

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 6, No. 20

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

March 28, 2002

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

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



Photo by Rob L. Jackson

Capt. Michele Kane, of Danville, Calif., is all smiles after getting strapped in and readied for a test run in a AAV to the splash pond at MCB's test track March 21. Kane was one of 25 officers from the Amphibious Warfare School, Training and Education Command, Quantico, Va., to tour MCLB Barstow as part of their MOS-related training.

AWS students visit Barstow

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

Twenty-five students from the Marine Corps University's Amphibious Warfare School in Quantico, Va., took a different path in their training to visit MCLB Barstow March 21.

The group, made up of 24 Marine captains and one Army captain, toured the base as part of its training and got a feel for how Maintenance Center Barstow operates.

"This is the first year we've done this," said Maj. Ed Bligh, student faculty adviser from AWS. "This allows us more flexibility than the classroom, and it's much more enjoyable for

them."

Part of their training includes six weeks of occupational field enhancement courses in ground combat, aviation, and combat service support to fully prepare the officers for anticipated billets in the fleet Marine force.

"There are currently 160 students assigned to the course," said Bligh. "What we did was divide them into MOS-related groups. The aviators are at China Lake, the ground folks are visiting Twentynine Palms, and the supply and logistics officers came here."

Since Bligh was assigned to MCLB from 1986 to 1989, he suggested the supply and logistics group visit Barstow. After traveling through the desert, the of-

ficers were a little apprehensive about visiting until they began the tour, according to the faculty adviser.

The group received a brief and tour of the command, Fleet Support Division and Maintenance Center Barstow. At MCB the officers got the opportunity to see just how the AAV, LAV, and M1A1 Tank are repaired and tested.

At the test track MCB Commander Col. Ervin Rivers noted, "This is a great opportunity for our young captains to come out and see how we repair and test our vehicles for combat readiness before returning them to the fleet."

Highlighting the MCB

See AWS Page 4

Base awarded for pollution prevention

By Cpl. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

MCLB Barstow was named the winner of the Secretary of the Navy environmental award for pollution prevention in ALNAV 021/02 released March 19.

The environmental department here played a key role in ensuring compliance to state and federal regulations regarding pollution prevention, resulting in the base's second consecutive award in this category.

Pollution prevention refers to "source reduction" and recycling, as defined in the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, and other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through both increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, and protection of natural resources by conservation.

The award is divided into sev-

eral categories that comprise environmental efforts being made around the Department of the Navy. Marine Corps bases and naval stations compete annually for awards in categories such as natural resources, cultural resources, environmental quality, environmental excellence in weapons system acquisition, and pollution prevention.

The award ceremony to recognize the winners is scheduled for April 30, from 11 a.m. to noon at the Navy memorial in Washington D.C.

Winners from each category will compete in the Department of Defense fiscal year 2001 environmental awards program.

To find out more information about pollution prevention, or to read how you can help, contact Pat Dillow at 577-6184 or go to the intranet at <http://mclbonline/dept/environmental/p2.htm>.

Family meeting to be held April 17

By Cpl. Cory Kelly
Editor

A newly reestablished set of programs aimed at Marine family support and readiness are being reenergized here.

The series of programs, all under the auspices of Marine Corps Family Team Building, are designed as the point of main effort for the Corps in raising family readiness.

Although the programs were specifically developed with deployable units in mind, Lt. Col. Charles Hamilton, the base executive officer and newly appointed family readiness officer, said he expects it will do well for Marine families here once the programs are operational.

Marine Corps Order 1754.6 consolidated five previously separate programs and combined them under one directive as complimentary family readiness programs. The programs are the Key Volunteer Network; Lifestyle Insights, Networking,

See MCFTB Page 8

'We never leave our brothers behind'

By Maj. David Andersen
New York City Public Affairs Officer

GROUND ZERO, NEW YORK CITY – Pain shot through my back in the late night hours of March 6, 2002, from the weight of the stretcher, but Marines always complete the mission.

With Sgt. Maj. Michael S. Curtin, 45, retired Marine reservist and New York police officer, in my left hand and his wife and daughter only feet in front of me, sense of duty led the way as it has for many men better than I for hundreds of years.

As we picked up the sergeant major, I thought back to only hours ago when my U.S. Marine Corps public affairs office in Midtown-Manhattan received the call that we stood ready for since Sept. 11.

In fact, I received four calls in about three minutes from numerous Emergency Services

Unit men – better known as “E-Men” throughout the famed New York City Police Department.

The messages were all the same, “Dave, get down here - we found the sergeant major.”

We proceeded down off of a small plateau on the north side of the dig, which probably would have put us in sub-level five (five stories underground) of tower one.

My mind wandered to sergeant major's wife Helga, a former Marine, and his three daughters Jennifer, 15; Heather, 14; and Erika, 12.

The native of Rocky Point, N.Y., had become a folk hero in the NYPD as he ran his truck like a platoon - a platoon of Marines.

“TRUCK-2” is located on 125th Street in Harlem and upon entering people might think they have entered a company office at Camp Lejeune or a barracks at Camp Schwab as proud men go about their business with Marine Corps haircuts and squared-away uniforms – Sgt. Maj.

Curtin had obviously been here.

