

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 18

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

May 8, 2003

Sergeants Challenged

A master gunnery sergeant asks sergeants if they have what it takes.

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NCO of Quarter

PMO corporal takes home title.

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Land Navigation

PMO Marines track through desert on navigation exercise.

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Sunday is Mother's Day

Happy Mother's Day to those who claim the title "Mom."

Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

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

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

MCLB rail ops moving full speed ahead

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

In December 2002 the Nebo Railhead was upgraded and reactivated, after lying dormant for almost 20 years, to help alleviate the congestion at Yermo. To further help relieve the crowded Yermo and beef up railhead operations, MCLB Barstow sought to obtain additional locomotives.

Less than six months after the railhead was activated the engines were located and arrived recently from Yorktown Shipyard in Virginia, three 80-ton locomotives with a fourth on the way, according to John Hines, Ground Maintenance Equipment supervisor of Installation and Logistics Division.

"The engines arrived by rail and John Noxon, Public Works, was the person who arranged the shipment," said Hines. "He did this working with the people at [Military Traffic Management Command]."

The Marine Corps had been talking about bringing in operations from Camp Lejeune, N.C., and beefing up the annual Combined Arms Exercise from one event to two a year. The extra CAX would be taking place about the same time some of the Army rotations were going on, according to Hines.

It was necessary to obtain more engines, more horsepower to support the operations on both sides of the base (MCLB), he said.

Army Capt. Lorenzo Rios, former Movement Control Center officer at Yermo, was one of the key players in making sure the railhead would support any contingency or training exercise the Army had coming in and going out of here, according to Hines.

"Because we have the additional locomotives, we'll probably have two on the Nebo side and two on the Yermo side of MCLB," he said. "We currently have two engines stationed on this side (Nebo), a 100-ton and a 65-ton. Before these two locomotives came in we didn't have anything on the Yermo side."

The one engine the Marine Corps had on the Yermo side was moved to Nebo after it was confirmed that the other locomotives were coming in, since the Army still had a locomotive available to support its rotations.

As far as the railhead in Yermo is concerned the majority of what MCLB Barstow's crew does there is for the Army.

"I would say about 85 to 90 percent of what we do out there is for the Army," said Hines.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. James P. Aguilar

NORTHERN BAGHDAD, Iraq- Sgt. Justin M Harding from Trenton, N.J., exchanges a 'high five' with an Iraqi child during a convoy pause April 11. Harding is with Regimental Combat Team 5, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 1st Marine Division, based out of Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Critters invade high desert in spring

By PFC Andy Hurt
BARSTOW LOG staff

Lurking in the shadows in familiar locations around MCLB Barstow there may be a serious threat to health and recreation. Venomous snakes, spiders and other pests are no stranger to the Mojave Desert, and MCLB Barstow is no exception.

Pest control coordinator Eric Fortin responds to various pest problems during spring and summer here, and anticipates this year will be no different.

The most dangerous of common pests is the Mojave Green rattlesnake.

"Mojave Greens are the most venomous snakes in North

America," said Fortin who keeps two Southern Pacific rattlesnakes found exclusively in the San Bernardino Mountains in his office.

Mojave Greens carry both neurotoxic venom, which attacks the central nervous system, and hemotoxic venom, which attacks the blood stream. Fortin keeps the snakes he catches in his office as a precautionary measure.

Venomous snakes and other pests in base housing are reported to an independent contractor, but Fortin will still respond to calls immediately, as a new contractor may not recognize a Mojave Green without first seeing one.

"The first time I saw a Mojave Green, I was shocked," exclaimed

Fortin, who says Mojave Greens are mostly found west of Barstow.

Although Fortin said he has seen a decline in the number of snakes captured here over the years, factors such as rainfall and habitat can cause pest populations to rise unexpectedly.

Still, snakes are not the only dangerous creepy crawlers here. Fortin said he has caught scorpions, spiders and responded to bee swarms.

In order to prevent pest problems, Fortin urges personnel to patrol living spaces weekly and keep trimmed weeds and debris away from houses. "When you have piles of weeds and grass

See CRITTER Page 4

Sergeants, do you have what it takes?

By Master Gunnery Sgt. Billy D. Stewart
Marine Corps Air Station Yuma

I hope the headline of this article got your attention. The very subject keeps my attention and concern on a daily basis. Do I have a bone to pick with sergeants or a proverbial axe to grind? Maybe I do, and maybe I don't. That decision is subjective to your perception of the qualities and the abilities I will present to you in the following paragraphs.

