

BARSTOW LOG

SERVING MCLB DURING TRANSITION AND CHANGE

Vol. 5, No. 29

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

May 31, 2001

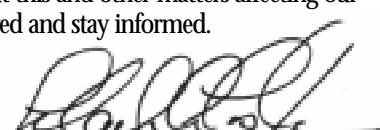
Annexation?

Members of the logistics base community:

No doubt you have already heard or read in the local newspapers that the City of Barstow is planning to annex 3,905 acres of the base, which includes the Nebo area and the rifle range. The Yermo Annex is not included in the plan. Annexation would mean that those portions of the base would be within the corporate limits of the City of Barstow.

I can confirm this is true, that is the City's plan and desire; however, there are numerous steps in the process. The command has been aware of the City's desire to annex the Nebo portion of the base since 1998. The Department of the Navy's position on such local initiatives is to not object to such initiatives if it does not negatively impact on mission performance. My guidance on working with the City on this issue is to ensure that policy is followed and to search for the opportunities of mutual benefit. Informal discussions took place over the past months between members of the base and city staffs. The announced public hearing of June 11 is the next step and first step in the formal process.

In conjunction with the public hearing, we will be publishing the base's official position on the proposed annexation and also addressing what impacts and benefits we see for the base. As with the A-76 study and other transformation initiatives, I feel it is essential to keep you informed about this and other matters affecting our base. And, as always, I ask you to stay involved and stay informed.



Mark A. Costa
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding

Heat Flags

How hot is hot? With the recent heat wave, thermometers have been breaking open, but when is it safe to exercise?

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Safety

Headgear required for bicyclists, skateboarders, roller skaters and scooter riders.

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<http://www.barstow.usmc.mil>
<http://www.usmc.mil>

“And the winner is ...”

Two-year A-76 study comes to close with reading of a letter and the lighting of a victory cigar.

By Gunnery Sgt. Frank Patterson

Public Affairs Chief

The base commander, Col. Mark A Costa, announced on May 24 the final decision by the Appeal Authority to keep the operations and management of the base's Installation and Logistics Department within the government. A group of affected government employees filed the only appeal. The Best Value Contractor did not appeal.

The announcement culminates more than a year of public-private competition using the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, "Performance of Commercial Activities." The process establishes federal policy for deciding whether to retain recurring, commercial-like activities within the government or contract them out to a private sector source.

The base now moves into the transition period where it institutes the Most Efficient Organization as called for in the Performance Work Statement which established the most ideal and cost efficient personnel structure for base operations. The implementation date for the MEO is October 1.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow is the first Marine base to reach a final award decision in an A-76 study out of 16 bases announced in April 1999.

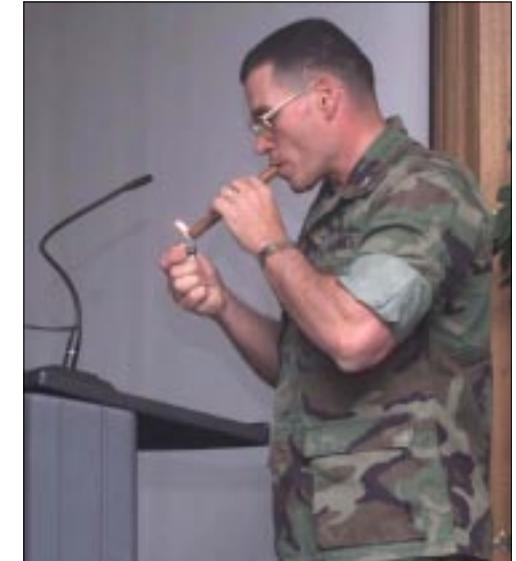


Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Frank Patterson

Colonel Mark A. Costa, base commander, lights up a stogie in celebration of the base receiving the final decision to retain the government work force in its recent A-76 study.

He added that while tobacco was one of his vices as a young officer, time and experience taught him there were better things to do with his life and lungs.

Money saved, readiness earned

By Cpl. Mike Vrabel

The Globe

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A damaged tactical vehicle is a hindrance to the operational readiness of any Marine Corps unit, so when 2d Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion found a foot-and-a-half long crack in the side of one of the unit's vehicles, repairs had to be made.

In order to save the Marine Corps thousands of dollars on the maintenance, a contact team from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., traveled across the country to fix a 19-inch fissure in the side of a 2nd LAR Light Armored Vehicle.

In most cases, according to Staff Sgt. Kenneth Lee, a damaged vehicle would be shipped to MCLB Barstow, Calif., or MCLB Albany, Ga., for repairs – a very expensive process.

"Barstow took the contract for \$15,000," said Lee, the staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge of 2nd LAR's welding shop. "It would have cost us that much just to ship the vehicle away."

On-site maintenance tends to be less expensive, he said. When shipped to a logistics base for repairs, an LAV is almost completely disassembled, repaired and put back together. On-site repairs do

not require such disassembly; instead, maintenance is focused on where the problem is.

"Basically, they just replaced that particular plate on the vehicle," said Lee.

The crack was caused by a weakening of ballistic steel, which is the vehicle's armor. Lee, from Wausau, Wis., said this type of steel is brittle, and temperature differences can cause it to expand and contract.

"Once there is a crack, moisture gets in, and the crack gets bigger," he said.

The contact team, made up of Steve Langevin, Tom Pitard and Pete Dimapasoc, arrived at Camp Lejeune last week, and have completed replacing the damaged plate, but ran into a new problem May 21.

"We found a new crack about three feet away from the original

one," said Langevin. "It's about two inches long, so we'll be here for a little bit longer."

This type of damage happens occasionally, but usually can be fixed within the battalion.

"Our maintenance facility can fix cracks up to 12 inches long," said Lee. "Larger ones do not happen that often."



Photo by Cpl. Mike Vrabel
A 19-inch long crack is visible down the left side of an armor plate from a Light Armored Vehicle. A contact team from MCLB Barstow replaced the plate last week.

THE COMMANDER'S FORUM

Q

Yes, I'm calling about the music playing over the [public address] system at the base gymnasium.

I was in there one evening after 1900 and the music coming over the PA system was incredibly offensive. There was a lot of filthy lyrics describing graphic sexual acts, there was a lot of racist remarks made, and I found it incredibly offensive. There were women and children in there and I think you should look into it, I think there should be some sort of code that that is not to be allowed at a public place where kids and women and even men – I found it as a man even offensive. It was so offensive that I left. I did mention it to the Marine on duty that I found it offensive.

I think that this needs to be looked into, this should not be played in a public forum.

Thank you.

A

Thank you for voicing your concern about the offensive music playing over the PA system at the base gymnasium. I appreciate your observations and understand your concern.

The base gymnasium is a family oriented recreational activity and as such it is against policy to allow music to be played that contains lyrics one might find offensive to a family audience. The musical content and format you described runs contrary to what is acceptable and I offer my sincere apology to you and all our patrons that used the facilities that night. I have personally looked into this matter and have also taken appropriate actions to ensure this doesn't happen again.

In an effort to increase the variety of music to be played, the command policy is to allow personal music to be brought in. If this music has a "Parental Discretion" label on it, it will not be played, period!

In addition, the gymnasium staff reserves the right to determine if any material is objectionable to the general audience, regardless of the label that is placed on it by the music industry.

If in the future, should you or anyone else find any music objectionable, please bring it to the immediate attention of the Marines at the front desk.

Q

Yes, I'm calling about the Master Labor Agreement aboard the base between the Marine Corps Logistics Base and the Union.

It seems to me the integrity of the MLA that we have aboard the base here is just a piece of paper – it is just a book that doesn't apply like it should. That's a negotiated agreement between labor and the Marine base and my question is, why don't we live by the MLA? Why don't we adhere to the policies and the regulations that are set forth in that agreement?

It seems to me that too often times, personal decisions are made with disregard to the MLA. It is a sad point in time when management officials don't go back to the MLA for references on various issues and policies and regulations, but therefore, often times people in management just make up their own discretionary oversights and overviews of the way it should be instead of adhering to the MLA.

I would like for this to be published in the Commander's Fo-

rum with all respect.

A

Thank you for using the Commander's Forum to ask your question. I am pleased to address this subject and consider it very timely.

The Master Labor Agreement is recognized as a "consolidated" negotiated agreement. It was not developed locally, but signed at the national level between the Marine Corps and Council 240, which includes many local unions. Once the agreement was signed, it applied to those Marine Corps Commands listed in Article 8.

I would like to repeat your question to all readers. Why don't we adhere to the policies and the regulations that are set forth in the agreement?

The language in the MLA is not only a written record of agreement between two entities, but a binding document without discretion in some areas. There is a vast amount of assistance found in the agreement on many subjects.

Many questions can be answered if we will all refer to the agreement, as you have well submitted.

