

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 16

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

April 24, 2003

Opportunities in Barstow

New Marine discovers "nothing to do here" isn't true.

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Children of MCLB Barstow are treated to egg hunt by PMO, Fire and base chaplain.

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

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

Live grenade found

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

A potentially dangerous piece of ordnance was found April 2 in the open desert area three quarters of a mile west of Desert View housing by workers installing gas pipelines in the area.

A staff sergeant with the 363rd Ordnance Company from Fort Irwin was visiting a local establishment on base and was available to quickly respond with the appropriate measures to eliminate the potential danger.

"We identified the item as a pineapple-type Mark II grenade seated inside a metal canister," he said. "The grenade body had been corroded over the years, and the only distinguishable feature of the explosive was what is commonly called the spoon of the grenade."

The area where the grenade was found used to be an extension of the rifle range possibly used for ordnance testing, according to Staff Sgt. Thomas Maffin, range staff non-commissioned officer in charge.

In the 1940s, the rifle range extended well beyond the area that is now designated as the impact zone, said Maffin, all the way to the desert area above where the base housing is now.

According to the explosive ordnance disposal technician who responded to the scene, many desert areas surrounding the local military bases were used to test and fire explosive ordnance, but when an area such as housing is being developed, a thorough sweep of the land is conducted for ordnance prior to construction to clear any possible danger.

Unfortunately, the outlying areas may not be as thoroughly swept.

"There is so much desert area out here that may have at one time been a firing range," he said, "and now it is all open land area where people work, play, camp and ride dirt bikes."

Back in the '40s there weren't as many people actually utilizing the desert area surrounding these bases

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Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

A Bobcat operator with Clauss Construction picks up piles of destroyed housing material that was hand-stripped from the walls of base housing currently being destroyed in the Eniwetok area. According to Tomas Batronis, the demolition superintendent on site, 98 percent of the used materials are scheduled to be reutilized.

26th MEU strives to bring stability to Mosul

By Capt. James D. Jarvis
26th MEU (SOC)

MOSUL, Iraq - For the Marines and sailors of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), this has been an exciting and challenging week. Ordered to begin the flow of forces into Northern Iraq on April 11 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the MEU Marines and sailors were excited to have been given an opportunity to help liberate the people of Iraq.

"I'm very happy to be here," said Sgt. Keith Perrigon, 26, a member of the 26th MEU's Force Reconnaissance Platoon. "Whenever we go out in town, women and children come out from their homes to smile and wave at us, and that's a good feeling. Obviously, they believe that we have done something good for them and their future," said the Maryland native.

Among the many goals for these Marines and sailors was the reestablishment of order and stability in the city of Mosul, the third largest city in Iraq with a population of more than 2 million people.

"Without a safe and secure environment, humanitarian assistance operations and traditional peacekeeping operations are just not practical," said Staff Sgt. Jared Scogna, the Civil Affairs staff

noncommissioned officer-in-charge for the 26th MEU (SOC). "The citizens of the local community are afraid to leave their homes, and international aid organizations and corporations cannot safely bring in their goods, thus delaying the reconstruction effort. Creating a safe environment is the first step toward improving the lives of the local community," said the Arlington, Va., native, who performed similar civil affairs' duties in Kosovo in 2000 and 2001.

Reestablishing order in Mosul is proving to be a difficult task with the many ethnic groups, tribal allegiances and historical factors to consider. In addition to deeply rooted cultural biases, 26th MEU Marines and sailors faced an even harder task in Mosul. Unlike other Iraqi towns of comparable size, Mosul was spared the "shock and awe" of a large-scale coalition bombardment and a heavy U.S. mechanized infantry presence that had been so effective in eliminating large pockets of armed resistance in other cities throughout southern and central Iraq.

Consequently, when former members of the Republican Guard and Iraq's Fifth Corps laid down many of their large conventional weapons and simply went home, 26th MEU Marines and sailors and U.S. special forces here faced a local community with pockets of anti-American sentiment

intermingled amongst the largely supportive Mosul citizenry.

To compound matters, basic water and electrical services were not functioning, causing tension and anxiety among the citizens.

Monday, a short seven days later, the electricity has returned to the majority of the city's residents and the water is flowing again to most of the city.

On April 15 and 16, the Marines and sailors of Bravo Company, Battalion Landing Team 1/8, 26th MEU (SOC), repelled two attacks by hard-line supporters of the former regime with well-aimed fire in downtown Mosul.

"On (April 15), our Marines weathered a rapid escalation of violence from low intensity to high intensity in less than an hour," said Maj. Paul Brickley, the operations officer for BLT 1/8. "From passive on-lookers to a rock-throwing mob to a violent riot with hard-liners firing small arms at my Marines, they handled each one of those phases with the duty and professionalism that we expect of all of our Marines," said the Boston native.

Since Wednesday, the streets in Mosul have been relatively calm with families returning to the streets and shop doors opening again as U.S.

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MCLB offers many opportunities

By Pfc. Andy J. Hurt
BARSTOW LOG staff

Upon arriving at MCLB Barstow Feb. 11, I was personally greeted with such warm salutations as "Welcome to hell" and "You're gonna hate this place." Needless to say, it was not as motivating as it sounds.

During my first two weeks here, two Marines were doing time in the brig and soon underwent administrative separations for violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice article 112a, wrongful use, possession, etc. of controlled substances.

Approximately one week later, another Marine nearly killed himself after ingesting so much alcohol he lost control of his bodily functions. He was sent to Level Three alcohol

rehabilitation and failed to complete the course. He also is undergoing an administrative separation. Why? Because like so many Marines here, he decided that there was nothing more exciting to do on a Thursday evening than hit the local clubs and get hammered.

Throughout my check-in procedures here, it seemed that so many staff noncommissioned officers were understanding of the boredom that can overcome young Marines here; That is, if they fail to take advantage of the many opportunities MCLB Barstow has to offer.

I noticed the staff NCOs particularly stressed education.

Local colleges offering courses specifically tailored to service members who may have

tight schedules, combined with the Marine Corps' 100 percent Tuition-Assistance program make Barstow an ideal duty station to pursue off-duty education. Many Marines have taken advantage of this situation, and it seems they don't have the time to spend drinking during the week when they're preparing themselves for a successful future by working toward a degree.

But what about Marines who choose not to attend college during their free time? Most of us work at least eight-hour days. It's understandable that Marines want to spend liberty how they want to. Is alcohol really the answer?

MCLB Barstow has the advantage of being geographically located in a unique corner of our country: the Mojave Desert.

Sure, summertime temperatures are said to reach 115 degrees and higher, but during the spring and winter seasons (hint-hint), the high desert has many leisure time activities to offer at little or no expense. Hiking, rock-climbing, camping and even skiing/snowboarding are just a short drive away.

For Marines having the excuse of not owning or having access to a vehicle to drive themselves off base while on liberty, the Single Marine Program may be the answer. The SMP is organized by Marines, for Marines. They continuously offer weekend and week-night activities for single Marines and "geographical bachelors." Trips to sporting events, movie nights and good old-fashioned

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Being is better than doing

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



Most of the time it is difficult to tell what people are thinking. Of course there are signs or at least indicators of what kind of thoughts are going through a person's mind. The fact is people have a great range of emotions on display for

the rest of us to see. The question is, do those emotions of smiles or tears tell us what the person is thinking? Probably not. However, what tells us more is the behavior that people display.

