

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 17

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

May 1, 2003

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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>

Sgt Maj of USMC named

By Sgt. W.A. Napper Jr.
3rd Marine Aircraft Wing Forward

KUWAIT – During an all-hands staff noncommissioned officer meeting at a Kuwait air base April 22, Maj. Gen. James F. Amos, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing commanding general, announced that the Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. Michael W. Hagee, has selected the 15th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps - Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada, 3rd MAW sergeant major.



– Sgt. Maj. John L. Estrada

"I've never met anybody that's moved into that job," Maj. Gen. Amos said to the crowd. "And to think, you're one of us. What we're going to get here is a Marines' Marine, a sergeant major that understands what being a sergeant major is all about."

To a standing ovation from the SNCOs in the room, Estrada took the microphone with a smile.

"I did not sleep at all last night," he said. "This is a very momentous event. There are many Marines and Sailors I have to thank. I know I wouldn't be in this position if it were not for them. This is as much a part of you as it is of me."

He told the SNCOs when he made a permanent change of station move to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Dec. 7, 2001, he had intended to retire following his tour and settle in California with his family. Less than two years later, he deployed to Kuwait to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"I was very fortunate to get slated to be the 3rd MAW sergeant major," he said. "I did not realize when I put my name in for that job that it would be such a huge responsibility. Since I came up through the wing it was like a homecoming of some sorts and I could not think of a better way to end my career - to be fortunate enough to come back and end it in the wing. It was just a tremendous billet for me."

Earlier this year, while serving in Operation Enduring Freedom, Estrada received a phone call from the 14th Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael, informing him he was one of the final four candidates for the 15th Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps.

"I was in disbelief and at the time I thought maybe he called the wrong person," said Estrada. "I never thought of myself as ever having a chance of being one of them. I was in shock because I

See **ESTRADA** Page 7

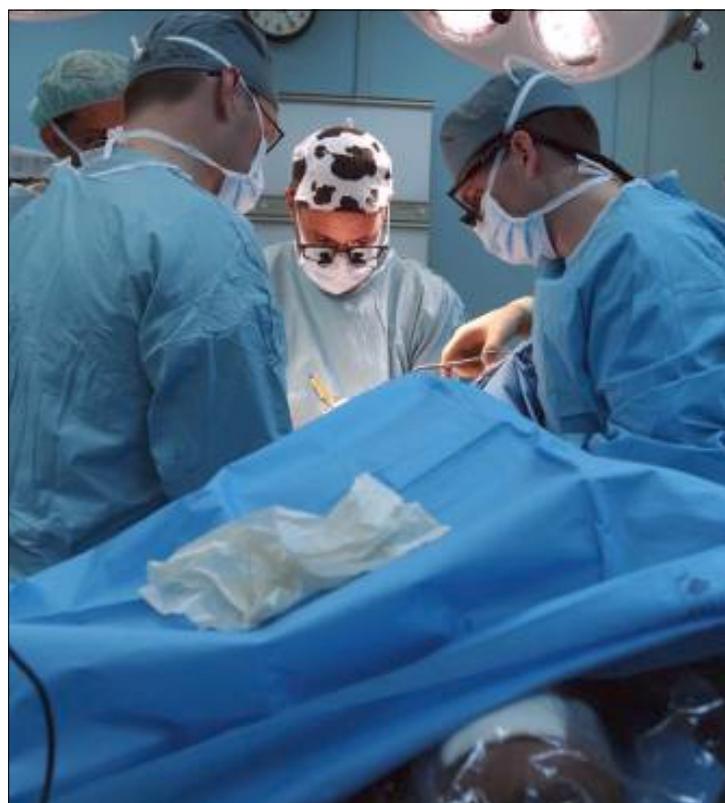


Photo by Photographer's Mate First Class Kevin H. Tierney

USNS COMFORT – Surgeons work diligently on an enemy prisoner of war in an operating room on board USNS Comfort. USNS Comfort is currently mobilized in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

N/MCRS fund drive begins

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

The MCLB Barstow's annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive is scheduled to begin accepting contributions today and will continue through May 30, the scheduled closing date of the drive.

The N/MCRS is a nonprofit, charitable organization that provides financial, educational and other assistance to members of the U.S. Naval services, and their eligible family members and survivors when in need.

To provide this assistance, the society offers counseling, loans, grants, various services, and referral to other community resources. There are no fees for such help.

The society relies on contributions to run its largely volunteer force. Every dollar donated will be given to the N/MCRS to assist in its efforts on behalf of the Navy and Marine Corps service members and their families.

According to Maj. Antonio Martinez, the command's N/MCRS representative, contributions can be made by anyone; however, since the fund drive is confined to the base for legal reasons, the majority of the contributions will come from the base's service members, federal employees, tenant activities and contractors.

"The goal of the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow N/MCRS Fund Drive is to ensure 100 percent contact with all employees on

the base," said Martinez. "Contacting each employee will ensure that they are aware of the fund drive and have an opportunity to contribute if they desire."

Contributions can be made via cash or check; however, the most common form of contribution for military members is through allotment, which automatically deducts a portion of their overall contribution over 12 equal, monthly payments from their paycheck.

According to Martinez, many of the departments, divisions and tenant organizations aboard the base are very creative in the way they choose to raise money for the N/MCRS. These organizations cre-

See **N/MCRS** Page 6

Corps' Legacy: *measuring up to yesteryears' Marines?*

By Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly
I Marine Expeditionary Force

I thought visiting a U.S. field medical hospital in southern Iraq might dampen my morale, but talking to the Marines recuperating on cots answered a question I've been asking myself for years:

How would today's Marines handle the vaunted legacy of Marines past?

The answer – quite well. Today's Marines can and are carrying on the Corps' immense traditions. I've read about the spirit that drove Marines through house-to-house fighting in

Hue City, Vietnam. The same verve was evident in the battle for the Iraqi city of An Nasiriyah.

The wounded expressed no concern for gunshot and shrapnel wounds, broken bones and internal injuries they had sustained just hours earlier. They proclaimed their eagerness to go back into action. Their sole concern was finding out how their comrades were fairing.

In a world where everyone seems to whine nonstop, these men demonstrated an utterly selfless attitude despite having every reason to complain. I think they would have made Marines of the past proud.

The fine performance in Operation Iraq Freedom isn't limited to the wounded.