I encourage everyone to refer to it for the assistance it provides and to become familiar with the contents for the purpose of applying the provisions before we take action as employees or make decisions as managers. I will state for this record that I expect this.

The MLA is not a book that does not apply; and within my capacity, I will enforce the policies, intent and procedures established within the agreement.

A tangle of murder and mayhem

By Chaplain S. S. Brown

Henderson Hall

Just the other day, while perusing "The New York Times Book Review," the phrase "death of a young seminarian" caught my eye.

Since I had been a seminarian not too long ago, I decided to read the review of a novel in which "... a large cast of variously unscrupulous men and women is brought together in a tangle of murder, mayhem, betrayal, incest and generally bad behavior." While my seminary days were full of mayhem, they were pretty lean with respect to the other items on that list. And that's just fine by me.

Be that as it may, the book review didn't inspire any reminiscences about my own seminary days. It did, however, inspire me to recollect another story: the chronicle of David and Bathsheba. It's a compelling drama, offering many lessons to learn:

First, it offers a good glimpse into the dynamics of sin and shows that one transgression rarely stands alone. In the story, we find David heaping murder upon deceit upon adultery upon lust upon envy. What's more, his edifice of abominations is built on the firm foundation of pride. Now that's one story that'll beat any detective novel about the death of a young seminarian, any day!

Second, David's drama illustrates the far-reaching impact of sin: "... his sin had such dire

effects as the death of Bathsheba's baby and the loosening of the moral fibers of David's sons" (V. S. LaSor, p. 251).

And let's not forget Bathsheba and her husband, Uriah, a faithful soldier serving God and country. She wound up ravished, he dead. And what about all the other soldiers who lost their lives along with Uriah? Furthermore, LaSor writes, "The king, whose chief obligation was to enforce the terms of the covenant and insure justice at every level of society, had himself grossly violated the covenant" (p. 251). What impact did that have on Israelite society-at-large?

Third, the story of David and Bathsheba reminds me that – even though there are loads of people willing to tell me when I screw-up – it's truly a blessing when "... the just one chastens me with justice and reproves me with kindness" (Psalm 141:5).

David was fortunate that God sent Nathan the prophet to call him on his actions. David was fortunate that he, in spite of being king, was humble enough to take Nathan's stern rebuke to heart. David was fortunate to have someone with integrity like Nathan, someone who's criticism and word he could trust. Ancient Israel had its own share of false prophets; it's no mean feat, trying to discern a true one when one comes along.

See CHAPLAIN Page 7



BARSTOW LOG

SERVING MULBERRY, TRANSITION AND CHANGE

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:



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Just doing my job ...



Photo by Sgt. Brian Davidson

"Dirty" Jack Brumit takes a moment to reflect on the success of this year's 7th annual Stress Buster Car Show. Brumit took the initiative to create the car show as a means to encourage Maintenance Center Barstow employees to find a creative outlet for stress. For more on the car show see next week's edition of the BARSTOW LOG.

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.



Celebrating the life and times of Tom and Huck returns to Victorville, Calif., during Huck Finn's Jubilee. Campin', catfishin' and country fun happens June 15-17. For more info call (909) 780-8810 or link to <http://www.huckfinn.com>.

Huck Finn returns to Victorville

It takes a heap more than a chawed off piece of straw and a few freckles to make a good Huck Finn. Becoming Mark Twain's most popular story book character takes a whole lotta heart ... and a frog in your pocket doesn't hurt none either.

Huck Finn's Jubilee, now in its 25th year at Victorville's Mojave Narrows Regional Park awards one boy each year the title of Huck Finn.

But, the Jubilee is more than a look-a-like contest. It's a three-day escape into another summer. On June 15, 16 and 17, dad can pack the camper with kids, banjos, and fishin' poles and run away for a weekend of family fun in the country.

Mark Chesnutt, Nickel Creek

See HUCK Page 11

Commissary Focus Group

The commissary here is holding a focus group Wednesday at the McKinney Center.

All authorized patrons are welcome to attend. This includes retirees. The last focus group was directed toward single servicemembers and resulted in changes to the store's operating hours.

Persons attending the focus group should bring suggestions regarding how the commissary can improve service, produce, meat and grocery items.

All suggestions are welcome and will be taken into consideration.

For more info call Mario Caputi, store manager, 577-6936.

Base Pools Open

The Oasis Club pool and the Family Pool at the base gymnasium opened May 25. The pools are open to all authorized patrons, active duty military and their family members and military retirees and their family members.

The pool is open Tuesdays-Sundays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for lap swimming and from 1 to 7 p.m. for recreational swimming.

For more info call Semper Fit, 577-6971.

Pet Registration

A reminder to pet owners aboard MCLB: pets, just like vehicles, should be registered at the Vehicle Registration Office in Bldg. 36.

If a pet is not registered and is picked up as a stray aboard the base, the pet will be taken to the Humane Society.

Under Humane Society procedures, if the animal is not adopted immediately it will be put to sleep.

For more information call Gunnery Sgt. David Pooler, 577-6457.

Quarters of the Month

Pull out the hedge clippers and the lawn mower, your fertilizers and pruning scissors, because the Housing Office has begun its Quarters of the Month program again, with the selection process beginning at the end of this month.

Criteria for winning the award is based on how well residents keep their lawns and yard.

Awards in the Desert View housing area are given to the best kept Quarters of the officers and warrant officers; to the best kept residence of staff noncommissioned officers; and to the best kept quarters of sergeants and below.

All ranks compete for one award in the Eniwetok housing area.

For Quarters of the Month winners, there are gifts from several merchants.

For more information call David Madrid, 577-6872.

JROTC Instructors needed

The Department of Defense is seeking military men and women to instruct high school Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students.

According to the American Forces Press Service, pentagon officials estimate there will be about 1,200 openings over the next three years. By 2005, the program will employ about 7,000 instructors.

Retired active duty officers and enlisted personnel are eligible to apply. There are no age limits. Processing time may take from six months to a year, and people may apply while they are still on active duty.

The service secretaries can hire O-4s to O-10s and E-6s to E-9s. Sometimes they take retired E-5s.

Each service has about a seven- to 10-day instructor training program. Once trained and certified by their service, it is up to school districts to actually hire JROTC instructors.

Once hired, instructors continue receiving military retired pay. The service branch and school district then split the difference that returns the instructors' pay back to active duty levels.

For more info go to the Department of Defense's Transportal Web site at <http://www.dodtransportal.org>.

Once there, click on the "Internet Career Links" button and then scroll down to "Specialized Job Search Links," where links to the four service branches' JROTC program pages are listed.

Leave Donors

Brenda Thompson, Product Management Department, Maintenance Center Barstow, has been affected by a medical emergency. Anyone desiring to donate leave through the Leave Sharing Program may obtain a Leave Donor Application through their division administrative officer.

For more info call Pat Snyder, 577-7284.

Golf Scramble

The Mojave Valley Volunteer Hospice is having their 9th Annual Golf Scramble Saturday at the Tees & Trees Golf Scramble in honor of the Korean War Veterans.

There is a limit of 15 – five-person teams awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis, and the entry cutoff date is today.

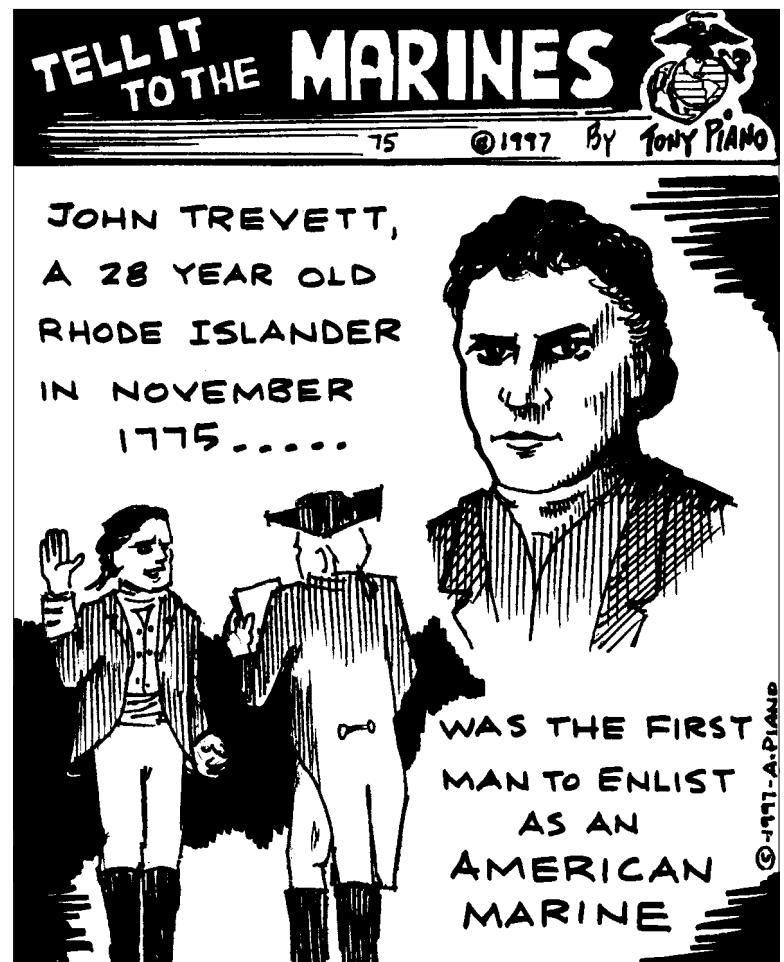
Check-in is at 7 a.m. with tee off at 8 a.m., and there will be a continental breakfast before tee off.

