of behavior to determine if we might be doing something wrong that could be hurtful to others.

Blessings to all,
Chaplain Krupnik

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

The Metrology Shop is where Cpl. Michael Huckaby, test measurement and diagnostic equipment mechanic, spends his working days. "Basically, we fix the machines other people use to fix their equipment," said Huckaby. Confused? Say an auto mechanic wants to do an electronic diagnostic test on a car but his machine is broken. He would send it to the Metrology Shop to get it fixed.

Chapel Services

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

Confession services before Mass

Nebo Bible Study

Wednesday Noon - 1:30 p.m.

At the **Chapel Office**

For more info call
577-6849.

Yermo Bible Study

Wednesday 11-11:30 a.m.

At the **Colonel's Workshop**

For more info call
Don Brooks, 577-7165.



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

Public Affairs Officer/Executive Editor:
Public Affairs Chief/Managing Editor:
Press Chief
Editor:
Correspondent:
PA Support Clerk:

Bill Bokholt
GySgt. Frank Patterson
Sgt. Brian Davidson
Cpl. Cory Kelly
LCpl. Joshua Barnhardt
Bertie Dailey

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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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 and phone number, and be received by noon, Friday for the next issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Post Office/ID Card Section Move

The Post Office and the ID Card section have moved. They are now in the old Bank Building and are open for business. Their new location, Building 321, is the building with the ATM machine on the Nebo Side on the back side of the Marine Corps Exchange.

Hinkley Explorer Egg Hunt

The Hinkley Fire Explorers Post #125 is sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt and lunch April 14 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Hinkley Fire Station.

There will be prizes and drawings as well as food and fun for the whole family. For tickets and information, call 253-7704.

Spring Break Out Craft Fair

The Spring Break Out Craft Fair 2001 is coming to the Barstow Mall. It will be here March 30 through April 1. Children can get their picture taken with the Easter Bunny while the parents can see the displays of the craft vendors. For more information, call 253-4646.

McKinney Play Day

The McKinney Youth Activities Center is hosting a play day for Marine, Army, and Navy children six and under every Wednesday from 10 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

It gives children a chance to play with others their own age and give families a chance to meet. For more information, call June Treadwell at 577-6332.

Union move

The American Federation of Government Employees Local 1482 has moved from Building 15 to Building 33.

All of their phone numbers have stayed the same.

Building 33 is the building in the

middle of the road by the base gym and the Provost Marshal's Office.

Mayor's prayer breakfast

The Barstow Mayor's prayer breakfast sponsored by the Christian Business Men's Committee is March 28 at the Quality Inn in Barstow from 7:30 to 9 a.m. Guy Sawyer is the guest speaker. To make reservations or for more information, call the Chamber of Commerce at 256-8617 or Fred Broadhead at 252-4739.

MCLB Egg Hunt

The Provost Marchals Office and the MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division is presenting a free Easter Egg Hunt April 13 at 9 a.m. at the playground at the end of Cape Gloucester.

There will be prizes and fun for the whole family. Children can participate in the egg hunt in four age groups: 1-4, 5-9 and 10-13. For more information call Sergeants David J. Meeden, Melvin D. Miller or Efrain Sotelo, III, at 577 6049/6514.

Bake Sale

The budget office is having a bake sale in the blue wing of Building 15 Tuesday at 7:30 a.m. in support of the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

Among the items for sale will be a host of pies, peanut butter/chocolate brownies, cheesecakes as well as other assorted cakes, fudge, and cookies galore. For those who do not have a sweet tooth, homemade salsa and chips will be available.

For more information call Corina Bonner at 577-6619.

Essay Contest

Entry deadline is April 9 for the Armed Services YMCAs annual essay contest.

Co-sponsored by the U.S. Naval Institute, the essay contest is in its fifth year. Winners receive U.S. Savings Bonds

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine be a used car salesman.

ranging in value from \$100 to \$1,000.

Entries may be sent by mail or e-mail. E-mail essays can be either in the message body or attached as Microsoft Word or plain text documents. They must be sent no later than April 9 to essaycontest@asmca.org.

For additional information, visit <http://www.asmca.org>, send an e-mail to essaycontest@asmca.org or call (703) 866-1260, ext. 16.

Scrap Wood Giveaway

The Defense Reutilization Management Office at Edwards Air Force Base is giving away scrap wood. The wood is available on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no limit on the amount of wood which may be taken.

For safety reasons, guests are not permitted to climb or walk on top of the woodpile. The public is reminded to wear gloves, appropriate clothing and shoes.

For more information call Ted or Tony at (661) 277-2209.

Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society Prizes

The following is a list of the key personnel for this year's Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society's Fund Drive. The dates and prizes for each drawing are also listed below.

Please contact the appropriate person to purchase tickets. Should you have any questions or wish to volunteer as a key person, please contact Ed Guz at 577-6183 or send an e-mail to guzeb@barstow.usmc.mil.

Brenda German	Maintenance Center	577-7139
Staff Sgt. Larry D. Essary	Maintenance Center	577-7470
Bertie Dailey	Public Affairs Office	577-6430
Meredith Taylor	Human Resources	577-6478
Susan Durant	Headquarters Battalion	577-6969
Cpl. Kelley L. Courtney	Headquarters Battalion	577-6502
Lance Cpl. Gabriel A. Lopez	Comptroller	577-6486
Corina Bonner	Comptroller	577-6619
Barbara Kent	Fleet Support Division	577-7600
Staff Sgt. Donna M. Knolle	Fleet Support Division	577-7353
Staff Sgt. Dennis W. Owen	Semper Fit	577-7052
Heather Hahn	Public Works	577-6736
Ed Guz	Public Works	577-6183
Donnie Keeney	Maintenance Division	577-6710
Loretta Lopez	Base Property	577-6529
Carlos Albornoz	Environmental	577-6173
Jennifer Kinsey	Contracting/Purchasing	577-6246
Chuck Waters	Transportation Mgmt.	577-6219
CWO Jeffrey L. Clawson	Transportation Mgmt.	577-6994
Jean Flint	Information Services Office	577-6763
Petty Officer Mary F. Collins	Branch Medical Clinic	577-7808

Prizes from Camp Pendleton for the March 23 drawing will be four \$100, a \$200 and a \$500 gift certificate.

Barstow prizes for the March 23 drawing will be a CD Holder, 2 Sleeping Bags, an Air Mattress and Pump, a \$100 Gift Certificate, a Mountain Bike, a Panasonic Portable CD Player and a DVD/TV Player.

Prizes from Camp Pendleton for the March 30 drawing will be four \$100 and one \$300 gift certificate and a Ford Focus.

Barstow prizes for the March 30 drawing will be a CD Holder, two Sleeping Bags, an Air Mattress and Pump, a \$100 Gift Certificate, a Mountain Bike, a Digital Camera and His/Hers Watches.

Prizes from Camp Pendleton for the April 6 drawing will be four \$100 and one \$400 gift certificate and a Ford Ranger.

Barstow prizes for the April 6 drawing will be a CD Holder, two Sleeping Bags, an Air Mattress and Pump, a \$100 Gift Certificate, a Mountain Bike, a Panasonic Portable CD Player, a Telephone, and a DVD/TV Player.

Prizes from Camp Pendleton for the April 13 final drawing will be four \$100 and a \$500 gift certificate, and a Ford Mustang.

Barstow prizes for the April 13th drawing will be a CD Holder, two Sleeping Bags, an Air Mattress and Pump, a \$100 Gift Certificate, a Mountain Bike, a Telephone, a CD Receiver (Blaupunkt), and a 27" Panasonic/3 play with VCR and DVD.

Job Watch

Annc No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
OTR-010-01 NR	Electrical Equip. Worker WG-2854-07 (Amended) (Temp NTE one year)	02-02-01	03-16-01	02-16-01	MCLB Barstow
OTR-016-01	Electronics Integrated Systems Mech. WG-2601-12 (Amended)(Temp NTE one year)	02-09-01	03-23-01	02-23-01	MCLB Barstow
DEU-098-01	Environmental Engineer GS-0891-12	03-05-01	04-02-01	03-19-01	MCLB Barstow
DEU-106-01	Electronics Measurement Equip. Mech. WG-2602-11	03-09-01	04-06-01	03-23-01	MCLB Barstow

Applicants interested in announcements beginning with DEA or OTR should submit their resume to:

Human Resources Service Center, Southwest
ATTN: Code 522 (announcement number)
525 B Street, Suite 600
San Diego, CA 92101-4418

For more information concerning public job announcements visit the Self-Service, Bldg. 37, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office 24-hour employment information line at 577-6919.

If you have Internet access, browse to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding Open Continuous Merit Promotion announcements point your browser to <http://www.donhr.navy.mil>.

National Poison Prevention Week

March 18-24: "Children act fast ... so do poisons!"

ALSAFE 006/01
Navy Safety Center

NORFOLK, Virginia – The American Association of Poison Control Center reports that every 30 seconds a child is poisoned in the United States. That's over a million a year. The theme for National Poison week is "children act fast ... so do poisons!" Don't delay; look around your own home for proper storage of chemicals and medicines.

Keep all chemicals and medicines out of sight of children and, preferably locked up when not in use. Leave original labels on products and securely close all child-resistant packaging after use. Children act fast and a minor distraction on your part can spell disaster. If you believe a child has ingested a poison, remain calm. Follow first aid instructions on the label, then contact the poison control center, doctor, or 911. The number for your poison control center can be found on the inside cover of the yellow or white pages of the telephone directory.

Keep emergency numbers posted by the phone and be prepared to act fast. Seconds count. Keep a bottle of "syrup of ipecac" on hand, but use only if the poison center or the doctor instructs you to induce vomiting. There's another poison that is often overlooked and takes a toll on the adult population, military and civilian alike. Here are a few hints. You may have read a newspaper article about this one.

The story usually revolves around a party atmosphere at the local frat house or bar.