Navy corpsmen have bandaged up Marines on the battlefield for more than 200 years. They are working around the clock in Iraq. Even when they had the rare chance to lie down for an hour or two, they did so outside because they didn't want to take up precious tent space for the battle scathed.

Closer to the front lines, Marines go days without sleep. Weeks pass between chances to bathe or wash their uniforms. Even when they get such opportunities, they nap in

foxholes and wash up using makeshift tubs constructed from field ration boxes lined in trash bags.

This is the generation that grew up on the Internet, video games and fast food – all a distant memory as they make their way north along stretches of desolate desert and clear city streets of enemy fighters.

At an infantry unit's forward deployed position within 100 miles of Baghdad, I didn't hear a gripe. Instead the senior-enlisted Marines talked about how proud they were of the young guys. The teenage and 20-something Marines praised their leaders for preparing them so well.

They've not only survived some of the fiercest fighting since Vietnam, but they've thrived. Traversing hundreds of miles through countless ambushes, they've already defeated the well-dug-in, unconventional forces guarding southern and central Iraq. As Marines have done so many times in the past, they've adapted to the situation and accomplished their mission.

The conditions obviously aren't as tough as they were in the Korean War, and I doubt the battles here

See LEGACY Page 10

Beauty in eye of beholder

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



As a newcomer to the high desert, I have seen many new and beautiful sights.

I have been able to see stunning sunrises and sunsets. I have seen the night sky so full of stars it appeared as if they were bumping into each other.

I have driven into the mountains of Calico and seen the rugged beauty and the patchwork of color from which the range gets its name.

All of these things are a treat to the eye and stimulate the soul to appreciate all of creation. As I awaken each morning and see similar sights I note I am not quite as excited about the still spectacular views as I once was and sometimes don't notice them at all as I drive to work.

The sights just seem to blend into the landscape and it takes real effort to see something different.

There are other things I see each morning on my drive to work that, to be honest, I try not see. I am, probably like many, just a person who tries to see the good and avoid the

unpleasant, and as I read the sacred page this morning I was particularly moved by what the writer talked about. It was a short pericope from the book of Acts chapter 3.

The writer talks about a man he had seen each day as he passed by on the way to worship. He noted that this man was lame and had been carried to a place on the way to the temple so that he could beg for money from the passers by.

I wondered how many times St. Peter had seen this man? I wondered if he had tried to avoid really "seeing" him because he was disturbed by what he saw? In other words, I wondered if he was like me. I wondered if St. Peter had felt helpless to remedy the problems that plagued this man since apparently no one had been able to help him before. I thought about how St. Peter viewed this person each day as he passed by and most of all I wondered what made St. Peter stop on this particular day.

Whatever it was that made him stop, St. Peter saw something that caught his attention. There was something that had changed in him to allow him to see things a bit more clearly.

From the writing one can discern that St. Peter knew that money was not the answer to the lame man's problems and that didn't really

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Just doing my job ...



Photo by Rob Jackson

Paul Biancotti, heavy mobile equipment mechanic, Cost Work Center 713, Maintenance Center Barstow, replaces one of the a-arms on a Light Armored Vehicle.

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.



BARSTOW LOG

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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.



Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month luncheon

The Asian Pacific Islander Program committee has scheduled a "Salute to Liberty" luncheon May 22 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club. The observance is one of the base's six special emphasis programs.

Tickets are \$7.25 and include chicken teriyaki or beef and broccoli with fried rice, and lumpia. Capt. Prasserth Yang, communications officer, will be the guest speaker. For tickets or for more information call one of the follow-

ing Asian Pacific Islander committee members:

| Name | Phone |
|---------------|----------|
| Dan Keim | 577-6614 |
| Tulu Niusulu | 577-7180 |
| Sam Callejo | 577-6632 |
| Corina Bonner | 577-6619 |
| Hegi King | 577-7695 |
| Amy Mandap | 577-6895 |
| Vee Pasco | 577-6884 |
| Marva Johnson | 577-6965 |
| Fred Molino | 577-7210 |
| Debbie Anilao | 577-6746 |

CWRA Old Town trip

The Civilian Welfare and Recreation Association is sponsoring a trip to San Diego Old Town Saturday. 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 Keim at 577-6614.

Cinco de Mayo celebration

The public is invited to the Second Annual Cinco de Mayo Family Celebration at Barstow College scheduled for Sunday.

The event, sponsored by the Desert Dispatch, Soutar's, and Time Warner Cable, will feature performances by local mariachi bands and folklorico dancers in the Barstow College amphitheater, craft booths, food vendors, a car display and children's activities.

The MCLB Public Safety Department will be supporting the event with the Fire and Emergency Services Division's "smoke house" (a trailer-sized mock house which simulates a real fire) and demonstrations by the Provost Marshal Office's Military

Working Dog unit.

Festivities begin at 11 a.m. and run through 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, contact Bea Lint at 252-4140 or Sue Jones at 252-2411.

Barstow College talent show

Barstow College's Multi-Cultural Club is scheduling a talent show open to the public Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Barstow College's Norman Smith Center.

The talent show is appropriate for all ages, and admission is \$1.

For more information, call 252-2411, ext. 7304, or send e-mail to mumoren@barstow.cc.ca.us.

Recruiters' assistance

Recruiting Station Louisville, Ky., is seeking Marines from Kentucky, southern Indiana and the greater Cincinnati, Oh., area to participate in the Permissive Temporary Additional Duty Program.

The program allows Marines to work in their hometowns for up to 30 days helping local recruiters in their efforts to fill the Marine Corps' ranks. Privates and privates first class can get promoted to the next rank, while lance

corporals and corporals can earn up to 100 points towards promotion.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Maj. Leon Jordan, at (502) 582-6612/6610 or via email at jordanl@4mcd.usmc.mil.

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

Family assistance hotlines

Recent deployments of military members to the Persian Gulf can have a tremendous effect on families.

