

# BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 5

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

February 6, 2003

## Super Bowl just a game

A sports writer for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch puts the game in perspective.

Page 2

## Sonic Booms

Recent rise in booms a result of more Air Force F-22 Raptor testing.

Page 3

## African-American History Month

The observance of this month is recognized by the Marine Corps.

Page 4

## Ready, Front

Marine of the Quarter steps ahead of his peers.

Page 6

## Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

# Auto theft suspects caught by PMO

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt  
Editor

Two military policemen and a Criminal Investigation Division agent arrested two suspects for grand theft auto at the Tees & Trees Golf Course Jan. 28 at 2 a.m.

Lance Cpl. Michael Ojeda, military policeman for the Provost Marshals Office, was doing a routine perimeter security check at the water treatment facility on Golf Course Road when he came across a suspicious scene.

"I was doing a perimeter patrol and found an abandoned vehicle," said Ojeda. "I saw the vehicle had been stripped of its battery, and it just didn't look right."

Sgt. John Williamson, watch commander for the Provost Marshals Office, was called out to the scene, as well as Agent Cory Eads, criminal investigator for CID.

"A truck had driven through the gate and busted the lock off," said Eads. "The hood was up and some of the parts had been stripped and some of the panels on the inside had been ripped off."

Upon further inspection, the MPs found out more about the vehicle.

"We ran the VIN numbers and the vehicle came back reported stolen," said Ojeda.

Following the proper procedures, the MPs were hit with another situation.

"I was about to process the scene when Williamson was headed back to base, where he spotted another vehicle," said Eads.

The vehicle then tried to get away.

"As soon as the [suspects] saw Williamson's patrol car, they turned their lights off and tried to take off without Williamson seeing them," said Eads. "He called in a suspicious vehicle trying to get away from him, and Ojeda and I jumped in a vehicle and went in pursuit."

Not knowing exactly where the suspects were, Ojeda and Eads flew down Golf Course Road. Going toward where the call came from, they ran up on the suspects.

"He was in the roadway in front of us and saw us coming, so he turned on his lights," said Eads. "The guy tried to turn around, so Ojeda pulled in front of him and blocked him from getting away."

Having his escape route blocked, the driver tried to make it on his feet.



Photo by Agent Cory Eads

This vehicle was found abandoned at the Water Treatment Facility during routine security checks by Lance Cpl. Michael Ojeda, military policeman.

"Ojeda and I got out, and then the driver slung his door open and started getting out, so Ojeda and I drew down on him," said Eads.

Stopping the suspect at gunpoint, the MPs made their move to secure the scene.

"The passenger was just sitting there, acting totally out of it, not acknowledging anything I said, and playing with something in his hands," said Eads. "I went around and threw his door open myself and got him out of the car."

After both suspects had been extracted from the vehicle, help arrived.

"As soon as we got them out of the

vehicle, Williamson showed up and assisted us with separating them and searching them," said Eads.

Once the suspects were under control, the situation became more intriguing.

"While I was asking them questions, Ojeda and Williamson did a plain view search of the vehicle and saw panels ripped off and the truck was running without any keys in the ignition," said Eads. "As soon as I found that out, we handcuffed them and called CHP"

See PMO Page 5

# Marine advances in 'American Idol' contest

By Staff Sgt. Chad McMeen  
USMC Motion Picture and TV Liaison Office

HOLLYWOOD – Lance Cpl. Joshua Gracin, 22, is one step closer to his dream of becoming the next "American Idol" after his Jan. 29 performance on Fox television. Before his first appearance on the evening of Jan. 22, Gracin was just another kid with some talent, but now he finds himself among the final 32 contestants and poised to become the next "American Idol."

"A lot of opportunities came my way when I was younger but, because I was the typical teenager who never followed through, I never took advantage of them. This was one opportunity that I could not pass up," explained Gracin, originally from Westland, Mich. "When I first went to Los Angeles for the auditions, I could not believe the amount of people behind me in line. I believe there was something like 11,000 total just in Los Angeles. By the time the first round



Official USMC Photo

Lance Cpl. Joshua Gracin stands poised to move on to the next round of American Idol.

was all over, I believe more than 50,000 people had auditioned."

In the first round, Gracin was one of 40 contestants selected from the Los Angeles auditions to advance. The first auditions were held on a weekend. According to Gracin, the chances of advancing were astronomical, so

he decided not to inform his command until he knew the outcome.

"Once I had made the initial cut, I spoke to my wife about the pros and cons of continuing in the competition," said Gracin of this new experience. "What kind of image I was going to give the Marine Corps, because I'm not just another singer stepping on the stage and representing themselves and their families — I'm here representing the whole Marine Corps. So the pressure is on me to represent them well."

He made the decision to continue in the competition and explained the situation to his command and also spoke to the lawyers on base. According to Capt. Alison Salerno, public affairs officer for 1st Force Service Support Group at Camp Pendleton, despite erroneous reports published earlier, he is assigned to a section not currently scheduled to deploy. Furthermore, the Marine Corps appreciates the level of talent the Marine possesses and recognizes the benefits of allowing him to continue com-

peting on the program.

"My command has been behind me 100 percent and there is no way to describe how helpful that has been through this whole process," exclaimed Gracin. "From my platoon sergeant all the way up to my battalion commander, I have received nothing but support."

Gracin was able to secure a spot in the final 32 during his Jan. 29 performance and will move on to the next phase of competition in "American Idol."

"All this stuff was happening around me and I had so many things going through my mind and then I started thinking about my Marine Corps training, and it all came back," said Gracin. "Once I calmed down and assessed the situation, I realized that nothing is harder than what I had already been through (recruit training)."

With millions of television viewers watching each step of the competition, this maintenance supply Marine

See IDOL Page 8

# Super Bowl battle dwarfed by what band of brothers face

By **Bryan Burwell**  
Post-Dispatch Sports Columnist

SAN DIEGO - It was just around midnight Jan. 21, and the outdoor courtyard at Dick's Last Resort was throbbing with the rowdy energy of a spring break bacchanal. There was loud rock music blaring out of the stereo speakers, and the air was filled with the distinct and somewhat revolting aroma of deep-fried bar food, cigarette smoke and spilled beer.

Dick's is the sort of bar-restaurant ideally suited for Super Bowl week mischief, because it has a down-and-dirty roadhouse feel to it. The waiters, waitresses and bartenders are charmingly rude, and the wood floors are covered with sand and all sorts of indistinguishable debris.