If you have been watching the news at all you have seen the protests in Iraq. People filling the streets and generally demonstrating for whatever they like or do not like. There are also people making the first pilgrimage of many years to their holy city walking down the highways with what I would describe as a sense of relief. All of these behaviors point to something greater. You can tell they are free since prior to their liberation they would never have been in the streets demonstrating against the former government.

I was continuing to think about behavior and

I thought about how easy it is to tell when two people are in love. First, they seem to be attached to each other at the hip, always in contact, always exchanging glances, and always excited to be near each other. That is why what we do is often so much more important than what we say. We can talk all day about how much we love our spouse, friends, job, church, you name it, but if we don't act like it the truth really comes out. A theologian named Paul Tillich wrote about being a person of faith and said something I believe applies to all of us. He said Christianity is a matter of "being rather than doing." In our lives, being fully human means being rather than doing. What I mean by that is just "doing" things does not make us good or bad, it is being the kind of person who would do those things that is at the core of our humanity.

So I would like to offer a challenge for this week. Take a moment and ask yourself a question. What kind of person am I "being?" What is flowing out of my life, good or ill? When we can answer those questions then it will be possible for us to see if we are who we want to be or if we need to re-evaluate and make changes that will affect who we are as people.

Peace,
Fr Randel

Just doing my job ...

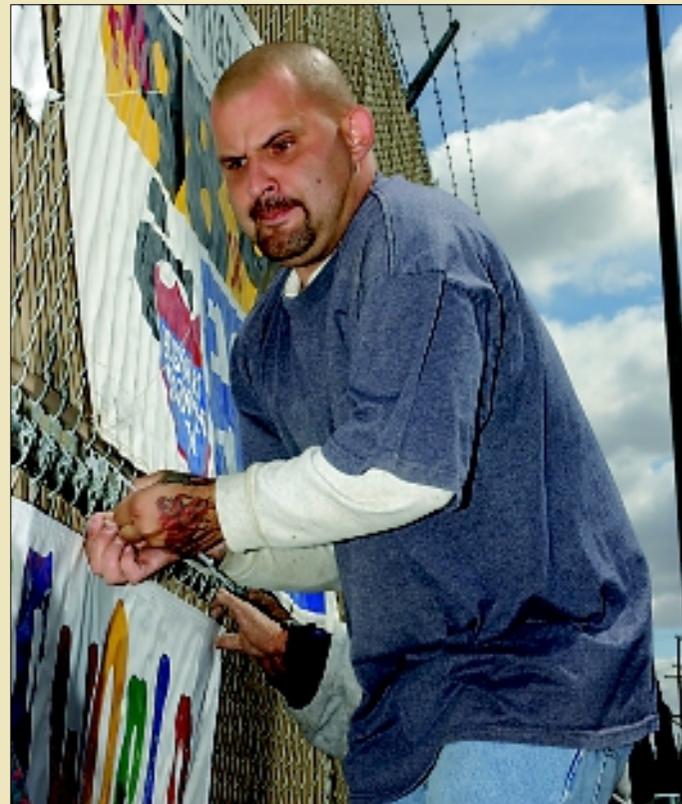


Photo by Pfc. Andy J. Hurt

Mike McDougall, MCCS employee here, posts banners at Sorensen Field before the Culpepper & Merriweather Circus Tuesday. McDougall has worked for MCCS for six years and said his favorite part of his job is "working with friendly people."

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 at 3 p.m. at the Base Chapel.

Call 577-6849 for more information.

Morning Prayer

Mon.-Fri. at 8:30 a.m. at the ASD Conference Room, Building 15.

Call 577-6849 for more information.



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

News Briefs

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

Family Advocacy Programs

The New Parent Support Program will be having a baby boot camp Tuesday from 1 to 4 p.m. at the McKinney Youth Activities Center Classroom. The program is for new parents.

Topics will include baby care, nutrition, safety, infant behavior and developmental stages, bonding and the importance of play. Child care will be provided on a space-available basis. Call 577-6332 to register.

They will also have a class geared toward expectant parents Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. until noon at the McKinney Youth Activities Center Classroom.

The class will contain information on prenatal issues, preparation for the new baby, stages of labor, what to expect during delivery and afterwards, and newborn care.

Call 577-6332 for more information or to register.

Power outage

A scheduled power outage will take place Friday between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m. due to the Yermo electrical transformer upgrade.

The outage will effect buildings 430, 432, 525, 572 and the Yermo gate house. Any questions or comments can be directed to Joseph Lloren, Public Works Division, at 577-6911.

Lifelong Learning relocation

The Lifelong Learning center has moved from Building 302 to its new location in Building 218. For questions or to set an appointment, call 577-6118.

Scuba diving certification

A basic open water dive certification course is being offered for anyone over 15 years old who is interested in scuba diving.

Cost will not include books and essential snorkeling equipment (mask, fins, snorkel, gloves). Certification takes between two to six weeks depending on instructor/student availability. If in-

terested, or for more information, contact Gunnery Sgt. Michael A. Bonilla at 577-6668 or bonillama@barstow.usmc.mil.

Career Fair

Barstow College, in conjunction with the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce and the San Bernardino County Jobs and Employment Services Department, is scheduled to host a free career fair for the community Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Barstow College Gym.

More than 40 high-desert employers, including Barstow Community Hospital, Johnson Controls, Raytheon, Maintenance Center Barstow and Caltrans will be on hand to offer career-planning advice.

For more information call Barstow College at 252-2411.

MC Ball Golf Tournament

A golf tournament is scheduled for Friday at 7 a.m. at Tees n' Trees golf course to help support the Marine Corps Ball.

Marines and civilians are welcome, and the prices are as follows: E1 through E4 is \$14, E5 through E6 is \$15, E7 through E9 is \$16, O1 through O2 is \$16, and O3 through O6 and civilians is \$17.

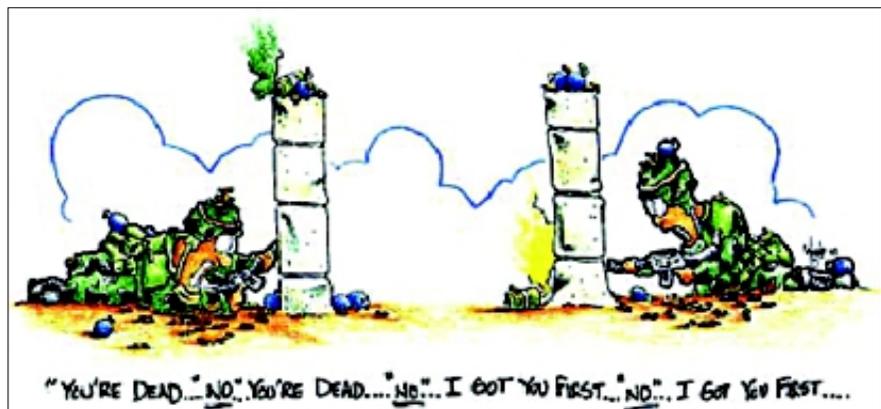
Names can be submitted to Gunnery Sgt. Nohelia Fritz at 577-6459 or e-mail to fritzne@barstow.usmc.mil.