From fiscal years 1996 through 2000, seven sailors and two Marines died as a direct result of this substance. Have you figured it out yet? The answer is alcohol poisoning. That's right. They drank themselves to death. A Sailor and Marine pushed the limits and pegged the meter with a blood alcohol content of .510 and .571. To put it in perspective, this is how alcohol affects you:

- .08-.10 – Drunk Driving
- .25 – Difficulty walking
- .30 – Loss of consciousness
- .40 – Coma
- .41+ – Death likely

Straight and to the point, the story often unfolds like this: the victim loses consciousness, aspirates and drowns in their vomit. Not a pretty picture, however, easily avoided. Moderation is the key. You can't rely on common sense since that's the first thing to go after you've had a few drinks. The answer; don't drink too much to begin with. That's risk management.

It's time for every Sailor, Marine and civilian to take responsibility for their own actions. Leaders can educate and counsel you about personal accountability but the balls really in your court when it comes to your individual safety. Take the primary action required to save your life: think.

Womens History Month luncheon

By Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

Scheduled to be the guest speaker at the Women's History Month Luncheon March 29, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Oasis Club is Master Gunnery Sgt. Kim Ortamond, Staff Noncommissioned Officer-in-charge of the Mounted Color Guard.

Having just recently been stationed at MCLB Barstow, the 43-year-old master gunnery sergeant is getting her toes wet with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard.

Born prematurely in a pickup truck headed for Laramie, Wyoming on February 25, 1958, Ortamond has always been one step ahead of her peers. She learned how to skate when she was two, and shortly thereafter became a competitive freestyle roller skater.

When she moved from Colorado to Idaho as a 12-year-old, she became involved in the 4-H program and has since won numerous 4-H state and national congress awards.

After graduating from high school in 1976, Ortamond started college, and several months later she joined the Corps on a whim after a friend jokingly asked her to.

She went to boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on November 14, 1976. Because she excelled in math, she was put into the ground radio repair field. And soon after her school she joined the ro-

deo team at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms. While there, Ortamond ran for National Rodeo Finals Queen and won. Ortamond traveled with the All-Marine Rodeo Team and met her husband, William Ortamond, in the process. They have been married for 20 years.

She won many roping titles with her husband as well as barrel racing, breakaway, goat tying and all around cowgirl crowns by herself.

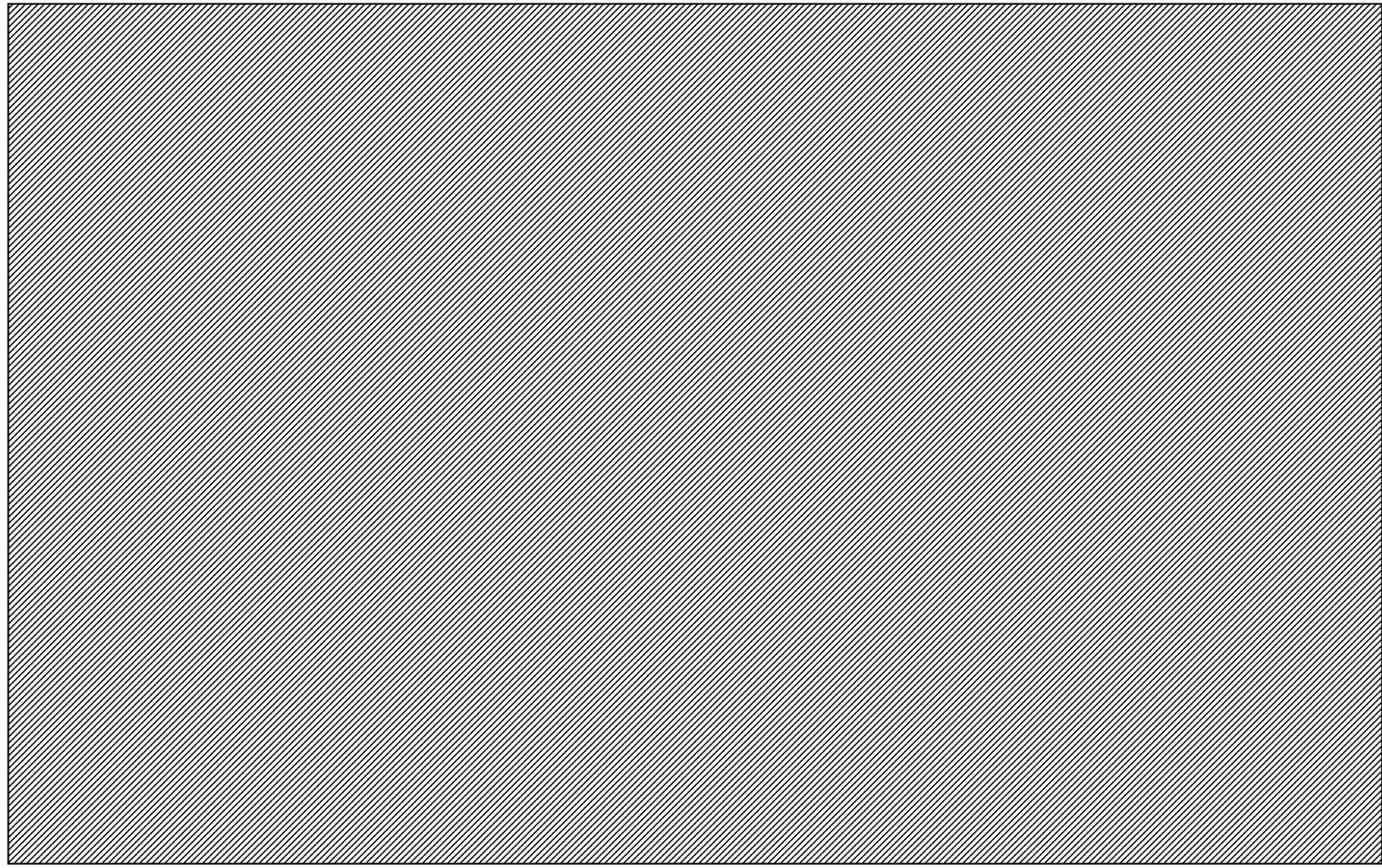
The mother of two, Artiedale, 19, and Diana, 16, has spent most of her Marine Corps career on the west coast as an instructor at the Marine Corps Electronics School or in a maintenance section. In 1996 she was awarded the Outstanding Enlisted Women of the Year award from the Navy League of Women.

Her other personal awards include a Naval Achievement Medal, two Navy Commendation medals, and the Meritorious Service Medal.

The Women's History Month Luncheon, is sponsored by the Federal Women's Program.

The menu is Game Hen in orange honey glaze or Chef's Salad. Tickets are \$6.75 each. Contact the following ladies for tickets:

Name	Phone
Barbara Kent	577-7600
Cheryl Mathison	577-7705
Margaret Steele	577-7111
Kim Whaley	577-6508
Marva Johnson	577-6965
Susan Zagorski	577-6752
Sharon Loschen	577-6187



TRICARE drops PRIME family members' co-pay

TRICARE Press Release

The 2001 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) contains great news for active duty uniformed services members and their families.

One provision that's sure to please is the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members (ADFM) enrolled in TRICARE Prime.

Active duty family members enrolled in TRICARE Prime will no longer have to make co-payments for the care they receive from their civilian providers.

Currently, family members of active duty members in pay grades E-1 to E-4 and pay grades E-5 and above pay \$6 and \$12, respectively, for such visits. In addition, family members' \$11 per day civilian inpatient charge is being eliminated, as is the \$11.45 per day family member rate for enrollees admitted to a military treatment facility. It is anticipated that this benefit will become available in April 2001.

Legislation included in the 2001 NDAA, such as the elimination of co-payments, is giving recruiters something to cheer about.

As an employee benefit, TRICARE is quickly becoming what military leaders hoped it would: The world's best health care for the world's best military.

Active duty family members will still

have to make pharmacy co-payments for the National Mail Order Pharmacy program and at network retail stores, but these charges are nominal.

In addition, military treatment facilities continue to provide prescription drugs free of charge — a huge cost saving available to all uniformed services beneficiaries.

In order to obtain the elimination of co-payments for care received from their civilian providers TRICARE Prime enrollees must follow TRICARE Prime rules.

For example, TRICARE Prime enrollees must normally obtain authorization from their primary care manager before seeking care from civilian providers. While they retain the right to seek civilian care without authorization from their primary care manager, the TRICARE Prime point-of-service charges will apply.

Family members who use the point-of-service option are responsible for paying the annual deductible of \$300 per member or \$600 per family, and 50 percent of the TRICARE allowable charge once the deductible is met.

Family members also are responsible for any additional charges billed by the non-network provider, up to 15 percent above the TRICARE allowable charge (balance billing rule).

Members are encouraged to consult

with a health benefits adviser (HBA) or beneficiary counseling and assistance coordinator (BCAC) prior to using the point-of-service option.

The elimination of co-payments for active duty family members who see ci-

vilian providers is not only about cost. It's also about making the TRICARE benefit equal for those who see civilian versus military providers.

In response to feedback from beneficiaries, TRICARE Prime is being re-de-

signed to take the irritants out of the program.

Cost is a big concern for beneficiaries, and the elimination of co-payments for active duty family members enrolled in Prime is a plus for customer satisfaction.

TRICARE Inpatient rates increase

TRICARE Press Release

Effective Oct. 1, 2000, the daily cost to active duty family members for inpatient care in civilian hospitals under TRICARE Standard and Extra increased from \$10.85 to \$11.45.

Recently passed legislation eliminates this inpatient rate at both military treatment facilities and civilian hospitals in early 2001 for active duty family members enrolled in Prime. However, it will still apply to military retirees, and their families and survivors.

For more information about other rate increases at MTFs including specific exemptions, log on to the Web site <http://www.dtic.mil/comptroller/rates> then go to FY2001 Reimbursable Rates, Tab I, Medical and Dental Services.

There also has been a slight increase

in cost shares for retired military and their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard for inpatient mental health care or a substance use disorder.

TRICARE Standard beneficiaries who get such treatment at a low-volume hospital pay a daily rate of \$149, up \$5 from last year, or 25 percent of institutional billed charges, whichever total is less.

A low-volume hospital is one that treats and discharges fewer than 25 patients in a year.

For those who are treated at a high-volume hospital, one that treats and discharges 25 or more patients in a year, the cost share is the same as last year's 25 percent of the hospital's own daily rate.