The clientele on this evening is a fascinating mix of 20-something college kids, 30-something conventioners and 40-something Super Bowl high-rollers.

Yet there was one table in Dick's courtyard that Tuesday night was noticeably different from the others. There were six young men at the table and one young woman, and while they were drinking like everyone else in the room, there was something all too serious going on at this table that let you know that their thoughts were a long way from the mindless frivolity of Super Bowl week.

Maybe it was the close-cropped "barracks haircuts" that gave them away. All the men's heads were cut in that familiar look of a professional soldier, skin-close on the sides, and on top a tight shock of hair that resembled new shoe-brush

bristles.

"We're Marines," one man told me. "And tomorrow we're boarding a ship for ... well ... I really can't tell you where, but you know."

Of course we knew. In less than an hour, they would report back to a ship docked along the Southern California coast, then on Jan. 29 head across the Pacific Ocean, bound for a potential war in Iraq. So this was no Super Bowl party for them. This was their last night out on the town. One Marine was saying goodbye to his wife. The others were not so lucky. They all just sat around the table, throwing back beers and wrestling with the sobering uncertainty of the rest of their lives.

"We're going to war and none of us knows if we're ever coming back," said another Ma-

rine, a 28-year-old from Southern Illinois. They all requested that I not use their names. "Just tell 'em we're the men of (Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 39)," they said.

On Super Bowl Sunday, the men of MALS 39 will be watching the game from the mess hall of their ship. "That is, if we're lucky and the weather is good and it doesn't interfere with the satellite signal," said the Marine with the bald head and burnt-orange shirt. "But I gotta tell you, I'm not that big a sports fan anymore. It's going to be the first pro football game I've watched in ... I can't even remember."

Why is that?

"Well, here's my problem with pro sports today,"

See **DWARFED** Page 8

## Character overcomes conflict

By **Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood**  
Base Chaplain



Conflict comes in many ways, shapes, and forms, but it doesn't seem to come to us all. We are all mindful of qualities of conflict as we pause to reflect on world events and the possibility of war once again visiting our planet.

There are wars or conflicts that we can many times do something about. We can certainly have our voices heard, but there are other times we can actually do more.

Usually, when there is a conflict it is about freedom from some kind of oppression or tyranny that would compromise our way of life on either a global or personal scale. We fight hard to win the conflicts and we rejoice in great victory and mourn the losses.

What I would like to focus on this week are the battles that we fight on a personal level. I want to write about those since those are things we can do something about in a very tangible way.

When I think of battles, I think of things like alcoholism, tobacco addiction, over-eating disorders and things like that. Certainly there are many other kinds of battles that we fight and this is in no

way an exhaustive list, rather it presents the idea.

After we have fought hard to overcome such significant personal problems and have suffered through the pain and disruption of treatment, it seems as though many times we fall back into the same patterns and attitudes that got us into difficulty in the first place. We find ourselves in the same places doing the same things and falling back into the same lifestyle that brought us the discomfort and led us into our personal battles at the start.

I am reminded of an ancient writer who said some very eloquent words that I would like to pass on in case you have not heard them before. They may just offer the strength and enlightenment that will help us all to avoid the same familiar pitfalls we have stumbled into on our life journeys.

The writer says, "We have been set free. Therefore, stand firm and do not submit to the yoke of slavery. ... You were doing well, what prevented you from obeying the truth?" Some great words, words that sometimes sting us into action, but also words that reveal to us that the opportunity is ours to remain free of the things that enslave us.

We are the people in charge of our lives and with the help of our God and those around us we can see the way clear to avoiding those things which are detrimental to our lives and our souls.

Peace,  
Fr Randel

## Just doing my job ...

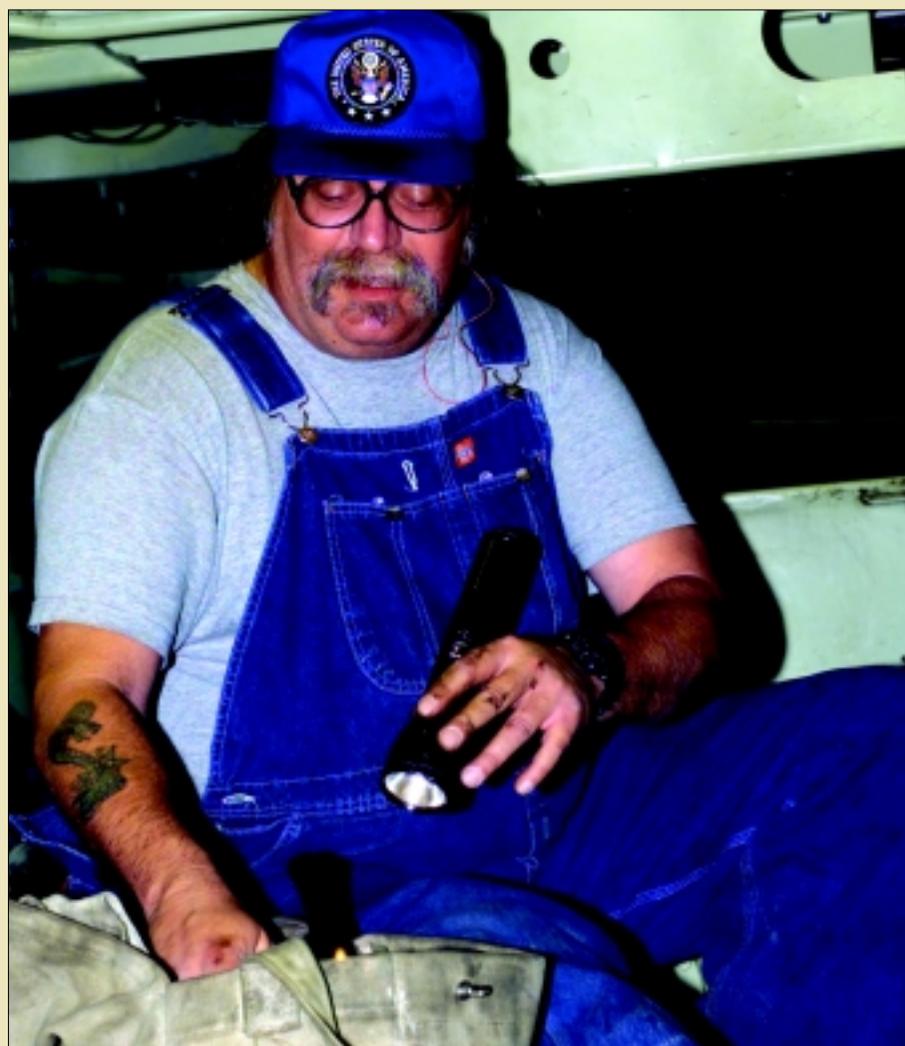


Photo by Rob L. Jackson

Mike Jennings, heavy mobile equipment mechanic, Cost Work Center 713, Maintenance Center Barstow, digs in his tool bag for a specific item to help with the tear down of a Light Armored Vehicle. Jennings has been with the Maintenance Center for about seven years, and prior to moving to the LAV shop he worked on the HMMVVs.