Leveling out at about sub-level seven in a pool of soupy-mud heading south toward the exit-ramp, I glanced back over my shoulder and saw the ground zero flag that I grabbed out of our office on the way downtown. It had been signed by the victim's families months prior, and we were able to get it to the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit on the USS Bataan who then took it ashore to fly it in the face of terrorism over the Kandahar Airport in Afghanistan. Who gave it to us? E-Men that Curtin knew.

Curtin had loved the American flag, his family had told me, and it was fitting that he lay next to me covered in the flag that he raised in Kuwait City a decade ago.

That flag had been waiting for him in a box in the ESU Headquarters that I noticed on occasion marked “THIS FLAG IS FOR SGT. MIKE CURTIN ONLY!!!!!!” And of course to make it complete – the Marine Corps colors

were also present and were carried by two of his TRUCK-2 E-Men.

As we started up the bridge, the voice of what had to be a former Marine rang out throughout the 16-acre complex – “present arms!”

The exit-ramp was lined with hundreds of proud members of the NYPD, ESU, PAPD, FDNY and steel workers with the night lit up by thousands of flashing emergency-vehicle lights.

As we pushed forward keeping step with former Marine and Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, I thought of the infamous story that made the sergeant major a Marine Corps folk hero.

It was not the story of his rescue efforts at the first Trade Tower's bombing in 1993, but rather the story of him spotting the red stripe of Capt. Randolph L. Guzman's, USMC, dress-blue trousers in the rubble of the Oklahoma City bomb-

See **BROTHERS** Page 8

Carving the blessings

By Lt. Cmdr. Elmon R. Krupnik
Base Chaplain



We celebrate this weekend religious observances of our various faiths.

The observances focus on the blessings, restorations, assurances, and forgiveness that God has given. It is a remembrance of what God has done with his people.

This week I want to pass on to you an article that I have received via the e-mail from a close friend.

It is reminder to me that the permanent blessings God has given us through our relationships with him and others need to be carved in stone and our spiritual, emotional and physical hurts we have received from others written in sand.

There is a story that tells of two friends who were walking through a desert.

During some point in the journey, they had an argument and one friend slapped the other one in the face.

The one who got slapped was hurt, but without saying anything, he wrote in the sand:

“Today my best friend slapped me in the face.”

They kept walking until they found an oasis where they decided to take a bath.

The one who had been slapped got stuck in the mire and started drowning, but his friend saved him. After he recovered from the near drowning, he wrote on a stone:

“Today my best friend saved my life.”

The friend who had slapped and saved his best friend's life asked him, “After I hurt you, you wrote in the sand and now you write on a stone, why?”

He replied, “When someone hurts us, we should write it down in sand where the winds of forgiveness can erase it away, but when someone does something good for us, we must engrave it in stone, where no wind can ever erase it.

The moral of the story is: *Learn to write your hurts in the sand and to carve your blessings in stone.*

Blessings to all,
Chaplain Krupnik

Just doing my job ...



RP3 Michael Sandoval, chaplain's assistant, proceeds with the task of cleaning the Religious Ministry Center's common area. Sandoval is the newest member of the chaplain's office, coming here from the USS Constellation, Coronado, Calif. What Sandoval said he likes most about his job is serving the community and the command. In his off duty time, Sandoval works as a nurse's assistant.

Photo by Sgt. Anwaar AlMoribat

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-1:30p.m.

At the Chapel Office.

For more info call 577-6849.



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

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

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

NEWS BRIEFS

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon Fridays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Veterans Home Relay Race

The 7th Annual Veterans Home Relay Race is scheduled for Saturday. The course is a 40-mile stretch from Fort Irwin to the Veterans Home of California - Barstow.

The event will be a team relay race, each runner doing a two-mile leg.

For more information, call 1st Lt.

Bryan McClune at 577-7174.

Easter Egg Hunt

There will be an Easter egg hunt at 9 a.m. Friday at the playground at the end of Cape Gloucester.

The hunt will be open to children up to the age of 13. The hunt will be separated into three ability groups separated by age.

For more information call Sgt. David Meeden, physical security, 577-6514.

Easter Brunch

The Family Restaurant will be having an Easter Brunch Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

On the menu is baron of beef, fried chicken, omelets cooked to order, pancakes, french toast, baked potatoes and an assortment of salad, fresh fruits and desserts.

The cost is \$8.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children 5 to 12 years old. Children 4 and under are free. For reservations call 577-6428.

Professional's Day luncheon

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association is having the Administrative Professional's Day luncheon April 25 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club.

The cost is \$7.50 and includes a chicken cordon bleu lunch or a chef salad. The guest speaker is Margaret Carter, the base comptroller.

For tickets call one of the following CWRA committee members:

Name	Phone
Dan Keirn	577-6614
Fred Molino	577-7210
Ed Guz	577-6813
Tangia Joseph	577-7230
Barbara Kulseth	677-6771
Ernie Hawkins	577-7046
Barbara Kent	577-7786

Semper Fit Yoga

The health promotions coordinator, Jennifer Patterson, is teaching Yoga classes at the base gym.

The classes are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the aerobics room of the gym.

For more information call Patterson at 577-6817 or stop by the base gym.

Volunteers needed: Barstow baseball leagues



The West Barstow Little League, celebrating its 50th year of baseball, is looking for volunteers interested in umpiring the minor league, little league, junior or senior leagues.

