

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 6, No. 11

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

January 24, 2002

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Check out the Marine Corps homepage.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

BARSTOW LOG
SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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

Commissary keeps customers happy

By Cpl. Cory Kelly
Editor

The Defense Commissary Agency received an ego boost from the results of its annual Commissary Customer Service Survey, but MCLB Barstow's own commissary got an even bigger one.

Customers noted significant improvements in produce quality, merchandise variety, meat quality, overall savings, store layouts and convenient hours of operation DeCA-wide, rating commissaries with higher marks in all 14 categories surveyed for an overall score of 4.33 out of a possible 5. The survey score is 2.4 percent higher than last year's score, agency research analysts said. Barstow's commissary shoppers rated its services almost a half a point higher than the DeCA-wide average at a 4.76 overall total.

"While we are not really competing with our sister commissaries, it's very good to know," said James C. Meugniot, store director of the Barstow Commissary.

He said the commissary here tied for second place with Fort Hunter-Liggett's commissary, just behind the Smokey Point Commissary (4.78), in

overall score for the Western/Pacific Region commissaries.

"These high customer service scores are due to the professional team we have assembled here at this commissary.

"I have often felt our patrons to be very fortunate to shop in this environment. Wish I could shop in a store like this, but I have to shop out in town," said Meugniot.

Patrick Nixon, agency deputy director, said, "Our customers are telling us that we're providing a quality commissary shopping experience and that it's getting better, which is great news for us because we're constantly striving to improve the commissary benefit. This survey is a tool that shows us where we can make more improvements to keep their patronage, and to attract more people from our eligible patron base to use their commissary benefit."

Meugniot noted, "You think you're running a good shop, but if you have validation it's a good thing. I'm very pleased with the results of the survey. It's nice to know when you're doing things right."

Commissary shoppers highly value their benefit, according to the survey, which marked the sixth consecutive

year that the commissary was ranked as the most valued military benefit. More than 57 percent of the participants said commissaries are their "No. 1 valued benefit." That percentage has steadily increased since the 1995 survey when shoppers first ranked the commissary as the No. 1 benefit, analysts said.

The outstanding work of store employees has a lot to do with the level of customer satisfaction, Nixon said. The only two categories to get

"very good" marks were "overall satisfaction" (4.49) and "courteous, friendly and helpful employees" (the highest rated category at 4.64).

Meugniot said the commissary here was rated at 4.94 in the "courteous, friendly and helpful employees" category.

"As we very well should," he said confidently. "We have a very good team here."

See DeCA Chart Page 10



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Nancy Price, cashier, gives change to Army Sgt. Paul Richardson at the base commissary. The commissary rated highly in recent polling.

Bldg. 236 renovated

By Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat
Press Chief

Renovations to Building 236, which began last spring, are now complete and several new tenants are situated in the building and open for business.

In addition to tenants like Defense Contracting and Purchasing and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate located in the building before the renovation, the Provost Marshal, Base Safety and the MCLB Barstow Fire Department's administrative offices have moved in, making the building the central headquarters for the base's Public Safety Department.

Solicitations for the construction project began Feb. 15. The proposals from four contractors were received and reviewed by the Resident Officer-in-Charge of Construction's

Office one month later.

Douglas E. Barnhart, Inc., of San Diego, Calif. received the contract award in April and began construction shortly afterward. The final cost for the renovation was \$2,140,890, paid by the base, according to Stella Madero, ROICC contract specialist.

The final inspection was Dec. 14, and tenants started moving in Dec. 17.

Rich Tusing, engineering tech in the ROICC office, said the renovation was completed by the projected completion date; however, unforeseen circumstances required additional work to be done at the site.

"The contractor finished within the completion date, but work was extended to handle additional lead and asbestos abatement," said

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OSJA begins VITA

By Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat
Press Chief

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate's Tax Center will open its doors for business Monday to ease 2002 tax season woes for active duty, reserve and retired service members and their families.

As part of the base's annual Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, all service members, and retired service members and their families will have access to tax preparation and electronic filing at no cost. The E-File program is a Quality of Life program initiated to support the readiness of Marines and Marine families. Base legal offices sponsor the program.

The VITA program is slated to begin Monday with 1040-EZ tax

form preparation for all active-duty and reserve service members. Only 1040-EZ tax form users will be seen through Feb. 1; however, appointments for other tax form users will be taken Monday for the week of Feb. 4 through the end of tax season. Tax preparation is between the hours 7:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

Every Marine Corps legal assistance office will again offer free electronic tax filing and tax assistance as part of its electronic income tax preparation and filing program, Gen. James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, said in White Letter No. 11-01. The continued success of this program requires each command's sup-

See VITA Page 6

Marine Corps becomes model of combat efficiency

By Patrick Hayes
DEFENSE WATCH Editor

From the fighting tops of a fledgling Colonial Navy, to Palm Pilots, GPS; night-vision equipment and laser-guided weapons on the ground in Afghanistan, the Marines have long adapted to their environment and to their mission.

As the U.S. military confronts the harsh realities of terrorism and asymmetrical warfare in the 21st century it is encouraging to see that this elite military service is well prepared for the challenge.

The history of the Marine Corps is a history of the United States: Dating back to the first seaborne assault against the British forces at New Providence Island in the Bahamas on March 3, 1776, when Capt. Samuel Nicholas landed with 268 Marines to relieve the British of their arms and

gunpowder at Fort Montagne - ordnance desperately needed by Gen. George Washington's army - each conflict involving the Marine Corps has toughened their resolve to achieve the objective and accomplish the mission by being flexible. Afghanistan is no exception, nor will the next battlefield be.