### 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.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Ingrid E. Bergman, Commanding Officer



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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 Thursdays for the next week's issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to [editor@barstow.usmc.mil](mailto:editor@barstow.usmc.mil).

## Sonic booms increase

The recent increase in sonic booms through the high desert is from current high-speed testing of the F/A-22 Raptor at Edwards Air Force Base in Palmdale, Calif.

"The increased flights are a new but normal phase in testing the aircraft," according to base spokesman, Dennis Shoffner.

The Raptor is tested in the Black Mountain Supersonic Corridor near Barstow.

"Normally, these types of tests are conducted over the ocean, where residents wouldn't be disturbed," said Lt. Col. Chris Short, 411th Flight Test Squadron operations officer at Edwards. However, weather conditions made it impossible to fly over the water recently."

Sonic booms are the explosive sounds that result when cone-shaped shock waves caused by an airplane traveling at super sonic speeds touch the ground.

"The explosive sounds, or

booms, travel through the air much like the wakes or trails left in the water by a boat," said Shoffner. "The corridor doesn't include flights over Barstow, but the sounds are heard there because for every 1,000 feet an aircraft is in the air the shock waves travel out a mile in diameter."

"We're very aware of the impact our testing can have on the local populace, and we're very sensitive to the disruption it can have on folks. This (conducting supersonic testing over land) is our last option," Short said.

The F-22 Raptor is designed to replace the aging F-15C aircraft. It combines stealth technology and the ability to fight air-to air as well as air-to-ground.

For more information, or to report possible damage caused by noise and sonic booms, call the Air Force Flight Test Center public Affairs office at (661) 277-3517.

points are scheduled for Victorville at the IHOP at 7 a.m. and MCLB Barstow at the Building 319 parking lot at 8 a.m. Departure time from Laughlin will be approximately 8 hours after arrival.

Games and a movie will be provided during the trip. Participants may bring foods, snacks and drinks. However, no alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the bus.

Deadline for sign up is the close of business Feb. 18. Contact the following CWRA committee members for reservations:

- |                     |          |
|---------------------|----------|
| Fred Molino         | 577-7210 |
| Bruce Rowe          | 577-7207 |
| Earnest Garrett     | 577-6940 |
| Dan Keirn           | 577-6614 |
| Barbara Kent        | 577-7786 |
| Wrayanne Huddleston | 577-6506 |
| Ed Guz              | 577-6183 |
| Cliff Acles         | 577-6431 |
| Earnest Hawkins     | 577-7046 |
| Rich Tusing         | 577-6492 |
| Vince Chavez        | 577-7580 |
| Barbara Kulseth     | 577-6771 |
| Tangia Joseph       | 577-7230 |

### Leave Transfer Program

Lester Brown, Maintenance Center Barstow, has been affected by a medical emergency. Anyone desiring to donate leave under the leave sharing program may obtain a leave donor application through his or her division/center administrative officer. For more information, contact Pat Snyder at 577-7284.

### Key Volunteer and Ombudsman meeting

Key Volunteer and Navy Ombudsman Meetings are scheduled for Feb. 12 at 4:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club. The scheduled guest speaker is Dr. David Nieman, Personal Services Division, who will speak on the stresses and support of dealing with deployments. All military and civilian spouses are invited to attend. Call



the Base Family Readiness Officer for more information at 577-6556.

### 40-mile racers sought

Break out the running shoes and get ready for the 8th Annual Veteran's Home Relay Run scheduled for March 22. The course is a grueling 40-mile stretch that starts at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin's fitness center and ends at the Veterans Home of California-Barstow. The event is a team relay race where each team member will run a two-mile leg.

Whether using the run to represent MCLB Barstow, get in shape for the PFT, support the local community, or just for the fun of it, all participants are welcome.

MCLB is slated to field two teams - Gold and Scarlet. The Gold team will be the competitive entry, and the Scarlet team will be the recreational entry.

Any MCLB Barstow Marine or sailor is welcome to join. For more information, contact 1st Lt. Jason Kut, MCLB team coordinator at 577-7611.

### Blood Drive scheduled

A blood drive will be held Feb 25 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Base Gym, Building 44 on Nebo, and at Yermo from 11:30 to 3 p.m. at the Maintenance Center in Building T598. For more information or to sign up, contact your respective division administrative officer.

### Meetings combined

Parent Advisory Board, Mayor's Meeting and Town Hall Meeting have all been combined into one meeting. Anyone having questions, comments or concerns about a variety of issues,

whether it is school bus stops, housing, MCCS related or anything else related to the local community or base that needs to be addressed, this is the forum for it. Initially, monthly meetings are planned until further notice.

The first "combined" Town Hall Meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Youth Activity Center. The meetings will be held every third Wednesday of the month. Initial point of contact for this meeting is the Base executive officer's secretary at 577-6556.

### Civilian Service Pin authorized

The commandant of the Marine Corps has authorized the creation and distribution of a Marine Corps Civilian Service Pin. This pin will identify employees as Civilian Marines and serve as a visible expression of the appreciation for their hard work and sacrifice for the Marine Corps.

It is Gen. Michael W. Hagee's intention that the Civilian Marine service pin is given to each Civilian Marine from entry level to senior executive service.

The pins are now available, and distribution can be arranged through the Human Resources Office beginning in February. The pin will be issued to new employees when they have completed orientation or to current employees upon certification of their years of service to the Marine Corps.