Twilight League

The 2003 golf Twilight League is now forming and scheduled to start Tuesday. The league consists of a 9-hole event every Tuesday evening at 5 p.m. with 4-person teams in a 2-person scramble format.

League costs include a \$20 entry fee, \$5 green fee, \$5 cart fee for a shared cart or \$7 for a solo cart.

Players may sign up as part of a team or as an individual for the team draft by calling Tees n' Trees golf course at 577-6431.



Mojave River Valley Museum Barbecue

The Mohave River Valley Museum is scheduled to hold its 37th annual barbecue May 3 from noon to 5 p.m. at the museum, located at 270 E. Virginia Way on the corner of Barstow Rd. and Virginia Way.

Local public speakers, a raffle and a photography contest will also take place at the museum. Cost for the barbecue is \$6.50 for adults and \$3.50 for children under 11. The deadline for photography entries is Sunday.

For more information contact Steve Smith at 256-5452.

Pendleton Mud Run

Camp Pendleton is holding the annual 10K (6.2 miles) Mud Run June 14. All interested personnel should forward their names to 1st Jason Lt. Kut by Monday. This is an individual and team event for Marines (2-5 people per team).

For more information or to sign up for the run, contact Kut at 577-7611.

CWRA Old Town trip

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association is sponsoring a trip to San Diego Old Town May 3. The

CWRA will depart from MCLB Barstow at 7 a.m., stop at the International House of Pancakes in Victorville at 7:30 a.m., and depart from Old Town at 7 p.m.

For more information contact CWRA committee member Dan Keirn at 577-6614.

Family Assistance Hotlines

Recent deployments of military members to the Persian Gulf can have a tremendous effect on families. For support in dealing with deployment and other family issues, there are several hotlines available to family members of each military service:

Army (800) 833-6622
Air Force (800) 435-9941
Navy (800) 372-5463
Marine Corps (East of the Mississippi River minus Wisconsin) (800) 336-4663
Marine Corps (West of the Mississippi River plus Wisconsin) (800) 253-1624
Marine Corps MCCS One Source (800) 433-6868
National Guard Bureau (888) 777-7731
Defense Logistics Agency (800) 222-0364
U.S. Coast Guard (800) 872-4957 EXT 932
Deployment Health Support Hotline (800) 497-6261
Marine Corps Iraqi Freedom hotline (866) 227-2708.

Chapel Services

The Marine Memorial Chapel will be open for those who wish to support the troops and families with prayers from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The chapel will also offer a 20-minute Episcopal Mass at 11:10 a.m. each Thursday at the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, located inside the Marine Memorial Chapel. At the Yermo Annex, Holy Communion services are scheduled to be held in Building 598 every Tuesday at 4 p.m.

For more information, contact the Base Chapel at 577-6849.

Universal Studios

Universal Studios Hollywood is offering one free admission with the purchase of one full-price adult admission for active-duty servicemembers, or spouses of deployed personnel until Wednesday.

To take advantage of this offer, present a military ID card at the box office.

CMC's National Volunteer Week Message

National Volunteer Week will be celebrated the week of April 27 through May 3. The theme for this annual recognition is "Celebrate Volunteers-The Spirit Of America!" This is a time to honor the efforts of those who generously donate their time and talents and to encourage all to make a positive contribution to their country and corps.

Volunteer support is vital to the Marine Corps community, particularly during this time when so many Marines are deployed. The unselfish efforts of Marines, family members and civilians allow us to extend the reach of Marine Corps programs. The compassion and dedication of our volunteers enhance quality of life and increase family readiness.

Silke and I extend our personal gratitude and thanks to all volunteers for their contributions throughout the year. I encourage all commanders to express their gratitude with appropriate activities that demonstrate our appreciation for their volunteer efforts.

Semper fidelis, W.W. Hagee, general, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Job Watch

Anne No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-185-03-NR	Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic Leader WL-5803-10 (Permanent)	04-11-03	05-02-03	04-15-03	MCLB Barstow
DEU-190-03-NR	Equipment Cleaner WG-7009-05 (Permanent)	04-11-03	04-25-03	04-15-03	MCLB Barstow
DEU-200-03-NR	Sandblaster Leader WL-5423-07	04-23-03	05-12-03	04-25-03	MCLB Barstow
7006	Preservation Leader WL-7006-07 (Temp NTE 1 Year)	04-21-03	05-02-03	N/A	MCLB Barstow

Applicants interested in the above positions should submit résumés online at the following Web sites:

<http://www.donhr.navy.mil>

<http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>

For information regarding Open Continuous announcements go to <http://www.donhr.navy.mil>

For more information concerning public job announcements visit the Self-Service Center, Building 236, Mondays through Fridays from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office, 577-6357, 577-6279, or 577-6481.

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

MCCS gives families week of fun

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Marine Corps Community Services has utilized its many combined resources to bring a week of festivities to MCLB Barstow that started Monday and are scheduled to continue through Friday.

The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus performed on Sorensen Field for a general public audience Tuesday, which kicked off a series of events for the week, all planned and organized by MCCS.

The Single Marine Program is having a series of spring break events from the bash and karaoke contest earlier in the week, to volleyball and barbecue events, and is scheduled to conclude with a luau and pool party on Friday.

Organized and orchestrated by MCCS organizations, the week of events provided these events to military members and their families at low to no cost, said Gary Fulham, MCCS director here. These types of multifaceted events have been made possible on Marine Corps installations from the development of MCCS just a few short years ago.

Approximately four years ago,

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Charles C. Krulak directed the implementation of an idea designed to streamline all of the different Marine Corps' quality of life programs and services on Marine Corps installations to bring them under one central service, said Fulham.

This service, which includes the services that used to be provided by the Morale Welfare and Recreation department as well as many other on-base quality of life services, is now known as Marine Corps Community Services.

According to Fulham, MCCS was established by combining MWR, which were the gyms and traditional recreation programs on base; with the exchange, which had been pulled into MWR a few years prior to the creation of MCCS; and the child and youth programs, which included the Child Development Center, youth activities centers, and youth sports on larger installations; and personal services, which used to be known as the Family Services Center.

The intent behind combining these services, according to Fulham, was to bring all of these basic quality of life programs on

base under the control of one department or directorate for ease of management and funding.

"Now we have a better ability to use multiple means of generating funds to offset costs for services that come free to service members," said Fulham. "It gives us the opportunity to use non-appropriated funds; the money generated from the exchange and the little bit that's generated from childcare can now be used to help complement other services MCCS provides and even supplement the battalion unit funds for things like the Marine Corps Ball."

This system can also be reversed to keep the cost down on rising cost items like gasoline.

The Marine Corps Exchange here is run completely on non-appropriated funds, said Fulham. Which means all the products the exchange offers and the prices at which it sells them are a direct production of their sales. Unlike many other military installations that are operated by the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and are supplemented with funds from the government to keep their prices low, the Marine Corps Exchange does not receive supplemented funds.

One of the most important

aspects of MCCS is highlighted at the Super Seven Store, because if it weren't under the umbrella of MCCS, it would be on its own to make a profit and wouldn't be able to give families the best value possible, according to Fulham.