The season begins April 6 and ends June 17. Each league will have about 15 to 20 games playing Monday through Friday evenings. Weekday games begin at 5:10 p.m. There will be a free umpires clinic held in Hesperia.

For more information call Jim McCall, West Barstow Little League president, 256-1265 or 486-1265.

Mounted Color Guard

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard is seeking members.

There are no prerequisites, other than being an active duty Marine. Previous experience with horses is not necessary.

Mounted Color Guard Marines represent MCLB Barstow at parades and events throughout the country.

To join or find out more, visit the base stables at the rear gate of the Yermo Annex during normal working hours, or call Master Gunnery Sgt. Kim Ortamond at 577-7302 or 577-7003.

Play Mornings

Every Wednesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. the New Parent Support Program holds Play Morning at the McKinney Youth Center for parents with children ages 5 and under.

Among the numerous activities are crafts fun for children and parents alike.

For more information call Sharon Wallace 577-6332

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 United States theme parks, as well as ticket discounts for family members and friends until 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.

Search and Rescue

The San Bernardino County Sheriff's Volunteer Force is looking for volunteers for various search and rescue teams in the area.

Areas in need are: Barstow, Big Bear, San Bernardino, Colorado River, Morongo, Needles, Phelan, Twin Peaks, Chino Hills, Yucaipa and Victor Valley.

To volunteer or for information on qualification requirements and duty requirements contact the nearest sheriff's station, call (909) 387-0641, or visit the volunteer forces Web page at <http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/sheriffs/voluntrs>

N/MC Relief Society

The Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society's annual fund drive is in overdrive now and continues to pick up the pace until April 12 when the drive ends.

Section and unit food sales are still going at a steady pace to help support it. Every dollar donated to the society's fund drive translates into financial assistance avail-

able to Marines and sailors worldwide.

The following is a list of unit representatives for this year's fund drive.

Please contact them to donate to this year's cause. If you have any questions regarding this year's event contact Ed Guz at 577-6183.

Name	Office	Phone
Bertie Dailey	Public Affairs	577-6430
HM1 Allan Maluto	Medical	577-6575
Staff Sgt. V.K. Nuuhiwa	Admin	577-6891
Bonnie Rasmussen	Budget	577-6519
Gunnery Sgt. Norman A. Tuzon	C & P	577-6506
Lance Kemock	Maintenance	577-6230
David Madrid	Housing	577-6872
Carlos Alborno	Environmental	577-6173
Ed Guz	Public Works	577-6183
Gunnery Sgt. Bruce Raymond	HqBn	577-6364
Brenda German	MCB	577-7139
Staff Sgt. Ronald Johnson	FSDB	577-7774

Want a quick snack, something for breakfast or looking for something to do? Here's what

some sections are offering in the coming days to help support the society's fund drive:

Ribs and barbeque beef

Communications Division is having a Barbeque at Building 558 at Yermo today from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

On the menu will be ribs and barbecued beef sandwiches with baked beans and corn.

For advanced orders call Ruby at 577-6461 or Vonnice at 577-6780.

Chili, hot dogs

The Comptrollers Office has Chili Dogs, Chili/Corn Bread and plain hot dogs Tuesday from 10 a.m. until they are gone in Building 15.

Spaghetti lunch

Contracting and Purchasing Division is having a Spaghetti lunch

See N/MCRS Page 4

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-141-02-NR	Fire Protection Inspector GS-0081-07	03-01-02	04-05-02	03-28-02	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, Building 37, Mondays 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 Websites listed for a complete list.



Photo by Curt Lambert

Steve Phalon, head of Installation Division, and Lt. Col. Charles E. Bridgeman, director of Installation and Logistics Department, cut the ribbon of the new MEO Maintenance Building at the Yermo Annex March 19.

N/MCRS from Page 3

at Warehouse 8, door 14A from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday.

Cow Pasture Pool

The first Cow Pasture Pool "Desert Terrain Golf" tournament will be held at the base stables April 6 at 10 a.m.

The tournament will cost \$20 per team, consisting of three to four members.

It will be a nine-hole course. Each team will receive one club, and the team with the lowest score wins. The event is for the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

The teams need to register by April 3 with Master Gunnery Sgt. Kim Ortamond at 577-7302, or 2nd Lt. Michael Smith at 577-6726.

Free-throw shooting contest

The base gym will be having a free-

throw shooting contest April 8 in support of the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society.

Each contestant will pay a \$5 entry fee and find sponsors to shoot 25 foul shots.

The winners for most money raised and most shots made will receive trophies.

Entry forms and sponsor forms are located in the base finance office in Building 15.

For more information, call Sgt. Tim Robbins at 577-6623 or 2nd Lt. Michael Smith at 577-6726.

Chess tournament

The minds of N/MC Relief Society fund raisers are trying to put together a tournament before the close of the fund drive.

People interested in putting their mental strength to the test against fellow MCLB employees may call Sgt. Thomas Robbins and 577-6623 or stop by the finance office in Building 15.

GOT NEWS? *If you think you've got something newsworthy call the public affairs office at 577-6430.*

AWS from Page 1

tour was an opportunity for one lucky officer to get a ride on the AAV when it made its run to the splash pond. That person was Capt. Michele Kane,

a native of Danville, Calif., whose only response after the ride was "that was exciting," coupled with a wide grin.