The inpatient mental health rate is unchanged for active duty family members and military retirees, their

families and survivors in TRICARE Prime and Extra.

The TRICARE Standard diagnosis-related group (DRG) daily rate for most civilian non-mental health hospital admissions increased on Oct. 1, 2000, to \$401, up from \$390 last year. That rate applies only to retired military and their families and survivors who use TRICARE Standard. They either pay that fixed daily rate of \$401, or a cost share, which is 25 percent of the hospital's billed charges, whichever is less. However, there is no DRG rate increase for these beneficiaries who use a TRICARE network facility.

For additional information about DRG payments, contact the health benefits adviser at the nearest Uniformed Services medical facility, or contact a customer service representative at your nearest TRICARE service center.

The truth about Family and Medical Leave entitlements

Submitted by Human Resources Office

Under the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA), most Federal employees are entitled to a total of up to 12 workweeks of unpaid leave during any 12-month period for the following purposes:

- the birth of a son or daughter of the employee and the care of such son or daughter
- the placement of a son or daughter with the employee for adoption or foster care
- the care of spouse, son, daughter, or parent of the employee who has a serious health condition
- a serious health condition of the employee that makes the employee unable to perform the essential functions of his or her positions

Under certain conditions, an employee may use the 12 weeks of FMLA leave intermittently.

An employee may elect to substitute annual leave and/or sick leave, consistent with current laws and OPM's regulations for using annual and sick leave, for any unpaid leave under the FMLA.

The amount of sick leave that may be used to care for a family member is limited.

Most Federal employees may use a total of up to 12 administrative workweeks of sick leave each leave year to care for a family member with a serious health condition.

If an employee previously has used any portion of the 13 days of sick leave for general family care or bereavement purposes in a leave year, that amount must be subtracted from the 12-week entitlement.

If an employee has already used 12 weeks of sick leave to care for a family member with a serious health condition, he or she cannot use an additional 13 days in the same leave year for general family care purposes.

An employee is entitled to a total of 12 weeks of sick leave each year for all family care purposes.

Job Benefits and Protection

– Upon return from FMLA leave, an employee must be returned to the same position or to an "equivalent position with equivalent benefits, pay, status, and other terms and conditions of employment."

– An employee who takes FMLA leave is entitled to maintain health benefits coverage. An employee on unpaid FMLA leave may pay the employee share of the premiums on a current basis or

pay upon return to work.

Advance Notice and Medical Certification

An employee must provide notice of his or her intent to take family and medical leave not less than 30 days before leave is to begin or, in emergencies, as soon as is practicable.

An agency may request medical certification for FMLA leave taken to care for an employee's spouse, son, daughter, or parent who has a serious health condition or for the serious health condition of the employee.

The 12 workweeks of unpaid leave under FMLA are in addition to any annual leave, sick leave, or other paid leave or compensatory time off available

See LEAVE Page 13



'Customer-First' credo rings up success

By Gerry J. Gilmore

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Things are looking up for the Department of Defense's grocery chain as efforts to please customers and restructuring initiatives appear to be bearing fruit.

In fact, the Defense Commissary Agency sold more than \$5 billion worth of fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy products and other items last year, the most in sales since 1997, DeCA officials said.

That good news, combined with the implementation of an aggressive revitalization program, pleases Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr., DeCA's director since December 1999.

He credits his organization's success to providing value to customers while reducing operating costs.

"Customers tell us they appreciate the money they save by shopping at our commissaries, and we're listening," Courter said. "Our 'Best Value' item program provides prices lower than what you can find downtown on either national brands or private labels, and our produce quality has greatly improved."

Courter said DeCA is striving to increase savings to customers and harness new technology to improve store operations.

With better access to commercial grocery item sales and pricing data, for example, DeCA buyers can zero in on the best deals for commissary shoppers.

Courter noted that customer service is improving as commissaries automate how they replenish their shelves.

For years, he said, commissary managers walked the aisles, checked the backrooms and made an educated estimate of what they needed to order.

Now DeCA is linking its cash register system to its inventory ordering system, so commissaries can make their replenishment orders based on what is actually sold.

"We're moving to reduce costs, streamline operations, increase service and arrange the most efficient hours of operation for our customers," he noted.

Price comparisons report significant customer savings – last surveyed at 27 percent overall for most private-sector grocers – at DeCA's 287-store worldwide chain, officials said. This translates into more than \$2,000 in annual savings for a family of four. Courter added that preliminary figures now show customer savings are closing in on DeCA's goal of 30 percent. A part of non-pay military compensation, commissar-

ies sell items to service members and other authorized patrons at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge.

The surcharge is supposed to pay to build new commissaries and renovate existing ones, DeCA officials said. That's not what Courter found when he came on board over a year ago.

"We had funded some operational expenses out of the 5 percent surcharge," he said. "As a result, there

was not enough money available to consistently keep the stores in good condition. No one wants to shop at a dilapidated store."

Working with Congress and senior DoD officials, "we shifted all the operational costs to the appropriated fund side of the ledger," Courter said.

This, he noted, more than doubled the money available for store upgrades.

At the same time, the change puts

DeCA on the spot to reduce its costs while increasing value to its customers.

"We needed to apply modern business management principles throughout our operation," Courter said.

The agency followed the lead of commercial grocers. He reasoned sound business practices would pro-

See DECA Page 13

MCLB's store director speaks out

By James C. Meugniot

Barstow Commissary

Upon the first reading of the article above, I thought, "Ok, this is news? We've been living this for the past year."

Then I realized that our customers, who hopefully have been reaping the benefits of Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr.'s initiatives, maybe didn't have a clue as to why the improvements were happening.

As the article states, there have been engineered improvements in our processes. These improvements have resulted in overall lower not-in-stock rates (empty places on the

shelves where products should be), better quality produce, less clutter on the shelves and a commitment to lower prices. As the article also states, overall pricing is now approaching a figure 30 percent lower than civilian store pricing DeCA-wide. These numbers are generally believed to result in even larger savings in California.

Other initiatives from Gen. Courter's leadership have resulted in the free coffee you see every morning in the commissary, the availability of free recipes in both the meat and produce departments, and regular "demos" of fresh produce.

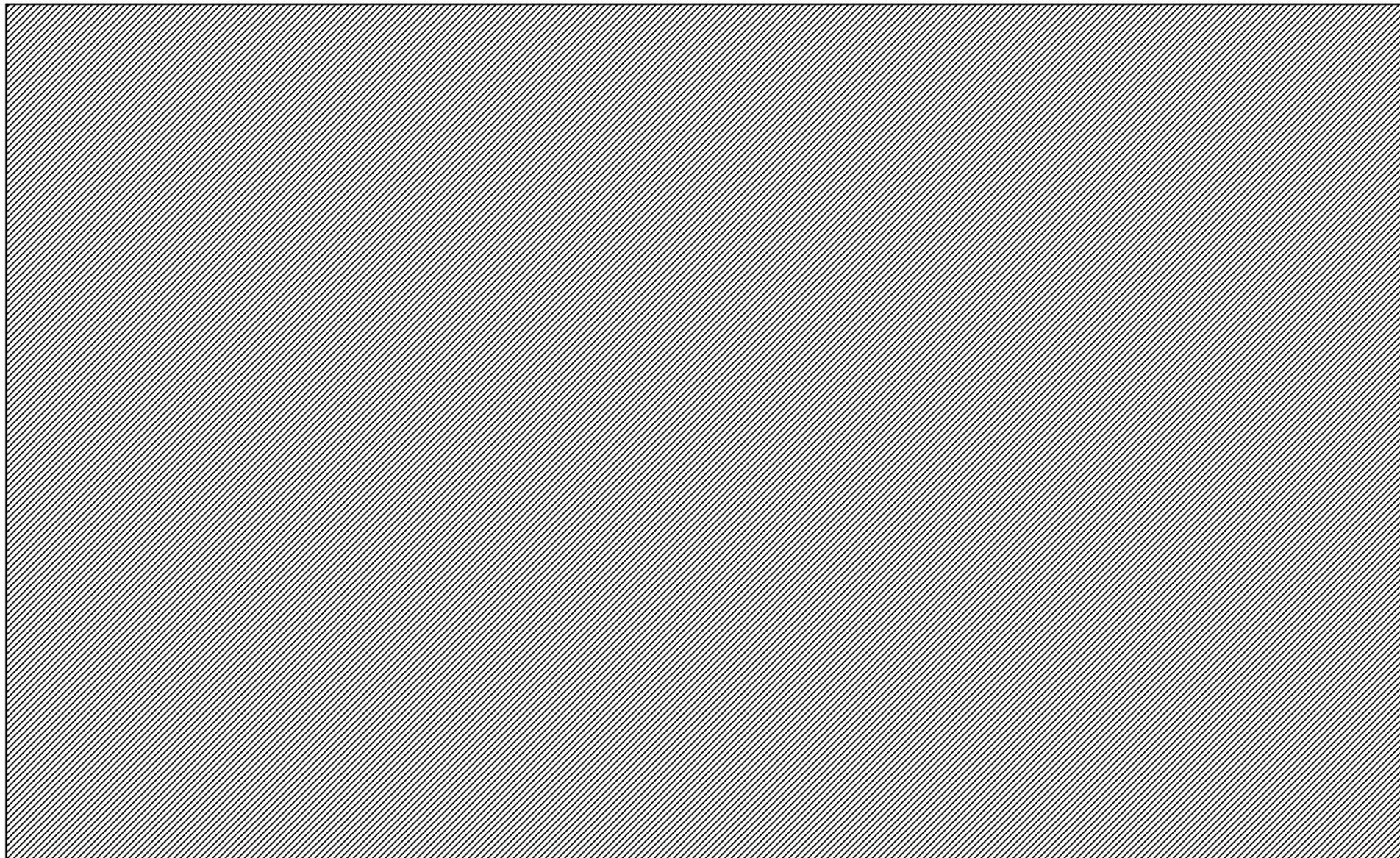
Behind the scenes, all of the store

directors have become unit cost conscious. "How much *does* it cost to sell a can of beans or a package of meat?"

Now, we track this information in an effort to reduce the figure while still maintaining the higher standards demanded of us.