For example, the Marine Corps Exchange products, including the gas prices here, can be kept low by sharing funds gained from other programs within MCCS. Without MCCS, the exchange would be forced to survive as its own entity, and in order to do so, the prices on products could be significantly higher.

According to Fulham, the different programs that MCCS offers can be divided into three categories: category "A" programs, which are totally non-appropriated programs like the exchange, require no government assistance whatsoever to operate successfully; category "B" programs, which are mostly run by non-appropriated funds, cannot survive on their own without supplementation from the government. Programs like childcare fall into this category; category "C" programs, which are

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for recreation or construction, so accurate records of explosive ordnance discharges were not kept."

According to the EOD technician, there may be many dangerous items similar to this yet to be found in the open land areas surrounding MCLB Barstow and Fort Irwin.

"The border lines of some local military firing ranges may not be enclosed by a fence either, so people need to pay attention to where they are traveling out in the desert and watch for warning signs that may be posted," he said. "If you happen to stumble upon something out of the ordinary, you should leave it alone. Do not attempt to investigate what it is by picking it up."

Because of the dry climate in the desert, the ordnance may be preserved very well, and time may have altered the item to be even more dangerous, in which the actions

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Mess Night not just fancy dinner

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

The camaraderie and brotherhood shared by Marines is perhaps the most cherished possession they hold near to their hearts.

A close second may be parading around in dress uniform while eating red meat, smoking cigars, roasting seniors and toasting port to fallen comrades in a tradition called mess night.

Besides the Marine Corps ball every year, there are very few occasions when Marines are caught displaying both their dress blue uniforms and their flagrant esprit de corps. This year Marines here are scheduled to enjoy the company and camaraderie of MCLB Barstow's version of mess night May 1, starting at 5:45 p.m. at the Oasis Club. Gen. Richard S. Kramlich, commander of Marine Corps Logistics Bases, is scheduled as the guest of honor.

"Mess night is a chance for Marines to enjoy each other's company and celebrate our long heritage and history by enjoying a feast together

at the same table and toasting drinks to our brothers in past and current operations," said 1st Sgt. Joseph Vanfonda, Headquarters Battalion first sergeant.

The history of the mess night is widely debated, but, according to Vanfonda, possibly the first Marine Corps mess was conducted in 1953 by members of the 3rd Regimental Combat Team, then in Japan, under the command of Col. Robert H. Williams. The occasion for this particular evening was the visit of Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., the 20th commandant of the Marine Corps. The members of the 3rd Regiment continued to enjoy Williams' mess nights until he transferred to Marine Barracks, Eighth and I streets, Washington, D.C., where he brought the custom with him to his new command.

There are many rules to follow during the mess, which are in place both to provide a professional, structured atmosphere to the evening while also serving as a basis for the levying of fines for those found in violation of these rules. Rules of the mess have been known

to range from "Thou shall not rearrange the table settings," to "Thou shall not murder the Queen's English." There are more than 40 rules to know and follow the night of the mess.

When one of these rules is broken, the president of the mess must correct the offender in whatever means are deemed appropriate.

"One of the funniest things I've seen at a mess was when a staff NCO I knew showed up to the mess with his pockets full of quarters," said Vanfonda. "You could tell he had all this change in his pockets, cause you could hear the clatter of coins as he walked around. Of course, you should bring dollar bills to the mess, not a bunch of change, and someone called him on it. To find out if the accusations were justified, the president of the mess had two of the larger staff NCOs literally turn the guilty Marine upside down and shake the change out of his pockets. The sight of all those coins falling past his bearded face will stick with me for quite some time."

The evening typically begins by gathering socially at the club. As members socialize and visit the bar, the seating chart is available for

viewing. Once the guest of honor arrives, first call is sounded. This indicates to the members that seating is to commence in five minutes. This would be the opportunity to extinguish cigarettes and use the restrooms before the mess begins.

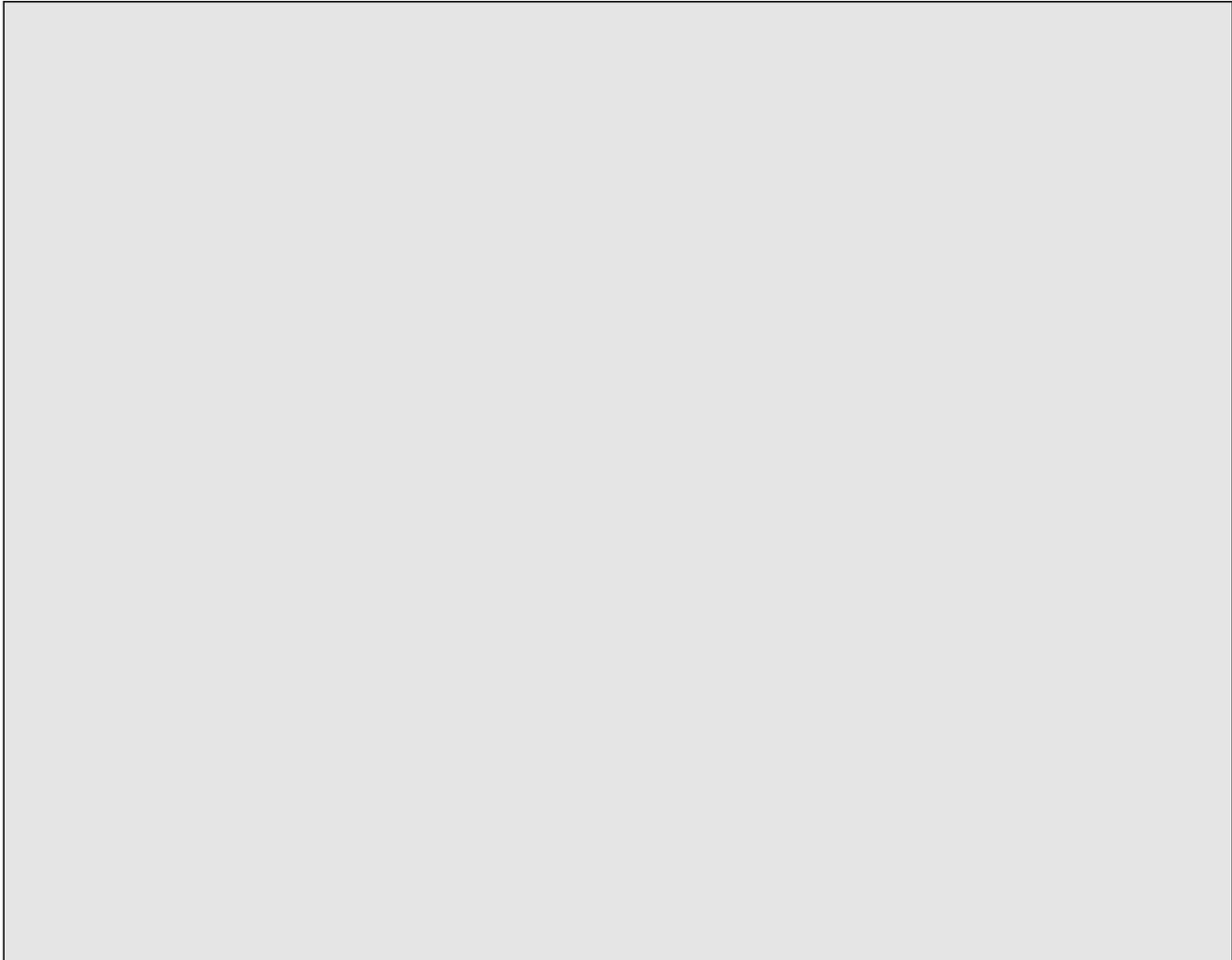
Once the members have been seated, the president of the mess will address the mess and verify whether the meat is fit for human consumption, and the mess will eat dinner.