Today, the mission changes almost hourly and Marines have had to adapt to those changes. Last month, Marines fought ground forces probing the perimeter of Camp Rhino near Kandahar. Marines sought out and destroyed terrorists on their home turf, adapting to the changing terrain and conditions.

While other branches of the U.S. military try to evolve, change, plan and reinvent themselves for 21st century missions, the training and planning of the Marine Corps has moved quickly and consistently to face new challenges

as they emerge — in some cases before they emerge. One primary reason is that Marines are survivors, in more ways than one.

The Marine Corps has faced the threat of extinction at the hands of politicians at almost every stage of its existence, but it has survived by being flexible.

The basis of the Corps' adaptability is found in its training. At the back end of that training, Marine recruiting standards are higher than DoD requirements.

Recruiters don't promise a rose garden, mommy's apron strings or money for college, but rather seek out those individuals with the desire to be Marines. The training is intense and the discipline unyielding.

After boot camp, all Marines are sent to Marine Infantry Training Regiments ("every Marine a rifleman"), where they are taught the basics of

modern infantry tactics in a variety of combat scenarios. Even that process has undergone changes. Within the past few months, infantry schools at Camp Geiger, N.C., and Camp Pendleton have been extended. Marines learn more specifics earlier about combat in a Marine rifle platoon. The training is not only longer but tougher. It includes more live-fire and assault drills, and more time for physical training.

From there, those assigned to the infantry attend advanced infantry training, or specialist schools, ranging from rifleman to machinegunner, to anti-tank guided missileman or mortarman.

After these basic levels of training, "Mud Marines" report to the Fleet Marine Force and are assigned to ground units on the East or West Coast or overseas. The training continues to include special operations, thereby adding capabilities to the tra-

ditional Marine Expeditionary Units. MEU missions may include airfield or part seizure; security operations; search-and-destroy missions; search and rescue of aircraft and personnel, whether American hostages or enemy combatants; capture of material and documents; destruction of munitions and other targets; and defeating terrorists and guerrillas in unconventional warfare.

This special operations capable training is even more critical now, given that the war against terrorism promises to be long and bloody.

Maintaining effective training facilities, particularly for urban combat, is another challenge the Marines are confronting.

A planned urban warfare training facility on Guam is currently being considered as an additional and per-

See **EFFICIENCY** Page 6

Continuing the Dream

By Lt. Cmdr. Elmon R. Krupnik
Base Chaplain



The base celebrated Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday with a prayer breakfast this past week.

The event was well attended. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s life's dream, for which he sacrificed his life, was to put an end to discrimination, segregation, and prejudice in our nation.

The Bible is clear on the equality of all people before God.

In Acts 10:34-35, we read, "Then Peter began to speak: I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right."

Prejudice is premature judgment; it is to form an opinion, usually unfavorably, before

the examination of the facts.

The erection of religious, political, economic and social barriers between one group and another makes it impossible for members of the two groups to fully know, appreciate, and understand each other.

We cannot build a good world if we disregard the moral and ethical laws established by God and revealed through the Scriptures.

God's purposes include the whole person, and all persons. We can demonstrate our love for God by demonstrating our love for all persons in concrete ways.

When we are willing to "love our neighbor as ourselves," then we are beginning the process to end the prejudice in our lives.

Let us begin that process and continue the vision that Martin Luther King Jr. had for this nation and the vision that God has always had for His creation.

Blessings to all,

Chaplain Krupnik

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Lt. Cmdr. Elmon Krupnik, base chaplain, gives a speech at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day breakfast Jan. 17 at the Oasis Club on base. The breakfast was attended by Marines, and Civilian Marines of all races and creeds to share in the heroism of King.

Chapel Services

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

Confession services before Mass

Catholic Rosary

First Saturday of every month.
3 p.m. at the Base Chapel.

For more info call 577-6849.

Nebo Bible Study

Wednesday Noon-1:30 p.m.

At the Chapel Office.

For more info call 577-6849.



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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.

Auto Hobby Shop Hours

The Auto Hobby Shop hours changed Jan. 16. The new hours are Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 1 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 10 p.m. to 6 p.m. For more information call Rena Montano, 577-6391.

Troop Appreciation Night

Senior leaders are inviting junior Marines to the Oasis Club Wednesday from 4 to 8 p.m. for Troop Appreciation night. There will be a live band and hors d'oeuvres. For more information call 577-6418.

TSP Open Season ending

The Thrift Savings Plan open season closes Jan. 31. The next open sea-

son is from May 15, to July 31.

Employee/member self service is the weapon of choice for Marines who enroll in TSP. Marines who elect to participate may enroll in TSP by accessing their DFAS/EMSS account at <http://www.dfas.millems>, or by calling the interactive voice response system at 1-877-DOD-EMSS, or commercially at (912) 757-3119.

Marines needing assistance to establish a temporary PIN through DFAS/EMSS can call the EMSS customer support unit at 1-800-390-2348, or commercially at (216) 522-5122 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday.

TSP enrollment forms are available through Marine Online at <https://www.mol.usmc.mil>, or the TSP Web site at <http://www.tsp.gov>.

TSP data for Marines who enrolled in TSP between Oct. 9 and Jan. 22

will be transmitted to the thrift board by Feb. 1. TSP data for Marines who enroll after Jan. 22 will be transmitted by March 1. Within 30 days of the thrift board receiving your data, you should receive a welcome letter with a PIN.

Deductions from pay for Marines who enrolled between Oct. 9 and Jan 2 begin Jan. 15. Marines who enrolled after Jan. 2 will have the entire January deduction taken from their Feb 1 paycheck.