Entry fee is \$35 and includes, "closest to pins," team buy in and lunch (green fees and cart not included).

There will be an awards presentation, food and a drawing at approximately 2 p.m.. Lunch is \$5 for guests.

Awards will be presented to first, second and third team high points, and first second and third team low gross.

For more information contact,



Howard Hedberg, 252-5943, or the Tees & Trees Golf Course, 577-6431.

MGIB Buy-up

Effective May 1, active duty members whose original Federal Education Benefit Program is the Montgomery GI Bill program may make an additional contribution (buy up) of up to \$600 to receive increased monthly benefits.

The MGIB benefit increases by \$1 for 36 months for every \$4 contributed. For example, if a member contributes the entire \$600 additional amount, the monthly MGIB benefit would increase by \$150 per month.

The current MGIB benefit for full-time school enrollment for veterans is \$650 per month. This additional contribution would result in a total MGIB monthly benefit of \$800.

Participants can only draw this benefit after paying the required \$1,200 and serving a minimum of two years.

For more information about the MGIB buy-up, call Lance Cpl. Angelina A. Marrero, 577-6843.

Route 66 Street Fair

The Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Route 66 Street Fair and Market Festival begins Tuesday and continues through August 28.

This year's events will be held on Main Street in Old Town Barstow, between Barstow Road and Second Avenue. Festivities run from 6 to 10 p.m. each Tuesday.

Kicking it off on June 5 will be the always popular Calico Night. Additional themes planned for the street fair include City Night Out, National Night Out, Multicultural Night, '50s Night and Off Road Night.

Anyone interested in being a vendor or assisting with the planning of

See BRIEFS Page 10

Job Watch

| Annc No. | Title/Series/Grade | Open | Close | 1st Cutoff | Location |
|------------|--|----------|----------|------------|--------------|
| OTR-046-01 | Electronics Worker WG-2604-08 (Temp NTE one year) | 05-10-01 | 06-07-01 | 05-24-01 | 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, 577-6357.

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.dohr.navymil>.

PPE: keeps America's future safe, happy

By Gunnery Sgt. Frank Patterson
Public Affairs Chief

I have finally come to accept the fact that no matter how hard every Marine in the Corps tries, there will always be some idiots out there who think they can safely drive home after a night of drinking and partying. I am NOT saying that we shouldn't stop trying to warn people about the consequences of their actions,

but I believe it is something we must accept as a part of life and move on.

There are many other accidents waiting to happen that we need to address. The number one cause that I have recently found is people not wearing personal protective equipment.

Recently, I was caching a few rays out by the pool, when I heard this blood-curdling scream come from down the street. A young boy came running up the street as fast as he could

screaming that someone was dying. I grabbed up the child and got him to explain what was going on fearing that someone had been shot or was having a heart attack.

He told me that a kid fell, hit his head on a rock, had a big hole in his head and was dying. That was enough for me, so I ran off to see what help I could provide.

As I neared the spot where a lady was comforting a child, the first thing I saw on the ground was one of those little scooters that are all the rage recently. I could almost picture the incident in my mind just from that scene: a child riding the scooter loses control, falls off and cracks open his skull on a rock. I even saw the rock on the ground, a small, triangular-shaped pebble about the size of my thumb. Since the child was standing and able to talk I could tell he wasn't about to die, but I knew, even with my limited medical training, there was a possibility of a concussion and warned the people of it. To bring a quick end to the tale, the child's father arrived and took care of the boy, but this does not bring an end to the problem.

According to statistics from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, from January 2000 to December 31, 2000, CPSC estimates there have been 40,500 emergency room treated injuries associated with scooters. In 1998, injuries resulting from bicycles, skateboards, and in-line and roller skates accounted for nearly half a million emergency room visits from children under the age of 14, according to

the National SAFE KIDS Campaign Web site. NSFC adds that in 1997 225 children were killed in bicycle-related incidents. In fact, NSFC estimates that each year more than 200 children 14 and under are killed and nearly 350,000 are injured in bicycle-related accidents with the majority of all bicycle fatalities happening in the summer months.

When I read these statistics, the first thought that pops into my mind is "Where were these kids' parents at?" The second is "Were they wearing personal protective equipment?" I feel safe saying the majority of the injuries came from children not wearing PPE.

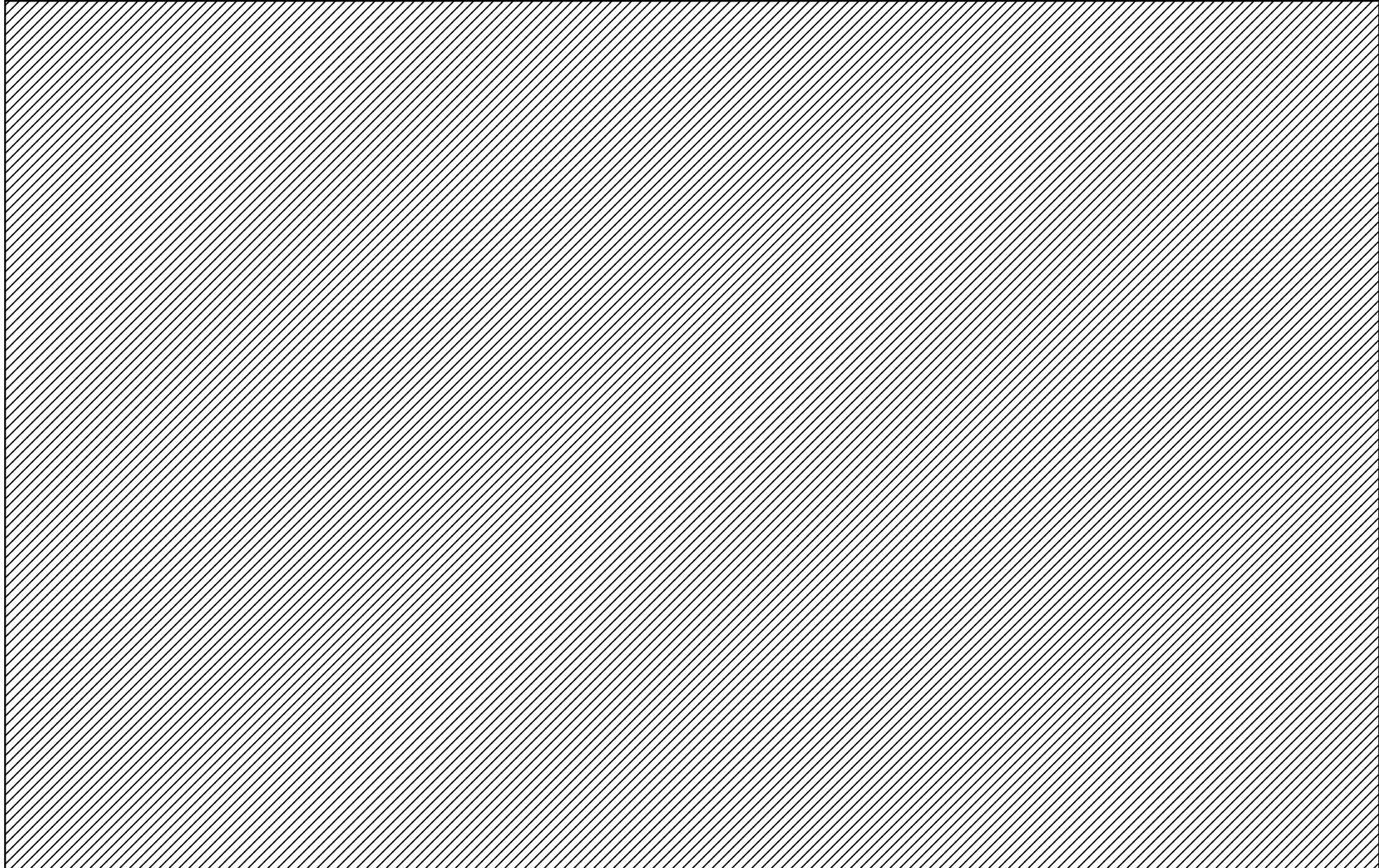
I'm not saying that PPE is the end-all, know-all of safety; it isn't magical armor that will prevent a child from being injured, but I can guarantee that a bump or bruise received while wearing the stuff would be much more severe – even traumatic – without it.