While we all are aware of the need to tighten up DeCA-wide and the mentioned need to close some smaller commissaries, there is currently no move afoot to close the Barstow commissary.

We are not geographically close to a larger commissary, and we still have an active duty contingent that depends upon our services.



AROUND THE CORPS

SecNav rewards AAV Program

By Capt. Steve Butler
Division of Public Affairs

HEADQUARTERS, U.S. MARINE CORPS, WASHINGTON, DC – For the fourth year, the Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle Program has won the Secretary of the Navy Environmental Award in the "Weapon System Acquisition Team" category.

Competition packages were submitted by military installations worldwide with the AAV team being recognized as the "crème de la crème."

"While environmental awareness is

everyone's job, here at AAV, I can't tell you how proud I am of my team members who have been outstanding in monitoring this area.

"Truly a job well done!" said Colonel Blake Robertson, Direct Reporting Program Manager, AAV.

Winners will be officially recognized at the Secretary of the Navy awards ceremony May 2, 2001 at the Navy Memorial, Washington, DC. In addition, award winners will go on to compete in the Department of Defense Environmental Security Awards program held later this year.

This latest award is another addition to the myriad of accolades and significant milestones bestowed on the Marine Corps premier piece of military hardware currently under development – the AAV.

Late last year the AAV Program was approved by the DoD Defense Acquisition Board for entry into the next phase of development, known as Engineering and Manufacturing Development.

This major milestone approval placed development and production schedules far ahead of predictions.

Future plans for initial AAV production currently are scheduled to begin in Fiscal Year 2004.

The Marine Corps AAV Technology Center, located in Woodbridge, Va. has successfully developed and tested various new integrated systems for incorporation with its newest tactical amphibious transport vehicle.

Moving three times faster and with greater firepower than Marines could have aboard the last generation of amphibious troop carriers, its development completion and initial operational capability delivery to the Fleet Marine Forces is scheduled for Fiscal Year 2006.

The Marine Corps intends to equip a Marine Expeditionary Unit with the new vehicles soon thereafter and field a total of 1,013 AAVs by 2016.



Official USMC photo

An aerial view of an Advanced Amphibious Assault Vehicle treading water.

EOS from Page 2

Equal Opportunity Advisors – the Marine Corps needs volunteers to fill numerous EOA billet vacancies. This is an all-volunteer force (within our Corps) where Marines step out of their MOS to serve as an EOA. The primary qualification is that Marines who volunteer for this program are dedicated towards the fair and equal treatment of all Marines. This program is open to all Marines regardless of ethnicity, religion or gender. Interested Marines should contact their EOA or career planner for details. They can get you pointed in the right direction to apply for this important program.

Operating Forces SNCO Meritorious Promotions – It was recommended that meritorious promotion quotas, to the ranks of staff sergeant and gunnery sergeant, be given at the Marine Forces level. Currently the only sergeants and staff sergeants able to compete for meritorious promotions are "B" billets (recruiting duty, drill field, and Marine Security Guards) and those within the MEFs. This would enable qualified base and station Marines to compete for the same meritorious promotion allocations currently only afforded to the MEFs. By changing this policy, it will reinforce the importance of Marines serving in the 5th element of the MAGTF. I hope to see this

changed in the next meritorious promotion allocation message from HQMC.

Sergeants Major Course – a formal Sergeants Major Course (along the lines of what we currently have for new 1st Sgts) is in the planning stages.

Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps NCO Symposium – Sergeant Maj. Alford P. McMichael announced dates for the 2001 NCO Symposium (to be held at HQMC). The dates are May 21-25. Each command, base and station within MARFORPAC were given quotas for this. Interested hard-charging sergeants and corporals should contact your sergeant major (via your chain of command). This is a great venue for our NCOs to present ideas and recommendations to both the Commandant and the sergeant major of the Marine Corps.

Dress Blue/White Uniform – The recommendation was that this uniform be authorized for wear by SNCOs only. It was also recommended the white trousers be an optional item for SNCOs.

Indefinite EASID Cards for SNCOs – it was recommended we maintain our current policy (on ID cards) and not go to an indefinite EAS ID for any SNCO rank. The Commandant asked for more details on a few options for this issue before he makes a decision.

UDP per diem – The Commandant

made it very clear he expects every Marine (officer/enlisted, ground/air) on UDP to be paid the same per diem rate. He feels no Marine should have to take a pay cut while on the UDP (i.e., married, enlisted Marines). Additionally it was recommended that MEU Marines, while deployed, be paid per diem the same as those in the normal UDP. This issue should be resolved before the next EOS (May 01).

New Drill Manual – The new drill manual should be ready for the Commandant's signature by August 1. The new drill manual will also include "fill-in-the-blank" (names and dates) LOIs for change of commands and post and relief ceremonies.

New Cammies – Currently there are rifle companies (at Camp Pendleton, Camp Lejeune and Okinawa) wear-testing the proposed digital design camouflage uniform. Following the wear-tests, any needed adjustments to it will be made (i.e., change size and location of pockets, buttons vice Velcro and metal snaps, etc.). The Commandant is reviewing a few options on how to implement this uniform to both recruits and enlisted Marines. More details to follow on this.

The aforementioned topics were not all the topics discussed at the EOS, but are the key ones I felt we should all be aware of.

Semper Fi.

READY, FRONT

Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

“Are you getting smart with me?” *Common Access cards are smarter than we think*

By Sgt. Jonathan E. Agee
New River Public Affairs Office

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION NEW RIVER, N.C. – The new Common Access Card, formerly known as the Smart Card, is promising to change the Marine Corps administrative process forever, and is scheduled to begin testing aboard New River in March.

The CAC holds 32K of memory, four times as much as its 8K predecessor, and can therefore assist Marines in many more areas.

When tests begin here in March they will deal mainly with computing physical fitness tests, swim qualifications, weapons qualifications, annual required training and non-reportable training.

The new process will allow Marines to have their scores recorded almost immediately after finishing a training event. For example, currently if a Marine were to take a PFT, the individual scores would be recorded by the section's training noncommissioned officer and later computed to find the total score. That score would then be turned into the training section who will record the scores. The score would then be computed and turned into the unit diary clerk who transfer the results to Marine Corps Total Forces System.

With the CAC, Marines will finish their PFT, and with a swipe of their card, all their information and scores will be automatically recorded and stored in a hand-held computer for immediate entry into MCTFs. Once the training NCO reaches a computer with Internet capabilities, that recorded information can be directly uploaded to MCTF

A similar process can be done with other areas of training to allow Marines a more expedient way to have scores and required training recorded. This will also lessen the need for remedial promotion packages for Marines who met promotion requirements, yet failed to have their information recorded on time.

In the future, the CAC will change more than just PFT and training. According to CAC programmers, the new card will double as an ID card capable of performing a multitude of tasks the current card ID can not.

The CAC will be able to be read through a computer and allow Marines to have an electronic signature attached to documents they send via e-mail. The electronic signature will allow Marines the ability to have paperwork signed off in half the current time required to do a similar task.

Another featured capability of the CAC is its ability to cut down on the check-in/out process. Some Marines currently dedicate a week's-worth of time to check in or out of a unit. The new CAC, however, will allow Marines to complete the process in a fraction of the time.

For example, if a Marine were checking out of a command all he would have to do is swipe his card through a CAC accessible computer and determine where gear and military items were owed. The Marine would then return those items, swipe the card again and finish the checkout process.

The capabilities of the card will also transform security aboard military installations. One day the CAC will be able to access secured buildings



Photo by Sgt. Jonathan E. Agee

Lt. Col. Walter C. Driver, Air Station Executive Officer, watches as a smart card is scanned.

and locks, according to Lt. Col. Walter C. Driver, New River executive officer. A Marine will be able to swipe the CAC through a securing device, enter a personal pin code, and gain access to that area.

CACs will also be able to store currency. According to Driver the CAC will revolutionize the way transactions are made throughout the Marine Corps. Marines can put money into their card from their own account and access that

money through an ATM. The currency feature will also help transform the government credit card process. By using the CAC, government funds can be placed on a card which can be used for temporary additional duties, purchasing of office supplies and much more.

When the card officially goes into use, the entire Department of Defense will be issued one. This has the promise to make the lives of DOD members much easier.

Changing hands ...



Photo by Cpl. Cory Kelly

Major Kathy J. Maloney passes the Headquarters Battalion command colors to Maj. Brian T. Ballard during a ceremony at the flag pole in front of Building 15 March 8. Ballard is now the commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion in addition to being the director of Marine Corps Community Services. Maloney is assuming command as the director of the Administrative Support Department.

PROMOTIONS AND AWARDS

Promotions

The following Marines were promoted to their current rank February 1.

Sgt. Efrain Sotelo, III
Cpl. Michael T. Pirozzi
LCpl. Adam R. Stetzel
PFC Dennis J. Taylor

The Following Marines were promoted to their current rank March 1

Sgt. David C. Moyer

Sgt. Joanna L. Bucknam
Cpl. Richard R. Wheelen, Jr.
Cpl. Jeremy A. Wellington
Cpl. Aaron Frisbie, Jr.
Cpl. Grayson B. Warbritton
Cpl. Jason D. Edmiston
Cpl. Cory A. Kelly
Cpl. Michael A. BudabinMcQuown
LCpl. Michael S. Osborne
LCpl. Steven L. Colbird

Range Scores

LCpl. Nicole D. Verene	34	SS	LCpl. Violet D. Williamson	35	SS
LCpl. George C. Grimsley	42	Expert	LCpl. Michael W. George	47	Expert
LCpl. Steven L. Colbird	29	MM	SSgt. Shelton L. Lawson	34	MM
Cpl. Mohammed S. Huda	41	Expert	LCpl. Dean O. Burgess	44	Expert
LCpl. Thomas E. Walsh	46	Expert	LCpl. Jason A. Carew	25*	MM
LCpl. Tighree U. Thomas	29	MM	LCpl. Joseph B. Jones	45	Expert
SSgt. James F. Kurek	43	Expert	LCpl. Jeremy T. Palu	40	Expert
Cpl. Richard R. Wheelen, Jr.	39	SS	LCpl. Travis L. Sheldon	29	MM
LCpl. Joseph F. Covey	40	Expert	Sgt. David J. Meeden	32	MM
LCpl. Patrick M. Jennings	40	Expert	Cpl. Martin Coronado	41	Expert
			LCpl. Brandy R. Berdion	37	SS

Battalion Commander: Maj. Brian T. Ballard

Battalion First Sergeant: 1stSgt. C. J. Allen III



Photo by Cpl. Cory Kelly

Lorinda Meinicke, administrative officer of the Fleet Support Division was pleased with the demonstrations from the Fire and Emergency Services Division. "It's worth while," the Bar-

stow native said. "I think the other divisions and departments should have an opportunity for their people to do stuff like this. It's a lot of fun."