After dinner and a 15-minute break, the mess begins the traditional series of roasts, boasts, gloats, skits, fines and toasts that make the Marine Corps mess night one of a kind.

It is a chance for the Marines to play a joke and have a laugh with fellow Marines, whether senior in rank or not, while keeping good taste and professionalism intact, said Vanfonda.

The May 1 mess night is for all ranks of active-duty Marines and sailors stationed at MCLB Barstow, and tickets are currently on sale at Headquarters Battalion, Building 302.

"Is the mess night mandatory?" asked Vanfonda. "It's a great time; it shouldn't need to be."



MCLB children enjoy Easter Egg Hunt

Story and photos by Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

The playground at the end of Cape Gloucester in base housing buzzed with excited children, ages 1 to 13, trying to find prize-filled eggs during MCLB Barstow's annual Easter Egg Hunt Friday.

Sponsored by the Base Chapel, in conjunction with the Provost Marshal's Office and MCLB Barstow's Fire and Emergency Services Division, the event played host to numerous children trying to find the eggs that would give three lucky winners a basket for the Easter weekend.

According to Sgt. David Meeden, with PMO physical security and the event coordinator, approximately 1,725 eggs were purchased and hidden around

the playground area for the children to find.

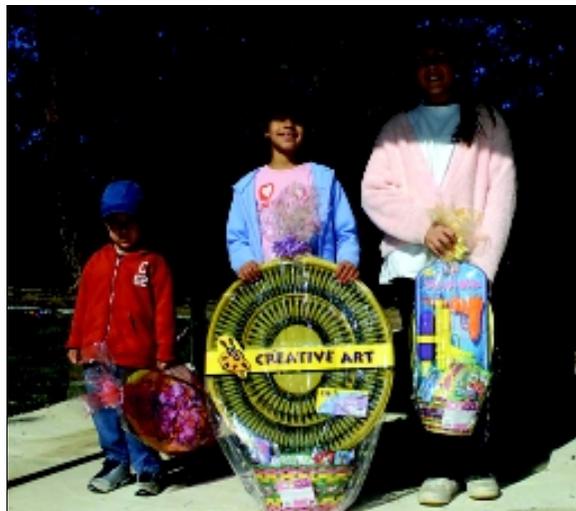
After nearly 30 minutes of searching all eggs were located and the lucky winners were Joshua Cordero, age 3, for the 1-4 age group; Amanda Dunham, age 7 for the 5- to 9-year olds; and Alyssa Bockelman, age 11 for the 10- to 13-year-olds.

"I want to thank the Base Chapel for funding this year's event," said Meeden. "With their donation we were able to purchase all the eggs, candy and the Easter baskets."

Meeden also offered thanks to the Fire and Emergency Services Division for its assistance in providing safety and keeping the children in the area where the eggs were hidden, and Cpl. Barbara Lee, also with physical security, who helped hide the eggs.



3-year-old Joshua Cordero and mother, Jessica, check his collection to see if there is a message inside saying he is a winner.



The winner of this year's Easter Egg Hunt (from left to right), Joshua Cordero, age 3, Amanda Dunham, age 7, and Alyssa Bockelman, age 11, display their prizes.



15-month-old Annakate, assisted by mother, Leasa Kurek, locates an egg during MCLB Barstow's annual Easter Egg Hunt Friday.



Children in the 1- to 4-year-old age group rush the playground to start collecting eggs during MCLB Barstow's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

Bomberos converge on MCLB Barstow

Story and photos by Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

A group of volunteer firemen from Puruandiro, Michoacan, Mexico visited MCLB Barstow recently, to receive live-fire training that they would not normally be given in their hometown.

Twelve firemen, known as "bomberos," under the direction of Apple Valley Fire District division chief Art Bishop, spent a full day training under different scenarios at the MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division's training facility.

The team spent most of the week training with the Apple Valley Fire District learning, among other things, cut and rescue techniques using the Jaws of Life and preparing for what they were going to experience at MCLB Barstow.

After receiving extensive training in life-saving and rescue techniques with the AVFD the team came to MCLB Barstow for more because MCLB Barstow has the best facility for live-fire training in San Bernardino County, according to Bishop.

"We've got a good working relationship with the (MCLB)

Part of the bomberos training included learning how to perform CPR correctly after dragging a "victim" to safety.



department here," said Bishop. "This is where we train our newly promoted fire captains and wanted to get these volunteer firemen here for the same training."

According to Bishop, 10 of the bomberos are actually volunteers whose professions range from a doctor, dentist, chemical engineer and a mechanical engineer. The other two are members of the Puruandiro fire district board of directors.

Upon arriving at the MCLB Training Facility, the bomberos began their morning with a safety brief and an equipment check focusing on their air respirators. They then moved to the first training simulator – the flashover, the purpose of which is to teach the firefighters to stay low when there is fire overhead in a building.

The next simulator taught the firefighters how to put out a fire without getting "cooked" because of the steam and extreme heat generated from the spray, said Chief Mike Davis, from MCLB Barstow's Yermo Station.

During the afternoon session, the bomberos went through the fire



Teamwork is key as one bombero receives assistance in securing his gear and making a final check of his breathing apparatus from a fellow firefighter.

tunnel. The objective in this simulator, according to Davis, is to go through the tunnel, get around obstacles, find the victim, and drag him back through to safety.

The final training session of the afternoon concluded with the "tower," a two-story concrete building that involves three training evolutions; the first is to go into a burning room, locate a victim, and bring him to safety. The next evolution involved the use of AVFD's new ladder truck to go through a window and go into a room engulfed with smoke. The

third session involved putting out a basement fire, which is one of the most difficult fires to fight, according to Davis.

"This is great training for them," said Bishop. "Most of their buildings are made of non-combustible material, and this type of training is more a confidence builder for them. It also gives them something that they would not normally see in their city."

The city of Puruandiro has a population of about 95,000. It only has one fire hydrant, and now, thanks to the Apple Valley Fire

District and the Rotary Club's donations, it has three fire engines and four ambulances, according to Manual Hernandez, a former firefighter now on the Puruandiro Fire District's board of directors.

"The training these firefighters have received here has been a great learning experience for them," said Hernandez. "They all want to come back again for more training and because we have been treated so well. I'm sure when we get back they will tell the other firefighters about this experience and they will want to come here as well."



Using the AVFD's ladder truck, bomberos climb to the roof of the "tower" to learn how to fight a fire from the top down.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Electronic sale continues

The Electronics Sale continues through Wednesday.

This one-of-a-kind sale features 50 percent off last marked price. Choose from VCRs, DVDs, TVs and many other one-of-a-kind items. These items sold as-is, no refunds.

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. For more information call 256-8974.