As the Base Duty Officer I make rounds through housing and I see kids out running around with those scooters, bikes, roller blades, skateboards, etc., and I notice they don't have any sort of PPE except their jeans and possibly shoes. (Yes, I have seen a few barefoot riders out there.) Don't parents care anymore what happens to their kids? That their future progeny might wind up with a split skull or worse? Don't they care that that little bundle of joy that they have raised for the last eight or nine years could end up on a slab in a morgue because of a stupid, preventable, life-threatening injury?



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Eleven-year-old Alex Holm, son of Staff Sgt. Peter and Katie Holm, wears a safety helmet while riding in front of the McKinney Youth Activities Center. Other recommended, but not required, safety gear includes knee and elbow pads and gloves.



April: Deadly month for Marine Corps

ALMAR 017/01

Headquarters Marine Corps

During the month of April, nine active duty Marines died because of ground-related mishaps. Two Marines died from suspected suicides, and 25 Marines suffered significant injuries. The following provides a summary of our casualties for the month of April.

On-Duty Fatalities

A corporal from 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marines, 3rd Marine Division died after being crushed under a vending machine.

A private first class from Marine Corps Detachment Fort Leonard Wood, died after he lost control of a Logistics Vehicle System, swerved across the highway into a ditch and struck a tree.

A Hospitalman 1st Class from 2nd Supply Battalion, 2nd Fleet Service Support Group collapsed and died during company physical training.

Off-Duty Fatalities

A lance corporal from 9th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force,

died while driving on Highway 76 and was broadsided by a vehicle that ran a red light.

Two corporals from 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division were involved in a two-car collision. The driver was killed in the collision. His passenger was critically injured, sustaining massive head trauma.

A corporal from 3rd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division was hit and killed by a passing vehicle while walking alongside an overpass.

A lance corporal from 1st CEB, 1st Marine Division died in a head-on collision while driving on San Mateo Road aboard Camp Pendleton.

Three Marines from 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Air Group 46 Detachment A, and Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 369 were riding motorcycles. One rider hit another causing all three to lose control. A staff sergeant died at the scene. A second rider was hospitalized for two days. The third rider was charged with a felony DWI.

A lance corporal from MSSG-15, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit died on his

motorcycle when he crossed the centerline at a curve and hit a pickup truck head on.

On-Duty Serious Injuries

A corporal from Headquarters Support Battalion, Camp Pendleton, lost control of his government vehicle, which left the road and rolled. The Marine sustained head and chest injuries.

A corporal and a private first class from 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade sustained injuries when their 5-ton vehicle overturned. The driver applied his brakes to avoid an animal. The vehicle left the road and rolled. Both Marines were ejected. The corporal was treated for spinal fractures. The private first class was treated for minor injuries and released.

Off-Duty Serious Injuries

During the month of April, nine Marines were seriously injured in car wrecks. Of those nine, five were the result of collisions with other cars. Seven Marines were seriously injured in motorcycle accidents. One Marine shot himself in the foot while cleaning his personal rifle and will likely lose three toes.

Aviation

As of April 30, our Class A flight mishap rate is the lowest on record, evaluation and mitigation of risk will continue this outstanding trend.

Mixed News

Last year during the month of April, 11 Marines died in ground-related mishaps. Eight died in private motor vehicle mishaps, two in motorcycle mishaps, and one in a recreational activity mishap.

This year, nine active duty Marines died in April.

For the first seven months of Fiscal Year 2001, 40 Marines have died in on- and off-duty mishaps. Last year at this time, 71 Marines had died. This is a tremendous improvement.

With the arrival of spring, we have seen a rash of motorcycle fatalities and injuries. Two Marines died and one is paralyzed in separate motorcycle accidents in one weekend alone.

The month of April also saw a sharp rise in the number of private motor vehicle accidents involving either alcohol or lack of seatbelts. The risks associated with driving vehicles should be

See APRIL Page 11

Other base inhabitants exist with humans

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

BARSTOW LOG staff

There are predators stalking the base. They awake at night and prey on the most defenseless creatures. And they actually help the day to day operations of the base.

They are owls. In the warehouses in Nebo and Yermo, owls rule the roost by nesting in the high crevices.

They help the base by controlling the rodent population in the warehouses. In fact, according to Art Gleason, environmental protection specialist on base, most warehouse employees keep the owls a closely guarded secret because they don't want any visitors to disturb them.

"We've had Great Horned Owls and Barn Owls regularly nest in the warehouses," said Gleason.

Recently, a family of Great Horned Owls consisting of the mother and two babies, nested in one of the warehouses at Nebo. Gleason observed them, but one day found them missing.

"The owls weren't quite full grown, and all of a sudden they disappeared from the nest," said Gleason.

Not long after, people from the warehouse found one of the babies was in a warehouse on a forklift and called Carol Reynolds, who is a licensed animal handler at Fort Irwin's Animal Recovery Center. The owl was taken there so it could get back on its feet.

The next day, Eric Fortin, base pest control officer, found another baby owl on the street outside Warehouse 2. He took in the owl and found it to be the other missing baby owl. That owl was taken to the Animal Recovery Center Monday. The mother has yet to be found.

The baby owls are not yet ready to go on their own in the wild. They still lack the necessary hunting skills to find food, and are not strong enough to fly far distances.

"We are not licensed to handle raptors," said Gleason.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Three Great Horned Owls nest in the rafters of a warehouse at Nebo. Owls inhabit the warehouses on base and help cure the rodent problem.

Raptors are birds of prey, like eagles, hawks and falcons.

"There are strict laws, local laws and even international treaties, that provide big restrictions in handling raptors," said Gleason.

Under the law, the birds had to go to a licensed handler, so the birds went to Fort Irwin. Also the law states when the birds are capable of living on their own, they must be released where they were captured. So when they can fend for themselves, they will be released on base.

There are laws governing other animals on base too. Desert Tortoises are known to

be on the MCLB rifle range and have also been seen in base housing. They are on the endangered species list.

There is even a law that states if three Desert Tortoises get killed on the rifle range, the range must shut down for the rest of the year.

"If you see a tortoise where he doesn't belong, you can call Eric Fortin or myself," said Gleason.

"Any animal protected under the Endangered Species Act – and the Desert Tortoise is the only one in this area – you are not allowed to interfere with in any way," said Gleason.

"That means you can't do anything except look at them," said Gleason.

There are special considerations to the rule though.

"What if you find a tortoise in the road?" questioned Gleason.

"Nobody has ever been arrested for rescuing an animal," said Gleason. "If you find one in the road, pick him up and move him out of the way in the direction he was going."

Learning to co-exist with wildlife is a part of this base. Enjoy them and appreciate them for what they do.

TRICARE pays second in insurance claims

TRICARE Management Activity

Press Release

"What if I have other health insurance? How does my TRICARE coverage work?" These questions continue to be among the most commonly asked about the TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program that began April 1, 2001.

TRICARE beneficiaries with other health insurance have "double coverage," and basically, TRICARE is second payer. TRICARE pays after the other health insurance has paid a claim for covered drugs, or when the beneficiary's

prescription coverage under that plan is exhausted for the year.

Another related frequently asked question is "What if I have other health insurance, but it does not include prescription coverage?" Beneficiaries may need to contact one of the two regional claims centers to change their other health insurance information to indicate that they do not have prescription coverage. They should call the toll-free TRICARE Pharmacy Help Line at 1-877-363-6337, to find out what information and documentation is required, the telephone and fax numbers, and address for their regional claims center. If they

have double coverage and must fill a prescription before their information is updated, they may have to pay for the prescription initially, and file a claim for reimbursement from TRICARE.

A third question beneficiaries are asking is "Can I use TRICARE's National Mail Order Program if I have prescription coverage under other health insurance?" They may only use the NMOP when their required medication is not covered under their other plan, or if they exceed the dollar limit of coverage under that

See TRICARE Page 11

Preventive dental care now reduces major work later

By Sgt. 1st Class Kathleen T. Rhem
American Forces Press Service

ARLINGTON, Va. – Taking young children to the dentist makes them better dental patients later in life – reducing stress for both them and their dentist.

"Going to the dentist is not something people generally look forward to," Navy Capt. Lawrence McKinley said. "The earlier children can be exposed to the office atmosphere and to the equipment and procedures, the more comfortable children become. Dental visits become less frightening for them." McKinley is a dentist and the senior consultant for dentistry for the TRICARE Management Activity and DoD's Office of Health Affairs here.

Children of parents enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program are automatically covered when they turn four, but parents can voluntarily enroll children at any age. During an American Forces Information Service interview, McKinley encouraged people to enroll their children as soon as they have teeth.

Coverage in the TRICARE Dental Program includes "established guidelines for preventive care for children and adolescents," he said. The program covers twice-yearly exams and cleanings for enrolled members.