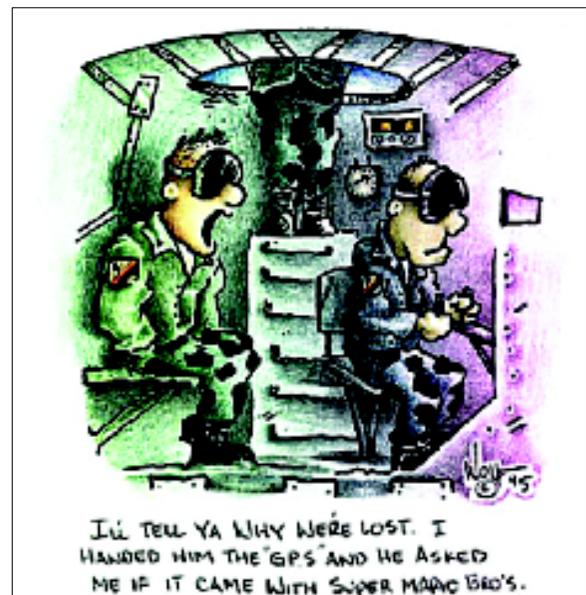
For support in dealing with deployment and other family issues, there are several hotlines available to family members of each military service: Army, (800) 833-6622; Air Force, (800) 435-9941; Navy, (800) 372-5463; Marine Corps (East of the Mississippi River minus Wisconsin), (800) 336-4663; Marine Corps (West of the Mississippi River plus Wisconsin), (800) 253-1624; and U.S. Coast Guard, (800) 872-4957 Ext. 932.

Other hotlines available include: the Marine Corps MCCS One Source, (800) 433-6868; the Deployment Health Support Hotline, (800) 497-6261; and the Marine Corps Iraqi Freedom hotline, (866) 227-2708.

Busch theme parks free to military

Anheuser-Busch is giving troops and their families free admission to SeaWorld, Busch Gardens and Sesame Place starting May 25 until Nov. 11.

According to an Anheuser-Busch "Operation Salute" press release admission is free to active duty military,



active reservists, U.S. Coast Guard, National Guardsmen and as many as four of their direct dependents. The offer also has been extended to all coalition forces serving with U.S. troops in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

U.S. Airways savings

Discount fares are available to active and reserve military and their immediate family members through U.S. Airways "Salute Savings" program for tickets purchased through Dec. 31 for travel completed by Feb. 12, 2004.

Rates are available to the eligible through government-contracted commercial travel offices. Certain restrictions may apply.

For more information call the MCLB Scheduled Airlines Traffic Office representative Lynn Escobedo at 577-6135 or SATO Vacations at (877) 304-8456.

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.

ASMC Picnic

The American Society of Military Comptrollers is scheduled to host its annual May Day Picnic at the beer garden May 7 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The menu included barbecued chicken, baked beans, salad, beverages and dessert.

Cost of the picnic is \$5.00 (all proceeds go toward the ASMC's scholarship fund) and tickets can be obtained by contacting the following members:

| Name | Phone |
|-----------------|----------|
| Lou Ann Presley | 577-6636 |
| Connie Lewellyn | 577-6596 |
| Tito Escobedo | 577-6369 |
| Erin Foster | 577-6643 |
| Billie Reed | 577-7875 |

Correction:

The MCCS story on page four of the April 24 edition of the Barstow Log was printed with an error in the story relating to the categories of government funded programs.

The correct categories are as follows: Category "A" programs, which are 100 percent appropriated fund programs like the Personal Services Division and Semper Fit, do not need to generate any kind of funds on their own to operate successfully. Category "B" programs, which are run by 65 percent appropriated funds, cannot survive on their own without supplementation from the government.

The remaining 35 percent is generated through the fees charged to patrons. Programs like childcare fall into this category. Category "C" programs, which are totally non-appropriated programs like the exchange, require no government assistance whatsoever to operate successfully. Over 95 percent of all revenue generated by MCCS is reinvested into the local programs to benefit the MCLB Barstow community. We regret the error.

Job Watch

| Ann. 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-200-03-NR | Sandblaster Leader WL-5423-07 | 04-23-03 | 05-12-03 | 04-25-03 | MCLB Barstow |
| DEU-205-03-NR | Mobile Equipment Mechanic Helper WG-3809-05 | 04-23-03 | 05-08-03 | 04-25-03 | 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.

PMO Marine wins MOQ board

Training NCO shows the board what training is all about

By Pfc. Andy J. Hurt
BARSTOW LOG staff

With the dawn of the new quarter, MCLB Barstow's Headquarters Battalion went looking for the most motivated junior enlisted Marine on base. The search did not last long.

Lance Cpl. Michael Ojeda, the training NCO at the Provost Marshal's Office, won the MCLB Barstow Marine of the Quarter board in March, earning well-deserved respect and admiration from his fellow Marines.

"He's one of those 'quality' Marines," said Gunnery Sgt. David Paul, PMO operations chief.

Paul recommended Ojeda for the board.

"We had no doubt that he was going to win."

Paul said Ojeda has done well in

boards PMO has held between its Marines and competitions, including doing over 100 pull-ups per day during PMO's 30-day pull-up challenge.

Physical training is just one of Ojeda's strengths that made him a natural selection for the board, said Paul.

"(Ojeda) definitely has the attitude and motivation that makes training a better place.

He is constantly pushing himself, he is intelligent and industrious; Lance Corporal Ojeda has been an asset to PMO," said Paul.

Ojeda said he was notified he would compete only four days before the board and didn't know when the board would take place until the night before.

"Corporal Perez helped me a lot. He came to my room and we went over (questions and answers) that night," said Ojeda.

Marine of the Quarter boards are conducted similar to meritorious promotion boards. The competition starts off with a physical fitness test, which is followed by a uniform

inspection, drill and a formal question and answer session in front of the board.

"I knew I wouldn't have a problem with the PFT," said Ojeda.

Scoring well on the PFT, Ojeda said the selected uniform to be inspected was "service alpha."

"I just make a uniform look good," Ojeda declared.

Drill came next, and Ojeda scored a 93.

His only problem, he said, was the question and answer session.

"My knowledge was not up to par, and if I was competing against anyone else, that's where they could have beaten me."

Ojeda was also one of three recipients of the battalion first sergeant's "Motivation Award" at the battalion Battle Skills Training exercise.

"Winning that was awesome," said Ojeda, who believes that Marines should always give 100 percent and have fun when training.



— Lance Cpl. Michael Ojeda

See MOQ Page 6

Earth Day closeout

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

The 33rd observance of Earth Day was April 22 and the theme for 2003 was "Action for a Healthy Environment."