The group left Quantico March 1 for its West Coast tour and returned on Saturday.

Hot Tips:

Making sure everyone can get out of the house, alive

Submitted by **Mary Jane Ackley**

Fire and Emergency Services Division

Let's just say right now it's the middle of the night and you're at home in bed.

Suddenly you wake to a crackling noise but you're not sure what it is. You decide to check it out.

As you open your bedroom door, heat and smoke pour in so fast that you feel like you can't even close the door fast enough.

You start yelling at family members to get up and get out of the house. You hear your children screaming that they don't know how to get out!

There are at least five things wrong with this picture. How many things did you see wrong with this scenario? They include:

1. No "escape plan."
 2. Smoke alarm inoperative or missing.
 3. Did not "crawl low under smoke."
 4. Did not "feel the door" before opening it.
 5. No "fire drills" in the home.
- Many families think that if something

was to happen in their house they would always know what to do because they are familiar with the inside of their homes. Big mistake!

Numerous people have died with that same thinking.

People have made it to the front or back door and were not able to open the door.

Firefighters have found people right there.

Planning and practicing a "home escape plan" with all family members may save someone's life in a time of emergency.

One of the most important parts of the "escape plan" is the meeting place.

Once you escape from your home, always go to the meeting place that's been predetermined (tree, neighbor's house, etc.) first.

Once everyone has been accounted for, then call the fire department.

Even with the use of cellular phones today, you can make "the call" as you evacuate from your home.

The most important part of setting up a "Home Escape Plan" is knowing what to do.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Brig. Gen. Richard Kramlich, MARCORLOGBASES commander, fastens a "Marine Rose" pin on Linda Baker for her support of her husband during his service to the Marine Corps. Gary Baker, Maintenance Center Barstow deputy director, received a Commendation for Superior Civilian Service Award from Kramlich for his superb balance of leadership and management skills, which enabled the maintenance center to successfully obtain ISO 9000 qualification, implement the Theory of Constraints, and significantly expand the utilization of the Material Resource Planning (MRP II) Program. As a direct result of these accomplishments, the maintenance center was able to exceed the plan for budgeted net operating results, increase throughput, decrease inventory and cost, and often exceed customer expectations.

READY, FRONT

Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

MCLB Walking Color Guard

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

The MCLB Barstow Walking Color Guard performed at the Miss Barstow Pageant March 16. For three of the color guard members, it would be their last one here.

Sgt. Jesse Williams, ammunition technician, Lance Cpl. Derrick Christoff, S-4 clerk, and Lance Cpl. James Hosey, supply clerk, have over seven years combined service on the MCLB Walking Color Guard.

"I have been doing color guards since March of 1998," said Williams, who hails from San Francisco. Hosey and Christoff have been doing color guards since they reached the base in November 1999, said Williams.

Christoff, a native of Baton Rouge, La., averaged one color guard every other week in the past twelve months.

"I did 27 color guards on record last year," said Christoff.

Hosey, from Bay Springs, Miss., remembers the awards he has received.

"I have 10 Letters of Appreciation," said Hosey.

Some of the better memories for Hosey are the funny things that hap-



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Lance Cpl. James Hosey, supply clerk, flanks the Marine Corps flag during the presentation of the colors at the Miss Barstow Pageant.

pened while he was presenting the colors.

"We were at the Elks Club and while I was doing rifle manual, I brought the rifle up to left shoulder arms," said Hosey. "I knocked my cover off at the Elks Club and everybody stood up and started clapping."

Williams has some funny stories of his own.

"At the Miss Barstow Pageant last year, the flag got caught in the drapes, came back and hit me in the head, and I had to do the limbo to get the flag free," said Williams.

Christoff remembers the agony of standing at attention for over an

hour at one ceremony.

"My most memorable color guard was the Sept. 11 recognition at Lucerne Valley, where we had to stand up for an hour and a half, because I still hurt," said Christoff.

Williams's best memory of his color guard days came when he had a freak injury during last year's Marine Corps Birthday Ball ceremony.

"My most memorable one was at the Marine Corps Ball last year when I twisted my knee while I was marching and I couldn't feel it," said Williams. "I went down on one knee after a while and the first sergeant brought me a glass of water and told me to hang in there."

Williams is leaving for Camp Pendleton on April 1, and Christoff left Friday for Okinawa, Japan. Hosey is leaving soon to go overseas as well. Hosey and Christoff have embarked on their journey into the Marine Corps and to Barstow together.

"We left MEPS together," said Hosey. "He was lead series and I was follow series in our company at boot camp, and we have been together ever since."

For Williams, the color guard is what he looks on as his favorite memories of his time spent here.

"This is the one thing I enjoy doing the most at Barstow," said Williams.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

(From left to right) Lance Cpl. Derrick Christoff, Sgt. Jesse Williams, Sgt. David Meeden and Lance Cpl. James Hosey present arms during the national anthem.

NCO/MOQ Boards

What it takes to get there and take it home

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
BARSTOW LOG staff

Headquarters Battalion, MCLB is conducting two boards in the month of April for Marines.

The first type of board is the Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter and Marine of the Quarter board. It will be April 9. This board will select the new representatives from the command to hold the title of best Marine and NCO for three months.

The winners of this board will also be eligible to run for NCO and Marine of the Year at the end of this year.