Preventive care isn't just important for children either. Everyone enrolled in the program should use the benefit regularly, McKinley said. "They're entitled to it; they're paying for it; they should use it," he said.

Military family members do use their dental benefits more than their civilian counterparts, McKinley said, but there's always room for improvement.

About 80 percent of people eligible are enrolled in the TRICARE Dental Program. Of that 80 percent, however, 57 percent see a dentist at least once a year, McKinley said. Only about half of the civilian population see a dentist in a given year, he added.

McKinley said DoD officials want to increase usage in the dental plan because they want to improve beneficiaries' quality of life. "If you can prevent more complicated and prolonged dental care down the road by using preventive care up front, it's to everybody's advantage," he said.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

Yet, for me, the best lesson to be learned from the drama of David and Bathsheba is that, for a sinner, God's mercy is the only hope, God's love the sole refuge. Psalm 51 – the great prayer for healing and moral renewal sung by the repentant David – begins with these words: *"Oh God have mercy on me, in the greatness of your love; in the abundance of your tender mercy wipe out my offense."*

While, for mere mortals, the effects of sin are often difficult and often impossible to undo, God's mercy and love conspire to, in fact, do the impossible. What's more, only a repentant sinner forgiven and healed can do what King David did for Israel.

LaSor writes, "David, despite his moral lapses, high-handed policies, and failure to order his own household gave Israel some of their finest moments. All future kings were measured by their likeness to him" (p. 253). Without his repentance, without God's love and mercy, it would have been virtually impossible for David to be the king who inaugurated ancient Israel's "Golden Age."

Personally, I wouldn't say that a tangle of murder and mayhem is the key to success. But in the event I ever find myself in a world of hurt, like David, I know a little repentance and lots of God's love and mercy go a long way.

Heat flags indicate safety, not weather, temperature

By Sgt. Brian Davidson

Press Chief

The conflict of man against nature is the stuff great novels and motion pictures are made of; *Titanic* and *Twister* are only a few examples. In the Mojave, heat and the Santa Ana winds are the prime menaces.

In August last year, more than 20 people fell victim to the wrenching heat, some of them members of a unit that conducted training here. If the heat can crumple some of America's finest, it will definitely flatten you too.

The lack of humidity and gusting winds can lead one to believe that it is cooler than it actually is. If you are not dripping with sweat after a run, it's because it has already evaporated.

Hydrating and exercising caution are the best tools available to divert becoming a casualty in the conflict here in the desert. Whether walking, working or exercising respect the climate and be aware of the flag conditions.

Morning temperatures rapidly soar from a cool 70 degrees to scorching-hot, black flag conditions by noon.

Keeping your cool with water

Water isn't referred to as the elixir of life because it just tastes good. Water is the vital element in the body that moves waste and keeps the body's built-in air conditioner working.

By Nicole Deane

Bureau of Medicine and Surgery

Almost every living thing needs water for survival. In people, water regulates body temperature, lubricates joints, keeps cells and organs functioning and passes waste through the body. Water not only maintains and regulates the body's systems, but also acts as a preventative measure against common ailments.

"Heat-related illnesses are 100 percent preventable," said Navy Lt. Sean Murphy, flight surgeon, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. "Summer is here, and the number of people suffering from heat-related illnesses soars – people don't realize the seriousness of dehydration."

Dehydration is a lack of water in the body, which can lead to decreased coordination, fatigue, headaches, dizziness, nausea and vomiting. Extreme dehydration can lead to heat exhaustion or heat stroke,

where the body loses excessive water and salt thorough perspiration and can have a serious – even fatal – effect on the body.

According to Murphy, the average adult loses approximately a quart of water a day that needs to be replaced. Bodies may also lose additional fluids because of heat, humidity, increased outdoor activities and exercise. Individuals who are

overweight, seniors, children and people suffering from an illness are also more susceptible to dehydration.

GREEN FLAG (80 to 84.9 WBGT). Heavy exercise for unacclimatized personnel will be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.

YELLOW FLAG (85 to 87.9 WBGT). Strenuous exercise, such as marching at standard cadence, will be suspended for unacclimatized personnel in their first two or three weeks. Outdoor classes in the sun are to be avoided.

RED FLAG (88 to 89.9 WBGT) All physical training will be halted for those personnel who have not become thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks of living and working in the area. Personnel who are thoroughly acclimatized may carry on limited activities not to exceed six hours per day.

BLACK FLAG (90 WBGT and above). All strenuous outdoor activity will be halted for all personnel.



Photo by Sgt. Brian Davidson

Lance Cpl. Stephen Peltier, military policeman, raises the Yellow Heat Condition Flag at Building 15. The yellow flag indicates the Wet Bulb Global Temperature Index is between 85 to 87.9 degrees. The WBGT is a calculation of temperature relative to humidity. Even though the temperature as read on a thermometer says it is 100 degrees Fahrenheit outside, the WBGT may indicate less than 90 degrees.

effects of high temperatures, so it is very important for parents to encourage them to drink plenty of fluids.

– Have your child take a water break three or four times an hour while playing outside or participating in sports activities. Don't expect the coach or other adult supervisors to provide beverages for your child.

– Carry water in your beverage holder when you go for a bike ride.

– A tip for commuters: Keep a large bottle of water in your car. Traffic jams can cause your body to overheat as well as your car.

– Include water in the cooler when you pack your car for a weekend trip. Freeze a partially full bottle of water before you leave, and you'll have chilled water all day long.

– Don't drink water from lakes, rivers or

pools. This water could contain harmful contaminants.

– Older adults have a decreased ability to respond to temperature changes and are more prone to dehydration. They should consistently drink water throughout the day even when they are not thirsty.

If you are experiencing dizziness and nausea on a warm day, you may be suffering from heat exhaustion or heat stroke. Treatment for heat exhaustion includes drinking plenty of water with a teaspoon of salt per quart.

Heat stroke victims may faint. Cool them off as fast as possible by dousing them with water and fanning and massaging their extremities.

Especially in the case of heat stroke, seek medical attention immediately. It can be life threatening.



AROUND THE CORPS

'No Love' rains death from above

Story and photos by Cpl. Joseph R. Chenelly

15th MEU Public Affairs

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – "Hanging on Gun 4. Fire in the hole!"

Fingers burrow deep into ears, jaws clench tightly, and faces contort in anticipation. A hand releases its grip on the mortar round. A bone-rattling explosion erupts from an upward-pointing iron tube known as a M252 81mm Medium Extended



Mortarman Lance Cpl. Roy B. Ravago (right), 20, a Los Angeles native, and Lance Cpl. Cody W. Hinkle, 19, a Loveland, Colo. native, carefully adjusts the sights on the M252 81mm Medium Extended Range Mortar system. The Marines are assigned to 81mm Mortar Plt., Weapons Co., Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th MEU. Precise aim is a must to safely accomplish their mission of providing fire support to rifle platoons.

Range Mortar

The Marines and Sailors of 81mm Mortar Platoon, Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, launch projectiles down-range with a chant. "Steel rain, steel rain. Death from above! From No Love with no love!"

A mortarman grasps another high explosive round and slips it in the tube's now smoking mouth. Once again the gunner sounds his warning. The round swiftly slides toward the firing pin in the bottom of the tube. Another deafening boom sends a shock wave through the crew. The gun line is raining terror onto an impact area some 5,000 meters away.

The section leader calls down the line, "End of fire mission. Let's get moving!"

Crews scurry to disassemble their weapon systems. Firing tubes, base plates, bipods and remaining rounds are loaded into HMMWVs. Each complete system weighs a bulky 90 pounds, and each round adds at least another 15 pounds to the load. Mortarmen lug their weary bodies onto the trucks as well. Each team clings to their weapons and gear while bounding over rutted roads of northern Camp Pendleton. Dust kicked-up by the convoy sticks to the Marines' sweat and covers everything except a thick gunpowder odor, which will remain long after training ends. They await another fire mission.

When the call comes, the platoon is ready to spring into action – laying down "steel rain" and providing indirect fire in support of their brothers at arms.

The ability for each of its guns to put more than 30 rounds on a target nearly 6,000 meters away is why support from a mortar platoon is a valuable asset to rifle platoons. Enemy convoys, fortified areas and hostile forces as a whole stand in peril when mortars are on the scene.

The platoon, whose radio call sign and nickname is "No Love," practiced conducting "hip shoots" during Composite Training Underway Exercise here May 3-6. The mortarmen continuously moved from one firing position to another providing simulated support to rifle platoons on the move.

"This is how we'd be used in actual combat situations," explained Gunnery Sgt. Eddie Lozano, a field artillery direction chief and No Love's platoon sergeant. "We're hauling down roads, stopping when fire support is needed, and clearing the way for the line units. We can set-up and get our first round off within a minute or two. That is what mortars is all about - mobile, fast, accurate and deadly. We are the MEU's hip pocket artillery."