The Railhead Exchange is open regular hours, Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., closed Saturdays and Sundays. During troop rotation, the hours are Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 577-7782.

Three-day Anniversary Sale

The Super Seven Day Store three-

day special May 1 - 3 features daily door prizes, gift certificates, assorted merchandise, and a drawing held each day at noon. There will also be wine tasting. Food and refreshments, quarter-pound hot dogs, soft drinks, chips and sandwiches will be offered. There will be a grand prize drawing for a Panasonic 27-inch color TV/VCR/DVD, plus great special buys like these: Pioneer AM/FM car stereo with cassette for only \$85.99; jWIN 5-inch personal black and white TV with AM/FM radio (batteries not included) for just \$19.99. These are just some of the great buys in this three-day event.

On May 3, the Super Seven Day Store will hold its Super Sidewalk Sale with food and a car wash. Bargains include 50 percent and 75 percent off men's and women's clothing and a big tire truck-load sale.

For more information call the Super Seven Day Store at 256-8974.

Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated, the lunch menu for the Family Restau-

rant and Cactus Cafe are the same.

Lunch menus subject to change.

Today - Family Restaurant: Baked potato and salad bar. Cactus Cafe: Three-piece fish.

Friday - Three-piece fish.

Monday - Baked cornish game hen.

Tuesday - Chili mac.

Wednesday - Pork stir-fry.

Thursday - Salisbury steak.

Family Night Dining

Tonight - Salisbury steak, grilled onions, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, tossed green salad, fountain drink of your choice and dessert.

May 1 - Mongolian barbecue Night: 50 cents an ounce with a \$5.50 minimum. Includes fountain drink of your choice and dessert.

Notice of price change

Lunch price changes at the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe effective May 1 will be: \$3.25 for active duty military, and \$4.75 for all others including civilians.

Family Night Dining prices will be: \$6 for adults, \$4 for children 5 to 11 years. Children under 5 years eat free.

Check the May issue of the MCCS Events Guide for all price changes in lunch a-la-carte and sub sandwich menus, as well as breakfast and dinner menus.

The club scene

At the Oasis Club, Happy Hour is today from 3:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. TGIFamily Night is tomorrow night.

Burn Your Own Steak Night is Monday, and Right Hand Night is at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday. May 2 will feature a Cinco de Mayo menu.

At the Enlisted Club it's darts, pool, TV and CD music tonight. Friday features TGIFriday. Monday and Tuesday it's Bar and Grill Night, and the club will be closed Wednesday for Right Hand Night at the Oasis Club.

Twilight League Golfing

The Twilight League offers \$8 green fees everyday at 3 p.m. Tees n' Trees golf course offers golf lessons, monthly rates and more. Call for details 577-6431. Tees n' Trees golf course is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to dusk.

Family Fun Day at YAC

A great family fun time with free food, fun, games and prizes, craft activities and much more takes place at the Youth Activities Center, Saturday, from noon to 5 p.m.

Free hot dogs and soda will be offered from noon to 1 p.m. There will be free nachos from 1 to 2 p.m. Free cotton candy will be offered from 2 to 3 p.m. There will be free snow cones from 3 to 4 p.m.

Call the YAC for more information at 577-6499.

Single Marine Program events

Today, there will be beach volleyball games and barbecue from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the beer gardens. Frisbees

and horseshoes will also be available. Prizes will be given to the volleyball team with the most wins of the night. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a Luau and Pool party with a barbecue at the Base Gym Friday. There will be contests and prizes (sexy legs, cannonball, belly flop and more). The fun starts at 5 p.m. and doesn't stop until 8 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

For more information call 577-6812 or 577-6817.

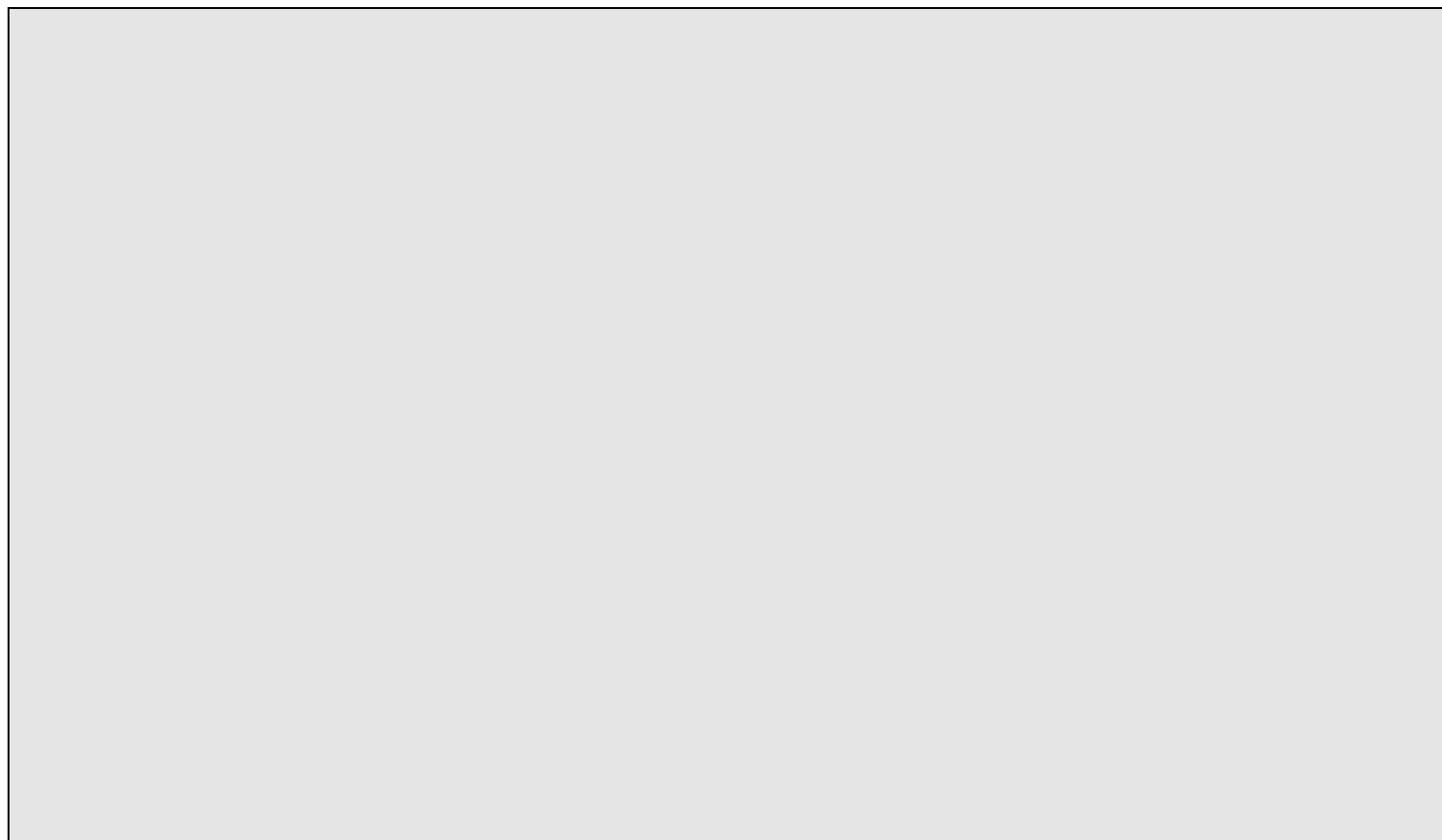
Family Child Care Providers

Family child care is done by well trained, certified individuals who are choosing to provide warm and loving individualized care to children here on base in their homes.