FSD Safety Stand Down

By Cpl. Cory Kelly

BARSTOW LOG staff

Employees of the Fleet Support Division collected outside Warehouse 406 at the Yermo Annex March 8 for a Safety Stand Down.

As dawn broke FSD employees gathered round a collection of equipment and static displays set up by the Fire and Emergency Services Division.

"Today is safety day," said Maj. Domingo K. Salazar, director of FSD.

For the event, the Fire and Emergency Services Division brought out two fire trucks, their new Fire Safety House, and ambulance, and a slew of other equipment to help demonstrate the importance of fire safety.

Many FSD employees were attracted to a live fire exercise in which people were given the chance to get hands-on experience with fire extinguishers.

Bob Doxey, tractor operator, said, "There is a lot to learn." And from the live fire exercise, "you learn a lot. Stuff you don't even think about."

The Victorville native said some of the stuff he learned during the exercise that people don't normally think about is what type of fire extinguisher to use in specific situations. Different fire extinguishers spray chemicals for different types of fires. So, the fire extinguisher made for putting out electrical fires won't put out an oil or grease fire.

"When you haven't been taught or reminded over and over, you might forget which one to use," Doxey said.

Another lesson to be learned was taught via the Fire and Emergency Services Division's new Fire Safety House. A mobile classroom specially made by Scotty, Mobile Concepts, that allows people to face the fear of a real fire

without the hazards of real danger.

FSD employees were led into the classroom-in-a-trailer in groups of five where they found out the only difference between the Fire Safety House and a real house is the non-toxic smoke machine used to simulate "the real deal."

"Going through the trailer . . . this is my first time ever coming through and I enjoyed it," Craig Tate, a fork lift operator, said.

"I've never done anything like that. At least

This stand down was the first of many quarterly safety stand downs to come for FSD, according to Salazar, who has been planning phasing in quarterly training sessions like this one for quite some time.

Salazar, who is relatively new to the organization, said, he got together with his branch heads a couple of months ago after getting his feet wet and decided a quarterly stand down was the way to go.

He said he has a lot of high hopes for these

don't see each other on a daily basis," Salazar said.

"I figure, we can do the training in the morning, at noon have a potluck lunch, everybody can bring their own dish and share, and in the afternoon it's open forum, socializing, and getting word passed . . . And just try to encourage everybody to be one big happy family," he added.

"I see a lot of people talking that I've never seen get together before," Salazar said.

"I'm the new kid on the block, so anybody I meet is new," said Tate, who has been working at the base for a little more than a month.

Juan Maquez had pretty much the same standpoint as Tate, only he has been working for the base for 13 years.

The Barstow native, who doubles in a secured warehouse as a material handler and forklift operator, works all alone in a shop that employed nine when he began working here.

"I work in a warehouse by myself, so this gives me a chance to see the rest of the people that work within the division," the retired Marine Corps master sergeant said.

Joseph Sanchez, a packer born and raised in Barstow and employee of the base for 22 years, said, "I'm meeting a lot of people that I see around but don't get a chance to talk to."

"You see people all the time you don't know [at work]. You pass them in the hall. So, you nod your head or say hi, but you don't ever get a chance to really talk to them. Now we're getting the chance," Sanchez said.

Salazar said that on top of building unit cohesion, having a quarterly safety stand down gives him a chance to answer questions that he otherwise would not get the chance to address, and publicly recognize deserving employees.

"Hopefully by doing these kinds of things we'll be one big happy family," the major said.

"The second thing is just to get people together. There are different micro-organizations within the Fleet Support Division that don't see each other on a daily basis."

— Maj. Domingo K. Salazar

now if it happens I'll have an idea of what to do," the Los Angeles native said.

Thomas Behrand, heavy mobile equipment repairman at Strip-8, spoke well of the informative demonstrations.

The Akron, Ohio, native claimed he had never been faced with an emergency situation, or had to cope with the pressure of a real fire, so, "it's good that people get know how to respond when there in a situation where things go wrong, fires or accidents.

"I've never been faced with anything like that," Behrand said.

Aside from navigating through the smoky atmosphere of the Fire Safety House and picking up fire extinguishers to douse flames FSD employees were able to get their blood pressure checked by trained emergency medical technicians, as well as get up close and personal with base firefighters.

events and plans to do something different every time.

"It doesn't have to always be the same thing, one quarter it could be fire safety, another quarter it can be occupational health safety," Salazar said.

Salazar said that although making sure everyone gets quality training out of these events is his first priority, it isn't his only objective.

"Once a quarter I want to have a safety-type stand down. I wanted to do two things with this," he said and then explained how he wants to make sure everyone gets the training they need. "In the morning sessions, get everybody together, get them trained or get their training refreshed, so they can operate in a safe environment and be cognizant of their conditions."

"The second thing is just to get people together. There are different micro-organizations within the Fleet Support Division that



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

March Spring Sale at MCX

Lots of great buys right now at the Exchange during the March Spring Sale - Libby 24 piece Impromptu glassware at only \$6.99, Quasar VCR now priced at \$69.99, plus check out the Manager's Specials throughout the store all month long.

The Exchange & Super Seven Store is open Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 256-8974 for more information.

The Railhead Exchange (Yermo) is open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. During troop rotation the Railhead Exchange is open Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Week's lunch menu

- Today* - Prime rib.
- Friday* - Catfish or baked cod.
- Monday* - Veal Parmesan.
- Tuesday* - Pork chops.
- Wednesday* - BBQ ribs.
- Thursday* - Lasagna.
- Friday* - Hoki fish.

Lunch price is \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian. A la Carte, and Sub Sandwiches are also available for lunch.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday (Nebo) 10:30 a.m. to 12:30

p.m. (Yermo) 11:30 a.m. to Noon.

Family Night Dinner menu

Tonight - Italian Night.

Next Thursday - Pot roast.

Family Night dinners are served Thursday evenings at the Family Restaurant from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Prices: (military & civilian) \$4.50 adults, \$2.50 children (5 to 11 years), children 4 years and under are free. Everyone welcome.

Aerobic classes

Get in shape - summer is not far away, and you want to look your best. Two classes are available:

Gina Galbraith's class - Monday through Thursday from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per month or a \$2 walk in fee.

Stephanie Jeffery's class - Monday through Thursday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per month or a \$2 walk in fee.

For details on the above aerobic classes call 577-6898

MCCS Admin has moved

The MCCS Administrative Office has moved from building 15 to building 302, located in the east wing of the building.

See MCCS page 11

JOIN ITT ON A SPECIAL TRIP

On Wednesday, April 28 ITT will make a trip to the Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Gardens with a stop at the Ontario Mills Mall.



Rancho Santa Ana Botanical Garden. Located at an elevation of 1,350 feet near the San Gabriel Mountains, in Claremont, this 86 acre Botanical Garden is laid out in three areas, Indian Hill Mesa, East Alluvial Garden and Plant Community Garden.

This is a fascinating tour of California's plant and tree specimens, from the Sierra Mountains to the Mojave Desert.

Ontario Mills Mall. Located in Claremont, this huge mall features over 200 retail, outlet, entertainment and specialty stores all under one roof.

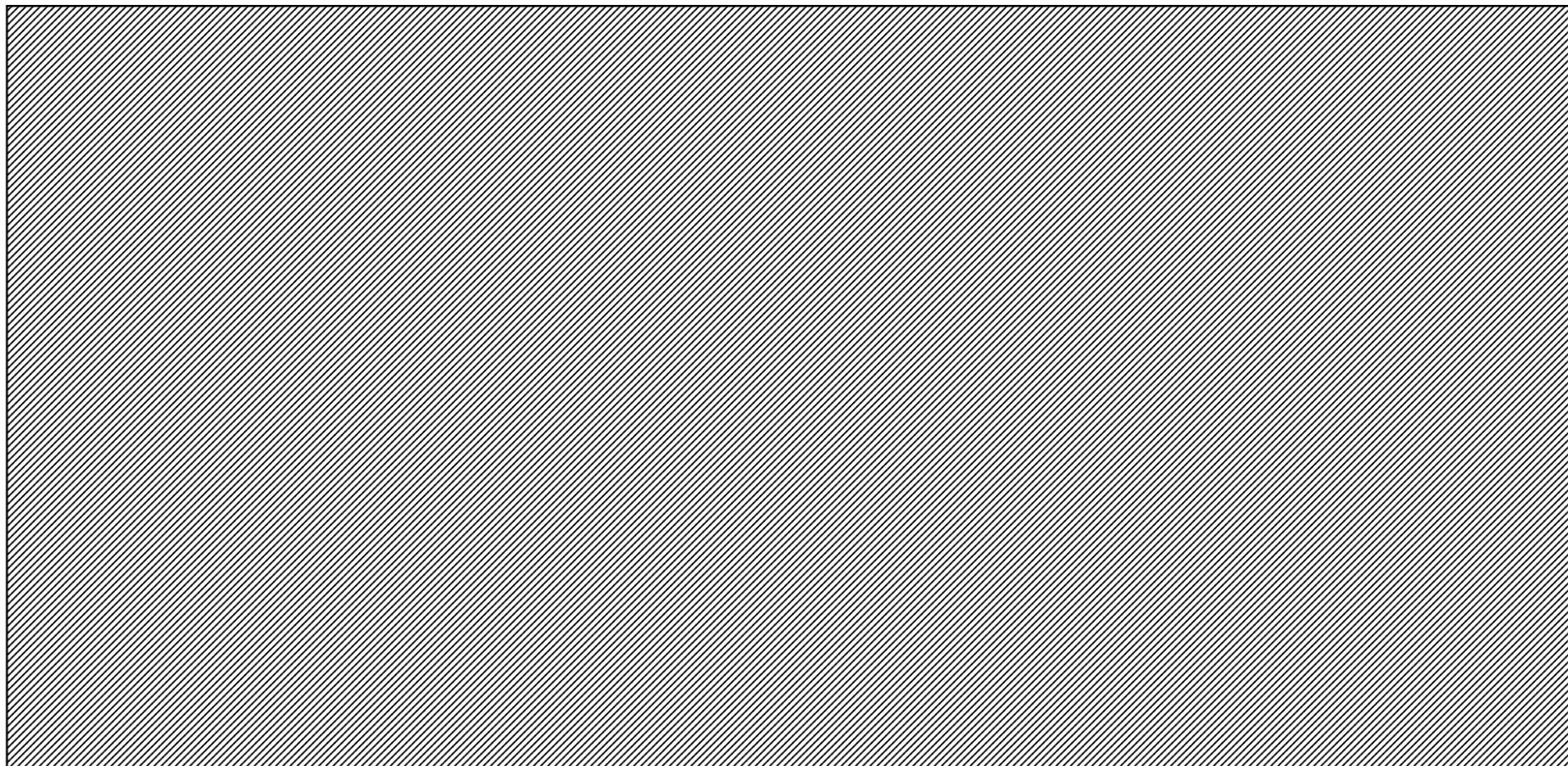
Shop and browse the stores and don't forget to drop by the massive food court with everything from hamburgers, Cajun food, Italian food, Chinese food to a gourmet coffee house.