The platoon, which took top honors in the 1st Marine Regiment as a mortar platoon, knows each exercise prepares them for the 1st Marine Division mortar competition in July.

"This exercise had intensity. We were breathing hard, and our blood was pumping - that's realistic training," Lozano told his troops. "It wasn't shooting over and



Corporal C. J. Estrada, 20, a Rohnert Park native, and squad leader with 81mm Mortar Plt., Weapons Co., Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th MEU, sets the timer on an illumination mortar round. The timer enables the round to detonate while in the air. This feature can be used to light up a large area or to mark a target for supporting aircraft.

over from a static position.

"That serves a purpose too, but this gives us the realism we need to get to the next level."



Mortarmen from 81mm Mortar Platoon, Weapons Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/1, 15th MEU, sprint to a firing position during training here May 5, 2001. The platoon practiced conducting 'hip shoots' during Composite Training Underway Exercise here May 3-6. The mortarmen continuously move from one position to another, firing mortars providing simulated support to rifle platoons on the move.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Father's Day Sale

The Father's Day Sale starts tomorrow at the Marine Corps Exchange/Super Seven Store. Drop in and look over the gift selections for dad. Here's just a few gift suggestions: Play Station One, Sega DreamCast, Palm Pilot IV, TVs, Blaupunkt car stereos, and mini stereo systems. The Father's Day Sale runs through June 17.

Other summer bargains for June feature lawn chairs, BBQ grills (gas and charcoal) and drastically reduced prices on men's clothing. These summer buys are featured throughout the month of June. Also watch for manager's specials all month long.

The Marine Corps Exchange/Super Seven Store is open Mondays–Fridays, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., and Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 256-8974 for details.

The Railhead Exchange in the

Yermo Annex is open Mondays – Fridays, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. During troop rotation the Railhead Exchange is open Saturdays and Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Lunch menu

Today – Soup and salad.

Friday – Hoki fish.

Monday – Spaghetti.

Tuesday – Rosemary chicken.

Wednesday – Beef tips and noodles.

Thursday – Chicken Cordon Bleu.

Lunch is served 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$3 military, \$4.50 civilians.

Family Night Menu

Tonight – Meatloaf.

Next Thursday – Mongolian Barbecue.

Family Night dinners are served Thursdays, 4:30 – 7:30 p.m. \$4.50 adults, \$2.50 children 5-11 years. 4 & under free.

with or participate in the relay call Cindy Ulibarri, 256-0935, or Annette Madero, 256-5691.

Immigration/citizenship workshops

The City of Barstow has scheduled and immigration information workshop where questions on immigration, obtaining residency, work permits, family re-unification, citizenship and outreach programs are answered.

There is no charge for this workshop to be held June 16 at 9 a.m. in the City Council Chambers at 220 East Mountain View Street in Barstow.

Area residents will also have the opportunity

The water parks are open!

And ITT has the tickets ...

- Hurricane Harbor at Magic Mountain. Adults \$15, children (under 14") \$12.

- Knott's Soak City in Buena Park and San Diego. Adults \$15.50, children \$13 (3 to 11 years).

- Raging Waters season pass – \$40 (adults or children). Daily ticket is \$16.

- Call for tickets prices and information on all the water parks.



ITT Information, Tickets & Tours

Open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Saturday & Sunday. ITT tickets are available after business hours at Bowling Center.

577-6541



applicable – the Armed Forces Active Duty Base Date cutoff are considered for promotion.

To be competitive, candidates must have all professional military education complete to include both resident and non-resident courses.

All eligible Marines must submit an official photograph taken within the last six months prior to the board convening date to the board. Call 577-6146 to make an appointment to get an official photograph made.

For more info call Gunnery Sgt. Hilda B. Goodman at the Base Adjutant's office, 577-6656, or check out MARADMIN 246/01 on the Marine Corps Web site at <http://www.usmc.mil>.

BRIEFS from Page 3

this summer's community events call Cheryl Beardshear, 255-4834, or the Chamber of Commerce, 256-8617.

Relay for Life

The American Cancer Society is holding their 3rd annual 24-hour "Relay for Life" from 9 a.m. on June 23 to 9 a.m. on June 24 at Barstow High School's Langworthy Field.

Event proceeds are used in cancer research, education prevention and patient services.

People interested in volunteering to either help

to start their citizenship paperwork for the Immigration and Naturalization Service with the assistance of BIA-certified agents.

Catholic charities will help applicants process their paperwork and do fingerprints for citizenship at this workshop for a nominal fee.

For more info or to register, call City Clerk, JoAnne Cousino, 256-3531 ext. 3253.

Staff Sergeant Selection Board

The 2001 Staff Sergeant Selection Board convenes July 17 for about nine weeks.

Sergeants meeting the date of rank and – if

MTMC Web site leads to treasury of moving info

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The Military Traffic Management Command's detailed and easy-to-read Web pages help service members, movers and transportation personnel find up-to-date information about the world of personal property shipments.

The Web site address is <http://www.mtmc.army.mil>. Originally established in 1996, it provides essential information about moving everything from household goods to privately owned vehicles, boats, mobile homes and pets. Every day, up to 500 service members, civilian employees and their dependents, military travel offices and moving companies around the world tap the site.

Hank Spieler, chief of MTMC's domestic and international rates, said the household goods shipment system isn't sophisticated enough to trace the location of household goods. However, service members can find the location of their

belongings by calling the carrier.

"Since this is a totally new format and an automated system, we'll make periodic changes and enhancements," Spieler noted. "If anyone experiences any problems with the new system, they should send a message to the e-mail address on the Web site."

"The transportation and movement of household goods and POVs is very important to service members and their families, but so is communications," he said. "By having this new site we're making communications available to everybody – the service member, civilian employees, transportation offices and the carriers."

Much of the site content is technical – references and policy for moving contractors and transportation offices. However, Spieler said, the Web site links to others where all users can get forms, information from finance and the per diem office for every branch of the services, including the Coast Guard.

The new site has nine listings –

latest updates, domestic advisory, international advisory, personal property, carrier approval, non-temporary storage, privately owned vehicles, personal property shipments information and personal property consignment instruction guide.

The 27-page "It's Your Move" pamphlet is a service member's relocation almanac of rules, checklists, instructions, allowances and more. It can be viewed and downloaded while navigating the MTMC site or directly at http://www.usapa.army.mil/pdffiles/p55_2.pdf.

An informative, downloadable 43-page pamphlet titled "Shipping Your POV" is available while navigating the MTMC Web site or directly at <http://www.mtmc.army.mil/property/POV/POVPAM.PDF>.

The MTMC site links to the POV tracking system, but the direct jump address is <http://www.whereismy pov.com>. Key in your orders number, Social Security number and last name to access the tracking system.

Protecting treasures while moving

By Rudi Williams

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – You watch "Antiques Roadshow" this fall and learn a chifforobe just like your great-grandmother's is worth \$5,000. Dang! If you'd known that you'd have had insurance and squawked more when those butterfingers banged up yours during your summer move.

Permanent-change-of-station moves mean stress, anxiety and problems even when you don't own high-value treasures. But when you do, paying attention to some common sense dos and don'ts may save you grief.

Carriers and the government assume no liability for such high-value items as watches, jewelry, cash, stocks, bonds, coin and stamp collections, antiques, bills, deeds, precious metals or irreplaceable sentimental items such as photo albums. Carry these valuables with you, Military Traffic Management Command officials advise. Don't

ship them as household goods, and don't leave them in dresser drawers or lying around while movers pack.

– Get professional appraisals for expensive, valuable items such as artwork, collectibles and heirlooms. Obtain supplemental insurance for these valuables during the move. Standard insurance carried by most movers pays claims by the pound, not market value. The government will not pay for appraisals or extra insurance, but consider the cost a wise hedge against loss or damage.

– Videotape or take close-up photos of all your belongings, paying extra attention to the condition of your furniture and your expensive and valuable items. Inventory records like this will help you document any losses and damage you may incur in the move.

– Record serial numbers of electronic equipment.

– Movers are supposed to document furniture condition on their inventory record sheets. Make sure you confirm their entries and challenge them until you agree on

accuracy. When you sign the mover's inventory record after the packing's done, you're certifying its accuracy.

– Don't wax or oil wooden antiques and fine wood furniture before shipping, because some products might soften the wood and make it vulnerable to imprinting from furniture pads.

– Third-party servicing will likely be needed before moving such luxury items as hot tubs, large-screen TVs and some exercise equipment.

– Talk to the moving company about pre- and post-move servicing of washer, dryer, refrigerator, dishwasher, grandfather clock, satellite dish and other such items.

– Think twice before dismantling your outside TV antenna – a new one may cost less than shipping the present one.

Following these suggestions will safeguard valued items and help you have an efficient and painless move.

There's also a wealth of information on the Internet about moving in general and military relocations in specific.