Additional information can be found on Marine Online.

TRICARE Dental

The office of the Secretary of Defense, Health Affairs has authorized a premium deduction rate increase for the TRICARE dental program.

The increased dental premium deduction amount will be effective in January for February coverage. The rate for active duty and reserve single dependent enrollment will increase to \$7.90 and the rate for family premiums for active duty will increase to \$19.74.

The premium deduction amounts will automatically be adjusted to reflect the new rates, which will appear on the January Leave and Earnings Statement.

Additional information about the premium increase can be found at <http://www.ucci.com>.

New NMCI site

The Marine Corps recently launched its newly developed Navy/Marine Corps Intranet Web site, <http://www.nmciinfo.usmc.mil>.

The new Web site is now the single, authoritative source of information on NMCI for the Marine Corps, according to MARADMIN 608/01. The new site replaces the NMCI information sites hosted by both the NMCI program manager and Headquarters Marine Corps Command, Control, Communications and Computers.

FMA Manager of the Year and New Officer Installation Dinner and Dance

The Federal Managers Association and New Officer Installation will be having a dinner and dance Saturday at Rosita's Mexican Restaurant on Main Street from 6 p.m. to midnight to honor the new Manager of the Year at MCLB Barstow.

The menu is a mexican buffet. There will also be a disc jockey on hand for musical entertainment.

Tickets are \$7.50 and can be purchased at the door.

The candidates for the Manager of the Year award are:

Steve Baisa	577-7433	Brenda German	577-7139
Lorella Garcia	577-6352	Andrew Henderson	577-7344
Millie Sanchez	577-6918	Donna Coppi	577-6279
Robert Wyman	577-6866	Ken McFauls	577-7193

Susan Louis, head of the Information Systems Branch.

Gloria Pawlow, budget officer in the Office of the Comptroller.

Robert Ulibarri, HMEM supervisor at Maintenance Center Barstow.

Wayland Fairchild, head of the supply management branch at Fleet Support Division.

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda, communications chief, Information Systems Office.

For more information, call:



The new site will provide up to date information on all areas of interest from program documentation to points of contact and frequently asked questions.

For more information visit the Web site, <http://www.nmciinfo.usmc.mil>.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation

Application packets for academic year 2002-2003 scholarships through the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation are now available.

Sons and daughters of present active duty and reserve Marines; former Marines and reservists who have received an honorable discharge, medical discharge or who were killed while in the service are eligible for the scholarship.

Active duty, reserve, or former Navy corpsmen who are serving or have served with the Marine Corps are also eligible.

Also, those applying must fall into one of the following categories: a high school senior, a high school graduate, currently enrolled as an undergraduate in an accredited college or university, or currently enrolled in a post high school accredited vocational/technical school.

Family income must be \$49,000 or less.

The application deadline is April 1. For an application packet write to: Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, P.O. Box 3008, Princeton, N.J., 08543-3008, or e-mail a request to mcsf@aosi.com, or visit <http://www.marine-scholars.org>.

Disney honors Armed Forces

Disney's Armed Forces Salute Program honors the men and women in active military who are fighting for freedom today by offering complimentary seven-day admission into Disney's U.S. theme parks, as well as ticket discounts for family members and friends January 1 to April 30, 2002, by all four of the Walt Disney World Resorts - Orlando, Florida, Anaheim, Calif., Paris, France, and Tokyo, Japan. Honored men and women will also receive a packet of special offer tickets.

The complimentary seven-day admissions passes and special offer tickets can be obtained only at the four Walt Disney World Theme Park ticket windows.

These tickets cannot be obtained at Shades of Green or military base ticket offices. For more information about tickets for shows or other theme parks call the Information Ticket and Travel office, 577-6541.

All-Marine bowling

The All-Marine bowling trials will be held April 7 through 13 at Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Marines interested in competing must submit resumes through the Semper Fit coordinator no later than Feb. 1.

Resumes must include proof of current average and results of tournaments entered in the last two years.

For more information, call Semper Fit director, Gunnery Sgt. David Wersinger at 577-6971.

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-002-02-NR	Cable Splicer WG-2504-08	01-11-02	01-28-02	01-17-02	MCLB Barstow
DEU-003-02-NR	Secretary (OA) GS-0318-05	01-11-02	01-28-02	01-17-02	MCLB Barstow

Applicants interested in announcements beginning with DEA or OTR should submit their résumé 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 Center, Bldg. 37, Monday through Fridays 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.donbr.navy.mil>.

This is not an official list. Please see the Web sites listed for a complete list.

Singapore offers 13th MEU chance to explore new places

By Sgt. Nathan J. Ferbert
13th MEU (SOC)

SINGAPORE – At the edge of the jungle here, Marines press fingers into camouflage paint compacts and smear the colors of the vegetation before them onto their skin.

They prepare by trying to blend their bodies and gear with the “beast” that surrounds them, as the sights and sounds of the jungle seem to call out to them a dare – “come and get me!”

With soft steps, wide eyes and open ears and minds, Leathernecks of Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), braved the

beastly jungle of Marsling, Jan 2-3 – rife with insects, animals, nearly impenetrable brush in some spots and enough heat and humidity to zap people’s energy quicker than they can say, “dehydrated.”

Jan. 2, most of Charlie Company, BLT 1/4’s 166 Marines were indoctrinated into the world of jungle patrolling – reconnaissance-style, like their brethren did more than 30 years ago in the swamps and jungles of Vietnam.

This was the first time the 13th MEU (SOC) trained in Marsling’s jungle, which presented unique challenges and unfamiliar terrain.