Looking ahead and above as you stroll through the mall there are 28 giant colorful video screens showing music videos and special announcements.

The ITT van leaves MCLB at 8 a.m. for this trip, returning at approximately 6 p.m. The cost is \$10 per person.

ITT 577-6541 BUSINESS OPERATIONS **MCCS MARINE CORPS**

ITT is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday. Call for more information regarding this trip. Sign up early and secure your seat.



MCCS from page 10

Wearing o' the green

Wear something green on St. Patrick's Day, and you can bowl for only fifty cents a game and the shoe rentals are free.

You can bowl any other time this month for only seventy five cents a game for adults, and children can bowl three games for a buck. All shoe rentals just fifty cents.

Can't beat a deal like that! Come on down to the Bowling Center and have some fun.

The Bowling Center is open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and Tuesday. Call 577-6264 for more information.

Semper Fit Nutrition class

Semper Fit Health Promotions will be conducting a Nutrition class on Monday, March 26th in the Aerobics Room at the Gym/Fitness Center from noon to 1 p.m.

The class is open to all active duty, retirees, family members and MCLB Wellness members.

For more information contact Marisa Klavon, Health Coordinator at 577-6817.

Racquetball and tennis

The weather is great, get out and play a game of tennis, or a fast game of racquetball. All you have to do is show up - it's all right here waiting for you.

Call The Gym and check it out. The number is 577-6898.

Enjoy your club's activities

At the Oasis Club - all members are invited to the monthly Social Night held the first Friday of each month.

There is also two weekly Social Nights - every Thursday with emphasis on the military members, and every Friday as Family Night. The above two weekly Social Nights start at 4 p.m. For more information on the Oasis Club call 577-6432.

At the NCO/Enlisted Club - weekly activities include: Tuesday night movies. Great movies with snacks. Wednesday DJ night, Thursday Rock n' Roll night rotating with Country music night, tonight it's Country music. Friday TGIF variety night and Saturday TGIS variety night. Bring your own music every night except Monday movie night. For more information on the NCO/Enlisted Club call 577-6495.

Play golf!

It's a great time to be out on the greens playing golf. Tees & Trees Golf Course offers you an attractive course, specials (such as the Senior Special, for players 55 and over), golf lessons, a Pro Shop, regular and special golf tournaments, after-tournament social get-togethers, convenience of location, and economical fees.

Tees & Trees Golf Course is open seven days a week - 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call 577- 6431.

It's at the Library

Looking for a good novel to read, a favorite author or genre? Or seeking information for a special project? It's all right here at the Base Library.

Fiction, nonfiction and reference books are available for your use.

The Base Library is open Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information call 577-6395.



GOING CAMPING? READ THIS FIRST!

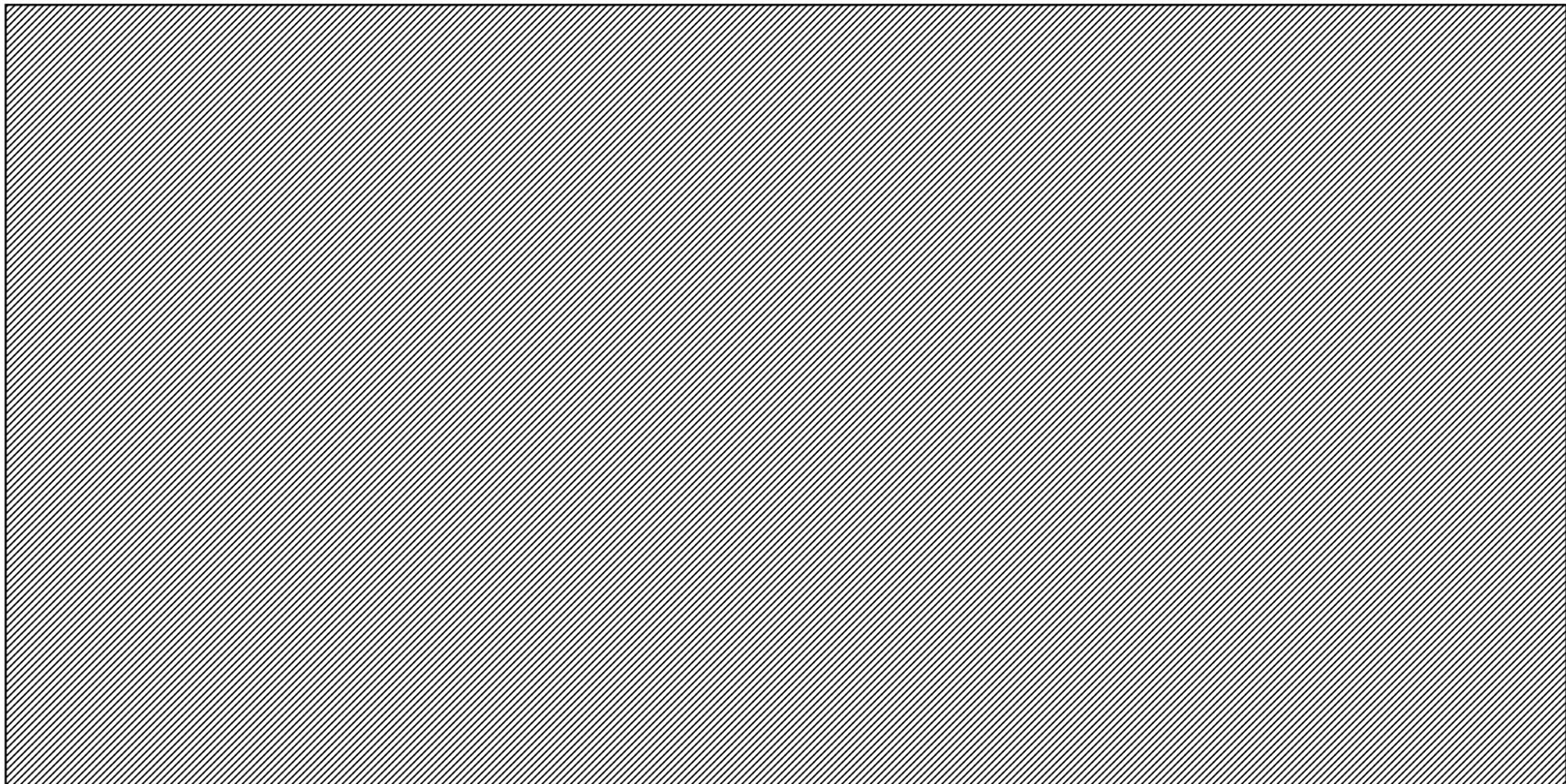
Spring is here, you may be thinking of enjoying the great outdoors by going camping in the nearby mountains, or at the many scenic locations in the desert.

Here's some good news if that's what you're planning. The Equipment Issue Room at the Base Gym has all sorts of camping equipment you can check out - for free. Check out:

- Camping tents,
- Sleeping bags,
- Rechargeable lanterns,
- Camping stoves,
- Backpacks with frames,
- and the list goes on. Drop by and see all that's available.

The Equipment Issue Room is in the Base Gym. Open Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday & Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Call 577-6898 for more information.



SPORTS

Hoyas take advantage of the Officers' missed buckets

By Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Hoyas crushed the Officers 61-36 Monday night in intramural basketball action.

Darrell Robinson scored 16 points to lead the Hoyas to a blowout victory.

The Hoyas jumped out to a fast lead

scoring 11 points while the Officers only put up three.

The Officers came right back though, scoring five straight points to make the score 11-8. The Hoyas decided they wanted nothing to do with that and took a 15-8 lead.

After trading a few buckets, the Hoyas went on a tear. The Officers kept missing

easy shots and the Hoyas implemented the fast break to open up a huge lead. By the end of the first half, the Hoyas had more than doubled the Officers output with the halftime score of 33-16.

At the beginning of the second half, the Officers went on a little run. They had an 8-3 spurt to make the score 36-24, but the Hoyas answered right back extending the lead to 44-26.

After that it was all over but the shouting as time ran down on the Officers.

At the end of the game, the score was 61-36, the Hoyas taking home the victory.

Monty Franklin also added 15 points to the Hoyas effort.

Bryan McClune scored 14 points for the losing team.

The Hoyas proved to be too tough a match for the Officers in this game.

The Officers and the Hoyas both made the playoffs.

In a cruel twist of fate, these two teams faced off again in the first round of the playoffs Tuesday night.

The Hoyas came up big late in the season to take over the third place spot.

They stayed undefeated after losing to First Place and Comm early to put themselves in good position to start the playoffs.