Throughout the month of April MCLB Barstow through Environmental Division has done its part to preserve a healthy environment, from stressing the importance of recycling to using xeriscaping to help conserve water.

To close out Earth Day activities the head of Environmental, Jack Stormo, and MCLB base commander Col. Liz Bergman, in a quiet ceremony added yet another plant to the xeriscape setting of Building 15.

The plant donated by Lynda Kay, of the Business Performance Office, is called *Agastache rupestris* or Licorice Mint because of its fragrance. Like the vegetation already planted around the building it requires little water to survive.

Xeriscape landscaping is an innovative, comprehensive approach to landscaping for water conserva-

tion and pollution prevention, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

Xeriscape incorporates many environmental factors into landscape design – soil type, use of native plants, practical turf areas, proper irrigation, mulches, and appropriate maintenance schedules, the Web site states.

By using native plants that are well suited to a region's climate, such as the *Agastache*, xeriscape drastically reduces the need for irrigation and chemical applications. Less irrigation results in less runoff, while less chemical keeps runoff clean.

The *Agastache* seems to be a perfect addition to the landscape because it is native to the high deserts of Arizona, New Mexico and areas much like those around Barstow.

The flowers bloom with orange with purple hint.

Keep an eye out for the hummingbirds when this plant is in bloom.

The head of the Environmental Division wants to thank everybody for participating in the base-wide clean up in early April.

Tracking the award jacket

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

Recently, the Commandant of the Marine Corps voluntarily removed three personal decorations that could not be verified with proper documentation. Unfortunately, the documentation for decorations Marines earn during a long career can be lost and brought into question at any time, even for the most senior officer in the Marine Corps.

According to the MarAdmin 082/03, two significant changes have occurred that have added confusion and currently make verification even more imperative. In 1999, the combat history-expedition-awards records page, page nine, was removed from the officer qualification record and the service record book. As a result, award information was manually typed into the Marine Corps Total Force System through unit diary entries. Numerous coding errors resulted from this effort. The second change took place from 1996 to 1998, when the official military personnel file was converted from

microfiche to digital format. Some of the transferred images were unreadable and some were inadvertently dropped all together.

To prevent the occurrence of such a situation where awards may come up missing, Marines can follow a simple two-step procedure, outlined in MarAdmin 082/03, to verify that the correct documentation of personal awards and decorations is accurate and up-to-date.

Step one is to verify that Marine's OMPF contains a copy of each award citation and summary of action for personal awards.

The OMPF is the digital repository of a copy of all supporting documents that pertain to a Marine's military career. The Personnel Management Support Branch manages the file at Headquarters Marine Corps.

To obtain a copy of their OMPF, Marines can visit the manpower and reserve affairs Web site at www.manpower.usmc.mil, email a request to mnsbompf@manpower.usmc.mil, or mail a request to: Headquarters U.S. Marine Corps, Personnel

Management Support Branch, 2008 Elliot Road, Quantico, Va., 22134-5103.

Step two is to verify that the personal information in the MCTFS is accurate and complete. The MCTFS is the master personnel and pay record for all active and reserve Marines, and is managed at HQMC by the Manpower Information Division.

According to Sgt. Carlos E. Barrientos, service record book chief with the Administration Support Division here, information on the MCTFS can be verified by either visiting Marine On-Line at <http://www.mol.usmc.mil>, or by visiting the administration office at Building 15.

"Every Marine is responsible for the accuracy of his or her records," said Barrientos. "The only time a Marine should be wearing a ribbon or medal is if there is proper documentation of the decoration in the OMPF and/or MCTFS systems. There may be times when a Marine has documentation of a decoration that is

See AWARD Page 10

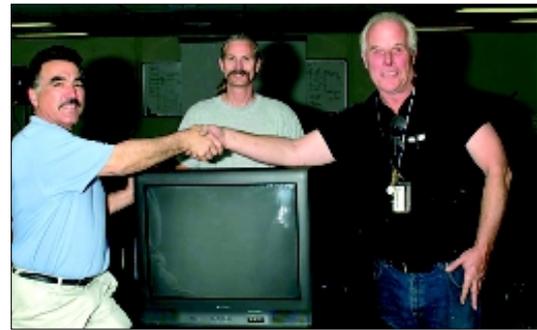


Photo by Curt Lambert

AFGE Local 1482 President Chris Moya (left) and Dave Ramsey (middle), fair practices coordinator, present new member Robert Kuhn (right) with his new 27" color TV, which was part of a membership drive that allowed the new member and the recruiter to each have a chance to win the TV.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

matter because he had no money to offer. I suspect those are not uncommon thoughts for many of us. We feel money is not the answer to the problem, but we are not quite sure what to give.

I am certainly am not certain what to give, but what I am certain of is that we need to begin really "seeing" people – the challenge St. Peter overcame. His challenge was not really what to do for the people; but rather seeing the people in the first

place. Now, St. Peter pulled off a miracle at this point and the person was healed of his disability.

I don't want to second-guess anyone's efforts, but I would not necessarily expect all of us to be able to accomplish that kind of miracle. However, we are all capable of achieving another kind of miracle and that is the miracle of curing our own blindness. The question is, do we really want to see?

Peace,
Fr Randel

March safety summary

No fatalities during Iraqi Freedom' buildup

Compiled by
BARSTOW LOG staff

Operation Iraqi Freedom began in March. Since the start of hostilities, Marines have been engaged around the clock in combat operations. Sustained combat operations have also resulted in accidents.

According to ALMAR 024/03 during the month of March, 11 Marines died in on-duty ground and off-duty accidents, seven in aviation accidents, and two from apparent suicides.

Fatalities

Seven Marines died in on-duty ground accidents this month. A sergeant from 2nd Battalion, 10th Marines collapsed during physical training aboard Marine Corps Base 29 Palms and later died at the hospital. Six other Marines lost their lives in ground accidents during Operation Iraqi Freedom this month.

Four Marines died in off-duty accidents this month. A sergeant from Headquarters Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps fell off a bridge while fishing and

drowned.

A corporal from Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-31, Marine Aircraft Group-31 fell over the side of an overpass, and later died of his injuries. A reservist lance corporal from 4th Tank Battalion traveling home from drill weekend lost control of his vehicle causing it to roll several times. He later died from his injuries.

A private first class from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-764 was found dead in the shower of his bachelor enlisted quarters.