These Marines are used to the bar-

ren desert of Twentynine Palms, Calif., and the short thicket of chaparral of their home in Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“The majority of Charlie Company had never been in the jungle before,” said 1st Sgt. Michael Dechy, C Company’s first sergeant. “They now appreciate the difficulties in moving in a single-canopy jungle and realize the importance of maintaining contact and control of a patrol in such an environment.

“We wanted to focus on small unit leaders to give them experience in developing their abilities,” continued Dechy, who spent more than three years patrolling jungles in Hawaii

years ago with his force reconnaissance platoon. “Squad leaders benefited most because they learned that controlling 13 people in the jungle takes a lot of rehearsals and patience.”

Fending off insects while eating meals ready-to-eat, Marines constantly sipped water to replace what now soaked their uniforms, equipment and faces.

Before they got their patrol order, 3rd Squad, 1st Platoon, C Company, BLT 1/4, 13th MEU (SOC), rehearsed physically and, perhaps most important, mentally.

Immediate action drills – responding to enemy threats while patrolling by shifting fire teams toward the threat – rehearsing hand and arm signals, land navigation with a compass, planning their patrol and simply familiarizing themselves with jungle terrain with walk-throughs paid off immeasurably when the rubber met the road.

The order was for a reconnaissance patrol of about five clicks (three miles) with two checkpoints along the route.

The only limiting factor for the patrol was simple – time. If 3rd Squad could reach, report on and return from both objectives in two hours without making contact with the “enemy,” the patrol was a success.

Like a slow motion movie, 3rd Squad Marines dispersed three to five meters apart, received non-verbal commands from the patrol leader and scoured the terrain with their eyes and weapons ready.

Trying to make each step quieter than the last, they applied utmost caution and alertness when crossing danger areas, like a road or open field.

Once squad members got “eyes on” the objectives and reported what was there, they retraced their delicate steps back to the beginning.

Post-patrol debriefs revealed what small mistakes squads made and needed to improve on, but the experience gained was invaluable, because

they worked on the cornerstone of all infantry units.

“Patrolling is number one in the grand scheme of infantry, because if you can’t patrol to get to the fight, you are no good.”

While patrolling was the focus of training in Singapore, BLT 1/4 and 1st Platoon, 1st Force Reconnaissance Company, accomplished other goals as well.

Singapore was the last opportunity for grunts to train ashore before the 13th MEU (SOC) cruises into its area of responsibility during its deployment to the Western Pacific and Arabian Gulf regions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Force reconnaissance Marines practiced team dives and “hook and climbs” – getting aboard ships and structures from the sea. With a few late additions to the platoon before deployment Dec. 1, they also hashed out any discrepancies in their approach to close quarters battle by getting everyone on the same page with rehearsals at an indoor skeleton of a house.

Marines from BLT 1/4, MEU Service Support Group 13 and the Command Element took advantage of the Singaporean military base at Camp Hendon. Camp Hendon is a modern facility with a rappel tower, rock-climbing wall and low and high confidence courses – all events that boosted morale and provided uncommon training for most Marines.

Wherever “Fighting 13th” units and Leathernecks trained in Singapore, the experiences serve as blueprints to build on for the future.



Official USMC Photo

Lance Cpl. Antonio J. Araiza provides security during maneuvers conducted by the 13th MEU (SOC) in the jungle of Marsling, Singapore, Jan 2.

Roadways seem more dangerous than actual combat

By Cpl. Cory Kelly

Editor

Having to make the tragedy-borne walk up to an unknown home to inform unsuspecting parents or partners of their beloved Marine's death is something no Marine ever hopes to be tasked with.

And having to tell those parents or that partner that their Marine didn't die in combat, but died because he or she forgot to snap on a seatbelt or was intoxicated at the time of death probably doesn't make it a burden easier to bear.

Staying alive sounds like a simple task, especially if one takes combat out of the scenario. But statistics prove this is not as true as one expects or would like to believe, as more Sailors and Marines have been killed in privately owned motor vehicle accidents in the last 10 years than in training and field environments.

Just like many other senior leaders of the naval service, Rear Admiral Stephen A. Turcotte, Naval Safety Center commander, is concerned.

"Following the tragic events of Sept. 11, President George Bush cautioned Americans retribution would not be without risk," he said in a recently released ALSAFE message. "Families listened, knowing their sons and daughters, husbands and wives in the military would be in harms way. Little did they know that the cities and towns where they live would prove to be far more dangerous than some mountainous country far away."

Turcotte explained that since Sept. 11, 23

Sailors and 13 Marines have died in privately owned motor vehicle accidents.

"That's way more than a lot and nothing short of too many," Turcotte said. "And as bad as it sounds, the rate has been accelerating."

He noted that since Dec. 21, the beginning of the Christmas holidays, through Jan. 7, a period of just two and a half weeks, 10 sailors and three Marines died in privately owned motor vehicle crashes.

"Something is wrong, terribly wrong," he stated. "Leisure time crashes are killing far more of our highly trained and disciplined military than actual combat. It is not even enemy forces that threaten us but our own failure to practice effective risk management."

Turcotte said that many of the deaths could have possibly been prevented with the simple use of a safety belt.

Gen. James L. Jones, commandant of the Marine Corps, sent a similar message in November's Safety Summary.

"On at least three occasions (in November), occupants were not wearing seatbelts and were ejected from their vehicle," he noted. "While no one safety device can guarantee life in a privately owned motor vehicle accident, the likelihood of surviving an accident inside the vehicle with your seatbelt on is significantly higher than trying to survive outside the vehicle without it."