The Hoyas are an all-civilian team that has fared very well in the league this year. First Place is another one of those teams.

Comm and PMO are the two Marine teams that have done well. Comm however, does have a couple non-Marines while PMO is an All-Marine squad.

Marines make up new squad

By Sgt. James Covington
Quantico Sentry

MARINE CORPS COMBAT DEVELOPMENT COMMAND QUANTICO, Va. – Members and "hopefuls" of the All Marine Wrestling Team competed in the All-Marine Wrestle-Offs March 1 at Larson Gym.

For some of the wrestlers, the wrestle-offs were their last opportunity to earn their spot on the All-Marine team.

"The wrestle-offs will help determine who makes the All-Marine squad," said Jay Antonelli, coach of the All-Marine team, "and who will represent the Marine Corps this year."

"A lot of the lineup was determined in practice and previous wrestle-offs," said Antonelli. "These matches gave me a feel for who will be wrestling at the Armed Forces Championships."

The competition was fierce, with some of the best wrestlers in the country, and perhaps in the world, locking horns to prove they were All-Marine material.

"It's very challenging," said Jessica Acosta, the Officer In Charge of the All-Marine team. "It's not something you just walk into. The coaching is top-notch, the training is top-notch and the wrestlers are top-notch."

"The wrestling team is an elite force within an elite force, and I wanted to be a part of it."

Despite a key loss to the lineup this year, Antonelli feels the All-Marine Team is especially strong. "I was nervous at first because we lost Capt. [Dan] Hicks, our starting 213-pounder," Antonelli said, "but we have a very strong team this year."

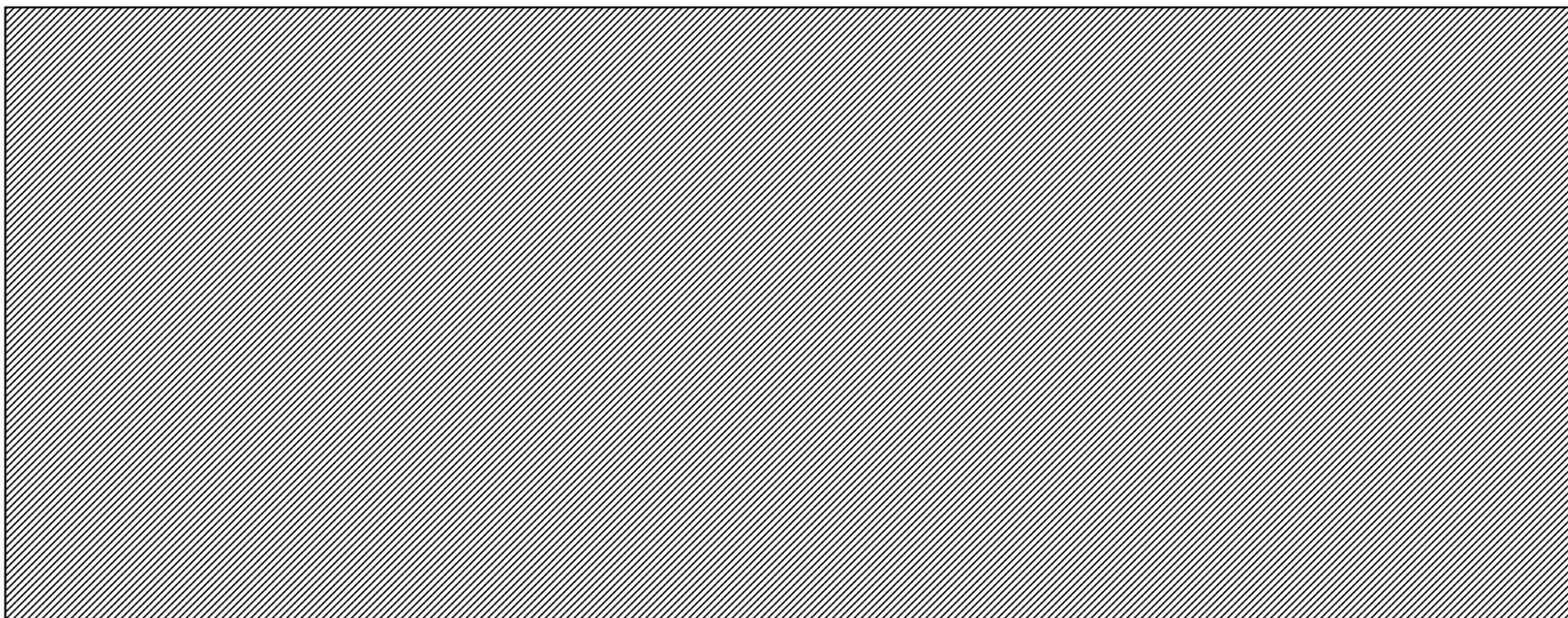
Antonelli feels the Marine Corps competitive spirit will help his team prevail at the Armed Forces Wrestling Championships next week.

"Though we're a smaller service, we can do more with less," he said. "I try to harness the Marine Corps 'can do' attitude in our wrestling team."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Daniel Robinson of the Hoyas spots up from three-point range in Monday night's game against the Officers. Bryan McClune attempts to block the shot, but comes up short and Robinson draws nothing but nylon on his way to helping the Hoyas to victory.



Clinic hands FSC eighth loss in a row

By Lance Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Clinic outlasted FSC 35-27 Monday night at the base gym during their intramural game.

Romeo Buenaventura scored 18 to lead the Clinic to victory.

It looked like the Clinic was going to take it to the house early by starting the game on a 5-0 run. FSC, knowing it was their last chance to scrape out a win, turned the tide on the Clinic and came back with a fury.

Peter Parker was fouled as he hit a lay-up to tie the score at 8-8. His free throw put FSC up by one.

FSC and the Clinic traded baskets for a while until the first half drew to a close. The Clinic got a break and hit

an easy lay-up right before halftime to go up 18-15. That would be the halftime score.

As the second half started, FSC made their move. They clawed their way back into the lead at 24-22, but that proved to be all they had.

As their tanks ran out of gas, the Clinic took advantage and put on a 10-3 run to take a 32-27 advantage. The Clinic added a late three-pointer to end the scoring at 35-27.

Peter Vegliante scored a team high seven points for FSC in a losing effort.

This game was plagued with turnovers. The out of bounds line caught more passes than the person the passes were intended for.

FSC ended the season without recording a win. They finished in last

place in the league and were eliminated from the playoffs.

The Clinic also missed the playoffs. They were the only team to beat Comm so far this year though, giving them an honorable mention on the season.

The Clinic, however, didn't live up to their preseason promise to perform better this season and make noise in the playoffs.

Antroine Smith now has a case of hoove-in-mouth disease, which could come back to haunt him when the next season rolls around.

He is a corpsman though, so maybe they have a cure for him over there. Another corpsman who is an athlete could come here. That would be the medicine he needs to heal his wounds.

SPORTS BRIEFS

All-Marine Triathlon Team

The All-Marine Triathlon Team training camp is at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton June 4-12, and the Armed Forces Championship comprised of a 1,500-meter swim, 40K bike ride and 10K run is at Point Mugu, Calif., June 13-17.

An All-Marine team of 12 men and 6 women will be chosen by resume. Interested Marines must submit resumes to the Semper Fit athletic director by April 2. Refer to Marine Corps Order P1700.29 for specific details. The order is online at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org> under Policy.

All-Marine Women's Sports

The Director, Semper Fit athletic program, is seeking resumes for four different All-Marine Women's team sports.

Resumes for All-Marine Women's Basketball, Volleyball, Softball and Soccer are due 60 days prior to the start of the All-Marine Trial camps. Send resumes to the local MCCS Semper Fit athletic director. Refer to Marine Corps Order P1700.29 for specific details. The order is online at <http://www.usmc-mccs.org> under Policy.

All-Marine Trial Camp dates and sites are as follows:

Basketball will be at MCB Quantico, Va.

April 1-21. Volleyball will be at MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii April 15-May 8. Softball will be at MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C. July 29-August 18. Soccer will be at MCAS New River, N.C. Aug 19-September 8.

For more information call SSgt. Dennis W. Owen, 577-6899.

Marines to box soldiers at Ft. Irwin

Support your very own MCLB Barstow boxing team Tuesday at the Fort Irwin Fitness Center. The boxing starts at 6 p.m., but the doors open at 5 p.m., so come early to get a good seat. The Marines who will be stepping in the ring are Eric Behar, Joseph Wynne, Jason Edmiston, and Cory Kelly. Our Marines will go toe to toe for three rounds against the Army. There will be concessions, a disc jockey, and lots of fun, so don't miss out.

Women's All-Marine Softball tryouts

Dates for the All-Marine and Armed Forces Championships have changed. The All-Marine women's softball trial camp will be July 8 through July 28 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and the Armed Forces women's softball championship will be held July 29 through August 3 at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa. The National Championship will be August 10-13 in Shreveport La.

Off the Backboard

Team	Wins	Losses
Comm	7	1
First Place	6	2
Hoyas	6	2
PMO	6	2
Fire	4	4
Officers	2	6
HQ	2	6
Clinic	2	6
FSC	0	8

The Intramural Basketball Championship game takes place at 5:30 p.m. tonight at the base gym. The game will be covered in next weeks sports section, but go and cheer on the finalists for the intramural hoops crown.

LEAVE from Page 5

to an employee, and an employee may choose to take FMLA leave in combination with any other available leave.

The best way to manage the "stacking" of leave is to encourage communication between supervisors and employees.

A supervisor must inform employees of their entitlements and responsibilities under the FMLA.

When an employee requests leave for a personal or family medical situation, the supervisor may want to ask up front whether the employee is invoking his or her entitlement to FMLA leave.

If the employee invokes entitlement to FMLA leave, he or she may choose to substitute leave as appropriate, for leave without pay under the FMLA.

As a result, both the supervisor and the employee are successful in meeting their needs.

A copy of the regulations pertaining to FMLA may be reviewed at <http://www.opm.gov/fedregs/index.htm>. Questions may be addressed to the Labor and Employee Relations Branch, CHRO-SW at 577-6913 or 6918.