The Marine Corps Civilian Service Pin is to be worn by all Civilian Marines with honor and in the knowledge the Marine Corps is a better organization because of their contributions and dedication.

### African-American History month luncheon

The Black Employment Program Committee is scheduled to host its annual African-American History Month Luncheon on Feb 20 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club. Guest speaker slated for this event is Maj. Vincent Applewhite, director, Fleet Support Division.

Luncheon menu includes: fried chicken, black eyed peas, collard greens, corn bread and coffee or tea. The cost is \$7.50, and the last date to get tickets is Feb. 12. For tickets or more information, contact the following individuals:

- |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------|
| Robin Cross-Walker | 577-6395 |
| Marva Johnson      | 577-6965 |
| Brenda Mathews     | 577-6230 |
| Toni Gentry-Irvin  | 577-7261 |

- |                            |          |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Gunnery Sgt. Bruce Raymond | 577-6364 |
| Odis Gentry                | 577-6002 |
| Edward Virgil              | 577-7118 |
| Clarence Green             | 577-6047 |
| Gunnery Sgt. Craig Stanley | 577-6003 |
| Ed Tintos                  | 577-7126 |

### Sweetheart Trip to Laughlin

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association is sponsoring a Sweetheart trip to Laughlin, Nev., Feb. 22. The cost of the trip is \$20 per person and is payable when reservations are made.

Participants will receive a ticket booklet, and \$10.00 will be returned to each person upon arrival at the Golden Nugget in Laughlin. Pickup

## Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-111-03-NR	Family Services Counselor GS-0101-11	01-10-03	02-10-03	01-14-03	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 326, 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.donhr.navy.mil>.

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

# African American History Month

## MARADMIN 35/03 Headquarters Marine Corps

The 77th annual observance of African American Heritage Month is celebrated during the month of February 2003. This year's theme, "The souls of black folk: centennial reflections," incorporates the title of W.E.B. Dubois' work in African American literature examining the years following the Civil War and the role of the Freedmen's Bureau in reconstruction.

Dr. Carter G. Woodson established Negro History Week in 1926 to celebrate African American contributions to American history. He chose the second week in February for many reasons; one being Feb. 12, 1865, when slaves received word of the signing of the 13th Amendment abolishing slavery. Negro History week became African American Heritage Month in 1976.

Today, we commemorate the selflessness, resourceful, and determined efforts of African Americans to improve the way of

life for themselves and future generations of Americans.

African Americans are an integral part of our country's history and have made significant contributions to our national legacy. History hails the sacrifices of the Buffalo Soldiers, heroes from World War II and the Montford Point Marines. Thousands of African American Marines have contributed to the heritage of our Corps, our country and the African American community. The Marine Corps continues to benefit today from the leadership examples of Marines like Lt. Gen. Frank E. Petersen, the first African American Marine aviator; Frederick C. Branch, the first African American commissioned Marine officer; Sgt. Maj. Alford McMichael, the first African American sergeant major of the Marine Corps. The Marine Corps also continues to contribute to America by transitioning retired Marines to serve society, Marines like retired Maj. Gen. Clifford S. Stanley, the executive vice president at the University of Pennsylvania.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

MCLB Barstow's winners of \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bonds from the Marine Corps Super Star Student Program. Seventeen-year-old Leilani Gutierrez, a 12th grader, is holding her bond with her parents, Ramon and Angie Gutierrez to her left; and 12-year-old Kyle Stevens, a 7th grader, shows his bond with his parents, CWO Scott and Deanna Stevens to his right. Gutierrez won her savings bond on Dec. 31, and Stevens scratched his lucky ticket on Jan. 21.

# Scholarships for Military Children a sweet deal

By Bonnie Powell  
DeCA Public Affairs

FORT LEE, Va. – Valentine's Day is fast approaching, and the Scholarships for Military Children program has a really "sweet" deal for military children going to college this fall.

Applications for \$1,500 scholarships are due in at the nearest commissary by Feb. 21, just after Valentine's Day. At least one scholarship will be awarded at every commissary location with qualified applicants.

"We've made it even easier to apply this year," said program liaison Edna Hoogewind of the Defense Commissary Agency. "Everything a potential applicant needs to know is in the Frequently Asked Questions section of our scholarship page at [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com). The application can be downloaded and filled out by hand, or filled out on the computer and saved as a file. Copies of the application are also available at commissaries worldwide."

The scholarship essay topic is "How has being the child of a military service member influenced your educational

goals?" In past years the essay has been a key factor, along with activities and community involvement, in deciding among the many outstanding applicants.

"Remember, the deadline for returning applications by hand or mail to a commissary is Feb. 21," said Hoogewind. "Applications must be in the store by close of business on that day, and if you are not hand-delivering your application, it's a good idea to use a delivery method that supplies a return receipt. Commissaries will bundle up the applications and send them to Scholarship Managers as soon as the deadline passes," said Hoogewind. "Scholarship Managers will only acknowledge final receipt of the applications if students include a self-addressed and stamped post card with their applications."

Hoogewind also advises students to check all their materials carefully for simple things – like making sure the application is signed or that they are using the 2003 application, not one from previous years.

The scholarship program is open to unmarried children under the age of 21 (23 if enrolled in school) of active-duty

personnel, Reserve, Guard and retired military. Eligibility will be determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS) database. Applicants should ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are currently enrolled in the DEERS database and that they have a current ID card. All applicants must be citizens of the United States.

The applicant must be planning to attend, or already attending, an accredited college or university full-time in the fall term of 2003. Students at community or junior colleges must be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program. Additional instructions can be found on the application.

Fisher House Foundation, a non-profit organization best known for building comfort homes near military medical facilities, administers the Scholarships for Military Children program. Fisher House Foundation uses the services of Scholarship Managers, a professional firm that has handled more than 400 programs, to screen applicants and award scholarships. Neither Fisher House nor DeCA are involved in the

decision process.

The Scholarships for Military Children program has awarded 920 scholarships and nearly \$1.5 million since the first awards were given in 2001. Scholarships are funded through the voluntary donations of the various manufacturers, brokers and suppliers that sell products in commissaries.

The Defense Commissary Agency operates nearly 280 commissaries worldwide, providing groceries to military personnel, retirees and their families. Authorized commissary patrons purchase items at cost plus a 5-percent surcharge, which covers costs of building new commissaries and modernizing existing ones. Shoppers save an average of more than 30 percent on their purchases compared to commercial prices – savings worth more than \$2,400 annually for a family of four.