Jones said that of the three Marines who were ejected from their vehicles, one was extremely fortunate and so far has had no long-term injuries. Another suffered serious injuries, to include

brain swelling and damage to the back and legs.

"The last Marine was not fortunate at all; he died," he said.

Maj. Lawrence Casserly, director of the base public safety department, said he would venture to estimate that 50 percent of the time when Marines are involved in accidents they are not wearing their safety belts.

"It's very disappointing and disillusioning when a majority of the deaths could be prevented," he said. "We can't make Marines wear their seat belts, all we can do is show them it can save their lives."

Casserly gave an example of how a seatbelt could do just that with something that happened

to him when he was in college.

He accidentally flipped a vehicle while hunting with a friend.

"I was wearing my seatbelt, but he wasn't. I came out pretty clean, but he was gravely injured. It only takes one incident like that to get the point across," he said.

Turcotte explained that even though the lack of use of a safety belt may be apparent, the problem rests in other areas. The majority of crashes occurs late at night, with fatigue likely the common thread, while alcohol is suspected in some.

Turcotte's advice is "slow down, buckle up, don't drink and drive, survive. Lean forward, be safe, have fun."



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Wearing a safety belt could save a life in the vehicle crash like this car was involved in.

FMA 2001 nominees

Nomination for Civilian Manager of the Year Award – Summaries:

Susan Louis is a computer specialist supervisor and head of the Information Systems Branch. She leads nine civilian employees.

Louis was instrumental in planning, coordinating and managing the staging, testing, and installation of the Marine Corps standard software on over 1,200 workstations and laptops.

Louis provided presentations credited as focal points of all Navy Marine Corps Intranet meetings and data calls.

She also coordinated the elimination of channel extended communication devices, facilitating a new process to enable mainframe computer customers to obtain print. Her research resulted in an annual savings of \$41,365.

Gloria Pawlow, base budget officer, Office of the Comptroller, leads 10 civilian employees.

The budget, civilian payroll and accounting functions under her charge have become a model of efficiency and effectiveness. She demonstrated leadership attributes in an influential career spanning more than 40 years.

Over the years, Pawlow has devoted many hours of service and involvement in such organizations as the American Society of Military Comptrollers, the Hispanic Employment Committee, and the FMA, setting an example for others to follow.

Wayland Fairchild, supply management officer, serves as the head of the Supply Management Branch of Fleet Support Division, where he leads 33 civilian employees.

With the merger of the DSSC with Fleet Support Division, he prepared his staff so well they became fully functional in minimum time, which resulted in the transition being totally transparent

to Fleet Support Division and outside organizations, as well. The transition plan was so successful that it was used as a model for a similar merger that will take place at Fleet Support Division in Albany, Ga.

Robert Ulibarri is a heavy mobile equipment mechanic supervisor of the M1A1 and M88 Tank Line at the Maintenance Center Barstow where he leads 25 civilian employees.

His superior skills to bring all cost work centers together allowed the systematic approach in meeting the time line and cost accounting data needed to win the M1A1 Program which brought \$25 million in revenue for fiscal year 2001.

Ulibarri implemented nine better business practices, from Earned Value Management to ISO 9002. Armed with hard data, he was able to provide accurate cost analysis in order to implement process improvements for significant cost avoidance estimated in a savings to the Program Manager AAV RAM/RS of \$750,000 within fiscal years 1999 and 2000.

Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda is the communications chief in the Communications Branch of the Information Systems Office, where he leads 19 Marines.

His dynamic leadership style challenges his peers and subordinates to reevaluate themselves to become better Marines. His desire and energy is directed at achieving mutual success for both Marines and Civilian Marines.

Vanfonda's administrative skills, professionalism and strong leadership are also tapped by the Headquarters Battalion in his capacity as the acting Company Gunnery Sergeant, assuming the responsibility of administrative, logistical, leadership and personnel issues. In addition, he fills in for the battalion first sergeant in the first sergeant's absence.

The base's VITA program has a proven record of accomplishment. The program was rated second of 161 tax preparation location sites in Southern California in 1998, and fourth of all Marine Corps Installations taking part in the program in 1999.

The OSJA has maintained an error rate of less than one percent for tax filings since 1998.

Those interested in taking advantage of the free program should contact their platoon sergeant or the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at 577-6874 to schedule appointments.

Using VITA

What to bring with you

Last year's tax return
Last year's IRS Notice of rebate form
All W-2 Forms
Interest income statements from banks
Social Security cards
Dates of birth for self and dependents
SSN or EIN of day care

Direct Deposit of refund

Your account number
Bank routing transit number
Or a blank check

Legal Assistance Office

577-6874

VITA from Page 1

port, advance planning, and volunteer participation.

Last year's tax assistance program was a great success in providing a major quality of life benefit to the military community with 20 Marine Corps tax centers in the United States and Japan electronically filing over 77,700 Federal returns, said Jones.

Marines and their families saved over \$8 million in tax preparation and filing fees, an average saving of almost \$90 per Marine.

According to Jones, this was a 10 percent increase over the previous season's total. Again, the Marine Corps tax program filed the highest percentage of returns of the uniformed services.

The commandant's goal for the 2002 tax season is to file electronic tax returns for 50 percent of the active duty force at every Marine Corps installation.

Jacque Fadeley, base VITA program coordinator, said meeting the commandant's goal should be easily attainable, given the base's usual success rate.

"This year, we have streamlined our process by limiting the volunteers taking part in the program to OSJA staff," said Fadeley, who noted that all taxes done through the program will be through E-File. "We want to maintain a very low rate of error and service as many patrons as possible."