Suicides

Two Marines died of suspected suicides this month. A gunnery sergeant from Navy Air Maintenance Training Unit was found hanging in his garage and a corporal from 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion was discovered with a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Injuries

A lance corporal from B Company, 1st Battalion, 11th Marines was seriously injured when he was shot in the neck by the negligent discharge of another Marine.

A private first class from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade broke his right leg while jumping from the bed of a MTVR truck.

A private first class from Combat Ser-

vice Support Group-11 suffered second-degree burns to his face, arms, and back when he attempted to check the fuel gauges on a Logistics Vehicle System refueler with a lighter, and the refueler ignited.

A lance corporal from 1st Tank Battalion was shot in the thigh by another Marine's negligent discharge.

Two lance corporals and a private first class from 6th Marines, 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade were diagnosed with heatstroke during a 10-mile hike. One lance corporal was hospitalized for treatment.

A corporal from 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines had his legs crushed by an M1A1 tank. A lance corporal from 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit suffered serious injury to his hand when his bayonet cut it during building clearing exercises.

A lance corporal from 3rd Assault Amphibian Battalion suffered a possible spine fracture after falling from the roof of an Assault Amphibian Vehicle.

Nine Marines were seriously injured in off-duty accidents. Eight of the nine accidents occurred in automobiles, and one on a motorcycle.

A sergeant and corporal from 14th Marines were injured when the corpo-

See SAFETY Page 10

NMCRS From Page 1

ate an atmosphere of friendly competition to see who can raise the most money through their idea and thus have base "bragging rights." Barstow is very unique in this respect.

"Past fund raising ideas revolve around food, (such as bake sales, chili-cheese dogs, etc.) but last year's big hit was the dunk tank sponsored by the Headquarters Battalion," said Martinez. "For a nominal fee, participants could buy a ball and attempt to hit a target that would dunk their favorite officer or staff noncommissioned officer into the murky waters below. The dunk tank was a definite favorite among our junior Marines."

Specific departments, divisions or tenant activities execute most fund raising ideas as they plan their annual fund raising event; however, if an employee has a question regarding the feasibility of a fund raising

activity, they can contact the chairman of this year's fund drive, 1st Lt. Casey Taylor, or Martinez. Depending on the scope of the idea, the Staff Judge Advocate may be required to give a legal opinion.

In the past, and at other bases, the N/MCRS fund drives have been known to offer some sort of prize contributors could win in a raffle or drawing, but according to Martinez, recent legal interpretations of California state law prohibit any raffle or giveaway.

Editor's Note:

For more information about the Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society visit their Web site at <http://www.nmcrs.org>.

For more information about the drive here contact 1st Lt. Casey Taylor, 577-6155.

MOQ from Page 4

It was no secret that Ojeda would be the only Marine competing for Marine of the Quarter, said Paul.

"I wish there had been more Marines there," said Ojeda.

Ojeda said that after competing

on his first board ever he's ready for anything, and he believes that boards are good indicators of a Marine's individual standing in his career.

Ojeda said his advice for Marines interested in competing on a board is to do what he did.

"I gave it everything."

ESTRADA From Page 1

thought I was getting called to get my butt chewed over their visit. A few days prior to that phone call, the Commandant and Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps were visiting us; visiting their Marines here in Kuwait. I was a little concerned getting a call from the sergeant major right after their visit, because I was thinking 'what could we have done, what didn't they like?' to get that phone call."

Every few years a board looks at the top approximately 150 sergeants major on the linear list and selects four candidates. They present this list to the Commandant of the Marine Corps for review. If he likes none of the candidates' qualifications, he can go back to the board and order them to try again.

The decision for the next Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps is solely the Commandant's and once the four were selected they were interviewed at different times.

Estrada said he prepared for his interview by coming up with a list of eight questions he thought Gen. Hagee would ask.

"When I went into the interview I felt I had as good a chance as the other three," he said. "I went in and gave it my best shot. I finally decided to just go and be myself, be who I have always been."

Of those eight questions Estrada had prepared, the Commandant only asked one - "Why do you think you should be the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps?"

"What are three things you would change in the Marine Corps?" and "If I did not select you as the next Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, whom would you recommend?" were other ques-

tions asked by the Commandant.

"I thought that was the best question of all because it really shows the character of the individual," he said.

Estrada received a phone call April 21 from Gen. Hagee informing him of the final decision. In a small twist, the phone call didn't come directly to his office. Instead, Marine Wing Headquarters Squadron's Staff Judge Advocate Marines received it.

"There were people scrambling to get me because the Commandant of the Marine Corps was on the phone," he said. "So I made the walk over to the SJA, which is not that far away, but to me it felt like I was walking on a plank and was getting ready to go overboard. I was wondering, trying to figure if this was going to be good news or bad. The question going through my mind was 'is he was going to tell me that I am the guy or is he going to tell me sorry, I'm not the guy?'"

When he reached the phone he was told to stand by for the Commandant. Then the Corps' top Marine picked up the phone.

"The Commandant came on the phone and said 'Sergeant Major Estrada, how are you doing today? I'm calling you to offer a position to be the next Sergeant Major of our Corps. Do you still want the job?'"

Even though he'd had some time to brace himself for either decision, Estrada said he was taken aback by the question.

"I was stunned because that's very big news - very big news," he said. "I said 'Sir, yes of course I still want the job.' Then I told him I was honored that he had confidence in me and afforded me the opportunity to be the 15th Sergeant Major

of our Corps.

"I've always known that if I got to the position where I could make a difference, I'd like to try to make a difference," said Estrada. "So I thought about it, and thought if I could get to this position I could really help make a difference in impacting the Marine Corps as a whole and in a very positive way. That's all I've ever tried to do."

Estrada has been known as a Marine's Marine. He said he believes one of his strong points is his ability to communicate up and down the chain of command.

"That has always been my style," he said. "I feel very, very good knowing that I can go out and connect with the lowest-ranking Marines and talk to them. All my commanders have always allowed me the latitude to do just that. That's the only way that I can get the true pulse of what's going on in the unit. You can't do that from behind a desk. I look forward to going out and talking to the Marines and I love doing that."

"I don't feel I'm the sergeant major of just the enlisted Marines. I'm not, I'm the sergeant major for the command. I spend a lot of time with junior officers and commanders to see if they need anything or if there's something we can be doing better to support them."