DECA from Page 6

vide the path to efficiency and savings that could be passed back to DeCA's customers.

Courter ordered a top-to-bottom cost and performance review when he arrived at DeCA and found some surprising expenses. "There was one store with abnormally high utility costs for its size and customer base," he said.

Officials found the store was sharing space with another facility, but paying the utility bill for the entire building.

Courter noted that DeCA's grocery experts developed detailed guidance on expected operating costs, which helps commissary managers worldwide identify and rein in such outside-the-norm expenses.

Closing some under-performing stores - normally smaller facilities with other commissaries nearby - also will increase organizational efficiency, Courter said.

"However, across the system we will be improving our output to cus-

tomers in terms of service and savings," he said. "In fact, we will expand stores at many locations and even open new stores at installations that will see changes in force structure and missions."

Such measures, he added, are not taken without consulting the affected military service, the Commissary Operating Board - whose members represent each of the services - the DoD staff and the Congress.

Quality of life factors, such as the size of the active duty population, whether the commissary location is overseas or remote, and its proximity to civilian stores and other commissaries, are the first considerations in determining whether and where to continue, establish or close a DeCA commissary, Courter said.

Other criteria, he noted, such as operating costs per dollar of sales and an installation's long-term future and patron demographics are also considered in the process. As these conditions change, Courter said, DeCA must be flexible.

"We need to continually look at

our distribution of store hours, consider requests to open new stores, close existing ones and reconfigure others," he said, "all the while keeping within the appropriated dollars we have to run the system."

The agency has increased sales while Courter keeps a keen focus on the primary customers - young active-duty service members and their families. He said his prior experience as the commander of the Air Force's basic training wing at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, taught him that many young service members didn't realize they could shop in the commissary.

"Often, these are the very beneficiaries who need the savings most," Courter said.

Consequently, upon becoming DeCA's director, Courter said he worked with all of the military services to introduce new troops to the commissary benefit during their initial training.

"Our customers - active duty, retirees and reserve component members alike - want to shop in pleasant

surroundings and in the shortest time possible, so we are improving the entire process," Courter said.

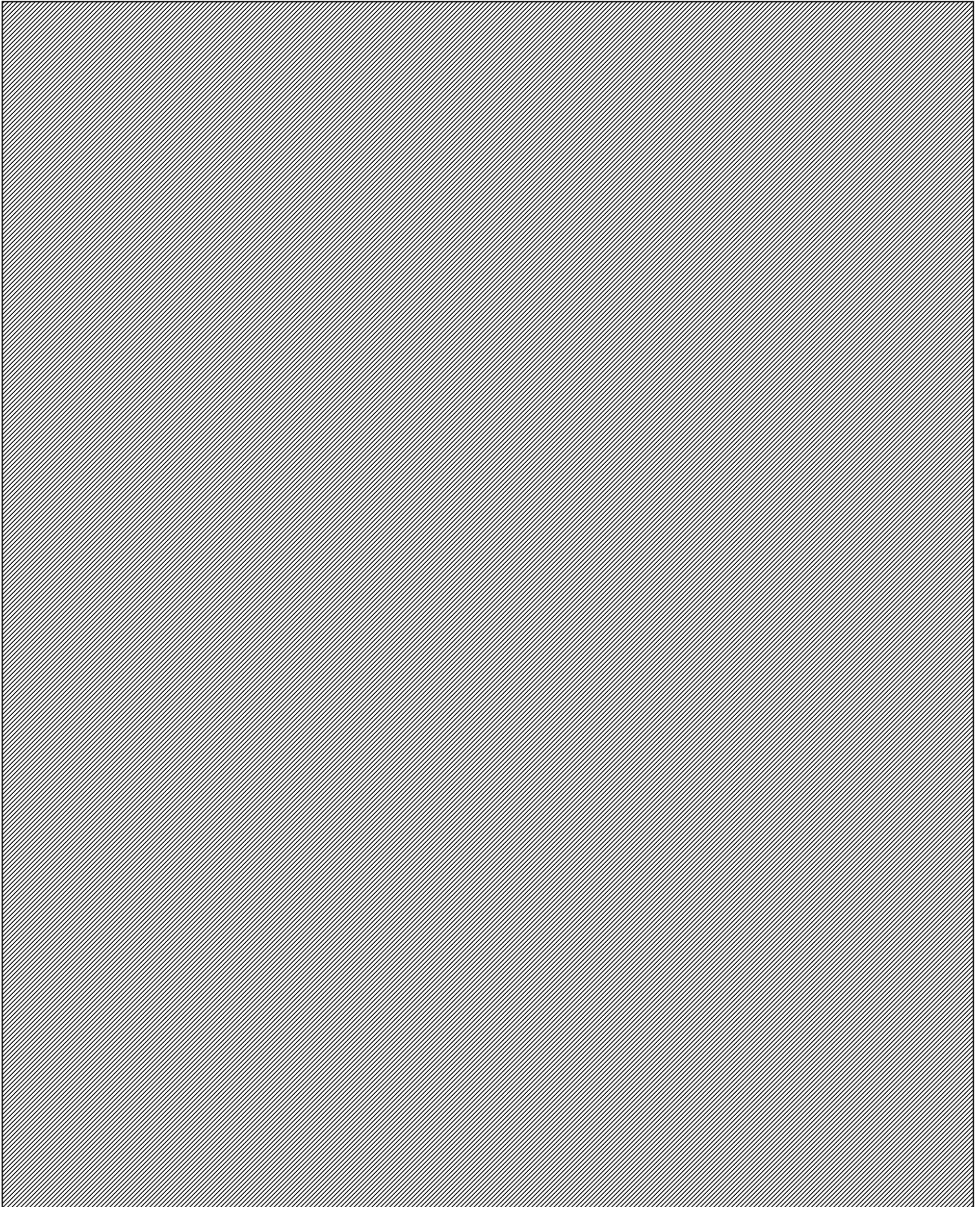
Improving customer service, he noted, is a constant DeCA goal.

Courter said some stores have added the convenience of "grab-and-go" areas near their registers where hurried shoppers can quickly pick up certain items they may need.

Other stores have been able to adjust their operating hours in response to customer demand, while focus groups that mirror the local customer base provide a steady stream of ideas for improvement at each commissary.

The commissary system is an important tool for both military recruiting and retention, Courter noted, adding that customers deserve the best service and facilities possible.

"I've asked our store directors and other key managers to commit and be accountable to make sure we fully stock the shelves, offer great produce, take care of store appearance, and keep in touch with our customers," he concluded.



Please submit all Trader Ads to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

1996 PLYMOUTH GRAND VOYAGER: Lots of extras, must see to appreciate this great family car, \$12,500. For more information call 252-1908.

1988 FORD ESCORT GT: White, 2 door, standard transmission, \$1,000 firm. Call 256-0986 or 252-1311.

1982 FORD PICK-UP: F250, needs minor work. \$750. As is. Call 256-9519 AWH.

1997 TOYOTA PREVIA S/C: Clean inside and out. \$14,000 OBO. Call 255-3045.

TRAILERS: 1996 Pop-up tent trailer asking \$2,900, Call 252-7012 AWH or Cell 409-3253

AUTO PARTS: Headlight set for Mercedes Benz SL models 350, 450, 560. Cost \$1,100 new, Sell \$250. Call 255-3045

SERVICES: Attn. ladies, Aesthetic body waxing and henna tattoos available right here on MCLB. Great rates, call for your appointment, 252-8666.

MISCELLANEOUS: Heavy duty hoist (cherry picker), extendable arm, xlt cond., \$300; utility flatbed trailer, 7' x 10', brakes, tool box, spare tire, chrome wheels, white, xlt cond., \$595. Call 954-1674.

MISCELLANEOUS: Electric stack unit washer/dryer, xlt working condition \$175 OBO, Call 252-1311 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Solid dark oak entertainment center, beautiful, in new condition, 70" wide by 60" high. Cost \$1,300 new, sell for \$400. Call 252-4369.

MISCELLANEOUS: Snow chains, 2 sets, never used, one set fits most 14" tires, the other fits most 15" tires, \$10 each. Call 252-2195 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Used wheelchair has three wheels and new batteries, Shop Rider model Sun Runner, New \$2,535. Asking \$1,500 OBO. Call 252-3510.

MISCELLANEOUS: Leer camper shell, white, for small pick-up (Toyota, etc), w/light blue carpet kit, mounting clamps, window seal, sliding side windows w/screens, stepped-up rear w/full glass lift-gate and new openers, \$275. Call 253-4242 or e-mail ndlssummer@iname.com.

MISCELLANEOUS: Used 52" ceiling fan, \$10; child's tricycle, \$12; Stanley sliding doors, Model Basic 100, 93" high, \$30 each or 2 for \$60; 3 webbed lawn chairs, \$4 each; baby bath, \$3. Call 256-8803.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pro NordicTrack, xlt condition, \$225. Call 253-4242 or e-mail ndlssummer@iname.com

MISCELLANEOUS: Army Blue Mess Jacket, marlowe white and Army Blue, Armor/Cavalry branch, size 42, all accessories for Blue Mess including shoulder knows, ties, buttons, cummerbund, suspenders, old style trefoils, and bouillon Armor insignia, also field grade hat, 7-1/8.

Call 253-4242 or e-mail ndlssummer@iname.com.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pipe and lumber rack for full-size pick-up, \$200 OBO. Call 252-2815 or 256-8668

MISCELLANEOUS: Girl's Li'l Tikes cottage-style twin-size bed and mattress, xlt cond., bed head has cottage-style roof, and a window to store dolls, etc. must see, \$150; Alpine stepper, very good condition, make offer. Call 253-2677 after 5 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS: Bar w/2 barstools, 2 tier, black leather padding w/mirrored front and footrest, xlt cond., \$200. Call 247-9783.

MISCELLANEOUS: Sears electric lawn mower, \$50; GE side-by-side 27 cu. ft. refrigerator, almond, 3-4 years old, \$400; Call 255-3045.

THANK YOU: A heartfelt thank you from the Lanny Morris' Family to all our friends and co-workers whose prayers and expressions of sympathy helped to sustain us in our time of grief. May God bless for your thoughtfulness.