EFFICIENCY from Page 2

manent base for Marine special operations. Closed by the Air Force in 1994 as an unnecessary expense, the 1,750-acre Anderson South Air Force Base, which includes flight buildings, barracks, single-family homes and mess halls "would fill a major deficiency in currently available urban-warfare training facilities for the Marine Corps," a Marine spokesman recently said.

The Guam site would allow units from Okinawa, Japan, and MEUs transiting the region to train in what former Marine Commandant Gen. Charles Krulak called the "three block war" scenario, akin to Afghanistan today. Krulak believed that Marines could find themselves providing humanitarian aid in one part of the city, conducting peacekeeping in another part, and engaged in combat operations in a third section. The scenario is highly plausible when considering the confusion in Afghanistan, or the potential battles to come.

In a recent article in the Naval War College Review, dealing with the much-debated transformation of U.S. forces, Dr. Thomas Mahnken wrote, "The Marines, for their part, should establish experimental units dedicated to projecting power in the face of capable access-denial defenses and to conducting military operations in urban terrain."

This, it would appear, is already being done. Currently attached to each MEU is a Force Recon platoon, which conducts sensitive, surgical strikes into or behind enemy lines or other limited operations.

A platoon of Navy SEALs usually is also onboard. The two special operations platoons can and will work in unison.

Recon Marines, who have received additional specialized training, fall into several categories, generally Recon battalions and Force Recon companies.

Battalion Recon units are the eyes and ears of the division to which they are attached, and typically work approximately within 10 miles of the forward edge of the battlefield area. Force Recon units can go well beyond 10 miles. Their capabilities include insert and extract methods, from fast roping and scuba to parachute jumps.

In addition to special operations capable MEUs, other special capabilities also are in the mix.

The Marine Corps Times recently re-

ported that the Corps is moving forward with plans to formulate an antiterrorist brigade. Identified as the 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (Anti-Terrorism), "the unit would focus on deterring, detecting and responding to terrorist attacks."

The brigade, usually made up of three MEUs, will include units such as the Chemical-Biological Incident Response Force, Fleet Anti-Terrorism Security Teams (FAST Companies), former Marine security guards throughout the Corps, and infantry units from Camp Lejeune, N.C., where the brigade will be headquartered and available to respond to terrorism both in the United States and overseas. FAST Companies were established in 1987. Each company is composed of 500 men. Fast platoons currently are located in Bahrain, Italy and Japan, and respond to incidents in their areas of responsibility within 24 hours.

Although their primary mission is defense and backing up the Marine security guards, FAST Marines are trained in SWAT tactics and close-quarter combat.

Retired Army Gen. Wayne A. Downing, who led the investigation into the 1996 Khobar Towers terrorist bombing attack in Saudi Arabia, has witnessed the efficiency of FAST Marines firsthand.

"The U.S. Marine FAST security teams were the most impressive security forces observed in the theater. They are superbly trained, well-equipped and well-led. They provide a useful model for development of service training programs."

From the fighting tops to laser-guided weapons, Marines adapt because they have had to and are ready for 21st century challenges. Maybe the lesson to be learned in the current world of terror and upheaval is that prepared, quick and decisive action may mean the difference between life and death.

This is true when dealing with "run-of-the-mill" terrorists who want to hurt their targets but who also want to live to tell about it. They are dangerous enough.

But when dealing with Muslim fanatics who are willing to kill themselves to hit their targets, there are no second chances.

As the other military services review their force structure, weapons-procurement properties and combat training to deal with the long-term terrorist threat, they will be well-served also to study how the Marine Corps has already adapted to the new form of war.

236 from Page 1

Tusing.

According to Tusing, older buildings often require some unforeseen hazardous material abatement because materials commonly used in the original construction, lead and asbestos present health hazards that were unknown at the time.

"Moving into [Building] 236 is a great improvement over our past offices," said Michelle Phillips, public safety department secretary. "We now have adequate heat, lighting and restroom facilities, and a new classroom. All three branches of public safety have already made use of it, and it is a major improvement in terms of our training regimens."

For the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, remaining in the building during the renovation process did not hinder operations.

"There were always certain difficulties when working in an environment under construction," said Maj. Brent Cherry, staff judge advocate, "like having to use other restroom facilities and clients couldn't park where they normally would.

"But the project site coordinator was very easy to work with and the construction crews were very accommodating," he said.

According to Cherry, the renovation not only served to improve the level of comfort and functionality of the facility, but also made it more aesthetically pleasing.

"One of the major improvements made was the installation of new windows throughout the building," noted Cherry. "They are modern and will help to conserve energy. And the windows make the day brighter because it's easier to appreciate the view."

The Duty of Honor

By Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat
Press Chief

As Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda barks commands, the Marines assigned to the funeral detail snap and pop, even though they have been practicing for hours.

Accepting nothing less than perfection, the MCLB Barstow Walking Color Guard honors local veterans by performing funerals and presenting colors at local events.

The members of the walking color guard take great pride in representing the Marine Corps and their command. Most members perform their duties during their liberty time in many instances.

Dedication is the unit's watchword.

“Representing our command, our Corps and honoring our fellow Marines is just a part of what Marines do,”

—Cpl. Jason Edmiston

“Any way you look at it, the Marines in the walking color guard are here because they want to be here,” said Sgt. Jesse Williams, color guard noncommissioned officer in charge. “They care about our mission and sacrifice their liberty and gear, not to mention a lot of sweat. Every so often they get a letter of appreciation, and that counts, but the big payoff comes when we see people’s eyes light up.”

On the surface it seems to be a relatively thankless job with the greatest reward

being an intrinsic sense of pride.