A core military family support element and a valued part of military pay and benefits, commissaries contribute to family readiness, enhance the quality of life for America's military and their families, and help recruit and retain the best and brightest men and women to serve their country.

## PMO from Page 1

Once CHP showed up, the MPs finally found out what they had uncovered.

"The first truck was reported stolen the morning prior out of Barstow, and the truck they were in was later reported stolen out of Hinkley," said Eads.

Maj. Lawrence Casserly, base provost marshal, was impressed by the correct and swift action his MPs took.

"They did everything by the numbers," said Casserly. "It was as good as you could expect Marines to do, so I am very proud of them."

Considering the responsibility given to these Marines at such a young age, Casserly was pleased with the professionalism in which they handled the situation.

"Those Marines are under the age of 25," said Casserly. "You look at the average age of a civilian police officer, it's at least 30 to 35, so even though they don't have a high level of experience, they handled the situation like veterans."

# READY, FRONT

Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

## MOQ enjoys challenge of competing on boards

By Sgt. Joseph Lee  
BARSTOW LOG staff

In the life of a military policeman, there is little room for error. Little room for imperfection or deficiency, blame or excuses. Unfortunately, the same life that has the potential for danger and excitement is also filled with the seemingly unending boredom of monotonous protocol.

This life is exactly what one K-9 handler for the provost marshals office joined the Marine Corps for, and he's even found a way to use the inevitable down time for his own gain.

"I practice drill," said Lance Cpl. Darin L. Cleveringa, K-9 handler for the provost marshals office and the base's most recent Marine of the Quarter. "People probably think I'm crazy out at the gate marching myself in circles and screaming out cadences, and I feel sorry for the people staying at the Pennywise Inn that are still trying to figure out what a 'right flank' is."

Cleveringa, who was surprised to find that his name was submitted to compete in the Jan. 23 Marine of the Quarter board, accepted the challenge in stride with the support of his peers to motivate him to victory.

"Lance Corporal [Michael] Ojeda said that I'd suffer the consequences if I didn't win, so I guess you could say that I was inspired by everyone's expectations," said Cleveringa. "I had to win."

The board began with a physical fitness test first thing in the morning.

"I knew I would do well on the PFT, as I always do," he said. "I actually wasn't expecting a PFT, but I was ready anyway."

Following the PFT, the competing Marines stood tall in their service Alpha uniforms for inspection, and changed back into utilities to conduct a series of close order drill movements on the parade deck.

"I really need to thank the Marines on the gates with me late at night who helped me learn as much as I did about drill," said Cleveringa. "If it wasn't for their



Photo by Curt Lambert

Lance Cpl. Darin Cleveringa

willingness to look crazy with me, I'm not sure if I would have gotten in the practice."

The PFT, inspection and drill are scored and combined with a basic score derived from a review of their service record books, according to Gunnery Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda, Headquarters Battalion first sergeant. Then the competitors are interviewed by the board and asked

questions dealing with basic military knowledge and history.

"He hit all the high notes," said Vanfonda. "He simply surpassed the [six other Marines]."

A high note indeed, but surely not his highest as this young Marine is just starting a future in law enforcement.

"I plan on staying in law enforcement," said Cleveringa. "I'm either going up to Sacramento [Calif.] to work with my brother who is a police officer for Sacramento P.D., or in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, which is a little closer to home."

As far as the near future goes, he shows no intention of slowing down.

"I'm starting to like the challenges that going on boards give me and I'm ready for more," said Cleveringa. "Dish it out, I can take it!"

With his new taste for success, he should be a good addition to the K-9 department, which is home of the Non-commissioned Officer of the Quarter.

"I look forward to working with him, as he is obviously a Marine who will al-

ways give 100 percent," said Cpl. Joseph Evans, K-9 handler for the provost marshals office.

"Cleveringa is and was a prime candidate for a board, because he's been doing his job in an exemplary manner," said Master Sgt. Richard Holman, base provost sergeant. "I don't have to worry about him, because he does his job the correct way all of the time."

According to Holman, Cleveringa was originally trained as a K-9 handler, and due to the lack of dogs available on the base, he was working on the road and at the gates.

"Now that we have a dog for him to handle, we're getting him the time he needs to do the job he was trained to do," said Holman.

According to Holman, what began as a new experience for Cleveringa, has now turned into one more thing he does well.

"Even if you fall on your face trying, you just have to remember you're still falling forward not backward," said Cleveringa.

## Promotions and Awards

January and February 2003

### Promotions

- Sgt. Cory R. Eads
- Sgt. Carlos E. Barrientos
- Cpl. James Castro
- Cpl. Joshua M. Ackerman
- Cpl. Hilda Heads
- Cpl. Jesse S. Madrid
- Cpl. Gregory M. Modestin
- Lance Cpl. James K. Hainer
- Lance Cpl. Christopher L. Moore

### Certificate of Good Conduct

- Cpl. Joshua R. Barnhardt
- Cpl. Brandy R. Colbird
- Lance Cpl. Steven L. Colbird
- Lance Cpl. Amy L. Hadeen
- Lance Cpl. Chuen W. Lam

### Certificate of Commendation

- Sgt. Carlos E. Barrientos

- Cpl. Christopher Barrera
- Lance Cpl. Jason D. Martinez

### Letter of Appreciation

- Gunnery Sgt. Joseph E. Daquila
- Gunnery Sgt. Braderick Buford
- Staff Sgt. Christian D. Galbraith
- Sgt. Giovanni E. Valladeres
- Sgt. Joseph H. Wynne
- Cpl. Sara B. Desautels
- Cpl. Jaime L. Lugo
- Lance Cpl. David L. Buls
- Lance Cpl. Daniel S. Humble
- Lance Cpl. Angel A. Jaquez
- Lance Cpl. Matthew T. Kogut
- Lance Cpl. Jesse S. Madrid
- Lance Cpl. Randol B. McKenzie
- Lance Cpl. Joshua J. Pascua
- Lance Cpl. Peter S. Vegliante
- Pfc. Jeremy L. Scroggins
- Pfc. Chad E. Gecht

## Summary of Courts Martial

A Marine from Headquarters Battalion was convicted in a special court martial of two counts of Article 92, and one count of Article 134 of the UCMJ. The Marine was sentenced to be confined for a period of 12 months, to be reduced to the pay grade of E-1, to forfeit \$767 pay per month for 12 months, and to be discharged with a bad-conduct discharge.