The second type of board will be a Meritorious Promotion Board. It will be held April 24. The board will be held to meritoriously promote one private first class to lance corporal, one lance corporal to corporal, and will give one corporal a chance to compete with the best corporal from MCLB Albany and MCLB Blount Island for a promotion to sergeant.

To compete on a board, Marines must be nominated by their chain of command.

"First thing, they have to be recommended by their staff NCOIC or

OIC within their section," said 1st Sgt. James Barksdale, headquarters battalion first sergeant.

Once an official recommendation has been sent to the battalion, the Marine is selected for the board. Most platoons have a mock board to determine the best Marine to put on the battalion board, said Barksdale.

A board consists of a Marine going in front of a panel of senior staff NCOs and officers. The Marine is asked questions in certain categories such as uniform regulations, military history and current events.

The Marine who performs the best by answering the most questions right and keeping his military bearing is determined the winner.

The board is only held to determine the best Marine from the ones who have shown excellence in their work and everyday life.

A Marine must exemplify himself and hold himself to a higher standard to be selected for a board, said Barksdale.

"He's got to show his section that he wants to be the Marine or NCO of the Quarter," said Barksdale. "He can't just say, 'I want to go up for the board.'"



Photo by Curt Lambert

Ex Armstrong, pay clerk, is meritoriously promoted to the rank of corporal for his performance during the last meritorious promotion board. Pinning him is Headquarters Battalion Commander Maj. Brian T. Ballard (front) and 2nd Lt. Michael R. Smith, finance officer, office of the comptroller.

AROUND THE CORPS

FOAL EAGLE '02

31st MEU cross trains in Korea

By Gunnery Sgt. Marlon Martin
31st MEU Public Affairs Chief

Tok Sok Ri, Korea – The 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit and USS Essex Amphibious Ready Group recently completed their annual training with the Republic of Korea Marine Corps here.

Foal Eagle '02 marked the 41st combined arms exercise between the U.S. and Republic of Korea forces. It was conducted at a variety of locations throughout the Korean Peninsula.

While building on a proud tradition of working together, U.S. and ROK forces sought to enhance interoperability, coordinate supporting arms and become more familiar with each other's tactics, techniques and equipment.

"The more we interact and conduct exercises together, the more we understand each other," said LtCol. Andrew R. MacMannis, operations officer, 31st MEU.

"This is 31st MEU's one opportunity to work together with ROK Marines," he said.

Foal Eagle was a two-part exercise, which focused on cross training and integration. During the exercise, MEU Marines also conducted field training at several sites in the region.

The first phase involved executing a combined amphibious landing exercise.

Initially, liaison teams were exchanged between the MEU and the ROKMC's Regimental Landing Team 2. This cross attachment of forces afforded both Marine units the opportunity to interact and train together on ship, thereby enhancing

U.S./ROKMC interoperability. "The training was real valuable and significant because you have two different countries, and there's a language barrier. Yet they grouped together and made an evolution work without any problems," said Chief Warrant Officer John K. Bell, officer in charge, Beach Master Unit.

"They like us to come here. We learn from them, they learn from us. We have a good rapport, and there's camaraderie amongst us," said Bell, recalling the last time his unit supported a Foal Eagle exercise.

U.S. and ROK forces worked hand-in-hand during each phase of the landing exercise to ensure full integration of units from both countries. The MEU and ROK RLT units formed a combined force and conducted an amphibious assault launched from U.S. and ROK Navy ships.

Standing up to its motto "Strike from the sea," the highlight of the exercise for the MEU was its participation in the combined amphibious assault at Tok Sok Ri Beach. While "AMTRAKs" were launched from U.S. and ROK Navy ships offshore, UH-1N "Hueys" patrolled the skies and suppressed simulated enemy resistance with air strikes.

A beach-landing site was established by the combat service support element to assist the Landing Crafts Air Cushioned that came ashore. The mission of the LCACs was to simulate the surface introduction of follow-on troops and equipment ashore.

Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel increased the realism of the scenario by detonating explosives in



Photo by GySgt. Marlon J. Martin

A Landing Craft Air Cushioned from USS Essex and 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit amphibious assault vehicles conduct an amphibious assault at Tok Sok Ri Beach on the Korean Peninsula during Foal Eagle '02. Foal Eagle '02 marked the 41st combined arms exercise between U.S. and Republic of Korea forces.

the surf zone, along the shoreline and in the mountains. All the while, U.S./ROKMC officers and distinguished guests observed the landing high atop "VIP Hill."

"Everything went very smooth," said LtCol. Francis P. Joyce, executive officer, 31st MEU. "The whole significance of this demonstration is the integration of the two fighting forces and being able to work together. They got to see how we do business, and they'll bring that back and put it into developing their own program."

The MEU increased the value of the exercise for its major subordinate elements by combining the execution of follow-on training with the conclusion of the landing.

This provided each major supporting element yet another opportunity to refine its working relationship, challenging it in unfamiliar terrain and time and planning constraints.

Foal Eagle not only gave the MEU the opportunity to enhance its relationship with its Korean counterparts, but also allowed the Marines to further hone essential special operations



Photo by GySgt. Marlon J. Martin

Explosions were detonated in the surf zone, along the shore and in the mountains to add realism to the scenario of the combined amphibious landing at Tok Sok Ri Beach on the Korean Peninsula during Foal Eagle '02.

capable skills and increase the overall combat readiness of the MEU/ARG team.