But sometimes the thanks is great. On occasion, members from the deceased’s military organizational society have insisted that the color guard visit their post after a preforming burial details.

“I have never been witness to hospitality like we received at the AMVETS,” said Lance Cpl. Eduardo Nuno, color guard member.

According to Williams, opening up the door for more Marines to take part on the color guard details is key to making the many rewards of the duty known to

more and more Marines.

“Just making more people aware, and the support of the senior enlisted and officers is the best way to increase our numbers on the color guard,” said Williams. “Aside from that, maybe more will be inspired to get involved because it is such an honor to be a part of the detail.”

“Marines. In uniform or out, we always take care of our own.”

The walking color guard is continually seeking new volunteers for its roster, according to Cpl. Jason Edmiston, color guard member.

“Representing our command, our Corps and honoring our fellow Marines is just a part of what Marines do,” said Edmiston. “We are a band of brothers, the more the merrier.”

For more info on becoming a member of the color guard, call Williams or Edmiston at 577-6114.



Photo by Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat

Cpl. Giovanni Valladeres and Sgt. Alma Fragofo fold the colors during a burial detail honoring a deceased Marine.



Photo by Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat

A Marine places the colors into the hands of the widow and mourning family

Photo illustration by Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat

Beneficial suggestion earns employee money

By **Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt**
BARSTOW LOG staff

Todd Chambers and Tom Fisher, maintenance workers at the Maintenance Branch, were the recipients of a monetary award through the beneficial suggestion program on base.

By suggesting that all computers and printers be turned off at the end of the business day, Chambers and Fisher each received a \$107 check.

Fisher and Chambers were talking about little hidden electricity consuming devices that people don't notice, which actually use quite a bit of electricity, said Chambers.

"The big thing at the time was energy savings, and it just dawned on me that all the sleep programs on computers and printers are still using electricity, and there is really no need for them to be left on all night," said Chambers.

This is not the first time Chambers has received money for his suggestions.

Chambers said he received money for prior suggestions like "improving

the efficiency of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems."

The beneficial suggestion program has been around for a while, but there is still some ambiguity about the program.

"A beneficial suggestion is designed to take advantage of the creativity of military and civilian personnel to contribute practical and innovative ideas for improving and maintaining productivity, economy, efficiency, mission effectiveness, inventions and scientific achievements to provide improvements to Marine Corps programs and operations," said Kim Whaley, quality assurance specialist for the Business Performance Office.

Whaley is the person on base in charge of handling beneficial suggestions.

Depending on the type of suggestion, there are different kinds of awards given to the person who makes the suggestion.

"There are suggestions that don't have any attached savings to them and they are usually acknowledged with a certificate, but if monetary savings is realized as a result of implementing

one of these suggestions, there is a formula to figure out the amount of the award for the employee," said Whaley.

The government takes a special interest into this program, all the way to the man in charge.

"If a beneficial suggestion has a high enough savings, you can get recognized by the President of the United States," said Whaley.

The process of a beneficial suggestion is to find out if the suggestion will benefit the government and how much. Then, the suggestion is looked at to see if it can be beneficial to other government agencies as well.

"Some of our suggestions may be implemented at other Marine Corps bases such as Albany as well," said Whaley.

The program is not limited to any pay grade, or type of employee.

"Anybody, military, civilian, even contractors aboard the base, can make a beneficial suggestion," said Whaley.

If there are any questions about the program, or to make a beneficial suggestion, contact Whaley at 577-6508.

GUNNY'S PICKS

Playoffs



The NFL season is down to the Conference Championships. The winner of Divisional Playoff Weekend is Richard Pino of Maintenance Center Barstow. He picked three out of four playoff games right. His Raiders may be out of it, but he is still very much alive.

To win the Conference Championship edition of Gunny's Picks, contestants must pick the winner and points scored for each team in both games.

To submit your choices for Gunny's Picks, fill out this section of the newspaper and drop it off at the Public Affairs Office in the Red Wing of Building 15, or e-mail who you think will win each game to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Playoff Games

Philadelphia _____

at St. Louis _____

New England _____

at Pittsburgh _____

Name, work section and phone number: _____



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Towel bargains at MCX

Through the rest of this month the MCX is featuring towels, all sizes, all colors at 10 percent off.

Also featured are all-knit jersey sheets going for \$16.99 to \$24.99.

Drop by and look over the selection of towels and sheets. While there, pick up some drinks and snacks, and maybe fill the gas tank, too.

The Exchange/Super Seven Store is open Mondays – Fridays 6:30 a.m. – 9 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. – 9 p.m., and Sundays and holidays 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. For more information, call 256-8974.

The Yermo Exchange is open Mondays - Fridays 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (during troop rotations open Mondays – Fridays 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.), Saturdays and Sundays 10 a.m. - 5

p.m. For more information, call 577-7092.

Lunch menu

Note: Unless otherwise stated the menu for the Cactus Cafe is the same as the Family Restaurant.

Today – Family Restaurant: baked potato and salad bar. Cactus Cafe: roast sirloin of beef and mashed potatoes.

Friday – breaded catfish with steamed rice.

Monday – honey-stung fried chicken with country fries.

Tuesday – beef enchiladas, refried beans and Mexican rice.

Wednesday – chicken a la king.

Thursday – pork roast with mashed potatoes.

Family Night menu

Tonight – Ribs: beef and pork. Baked beans, coleslaw and corn on the cob.

Next Thursday – Oriental Night. Pancit, chicken-odobo, stir fried vegetables and Jasmine rice.

Military and civilian supervisors: Meet your troops at the Oasis Club for Troop Appreciation Night! Wednesday, 4 - 10 p.m.