They are a good alternative to center care for families who need care and can't get it or who want care in a smaller and more home-like setting. These women are mothers who enjoy being with children. They are part of the Child Development services here on base and as such are part of the USDA food program, offering free meals and snacks as part of their programs.

They all receive 30 hours of training initially and 2 hours of training every month thereafter. They are child care professionals; part of a growing number of people who provide quality care for children from ages 6 weeks to 12 years.

For more information call the Family Child Care Providers at 577-6049.



Around the Corps

No rest for weary 'Condors' in Iraq

By Cpl. Theresa E. Seng
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing

JALIBAH, Iraq – There is no rest for the weary here while the mechanics for Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-464 serving as a part of Operation Iraqi Freedom keep their CH-53E Super Stallions flying.

With a higher operational tempo than it is back in the United States, the mechanics work in 12-hour shifts, 24 hours a day, in 100-degree temperatures.

The more hours aircraft fly the quicker the inspection intervals come up, said Sgt. Jeremy C. Romash, Super Stallion mechanic with HMMH-464 "Condors." The mechanics are constantly checking all the parts to make sure there are no problems.

The mechanics are frequently inspecting engines, rotor blades and gearboxes, and one of the biggest challenges here in the desert is keeping the compressor sections of the engines working well, said 1st Lt. Andrew T. Paynter, maintenance material control officer for the "Condors."

"It's a suck, squeeze, bang, blow theory with the engines," said Romash.

The compressor pulls air into the engine. This fuel/air mixture combusts and gives the helicopter the power to lift heavy equipment. Sand is also drawn into the engine, abrasion to engine parts becomes a concern. Components worn by sand affect the airflow causing less power.

"Without full power, transporting large

pieces of equipment, such as all the tents we're living in, either wouldn't happen or take much longer than necessary," said Paynter.

HMMH-464 Marines have replaced seven of the 39 engines they have, which is one more testament to the outstanding maintenance completed on a consistent basis.

"Because of our mechanics, [HMMH-]464 had been able to fly about 50 percent of the missions out here," said Paynter "Out here the aircraft flies on average 24 hours a day. In the rear they only flew about 10. Our guys are constantly working."

Working long days in the harsh conditions of the desert is tough, having the correct parts is even tougher.

"[Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29] could only bring so many parts for all the aircraft they support. Sometimes we have to cannibalize parts just to keep the aircraft mission ready," said Paynter. "This triples our work load. Once we get the part we ordered we have to remove the borrowed part, put it back in the aircraft we took it from and put the new part in the other aircraft."

Being able to support the forward units, such as infantry and artillery, with food, water, ammunition, parts and fuel is the main objective of the Super Stallion squadrons. The mechanics of HMMH-464 work day and night so the helicopters are able to carry heavy loads, giving the best support they can.

"We are helping our guys stay in the fight," said Paynter. "That's the most important thing."



Sgt. Jeremy C. Romash, CH-53E mechanic, and his Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 464 work on an engine from a CH-53E Super Stallion April 7. It is because of their constant hard work that HMMH-464 has been able to fly almost 50 percent of the missions, supporting forward troops.

Photo by Cpl. Theresa E. Seng

MOSUL from Page 1

patrols have increased and a reorganized Mosul police force has helped promote security here.

As the citizens of Mosul enjoy more stability and personal security, the city appears on its way to resuming normalcy in a liberated and free Iraq. But the challenges are many in nearly every functional civic area.

There still exists many hard-line members of the Baath Party and terrorists in Mosul who have yet to be brought to justice; that work continues as Iraqi citizens come forward daily with new information on the whereabouts of remaining

hard-liners in their neighborhoods.

For the Marines and sailors, they're excited to have a mission.

"I've been waiting a long time to get here," said Pfc. Eric Madden, an Alpha Company, BLT 1/8 rifleman from Plano, Texas. "I'm excited to be a part of the action here and to be able to help these people makes me feel really proud of what I'm doing."

Chief Warrant Officer Steven R. Lucas, an explosive ordnance disposal officer for the 26th MEU (SOC) has been given the task of trying to identify and catalogue the tons of weapons, ammunition, surface-to-air missiles and

unexploded ordnance in the region.

"I've done more EOD work in the past seven days than I've probably done in the past five years," said the Iowa native. "Even though war is a bad situation, it's been a great opportunity to do my job. The best reward for me is trying to help the Iraqi people to live free of the potentially devastating effects of these weapons and unexploded ordnance. I'm glad to be here doing what I'm trained to do," he said.

For more information on the 26th MEU (SOC) in Iraq, visit them on the web at <http://www.26meu.usmc.mil>.

GRENADE from Page 4

needed to detonate the material may be unknown.

"The properties of explosive material can change over several decades to create something totally harmless or increasingly dangerous," said the technician. "There's no way of knowing."

When the EOD team decided that the explosive could possibly detonate if tampered with, it was decided to destroy the item in place with C-4 plastic explosives.

"When something like this is found on or near the base, the first thing you should do is leave the item alone, then mark its location somehow so you

don't forget where it is," said Maffin. "The second thing you should do is report what you found and where you found it to the Provost Marshall's Office or range control so that qualified people can respond as quickly as possible to clear the area of possible danger."

There is no reason to feel that the base housing area is in any way unsafe, said Gunnery Sgt. Edward L. Jones Jr., base housing chief.

Though it is not impossible to find ordnance in the outlying areas, the area where the housing was built and the area in and around people's yards had been swept for ordnance prior to their construction.

MCCS from Page 4

appropriated fund programs like the Personal Services Division, do not need to generate any kind of funds on their own to operate successfully.

The joining of all of these differently funded and operated programs may have presented a monetary mystery for the MCCS accountants, according to Fulham, but there is definitely no mystery to why MCCS was created – to provide one source for all quality of life programs on Marine Corps installations.

MCCS One Source, a recent addition to the MCCS line-up, provides what may have been the link that brought all the services and information together to one phone number and Web site.

Now, the information and services that have been gathered together on-base, can be accessed anytime, anywhere around the Corps.