A Marine from Headquarters Battalion was convicted in a special court martial of one count of Article 80, one count of Article 86, one count of Article 92, and two counts of Article 121 of the UCMJ. The Marine was sentenced to nine months confinement, reduced to the pay grade of E-1, to forfeit \$737 pay per month for nine months and to be discharged with a bad-conduct discharge.

## Secretary of Defense speaks on global war on terrorism

By Donald Rumsfeld  
Secretary of Defense

For more than a year, the brave men and women of the U.S. military, together with their civilian counterparts in the Department of Defense — have been working to preserve peace and defend freedom against terrorist forces and those who would harbor and protect them around the world.

To each of you, and your families, we express our profound gratitude and appreciation for the risks you undertake and the sacrifices you make so that all Americans can enjoy the blessings of freedom.

This war, as the president has said, is not one of our making. It was thrust upon us.

We act in self-defense - in deliberate response to acts of war directed against the American people, and to prevent future acts from claiming even more innocent life.

We are engaged in a global war, and it is being waged on many fronts using all the instruments of national power.

In recent weeks and months, the president has called the world's attention to Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq. He has rallied the United Nations to enforce its resolutions calling for the regime's disarmament.

To assist this diplomatic offensive and to preserve future options, adjustments to current mobilization, deployment and rotation cycles may be necessary, adjustments that may mean longer tours of duty than you may have expected.

While the times, places, and conditions of deployment cannot now be precisely known, we do recognize the uncertainty these circumstances may create for those in uniform, the civilians who work beside them, and the families and loved ones, without whose support their sacrifices would not be possible.

**We are engaged in a global war, and it is being waged on many fronts**

Donald Rumsfeld



Official DOD Photo

Donald Rumsfeld

I know the secretaries and chiefs of the military services are communicating with you in greater detail about these matters, but I want you to know that understanding the impacts of these deployments is important to us.

Be assured that the president will not decide to commit forces unless conditions require it, and only as a last resort.

Should action be necessary, you will have what you need to carry out the missions assigned. Thank you for all you do for our nation and the world.

# Around the Corps



Photo by Cpl. Paula Fitzgerald

Two CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters receive fuel from a C-130 Hercules airplane while each carries two high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles during an aerial refueling exercise Jan. 30. The helicopters belong to Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772, a reserve squadron from Willow Grove, Pa., currently attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in support of the war against terrorism.

## *HMH-772 gets 'gassed' in Djiboutian skies*

By Cpl. Paula Fitzgerald  
Combined Joint Task Force

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti - Two CH-53Es from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 772 demonstrated their capabilities by "gassing up" in mid-air while carrying two high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicles (HMMWV's) during an aerial refueling exercise Jan. 30 in the skies over Djibouti.

The squadron is based in Willow Grove, Pa., and currently attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in support of the global war against terrorism.

"The purpose of the long-range raid with external load exercise was to demonstrate the capabilities of the CH-53," said Maj. Andrew Seay, a CH-53 pilot and division leader.

The CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter is capable of lifting 16 tons of equipment, transporting it 57.5 miles and returning to its base. However, with aerial refueling, the helicopter's maximum range is nearly unlimited.

Seay, a Vernon, Ala., native, explained that organizing an exercise of this magnitude is logistically challenging because there are many moving parts.

"It can be difficult trying to get a C-130 (Air Force C-130 Hercules

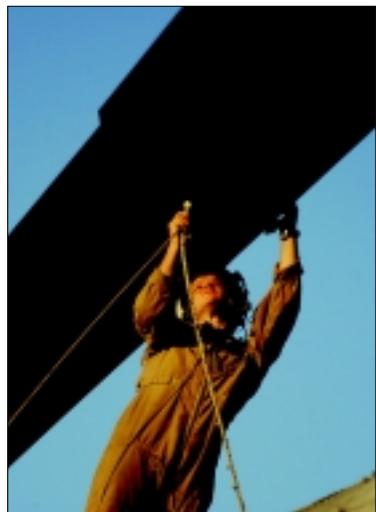


Photo by Cpl. Paula Fitzgerald

Columbia, S.C., native, Lance Cpl. Andrew Peterson, a crew chief from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 772, helps secure a CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter after an aerial refueling exercise Jan. 30. HMH-772 is a reserve squadron from Willow Grove, Pa., and is currently attached to the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

airplane) and Humvees to work with, but the Army has been really great about lending us Humvees to carry," he said.

For many of the pilots and aircrew, this marked the first time they had ever done this kind of training.

Staff Sgt. Joe D. Starkey, a crewchief from Tecumseh, Mich., stated, "This was pretty amazing because we've done a lot of aerial refueling training and a lot of external load training, but this was really the first time we've put the two together."

During the evolution, Starkey and his fellow crewchiefs provided extra eyes to the pilots in order to keep track of the other helicopters during flight and any other threats to the Super Stallion. It's also the job of a crewchief to take care of passengers so everyone arrives at the destination safe and sound.

Starkey explained why this training is important, "If there was a real-world situation and a unit needed to get a thousand miles with one-hundred Marines and four Humvees in a timely manner, we could do it with two CH-53s. Aerial refueling really helps because we could fly for as long as needed."

The training was also a learning opportunity for other members of the unit.

"Our aircraft mechanics and the other Marines who keep the birds flying were able to come up with us and see what the CH-53 can do," said Seay. "They have done a really outstanding job keeping the birds in good working order, so this was as much for them as it was for us."



Photo by Cpl. Paula Fitzgerald

An HMH-772 CH-53E Super Stallion helicopter transports two high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles before being refueled by a C-130 Hercules during an aerial refueling exercise Jan. 30.

## DWARFED from Page 2

he said. "I don't care whether it's football, basketball or baseball. Guys are complaining about making \$6 million instead of \$7 million, and what is their job? Playing a damned game. You know what I made last year? I made \$14,000. They pay me \$14,000, and you know what my job description is? I'm paid to take a bullet."

When he said those words, it positively staggered me.

Fourteen thousand dollars to take a bullet.

Not a day goes by that I am not reminded of what a wonderful life I lead. I am paid to write about sports and tell stories on radio and television about the games people play. But sometimes, even in the midst of a grand sporting event, something happens to put the frivolity of sports into its proper perspective, and this was it.