"I will continue to take every opportunity that I have to get out and connect with the Marines," he said.

Estrada believes the Marine Corps is running smoothly, and has no immediate plans to recommend any changes - yet. He said a good leader learns his new job before recommending any changes. Often he is asked if today's Marines are as tough as Leathernecks of old and

Estrada said based on what he saw during Operation Iraqi Freedom he could answer that question with a resounding "yes!"

"During the time here, the performance of all of our Marines - not just the air wing, (has made me) extremely proud - especially our Marines in the division that met very fierce resistance. They (overcame) it all very courageously. I was so proud that those Marines fought just as well as any Marine who had fought battles in the past."

Estrada said he knows he's the next chapter in the history of the Marine Corps and he won't let his Marines down. However, he will require one thing from all Marines during his time as Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps.

"I expect all of our Marines to represent our Corps in the eyes of the American people and the world in a very professional way. The American people think a lot and expect a lot from the Marine Corps, and I charge our Marines to continue to give them just that. These are very big shoes I'm about to fill and I have not taken this appointment lightly in any way."

"I will always work hard to better our Corps," he said. "I will always have the Marines' best interests at heart."

Estrada enlisted in the Marine Corps Sept. 5, 1973, and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C. In March 1974, he was assigned to Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 451 at MCAS Beaufort, S.C. In December 1974, he transferred to 1st MAF, MCAS Iwakuni, Japan, to serve with VMFA-232.

In February 1976, he transferred to VMFA-101 at MCAS Yuma, Ariz. One year later he

See **ESTRADA** Page 10



C&M and MCCS bring it to
MCLB Barstow by ...

Setting
this

CIRCUS

down



A member of the Chimal family demonstrates her hula-hooping skills April 22 with a variety of different tricks.

Story and photos by Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus set up the "Big-Top" on Sorensen Field April 22 and performed two shows for the base and local community that evening.

The show began with acrobatic displays, down skits and a comedy sequence featuring a menacing pooch that brought laughter from the crowd and set the tone for the evening.

A family of circus performers displayed a series of skills from tumbling to hula-hoop and jump rope, and Tiny A. Clown made sure to make an appearance between acts to stir up some laughter.

When the stars of the show finally made their appearance, the two African Elephants captivated the local children and a few adults as well by performing tricks like sitting down, rolling over and waving to the audience as they made their exit.

The Culpepper & Merriweather Circus was made possible by the base's Marine Corps Community Services Department.



Jason Perry, son of Megan Perry, takes his time feeding the goats April 22 while the circus team set up the "Big Top."



The "Amazing" Stephanie splits the roman ring



The Chimal family launches an aerial assault with a series of tumbling stunts. The Chimal stunts towards the end of the show.



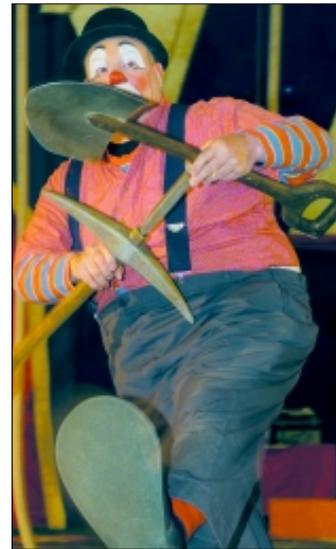
The "Amazing" Stephanie splits the roman rings with ease as she performs a series of daring and skillful ring maneuvers for the audience.



The Chimal family launches an aerial assault in the center of the circus ring April 22 with a series of tumbling stunts. The Chimals also performed a series of jump-rope stunts towards the end of the show.



Two assistants help this fire-juggling unicyclist prepare for his main event.



Tiny A. Clown performs for the 5 p.m. audience April 22, wowing the onlookers by balancing this coupled display of tools in his chin for several seconds.

LEGACY from Page 2

have been as brutal as World War II. Every conflict has its own circumstances. If chemical weapons aren't deployed by the Iraqi regime, the distinctiveness of this war may be the actual combat experience today's forces lacked going in. The United States hasn't been involved in fighting on such a scale in more than 30 years. Nonetheless, the men and

women serving now are proving that a peacetime military can maintain battle readiness. They're demonstrating their toughness, competence and patriotism.

Editor's Note:

Sgt. Joseph R. Chenelly is a combat correspondent with I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward) deployed in support of Iraqi Freedom.

SAFETY from Page 6

ral ran a stop sign and hit a tree. Both Marines were hospitalized, and both were wearing seatbelts.

A sergeant from Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma was hospitalized after his vehicle left the road and rolled.

A lance corporal from 10th Marines underwent cheek and jawbone surgery after crashing into a building while riding a motorcycle.

Two privates first class from 1st Battalion, 6th Marines sustained injuries when the vehicle they were traveling in hit a tree. Both are currently in stable condition, and both were wearing their seatbelts.

A lance corporal from Marine Aircraft Group-39 was injured when his automobile hydroplaned into oncoming traf-

fic and struck another vehicle. He suffered cuts, abrasions, and internal bleeding, and is in serious but stable condition.

A corporal and lance corporal from Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Camp Pendleton was injured in a motor vehicle accident after the driver fell asleep and struck a tree. Both were hospitalized for multiple non-life threatening injuries, and both were wearing seatbelts.

Aviation

A CH-46E from Marine Medium Helicopter-268 impacted the ground during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Four U.S. Marines and eight Royal Marines perished in the disaster.

A UH-1N from Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron-169 impacted the ground on takeoff during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Three Marines died in the accident and one Marine was injured.

AWARD from Page 5

not in the system. If this is the case, then that Marine does have authority to wear the decoration, but it is strongly encouraged that he or she stop by the administration office and have the document ran in the system. That way, if the Marine loses the document or retires, there is permanent documentation of the decoration."

Looking ahead

Gen. M.W. Hagee, Commandant of the Marine Corps, made positive statements in his looking ahead section of ALMAR 024/03. "The challenges confronting our deployed Marines are enormous, but they have been met head on," he noted. "Remarkably, the build up for Operation Iraqi Freedom was completed without a single Marine fatality.

"Each of you deserves credit for this," Hagee continued.

The Commandant explained that in combat and in training, continued application of risk management and solid leadership are the best tools to reduce the toll of mishaps.