BARSTOW from Page 2

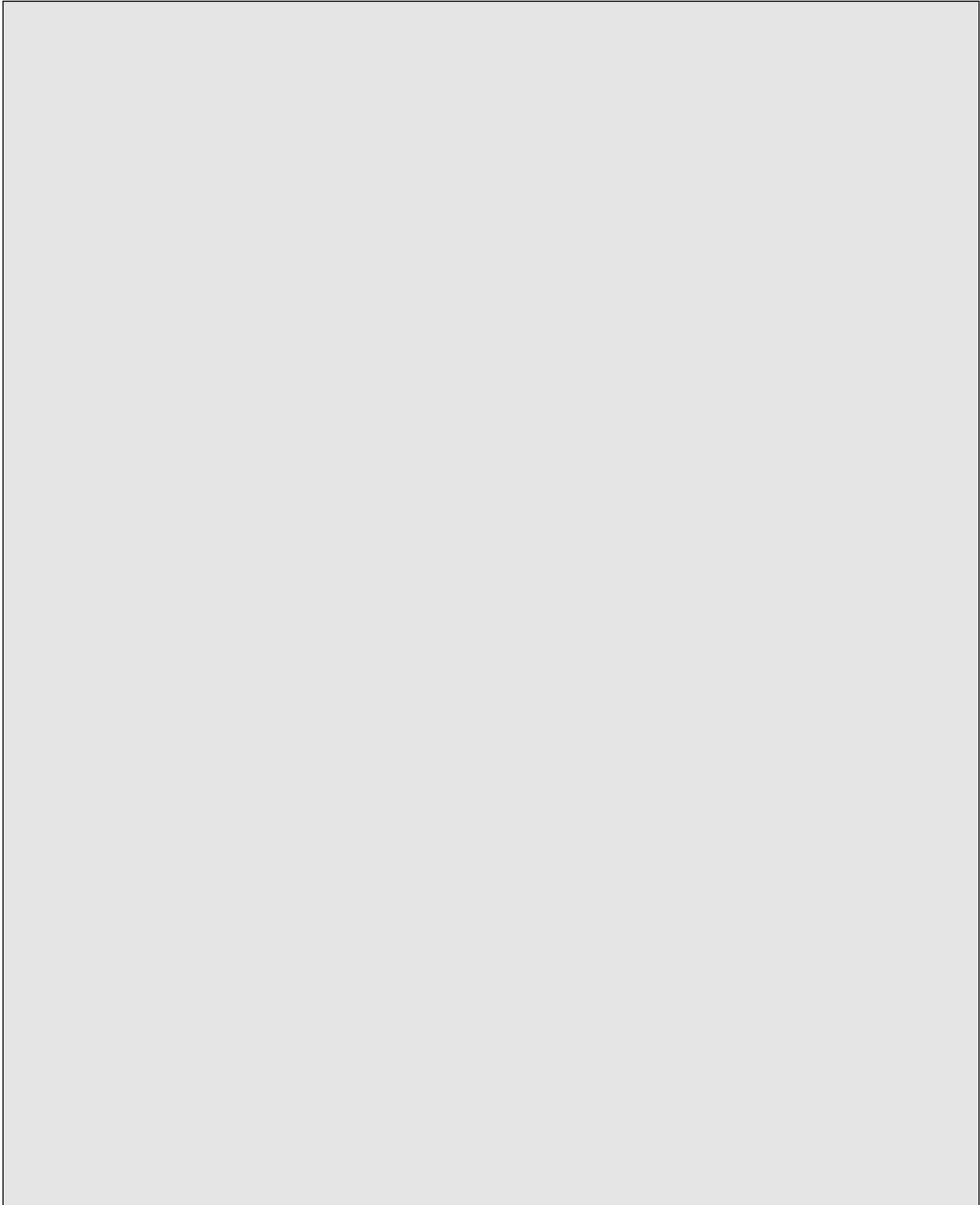
parties are just a few of the events the SMP organizes every month at little or no cost to the attendee.

One general opinion of the SMP here is that they do "lame" activities. The root of the problem, I have discovered, is that Marines aren't giving valuable feedback to the SMP by not attending the meetings. There is no excuse. Marines on base receive an e-mail notifying them of when and where the SMP meetings take place. The invitation is not exclusive; all interested single Marines should attend and voice their opinions. Simple, isn't it?

What about Marines who are dying to get in shape and complain that organizational physical training here isn't challenging? There is a huge gym less than a mile from the barracks. Dozens of weight machines, treadmills, boxing equipment and other sports gear will only collect dust if not used by Marines.

What are you waiting for? MCLB Barstow can be one of the best duty stations, or one of the worst, depending on how you look at it.

Err.



2003 PONTIAC VIBE GT: Silver, 6 man. trans., 6 disc changer, 16" alloys, moon roof, only 3,300 miles, take over payments. Call 252-3504.

1986 FORD F-250 SLT LARIAT SUPER CAB: P/U, needs some body work and paint, 460 eng., new cam., liters, t/chain and alum., intake, now smog required, a/t, p/s, p/b, a/c, t/whl, p/w, p/dl, AM/FM cassette, new tires and steering box, towing package, w/hitch and brake controller, heavy duty susp., runs xlt., \$3500, OBO. Call Roger at 256-2774.

MOTORCYCLES: 2001 Yamaha TT-R 125, runs great, \$2,500 OBO. Call 253-2713, ask for Ramon.

MISCELLANEOUS: Full size stroller with removable carrier, like new, \$50; Play and Go playpen, \$15. Call 256-4873 (8-5 Lynda) or 253-2677 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: New, top-of-the-line car stereo system, 8100D MTX, 2 solar barics L5.15, paid \$1,700, asking \$1,000. Call 252-0399, ask for Jason.

MISCELLANEOUS: 19" RCA color television, \$50 OBO; large bird cage, \$40 OBO; 20" lawn mower w/bag, \$60 OBO; 6-ton jack stand set, \$15 OBO; mechanic's creeper, \$12 OBO; Yamaha porta-sound keyboard, \$45 OBO. Call 252-4787 or 447-2771.

MISCELLANEOUS: EZ Up Dome Tent 8x12 nearly new, \$100; Mizuno baseball glove MPM 1251, 12 1/2 inches, xlt. cond., \$35; tires LT 215-85-R16, \$20, P185-70-R14, \$15, and P175-70-R13, \$10. Call 252-6629.

MISCELLANEOUS: Children's computer desk with file cabinet and chair, \$40 OBO. Call 256-1914.

MISCELLANEOUS: Truck cap for full size truck, white with windows, has lock and key, \$150 OBO. Call 252-2205.

MISCELLANEOUS: Day bed, white, brand new mattress, all decorative bedding included, \$125. Call 256-4873 (8-5).

MISCELLANEOUS: Oak single bed frames (2) xlt. cond., 1950's poster style, \$175; slot machine (silver dollars or tokens) xlt. cond., \$650; TV, 32 inch, dual tuners (pic-n-pic) Sony, \$850. Call 256-7557.

MISCELLANEOUS: Bowflex XTL machine, 210 lbs of res., lat. bar/leg ext, acc incl, nearly new, os. cond., manual included, \$1000, will accept payments. Call (760) 220-6252.

MISCELLANEOUS: Chevy 350 aluminum two quad manifold, \$110; new golf clubs, bag and accessories, \$125; older Volkswagen, mag rims, \$55; aluminum awning for car port or patio, \$110; Ford Ranger tailgate, \$55; push bumper with brush guard and winch mount, \$145; small cross bed truck tool box, \$25; Honda Civic, 1986 clean body and interior, needs engine, \$100. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: Washer and dryer, 10 Months old, \$350; Couch and sofa, \$350. Call 255-1820 lv. Msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Proform ESP 10 extended stride treadmill, 10 mph programmable speed, power in-

cline, 1.5 HP DC motor, adjustable suspension deck, xlt. cond., \$125. Call 253-2394 AWH.

WANTED: Honda or Acura car or car parts. Call 254-1913

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To place business-related adds call:

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(661) 945-5634