Fourteen thousand dollars to take a bullet.

As I sit here writing from my hotel room, I can look out my balcony window and I see a Navy battleship cutting through the San Diego Bay, heading out to sea. I can see the sailors standing on the deck as the ship sails past Coronado Island, the San Diego Marina and the downtown Seaport

Village, and I wonder if any of the men from MALS 39 are aboard.

It was only 12 hours ago that I was sitting at the table with my guys, buying them beers, and listening to their soldier stories. The Marine from Southern Illinois who sat to my right pointed to the bald Marine in the orange shirt who was seated to my left. "You know, I don't even know this guy, can you believe that? We just met a few hours ago when we came into Dick's. Oh, I've seen him on the base, but I've never met him before tonight. But here's what's so special about that man, and why I love that man. He's my brother. Semper Fi. I know a guy back home, and he is my best friend. I'm 28 years old and we've known each other all our lives. But today, that friend is more of a stranger to me than that Marine sitting over there, who I've never met before tonight. That's why they call it a Band of Brothers."

The little Marine in the orange shirt lifted his glass toward the Marine from Southern Illinois and nodded his head. "That's right," he said. "That's my brother over there, and I'm gonna take a bullet for him if I have to."

He said it with a calm and jolting certainty. There was a moving, but chilling, pride in his words.

All around them, people were drinking, shouting and laughing. The college kids and the conventioners and NFL high-rollers were living the good, carefree life. Across the street, a storefront that was vacant two weeks ago was now filled with \$30 caps, \$400 leather jackets, \$40 mugs and \$27 T-shirts with the fancy blue and yellow Super Bowl XXXVII logo embroidered on it.

From every end of the streets of downtown San Diego's fabled Gaslamp Quarter, Super Bowl revelers toasted the Raiders and the Buccaneers with grog-sized mugs filled with beers and rums. But just around midnight in the middle of the courtyard of Dick's Last Resort, a far more deserving toast was going up to the men of MALS 39. We clicked our glasses together, and a few minutes later, they quietly slipped out the courtyard gates.

Suddenly, the Super Bowl didn't seem so important anymore.

### Editor's Note:

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## IDOL from Page 1

with a little less than three years of service is already starting to be recognized around base and town.

"I wouldn't quite say that I've been given any celebrity status on base. People definitely recognize me, but I think it has been more of a feeling that a recruit has coming into a company, because everyone is bashing me for saluting in civilian attire," said Gracin as he laughed. "Everyone seems to realize that this is a once-in-a-lifetime chance, and I had to have something to set me apart from the other 50,000 people."

According to Gracin, it was suggested just prior to his time in front of the judges that he report in a military fashion to make his audition unique.

"I'm not a very creative person and couldn't come up with anything better and I didn't know of a written order on saluting in civilian attire," said Gracin. "I went in there still not knowing whether I was going to do it or not, and when the door opened it was like something took over my body and

I found myself marching to the spot and saluting Simon. If you remember on the first show, I had a grin on my face and that's because I had just realized I actually was standing there saluting the three judges."

Gracin explained that without the Marine Corps he might have never had this chance and that in addition to the support of his command he has also had the support of his wife, Ann Marie, and his family.

"Just to get to where I'm at now is great! I mean I'd love to go farther, but knowing I'm one of the final 32 out of 50,000 lets me know that I have what it takes to make it out there in the music industry just like anyone else. This opportunity has given me tremendous confidence in my singing ability no matter what the outcome."

In the coming weeks, this group of 32 will be broken down into four groups of eight. Each week a new group will compete. Two singers from each group and two others chosen by the judges will comprise the final 10.



By Jim Gaines  
MCCS Publicity

**Presidents Day Sale**

Starting Feb. 15 and continuing through the month, the Super Seven Day Store Presidents Day Sale will feature great buys with big discounts.

Sales include 20 percent off fragrances and all cameras, 30 percent off sweaters and 40 percent off slacks.

The Super Seven Day Store is open Mondays through Fridays from 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Lunch menu**

Unless otherwise indicated, the lunch menu for the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe are the same.

**Today** – Italian wedding soup with chef salad.

**Friday** – Baked trout with sauted mushrooms and rice pilaf.

**Monday** – Spaghetti, meat sauce, Italian vegetables and garlic bread.

**Tuesday** – Chicken stir fry with steamed jasmine rice.

**Wednesday** – Stuffed pork chops, dressing, mashed potatoes and gravy.

**Thursday** – Hot dogs, relish, bowl of chili, corn bread and french fries.

**Family Night Dining**

**Wednesday** – Meatloaf and gravy, mashed potatoes, tossed green salad, drink of your choice and dessert.

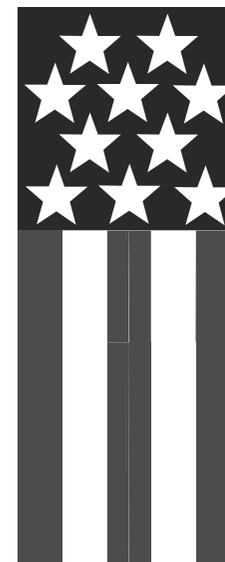
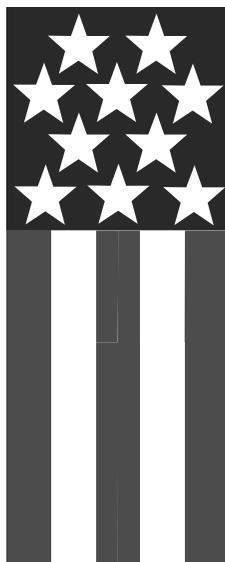
Price: Adults \$5.50 (Price is the same for military and civilian) children (5 to 11 years) \$3.50. Children under 5 years are free. All are welcome. Bring the family and friends and enjoy Family Night Dining.

**Cycling Class cancelled**

Due to lack of participation, the cycling classes, held at the gym, have been cancelled. Call 577-6817 for more information.