"We're ready for anything," Joyce said. "Supporting the Iwo Jima commemoration and now Foal Eagle enroute to [ARGEX/SOCEX] is giving the MEU, as an entity, more time

to spool up for training. Normally, we go out of the MEU Exercises, get on the ships and go into 10 days of Blue-Green workups, move right into [ARGEX] and then go right into [SOCEX]. So, with the MEU turning over the entire [ACE], as well as the [BLT], I'd say we are well prepared."



Photo by Photographer's Mate 3rd Class James Davis

A 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit amphibious assault vehicle "splashes" from the well deck of USS Juneau during the combined amphibious landing off the coast of Tok Sok Ri, South Korea.

MCFTB from Page 1

Knowledge and Skills (known as LINKS); Spouses' Leadership Seminar; Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program; and Chaplains' Religious Enrichment Development Operations (commonly referred to as CREDO).

These five programs each provide valuable services and opportunities to the Corps' families, and have been placed under the cognizance of the family readiness officer. The main advantage of having the five programs under the umbrella of MCFTB allows heightened visibility and assists in better coordination and streamlining of the funding process.

There is an all-ranks meeting scheduled for 4 p.m. April 17 at the Oasis Club to begin implementation of the first phase of the MCFTB structure, the KVN, whose mission is to establish a network of key volunteers to act as a link between families and the command.

The meeting is open to all interested Marine spouses and active duty Marines. This kick off meeting is designed to disseminate information about what the KVN is and, more importantly, what it is not, as well as to shed some light on what the other MCFTB programs consist of.

Interested persons can contact the base commander's office at 577-6556 or just attend the first meeting.

The KVN is a network of volunteers and is staffed by spouses of active duty Marines who, after volunteering and meeting the criteria of the MCFTB order, are approved by the commanding officer. After being approved, all key volunteers attend basic orientation training to become what is known as the "key" assistants to help bridge the gap between the command and its families.

"The KVN will help bring the community to-

gether and establish an alternate chain of communication to help assist with problems, questions or concerns and ultimately allow the basic quality of life to improve aboard and around Barstow for its Marine families," Hamilton said.

"So if you have a problem with your car or washing machine, or day care, or base housing, and your spouse is TAD and you have a pay problem, or any one of a thousand other problems and you don't know where to go to get help, or after asking the respective organization, have not gotten the assistance you need, the KVN provides a system of volunteers and communication to help.

"You can call your key volunteers and they can tell you who to talk to or steer you in the right direction for assistance, and as necessary they [the KVN] can get the command's immediate attention if required," he continued.

The ultimate goal of the network is to keep military family members informed and supported.

"The program will also help expand the base commander's understanding and awareness of what is going on in the community and to close the communication gaps between the military spouse, their desires and the command," Hamilton said.

"Once you realize that it's such a small community and that everybody works and/or lives in the vicinity of the base, we do have the power to improve and change things in small increments," he explained. "There are a lot of unique challenges here - the desert, the heat, the wind, the cold - but there are also a lot of opportunities as well. Whether you live in Camp Lejeune or Camp Pendleton or Hawaii or Barstow, it's what you make out of it," he said.

Hamilton said he would eventually like to see the KVN here expanded to include Army spouses and even civilian spouses affiliated with the base.

BROTHERS from Page 2

ing. He located a group of former Marines and then took approximately seven hours to pull him out as he said, "We never leave our brother's behind."

He managed to free the "Skipper" who was probably watching this procession waiting to thank Mike one day.

They carried him out draped in an American flag with his dress blue trousers sticking out with his shined shoes pointing toward heaven's gates.

All was quiet.

No talking.

No machinery.

Only the sound of a million thoughts - much like I could hear at this very moment heading out of the hole.

As we approached the top, I noticed that an ESU Truck was waiting for him - his truck ... TRUCK-2. We hoisted the sergeant major up high - hands reaching with fingertips outstretched - and I wondered if anyone shared my thoughts at that very moment.

It was reminiscent of the outstretched fingers of another famous group of Marines years ago on a small island in the South Pacific. Finally, with one last adjustment needed to secure the stretcher, a body was needed to jump up and climb to the top.

Who scrambled to the top of the huge truck?

Who else - Helga, his wife.

In front of hundreds of tough cops - she made the last adjustment to take care of her husband much like I imagine he did for her for many years.

That simple act was breathtaking - an act that the sergeant major represented for years -

selflessly helping other people and not wanting to be recognized for it.

We then headed north on the FDR. The motorcade was long and bright as we approached the 1 a.m. hour. All traffic was stopped and civilians stood outside their halted cars lining the roads with hands over hearts and hats off.

Motorcycle cops at every intersection had salutes at the ready. At the morgue, my gunny and I folded the flag under the watch of many eyes. Suddenly, TRUCK-2 members and other E-Men stepped forward to aid us. We presented the colors to Helga and then took care of the sergeant major.

My ride home was long.

Covered in mud that I never wanted to wash off, I hoped and prayed that we did the Curtin family proud as well as our nation.

I think the sergeant major would have been proud. I also thought that although my Marines and I have seen the pile shrink on a daily basis - it is still there.