GOLF from Page 13

even par for the second nine to finish at +2.

Team 1 took home third place by shooting a par round to score a total

of plus one for the tournament.

Team 4 also shot par on the back nine to finish at par for third place.

Coming in first place was Team 7, who shot a second-round -3. They whipped the competition with a total

of seven under par.

There was no winner for the Closest to the Hole competition, and no golfers reached the green on their first shot on the par-three fifth hole.

HUCK from Page 3

and the Seldom Scene headline more than 30 hours of country and bluegrass music. There's a cow chip throwing contest, an Injun Joe's Treasure Hunt, and the Route 66 Car Show – in which a "People's Choice" award goes to the classiest pre-1970 show car arriving on Saturday and Sunday.

The California State Arm Wrestling Championships test not only strength, but also the technique of guys and gals on Saturday at high noon. Small fries can join the antics of the Russell Brothers Circus, learn about bats at the Nature Builder's Center, and build a tackle box for fishing with the helping hands of Home Depot Kid's Club members.

Anyone can try their hand at white washing fences, building river rafts, and climbing greased poles. Nearly all contests are free to enter, and ribbons are given to winners.

Bears carrying fishing poles and carved out of tree trunks by a visiting chain saw craftsman add a country fair atmosphere to the weekend. Moun-

tain men and merchants of old tell tall tales, and offer goods for sale. There's also plenty of grub on hand from the food and crafts villages.

In the cool morning hours, hot air balloons launch at 7 a.m. for a ride over the park's two man-made lakes and large campgrounds. The 800-acre park is located in a region of woods, meadows and lakes along the course of the Mojave River near Victorville. Camping, horseback riding and fishing offer a laid-back, close-to-home vacation break for families needing to get away. Last minute camp arrivals are welcome and can be arranged by calling (909) 780-8810.

Catfishing is free for kids and anyone carrying a valid California fishing license.

Jubilee hours are Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. Parking is free.

Mojave Narrows Regional Park is located south of Victorville. Take the Bear Valley Road exit off I-15, then go east to Ridgecrest Ave. and turn north to the park.

APRIL from Page 5

well understood. To ignore them tempts fate.

The needless deaths and injuries can be prevented. Whether on or off duty, Marines must evaluate the risks associated with our activities and take the steps to mitigate them. Spring and summer are times for enjoying our family and friends in the great outdoors. In order to enjoy them, you must stay alive and injury free.

In addition to the dead from April's mishaps, individual units throughout our Corps have incurred staggering manpower losses from

these mishaps. Marines involved in April's mishaps accrued more than 120 days in the hospital and more than 100 days of convalescent leave. Additionally, one Marine is facing up to one year in extensive rehabilitation. Finally, one of our fellow Marines lives with the possibility of spending the rest of his life paralyzed from the chest down. These losses place a huge burden on the individual Marines, their families and their units.

Our strength as a corps is founded on teamwork. Every Marine is essential to maintaining our Corps' combat readiness.

TRICARE from Page 7

plan. Otherwise, their other health insurance is still first payer and they may not use the NMOP.

"Double coverage" sometimes causes confusion, but it does not prevent our beneficiaries from enjoying the benefits of their TRICARE Senior Pharmacy Program," explains Army Col. William Davies, Department of Defense pharmacy director.

"Most of our beneficiaries with other health insurance find that they have the best possible prescription coverage, often ending up with little or no out-of-pocket costs," he said.

"They can file a claim to TRICARE for reimbursement of their out-of-pocket costs after their other health insurance pays on their prescription claims. It's important that they hang on to their pharmacy receipts showing out-of-pocket expenses, and their explanation of benefits statement from their other health insurance. By providing adequate

documentation to the TRICARE claims processor, they will be able to maximize their reimbursement."

TRICARE will provide reimbursement up to the amount TRICARE would have paid as first payer, or the amount of the beneficiary's out-of-pocket expense, whichever is less.

Examples of other health insurance plans TRICARE beneficiaries may have are those that provide coverage through a current or former employer, an association or private insurer, a Medicare health maintenance organization, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program or a Medigap supplemental insurance with a prescription benefit.

More information about this program is available through the toll-free TRICARE Pharmacy Help Line at 1-877-DOD-MEDS (1-877-363-6337). The Help Line is operational weekdays from 7 a.m.–11 p.m., and Saturdays from 9 a.m.–8 p.m., Eastern Time. Information also is available on their Web site at <http://www.tricare.osd.mil/pharmacy>.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

All-Marine Chess Teams

Semper Fit is seeking resumes for the All-Marine Chess Team through July 9.

Six Marines shall be chosen to compete in an interservice chess competition August 17-24 at Fort Myer, Va. The three finishers in that competition will compete in the international military chess tournament in San Remo, Italy, slated for late September to early October.

For more info, call Staff Sgt. Dennis W. Owen, Semper Fit, 577-6899 or read MARADMIN 257/01.

Tucson softball tournament

The 13th annual Weekend Bash softball tournament will be held June 23-24 in Tucson, Ariz.

The champions walk off with their choice of new gloves or bats. The top four teams receive awards.

For more information, call Greg Manning, (520) 228-5478.

MCLB Soccer seeks players

Once again soccer season is approaching, and the base soccer team needs players to fill the roster.

This year the team is competing against teams at MCCDC Twentynine Palms.

Practice is Tuesdays, 4-5 p.m. at Sorenson Field.

Military and civilian family members are welcome to join.

For more info call Lance Cpl. Edward M. Torresorio, 577-6408, or Lance Cpl. Eduardo H. Nuno, 577-6475.

Big Kahunas take v-ball title

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

BARSTOW LOG staff

The championship game between the Big Kahunas and Comm turned out to be closer than anticipated, even though the Big Kahunas swept two straight games to win the title May 23 at the Fitness Center.

In the first game, the Big Kahunas did what they have been doing all season. They were spiking the ball down the throats of Comm.

However, the Big Kahunas were making some uncharacteristic mistakes, letting Comm stay in the game. After a big early lead, the Big Kahunas found Comm creeping up with the score 10-8.

The Big Kahunas turned it into overdrive after that, forcing Comm to make tough plays on defense. Having to dig hard spikes, Comm could not get the ball over the net with much on it, setting up the Big Kahunas for the big spike.

Still Comm stayed in the game until late, when the Big Kahunas finally pulled away for a 25-19 first game win.

In the second game, the Big Kahunas were in danger of dropping their first game of the season. They were making silly mistakes, giving Comm easy points.

Comm on the other hand, was playing some good volleyball of their own. Their serving kept them in the game, going wire to wire with the Big Kahunas.

If the spectators could not see the score, they would naturally have thought the Big Kahunas were running away with the game, because they were still making the spectacular plays, but Comm was getting all of the easy points, keeping the score tied all the way to 20-20.

The Big Kahunas were too much for the overmatched Comm in the end though, and scored the final two points of the match to win 25-23.

Winning the match 25-19, 25-23, marked the end of a remarkable intramural season for the Big Kahunas. They never lost a game in their run to the title.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Salalea Turolemoiu spikes the ball past Comm's defense in the Big Kahuna win. The Big Kahunas won the intramural volleyball championship.

Comm finished a solid second place on the season, with the Challengers coming in third, and the Hoyas bringing up the rear in last place.

SPORTS

Lots of winners featured in MC Ball's 2nd Best Ball tournament

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

BARSTOW LOG staff

The second Marine Corps Ball Best Ball Golf Tournament this year kicked off May 23 at the Tees & Trees Golf Course.

The tournament featured a nine-hole round, with the top five teams playing another nine



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Samuel Rose tees off on a drive during the first round of golf. Rose won the competition for longest drive by hitting one about 320 yards.

holes to determine the winner.

Featuring skilled golfers, to Marines who just decided to pick up the clubs of ignorance for a fun morning, the tournament was filled with players.

Thirteen foursomes teed off to start the tournament. There was some good golf, and as always, there was some really bad golf.

The worst golfers to swing the sticks were Team 10, who finished at 27 over par. That is an average of three over par for each hole. They dubiously received the Scrub Team Award.

Coming in a close second for the Scrub Team Award was Team 5. They tried their hardest to be the worst, but fell one short at 26 over par. The highlight of their day was when Team 5 golfer Jason Jones went to retrieve a ball he hit in the water and slipped and fell in the drink.

Some teams were

surprisingly good though. Team 12 looked like the anti-golfers, but turned in a three over par performance, just barely missing the playoffs.

Team 8 was the last team to make it in the playoffs with a +2

round. David Moyer, Jared Anderson, George Lucy and John Poniske made up the team.

The next team to make it in was Team 9, or as team member Johnny Garcia called them, Team CommPost. He got the name because Samuel Rose works for Comm and Karah Byrns works at the Post Office. Those three were joined by Jose Sanchez to round out the foursome. They also finished at two over par. Rose



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Karah Byrns taps a putt for par on the fifth hole.

also won the Longest Drive Competition by hitting a drive about 320 yards.