"The level of acceptable risk changes in combat; but the principles of risk management and the contributions of our superb leaders never change," he concluded. "Keep attacking!"

ESTRADA from Page 7

moved to MCAS El Toro, Calif., to serve with VMFA-314. In December 1978, he was reassigned to VMFA-323. In November 1979, he deployed aboard USS Coral Sea to the Western Pacific and Arabian Sea for seven months. In June 1980, Estrada transferred to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., to serve with Marine Reserve Fighter Attack Squadron 321, Marine Aircraft Group 41.

In August 1982, he received orders to drill instructor duty at MCRD San Diego, Calif., where he served with 3rd Recruit Training Battalion. In October 1984, he was ordered back to MCAS Beaufort, this time for duty with VMFA-251 as the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the airframes division. In November 1985, he was reassigned to VMFA-451 and then deployed to the Western Pacific in January 1986. He returned in July.

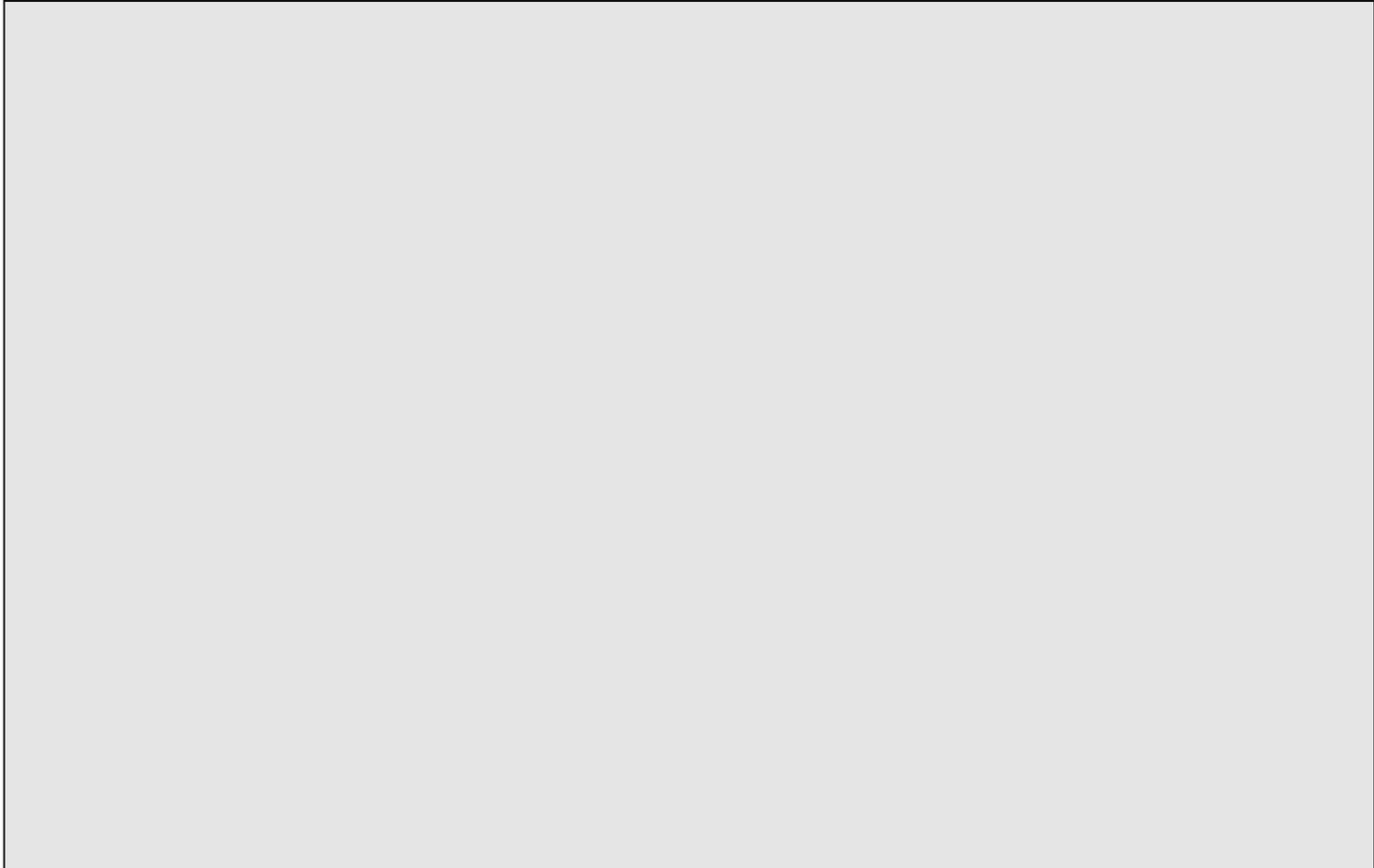
From January to March 1987, Estrada attended aircraft maintenance schools, retraining as an F/A-18 hydraulic/structural mechanic. In October, he was once again ordered to DI duty, this time as the 3rd Recruit Training Battalion's Series Chief Drill Instructor at MCRD Parris Island. He was later reassigned to Drill Instructor School as the Standard Operating Procedures Instructor and Drill Master until his promotion to first sergeant in October 1990.

In December 1990, and until March 1995, he served as the first sergeant for Intelligence Company, 3rd Surveillance Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, Okinawa, Japan; Marine Security Force Company, Naval Air Station Norfolk, Va.; Electronic Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.; and Alpha Company, 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, MCB Camp Pendleton.

From March 1995 to May 1998, Estrada, now a sergeant major, served as sergeant major for 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division, MCB Camp Pendleton, and deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable) and the 15th MEU (SOC) to the Western Pacific and the Arabian Gulf.

In May 1998, he assumed the billet as sergeant major for Recruiting Station Sacramento, Calif., 12th Marine Corps District. From April 2000 to October 2001, he served as the sergeant major for the Recruit Training Regiment at MCRD Parris Island. He assumed the post as the 3rd MAW sergeant major, Dec. 7, 2001.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.





By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

2nd anniversary sale

The Marine Corps Exchange three-day anniversary sale starting today and ending Saturday features daily door prizes (gift certificates, assorted merchandise). A drawing will be held each day at noon; the grand prize drawing for will be for a Panasonic 27" color TV/VCR/DVD.

There will be wine tasting, food, refreshments, quarter-pound hot dogs, soft drinks, chips and sandwiches.