It will always be there. The billions of tears that have fallen on this earth will never be washed away and we cannot forget. The mangled iron, smell and feeling is still lurking in that hole and I feel it every day - you just cannot see, hear or smell it on the television.

I shed a tear coming out of "the pit" that night as I held my head high. I also felt like there were a band of brothers waiting at the top all dressed in our Corps' uniforms from days gone by.

Then it really hit home that the bridge was symbolic - it was a long steep trek up seven stories, but Sgt. Maj. Curtin made it out of that hell-hole led by his wife, carried by the entire Corps, and the rest of his country that he loved so much.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

April 4 – Beef and chicken fajitas, refried beans, Mexican rice, fountain drink and dessert.

Lunch menu

Note: Unless otherwise stated, the menu for the Cactus Cafe is the same as the Family Restaurant. Prices: \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian.

Today – Prime rib, baked potato.

Tomorrow – Baked trout, sauteed onions, mushrooms and rice.

Monday – Stuffed cabbage and mashed potatoes.

Tuesday – Beef stir fry and jasmine rice.

Wednesday – Virginia baked ham and potatoes au gratin.

Thursday – Family Restaurant: Baked potato and salad bar. Cactus Cafe: Honey stung fried chicken, potato salad and cole slaw.

Family Night Dining

Tonight – Beef and pork ribs, baked beans, cole slaw, potato salad and dessert.

Twilight League

Sign up now for the Twilight League at Tees n' Trees Golf Course.

The league starts up April 9 and meets every Tuesday thereafter. The fee is \$20 for 12 weeks.

The Twilight League is fun and great golfing. Sign up now. Call Susan at 577-6431 for more information.

April Sale begins at MCX

Don't miss the great buys that start Monday at the Super Seven Store (Nebo) and the Railhead Exchange (Yermo).

Ten percent off flat screen TVs, Home Entertainment Centers and any VCR with your purchase of a 27" TV or higher.

For more details call 256-8974.

You're cordially invited to

EASTER BRUNCH

at the Family Restaurant, Sunday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

MENU

Baron of beef, fried chicken, omelets cooked to order, pancakes, french toast, oven-baked potatoes, tossed green salad, assorted fresh fruit, assorted fountain drinks and dessert.

ALL WELCOME

Adults \$8.95, children (5-12 yrs.) \$5.95, children 4 years and under are free. Reservations highly recommended. Call 577-6428.

You asked for it ... you got it!

Oasis Club members asked for schedule changes - management heard you!

Beginning Monday this will be the new weekly schedule:

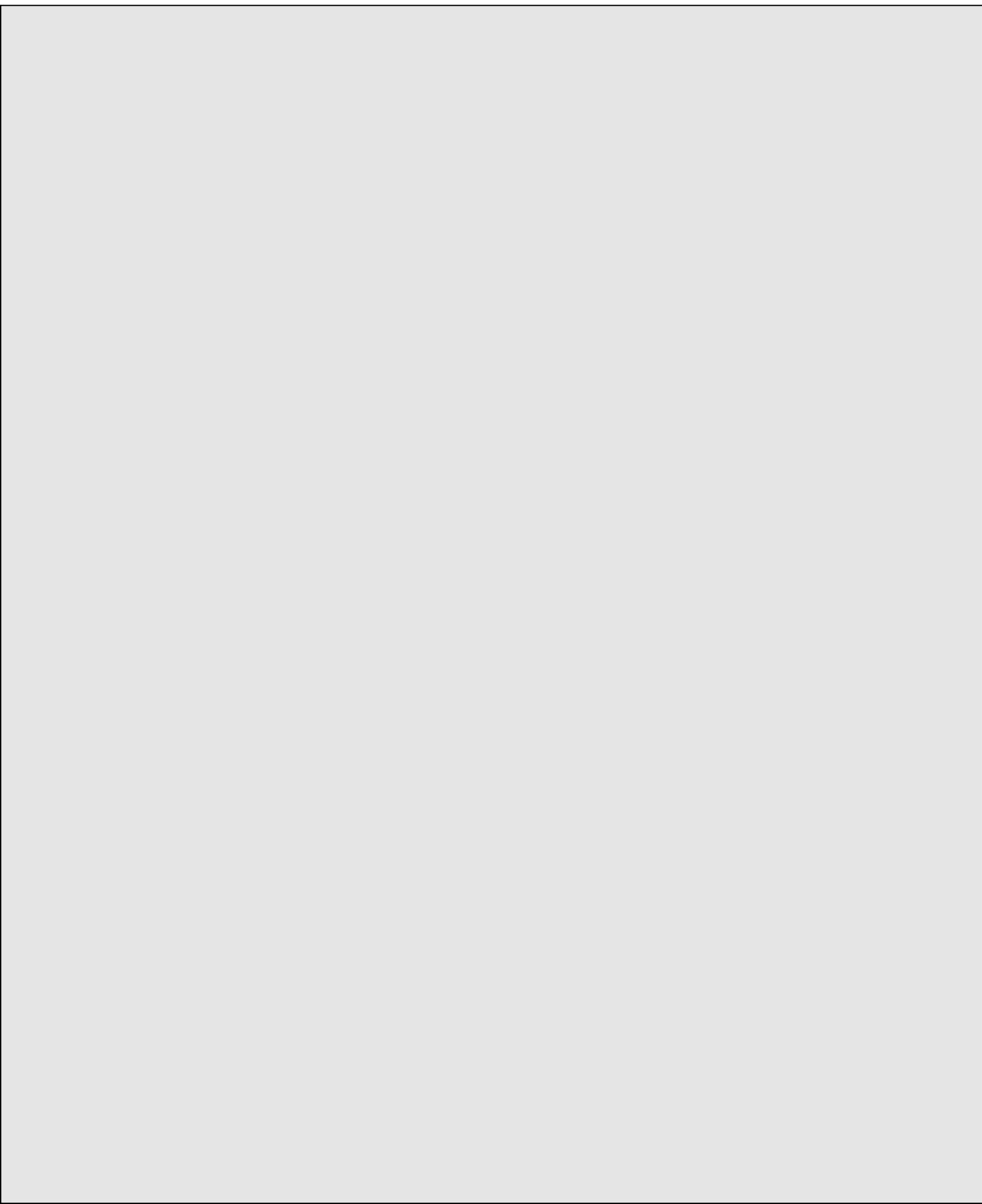
Mondays - *The club will be closed until football season returns.*