Coming in third place for the first round was Team 1. Brian Ballard, Charles Allen, Patrick O'Kane and Christian Galbraith teamed up to score a +1 first-round score.

Finishing at even par was Team 4, consisting of Tualago Tautua, Derrick Christoff, Steven Colbird and Christopher Oakes.

The top team of the morning round was Team 7. They finished at seven under par for the first nine holes. Team 7 was made up of Jeffrey Clawson, Bryan McClune, Scott Duplechain and Dallas Miller.

In the playoff round, the top five teams squared off for nine more holes of golf. Team CommPost ended up finishing fifth by scoring another two over par for a total of four over.

Fourth Place belonged to Team 8. They shot

See GOLF Page 11



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Johnny Garcia cringes as one of his teammates narrowly misses a birdie putt. Garcia's team finished fourth.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Dallas Miller prepares to hit an iron shot onto the green. His team shot 7 under par to win the tournament.

N/MCRS in need of more volunteers

Shortage could leave Marines, Sailors and families in need

By Sgt. Brian Davidson

Press Chief

Volunteers are the heart of the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society and MCLB Barstow has only a few volunteers in its ranks to continue the society's mission of 'taking care of our own.'

Anyone connected to the Navy and/or Marine Corps is familiar with the annual Navy/Marine Corps Relief campaign. Most donate to the cause and some take a more active stance by sponsoring activities to promote the campaign. However, other than the Marines, Sailors and their families who look to the society in their time of need few give any thought to it until the next campaign season begins anew.

The MCLB Barstow Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society is a non-profit organization consisting solely of volunteers donating their time and energies to providing supportive services to the nearly 300 Marines and Sailors stationed here.

Services ranging from crisis relief and loans to providing Baby Sea Bags and financial counseling to families preparing for their tiny, new additions are all made possible by volunteers.

The society exists only to assist Sailors and Marines. But because the volunteers to man the society are in short supply, the assistance may not be readily available when service members and their families need them most, according to long-time N/MCRS volunteer Pearl Brewer.

"Once, there were plenty of volunteers," recalled Brewer, "but we sure do need them now. Traditionally, the volunteers who make the society work are military spouses."

Brewer, a retired Marine spouse, cites that changes in societal norms and

the economy have added to the scarcity of volunteers, creating a downward trend threatening the future of MCLB's N/MCRS Annex.

Georgia Powell, N/MCRS volunteer, agreed with Brewer that a number of changes have come about 'outside the gates' and changed the way service members and their families live. Still, there are a lot of military spouses around who can be a part of the solution, according to Powell.

Soon, the annex will lose one of its key volunteers and proponents.

"I am the only active duty spouse working here right now," noted Kathy Costa, N/MCRS volunteer. When Col. Mark A. Costa, base commander, takes his next command this fall, the only remaining volunteers will be the spouses of retired service members who are faithful to the notion of 'taking care of our own.'

"This base has a very good [campaign] program," said Costa. "We especially appreciate the efforts of our civilian Marines because they are not eligible to receive the benefits of Navy Relief. The amount of money we generate far exceeds the amount we have given away." Still, MCLB is coming up short on one half of the equation; volunteers.

"Volunteering with Navy/Marine Corps Relief was what spouses did for a change and to do their part, but that was before having a two income household was such an imperative," said Brewer, who has volunteered her time to the society since 1966.

"A lot of people don't know that the society provides for four hours of free childcare at the Child Development Center for people willing to volunteer their time," said Brewer. "Everyone needs a little time away from



Photo by Sgt. Brian Davidson

Pearl Brewer, N/MCRS volunteer, tends the flower beds she planted to brighten up the N/MCRS Thrift Store. The Thrift Store is one means the society uses to generate funds in benefit of service members and their families.

their younglings every now and then. That's why the childcare is provided; to give spouses a release, and the kids can get a little interaction with other children their age."

Shirley Sturtevant-Harris and Giovanna Draper are among the volunteers who man the society's thrift store with Brewer and Powell. All agree

the society's need for new volunteers is dire, but beyond that, the need for a local N/MCRS annex is an imperative.

"I like the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society," said Brewer, "that's why I volunteer. The society, once upon a time, was good to me and I haven't forgotten."

For more information about volunteering with the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society call 256-0444 or 577-6627 or visit the Thrift Store Tuesday or Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

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

1993 CHRYSLER CONCORDE: Loaded, xlt cond., 50K miles, one owner, asking \$7,000. Call 252-3309.

1995 CAMARO: Red, V-6, power windows, locks, seat, 103K and a CD player, asking \$8,500, (under blue book), Call 447-3584. Ask for John.

1997 TOYOTA PREVIA MINIVAN: Supercharged, dual A/C, white, central locks, auto, \$13,000. Owner may consider payments. Call (408) 203-0061.

1998 NEON: A/C, 4 door, 30K miles, 5 speed, white runs great, \$8,500. Call 252-9199.

1989 CHEVY CAVALIER: Air, automatic, 4 cyl, nice car, needs engine work, \$700 OBO or trade. Call 252-9199.

1988 CHEVY CAMARO RS: Auto, A/C, new flow master system, xlt cond., asking \$4,200. Call 951-0986.

1968 CHEVY ELCAMINO: 90% restored, all new trim, clean bumpers, new interior, passive theft system, front disk brakes, all new suspension, custom exhaust, 327, P/S, P/B, A/C stereo, \$4,000 OBO. Call 946-1340.

1969 DODGE DART: 360 engine, auto, 2 door, \$2,000. Call 252-9199.

1977 VW VAN: Auto transmission, seats 7, 134,957 miles, 25 mi/gal, runs great, \$2,500. Call 252-3510, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

1985 BUICK PARK AVENUE: Needs transmission work and other misc. work, runs. \$500 OBO; 1988 CHRYSLER LeBARON, convertible, red, high mileage, runs, \$500 OBO. Both for \$900. Call 256-1914 AWH.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: Schwinn 28mm (23") touring bike, 12 speed, Shimano gears, Exage derailer, Exage brakes, clipless pedals by "look", size 9 clipless shoes, touring pack, Bell helmet, Areo bar, lights, car bike rack, Cateye Vertra timer/clock, \$200. OBO Call 946-1340

MISCELLANEOUS: Truck tires, \$100 for all 5, xlt. cond., 245/75R16 109SMS. Call 252-3510, 6 a.m.-8 p.m.

MISCELLANEOUS: Water cooler for bottled water, works cool, \$50 OBO; glass panel decorative etched glass tampered, 18" x 36", oval with inlaid flower design, only \$30. Call (408) 203-0061.

MISCELLANEOUS: Executive office chair, chrome, stainless and black Italian leather, high-back w/ arms, \$100. Call 253-5926.

MISCELLANEOUS: Children's loft bed w/side rails and homework desk underneath, \$200 OBO Call 256-1914 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: 25 cu. ft. side-by-side refrigerator with icemaker, works good, \$200 OBO; coffee table, Narra wood, xlt cond, \$100 OBO. Call 253-2394 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Full size Kenmore microwave oven, xlt cond. \$50. Call 252-3309 lv msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Kenmore electric dryer with cord, \$65, If interested call 946-1556.

MISCELLANEOUS: Kenmore washer and dryer, xlt cond., \$150 for the pair. Call 252-4369.

MISCELLANEOUS: Weider Universal weight bench, 200 lbs, weight stations include vertical press, pull down, squats, lat lift and bar dip. \$150 OBO. Call 946-1340.

MISCELLANEOUS: Complete set of Wilson XL irons 200 with bag, assorted named driver, 3 wood and putter, \$110. Call 946-1556.

MISCELLANEOUS: California king size wooden bed frame, w/6 drawer base matching 6 drawer dresser w/ mirror, good condition, all for \$350 OBO. Call 252-8118.

MISCELLANEOUS: Carpet, forest green, fits stretch quarters, good condition, \$300 OBO.; blue carpet fits bedroom 10 1/2' X 10', \$20; two large, white vertical blinds, \$40 OBO. Call 252-3023.

MISCELLANEOUS: Bike, tandem, 5 speed, new tires, \$100 OBO; hot tub, \$1,200 OBO. Call 253-7366.

WANTED CARPOOL: Would like to join established carpool or start new one, Victorville area to Nebo, and 5-4-9 schedule with Friday RDO or 0700-1530 shift, call 951-2060 and lv msg.

WANTED: Queen size water bed in good cond, (pedestal drawers preferred) Call 256-1914 AWH.

WANTED: DJ turntables, mixer, ALICE pack, load-bearing vest, K-bar, camelback w/cammie cover for reasonable price. Call 252-9146 or page (864) 266-0536.

WANTED: 360 engine and transmission from a Dodge, Chrysler, Plymouth or Jeep. Call 252-9199.