Some of the great specials in sale will be: Pioneer AM/FM car stereo with cassette for only \$85.99. jWIN 5" personal black and white TV with AM/FM radio (batteries not included) for just \$19.99.

On Saturday, the exchange will hold it's Super Sidewalk Sale with food and a car wash. Bargains include 50

percent and 75 percent off men and women's clothing, and a big tire truck-load sale.

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

Lunch Menu

Unless otherwise indicated lunch menus for the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe are the same. Lunch menus subject to change.

Today – Salisbury steak.

Friday – Breaded hoki fish.

Monday – Chicken fried steak.

Tuesday – Chicken teriyaki breast.

Wednesday – Pork tenderloin.

Thursday – 6" meatball subs.

Price changes effective today: Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians \$4.75.

Family Night Dining

Tonight – Mongolian barbeque night: 50 cents an ounce with a \$6

minimum. Includes fountain drink of your choice and dessert.

Price changes effective today:

Family night dining prices will be: \$6 adults, \$4 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

The Oasis Club will be closed tonight for mess night. Friday is "First Friday" and the menu is Mexican food celebrating Cinco de Mayo. Tuesday is burn your own steak night, Wednesday is Army night and the Advisory Board Meeting at 3:30 p.m.

At the Enlisted Club it's darts, pool, TV and CD music tonight. Friday features "TGIFriday." Monday is the Single Marine Program's Cinco de

Mayo party. Tuesday it's bar and grill night, and Wednesday is mid-week relaxation hour, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Twilight League Golfing

The Twilight League rates stay in effect throughout the summer.

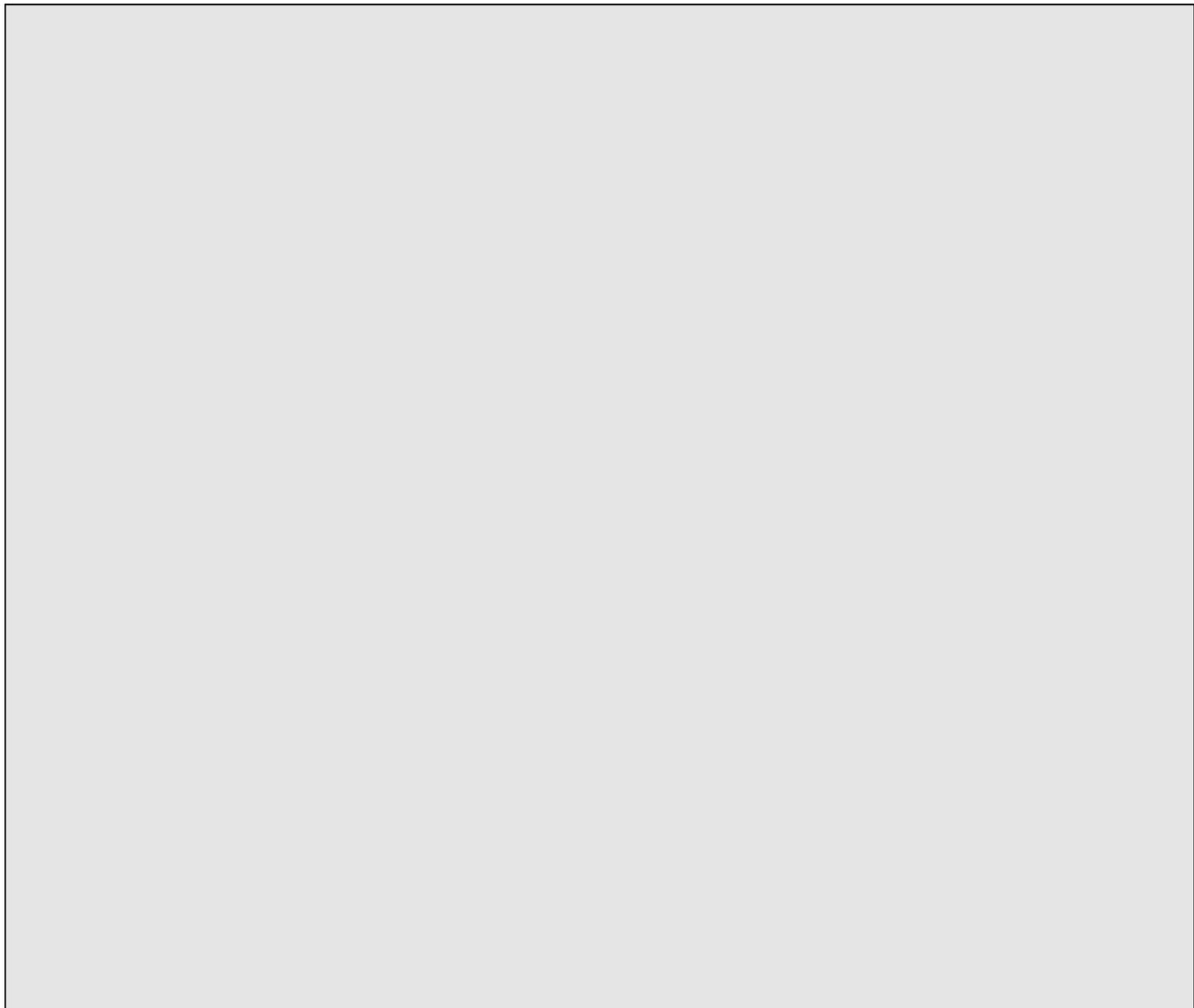
May is Military Appreciation Month - half price green fees to all active duty personnel.

Breakfast Club Special - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to noon, green fees: \$5 for 9 holes, \$8 for 18 holes.

Call for details 577-6431. Tees n' Trees golf course is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to dusk.

Tijuana, Mexico trip

ITT has a trip to Tijuana, Mexico set for May 17. People must be signed up paid for May 10. Call ITT, 577-6541, for more information on this trip.



2003 PONTIC VIBE GT: Silver, 6 sp. man. trans, 6 disc changer, 16" alloys, moon roof, only 3300 miles, take over payments. Call 252-3504.

Call 253-2394 AWH.

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

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.

MOTORCYCLE: 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: 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: 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, \$1000. 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 incline, 1.5 HP DC motor, adjustable suspension deck, xlt. cond., \$125.

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

To place business-related ads call:

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