Tuesdays - *"Burn your own" will now expand to offer steak, halibut, hamburgers and hot dogs.*

Wednesdays - *Pizza and a movie - fresh pizza available by the slice.*

Thursdays - *"Wild Wings" and members Happy Hour.*

Fridays - *Family member TGIFamily Night. On first Fridays (back by popular demand) food will be back starting April 5, bring the family and enjoy.*



Non-business Barstow Log Classified ads are free for base employees and active or retired service members and their family members. Non-business ads may be submitted to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

Call (661) 945-5634 to place business-related ads.

2001 HONDA CBR 929: Low mileage, xlt cond \$9,500, OBO. Call 252-1502.

1997 FORD 350 DUALY: Crew cab, XLT package, automatic, diesel, long bed, camper shell, new tires/rims and windshield, power everything, tinted windows, sliding rear window, \$16,500 firm. Call 253-2133.

1992 CHEVY 2500 SILVERADO PICK-UP: Automatic, extended cab, long bed w/bed liner, heat and A/C, power windows and locks, tilt steering wheel, cruise control, AM/FM cassette, tow package, blue book list at \$9,690 asking \$6,800 OBO. Call 252-8839.

1987 HONDA PRELUDE: 2.0 SI, 5spd, clean inside, and outside, fully loaded, CD player, premium wheels, \$2,400, OBO. Contact Tom at 559-8461 during the evening.

1987 NISSAN SENTRA: 5 speed, new engine, new tires, A/C and heat. \$1,500. Call 255-4339.

1983 EL CAMINO: 305 engine, AT, A/C, PW, PDLK, rear air shocks, CC, camper shell, good tires and wheels, body in good cond \$2,500. OBO. Call 255-4205 lv. msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: 5 polished 15 x 7, six-lug steel wheels from 94 Nissan 4x4, \$100. Call 253-3081 lv. msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dining room set, table with six chairs xlt Cond \$300, OBO. Must see to appreciate. Call 256-1430 AWH.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: Sofa, color is gray and white w/delicate yellow flowers, xlt cond, \$250, OBO. Call 256-1430 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Golf clubs/bag, never used \$115. Call 256-0924, AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Metal detectors, White's Surfmaster, P.I., fully waterproof, \$425; Fisher 1266X, xlt cond, \$400; White's Goldmaster 4B, nearly new \$450; refrigerator G.E. frost free, 18 cu. ft. xlt cond, \$175. Call 256-6629 for more information.

MISCELLANEOUS: Bundy Trumpet, a few dents, good for the beginning student, \$50; Bundy Trumpet, xlt cond, \$130; Bundy Flute, xlt cond, \$150; Yamaha Piccolo, used 3 months, xlt cond, \$220. Call 256-0924.

MISCELLANEOUS: 700R trans, \$125; turbo 400, \$100; Chev. Overhead air hoist half ton \$50.

MISCELLANEOUS: Chair, computer desk, black leather, \$20; rocker chair, teal green and recliner, beige, \$20. Call 256-2434.

MISCELLANEOUS: Bed twin size, wooden frame with two drawers for clothes at bottom, \$60; chair, computer desk, black leather, \$20; chair, swivel rocking, teal green \$20, rocker/recliner, beige, \$20. Call 256-2434.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dining room table w/4 chairs and 1 leaf, Oak and white finish, \$75. Call 256-0924.

MISCELLANEOUS: Golf clubs, bag and accessories, new, \$125; Corvair engine, \$125; Volkswagen, all 4 Mag rims, \$55; aluminum awning for carport or patio \$110, Ford Ranger tailgate, \$55. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: RCA DVD Player with remote \$100; external 250 meg zip drive parallel \$150; 15" computer monitor SVGA \$30; bed frame steel, queen size \$15. Call 252-7789 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Total Gym 1100DLX with accessories, \$600, OBO; NordicTrack V940 elliptical trainer, \$300; high quality treadmill, \$400 OBO, Call 447-1452. (PCS sale).

PETS: Free Springer Spaniel, house trained or outside, very good with children young and old. Call 252-1686.

THANK YOU: Thank you to all my friends and co-workers for the prayers, support and gifts following the recent loss of my father. He was a great man and will be missed very much. Again, thank you and God bless. Nancy Johnson and family.