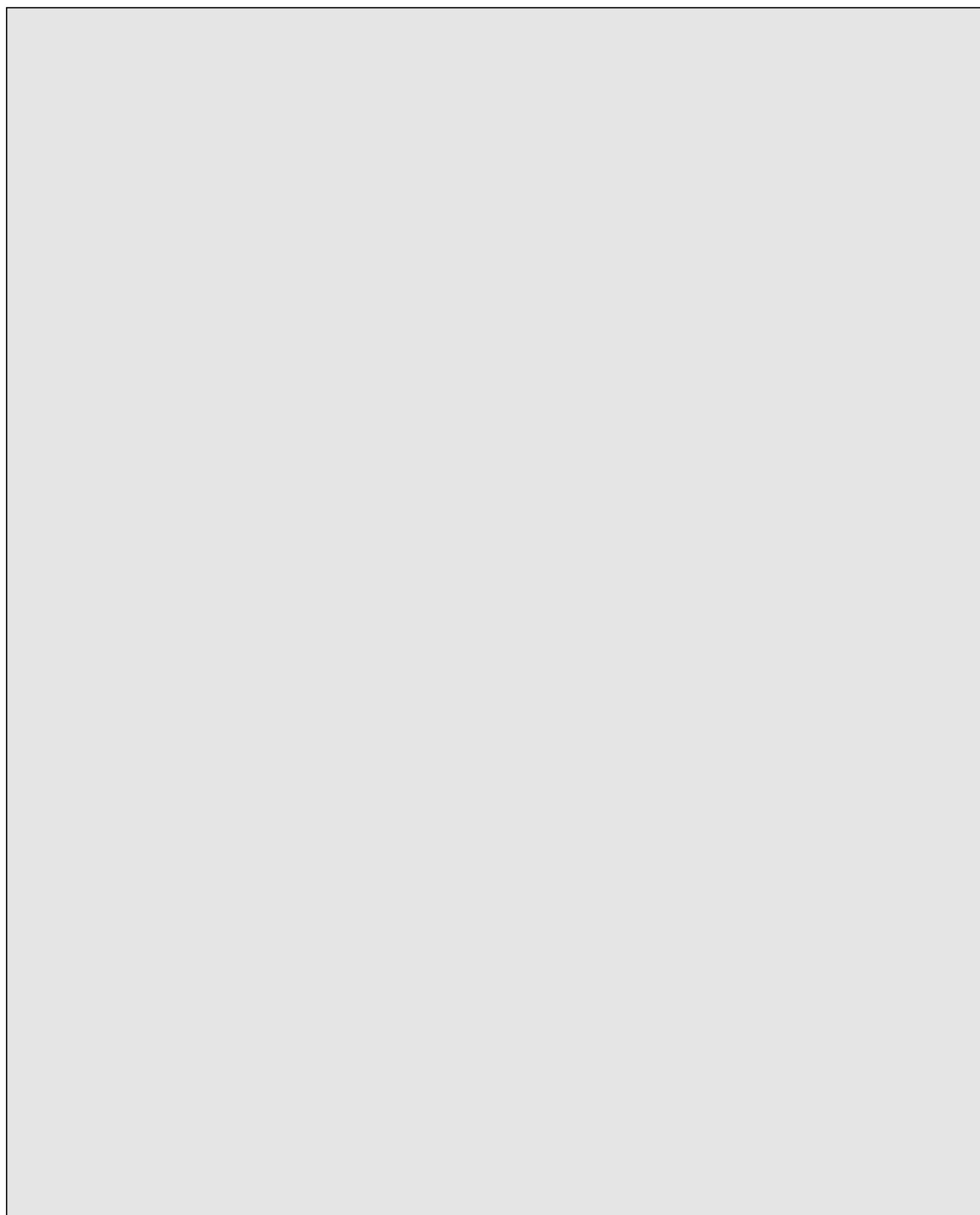
**MCCS Presidents Day  
Holiday Schedule**

**Feb. 17**



- MCCS Administration - Closed.
- NAF Personnel - Closed.
- MCCS Finance Office - Closed.
- Semper Fit/Base Gym - 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- Personal Services - All PSD programs closed.
- Family Restaurant - Holiday hours 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
- Cactus Cafe - Closed.
- Oasis Club - Closed.
- Enlisted Club - Regular hours. Doors open 4:30 p.m.
- ITT - Closed.
- Golf Course - Open 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- Hobby Shops (Auto, Ceramic and Wood/Rock) - Closed Feb.16 as well as Feb. 17.
- Bowling Center - Closed Feb. 16 as well as Feb. 17.
- Super Seven Day Store - Feb. 14, 6:30 a.m. - 6 p.m., Feb. 15 - 17 open 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Railhead Exchange - Closed.

**For more information, please call MCCS at 577-6733**



## Ad Placement

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](mailto:editor@barstow.usmc.mil)

To place business-related adds call:

**Aerotech News and Review**

**(661) 945-5634**

1977 TOYOTALAND CRUISER: FJ-40, 6 cyl. 4x4, custom dash with gauges, 32" BFG's, vehicle on a non-op, runs great and ready for anything, \$3,500 OBO. Call (760) 447-7312 Lv Msg.

1972 FORD F-250: V-8, 360, runs good, many new parts, good work truck, \$1,500, OBO. Call 267-0433.

1987 NISSAN SENTRA WAGON: Runs good, needs TLC, \$1,300, OBO. Call 267-0432.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: Tires, five tires for sale in good condition, various sizes. Call 760-447-8703 (local number).

MISCELLANEOUS: Tires-32x12.50R-15 BFG's muds, like new with 90% tread, \$450; wheels-polished 14" 5-star, generic lug pattern, \$300. Call (760) 447-7312 lv msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: 5-light brass arc floor lamp, \$25; pair of oak end tables with glass inserts \$30. Call 255-4339.

MISCELLANEOUS: Book, "Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul," \$8. Call Jennifer, 447-8706.

MISCELLANEOUS: Baby stroller, \$125, OBO; baby high chair, \$50; baby entertainment \$50; baby swing \$45, OBO; baby rocking cradle w/ bedding, \$75, OBO; baby rocker cocoon, \$40, OBO. Call 252-4787.

MISCELLANEOUS: Vanity table w/ mirror and chair, \$55, OBO; large bird cage, \$65, OBO; lawnmower w/ bag, \$60, OBO. Call 252-4787.

MISCELLANEOUS: New golf clubs, bag, and accessories, \$125; Corvair eng. \$125; Volkswagen, all 4 mag rims \$55; aluminum awning for carport or patio, \$110; Ford Ranger tailgate, \$50. Call 254-1913.