**Live band! Hors d'oeuvres!
CALL 577-6418 for details.**

DeCA Chart

Category	DeCA 2000	DeCA 2001	Barstow 2001
Low prices/overall savings	4.22	4.33	4.76
Variety of merchandise	4.07	4.18	4.57
Well stocked, full shelves	4.15	4.24	4.78
Convenient hours	4.23	4.33	4.63
Entrance/sales area/ restroom cleanliness	4.36	4.44	4.88
Meat quality/selection	4.17	4.30	4.63
Deli quality/selection	4.19	4.27	N/A
Bakery quality/selection	4.07	4.14	N/A
Store layout and time required to shop	4.21	4.32	4.80
Checkout waiting time	4.26	4.34	4.92
Attractive displays/store decor	4.23	4.31	4.67
Courteous, friendly and helpful employees	4.56	4.64	4.94
Overall satisfaction	4.40	4.49	4.80
Total	4.22	4.33	4.76

Chance to win DeCA scholarship passing

Compiled by
BARSTOW LOG staff

Chances to enter the race for the Defense Commissary Agency Scholarship for Military Children are thinning out. The deadline for applications is Feb. 5.

Children of active duty, reserve/guard and retired U.S. military personnel are eligible to apply for \$1,500 scholarships. Students must be graduating seniors who will be enrolled in a four-year program in the fall of 2002 or college students already enrolled in a four-year program. Just go to www.commissaries.com and click on "What's New" and access the scholarships page to get complete information on eligibility and to download the application.

The Defense Commissary Agency/Fisher House Scholarships for Military Children program is administered by Fisher House Foundation and funded through the generosity of industry members supplying commissaries worldwide. In its inaugural year, the program awarded nearly 400 scholarships worldwide to deserving recipients.

"I am eagerly anticipating awarding a record number of scholarships to deserving young students this year," said Defense Commissary Agency Director Air Force Maj. Gen. Robert J. Courter Jr. "The first year of the program was extremely successful in cementing the role of the commissary in military community life. These scholarships go a long way toward enabling young students to take the next step in their pursuit of excellence."

Students must have at least a 3.0 grade point average and must describe in an essay how his or her activities have enriched the community. Applications may be dropped off, or mailed, to the nearest commissary, but all applications must be complete and arrive at the commissary by close of business Feb. 5 to meet the deadline requirements of the independent scholarship management firm that will screen and determine scholarship recipients.

Applicant eligibility will be verified through the Defense Enrollment and Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) prior to award of scholarships. Applicants should check to make sure they are registered with DEERS.

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

ager and a flat bed trailer to haul a Go-cart. Call 256-2434.

2001 VW JETTA GLX: V6, eng., manual, prem. Monsoon Sound Sys., Premium 17" wheels, sports susp., alarm, fog lamps, heatable leather power seats w/memory, trip comp., auto climate control, power heated self-dim mirrors, rain sensor auto wipers, power sunroof, all the toys possible, 15,200 miles, \$22,300. Call Jeremy or Laura, 252-6969.

PETS: English Springer Spaniel, free to good home. Call 252-1686, ask for David or Donna.

LOST AND FOUND: Two pair of prescription glasses found in government vehicles. One pair tented. Can be claimed at Dispatch Desk, Building 322, between 7a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

2000 MUSTANG GT: 5 Speed, performance Red, 59k miles, 16k miles remaining warranty, very, very good condition, asking \$12,500 OBO. Call Wyatt, 843-0665 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

1966 PLYMOUTH FURY: 383 engine, auto air, four door, runs, needs TLC, \$1,500. Call 254-1913.

1966 DODGE: Station Wagon, 383 engine, auto air, runs, needs TLC, \$1,200. Call 254-1913.

MOTOR-HOMES: 1978 Motor home, Dodge Winnebago, Minni Winni, stove, fridge, roof, A/C generator, sleeps 6, runs good, needs some interior/exterior work, priced to sell \$2,250. Call 252-5365 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pageant dresses, sizes 2-7, worn only once. Make offer. Call 252-1311 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Crib with mattress, white, xlt. cond., \$100. Call 252-5818 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Corvair eng., \$125; Dodge complete 318 eng., runs, \$425; Volkswagen 4 mag rims, \$55; General Motors 5 rally 14" rims, \$25 for all; aluminum awning for car port or patio, \$110; Ford Ranger tailgate, \$55. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: Shopsmith woodworking combination tool includes 10-inch band saw and 4-inch jointer, \$3,200 new, only \$695. Call 252-5417 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Pool table, full size, great cond., made of composite material (not real slate), new set of balls, chalk and racks, must see, new house too small for table. \$450. Call 252-7788.

MISCELLANEOUS: Antique Oak sewing cabinet with treadle and 1900's Singer sewing machine \$150; drum coffee/end tables \$250. Call 256-0595.

MISCELLANEOUS: Exercise equipment, Ab-Doer Pro, \$60; Ultra Glide XL \$60; Ultra Total Gym \$20, all new condition. Call 256-0595.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dresser, two nightstands and hutch, good cond., Make offer. Call 252-7198.

MISCELLANEOUS: Meat slicer, electric, \$40; grill and waffle baker, \$25; stereo radio cassette recorder (boom box), \$40. Call 242-8839.

MISCELLANEOUS: Portable Super Nintendo Game system \$50; Arcade cabinet for regular Nintendo just add TV up to 19" and regular Nintendo game system, \$50; 250 MEG external zip drive USB used \$130. Call 252-7789.

WANTED: Used dirt motorcycle, in good running condition for a teen-