The current state of the Marine Corps promotion system is on the

"fast-track." The average sergeant might only spend from one to three years time in grade before being eligible for promotion to staff sergeant.

This is a staggering concern for many Marines. I have been included in many discussions concerning the leadership abilities, intestinal fortitude and dedication levels of today's Marine sergeants. As always, I try to keep an open mind and utilize my listening skills when involved in these types of discussions. However,

through comments from Marines of all ranks and my own personal observation, I feel this subject needs to be discussed.

In my opinion, we have a number of E-5s running around our Corps, not sergeants. A population of sergeants exists that cannot lead and operate at the level or in the capacity they are needed to. That may be a hard pill to swallow, but extremely strong sergeants are a luxury nowadays. Rest assured, we have some great sergeants. I cannot argue that fact. The truth of the matter

remains that we can do better. In this article we are going to concentrate where the rubber meets the road, the rank of sergeant. I'm not going to regurgitate a checklist for you, or give you a "how to" article. I will merely discuss a number of minimal skills, qualities and abilities that a sergeant must possess to be truly effective.

Through personal insight, I'll attempt to paint a picture for you of how things "used to be" when I came up as a young Marine. Sergeants were very strong and aggressive. I often find myself comparing sergeants

of today to sergeants who I served with as a drill instructor, or that mentored me through the ranks as a junior Marine in the Fleet Marine Force. You can be the judge and the jury in this case. If the shoe fits a situation that you're involved in, wear it and change it. Let's take a step back in time.

The Corps has changed so much in the last 20 years. Most of my peers obtained the rank of sergeant within two to six years of service in the

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360 degrees of freedom

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



An interesting event has happened in our society I would like to point out. I am certain many of you have seen it already, but for those who may have missed it here is what I have seen: during the war with Iraq we have seen

a nation polarized with ideologies that seem to have set people at odds.

There were those who supported the war and those who did not. There were heated exchanges, marches, protests, rallies, phone calls and various other expressions of opinion. What is interesting is that in all the cases of expression we each found out a little more about what it means to be American.

Being American does not mean uniformity; rather, it means unity. It does not mean we will all agree on everything, but it does mean we all agree about freedom and liberty.

It is difficult to see the unity of our great nation sometimes, but that is because each of us has the freedom to believe and express our beliefs no matter how much someone else disagrees with us. That is why we have so

many different churches in our country and why we have different political parties in our country. It is because we are free to choose.

As I watched the news unfold and saw Iraqis protesting in the streets, I thought about how they were now experiencing freedom. Certainly, there was no uniformity because there were some who were protesting and some who were not. There were some who agreed with our presence and some who did not; yet they all had the freedom to express themselves and were unified by that freedom.

Maybe it is easier to see freedom when you are seeing it in a new country for the first time. It's fascinating to say the least.

What we must guard against ourselves is losing sight of our unity. We must guard against seeing people who have different beliefs as being "against us." Rather, we must work to see them as Americans who have a different viewpoint, people who are unified in the belief that we are free to live our lives the way we choose, to believe what we choose and to stand shoulder to shoulder in the defense of that freedom. In that way, we begin to work toward a stronger unity that reinforces peace in our time. Is it all a matter of perspective? Maybe it is, but freedom looks good from any angle!

Peace,
Fr Randel

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Curt Lambert

Maj Vincent D. Applewhite, Fleet Support Division director, is congratulated by Brig. Gen. Richard S. Kramlich, MARCORLOGBases commander, on receiving a Meritorious Service Medal for his accomplishments at FSD.

Chapel Services

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

Confession services before Mass

Catholic Rosary

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

For more info call 577-6849.

Nebo Bible Study

Wednesday Noon-1:30 p.m.

At the Chapel Office.

For more info call 577-6849.



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News Briefs

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon 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 Keirn	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

N/MCRS Fund Drive

The MCLB Barstow's annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive has been accepting contributions since May 1 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.

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. For more information on the N/MCRS fund drive, call these representatives:

Name	Phone
Blair Bruffet	577-7109
Gunnery Sgt. Jones	577-6871
Margaret Carter	577-6702
Staff Sgt. Jose Sanchez	577-7052

Naydean Williams	577-7399
Shawn Monahan	577-6861
Meredith Taylor	577-6478
Bertie Dailey	577-6430
Michelle Harrison	577-6696
Staff Sgt. Sikes	577-7269
Gunnery Sgt. Betlewicz	577-6666

Basketball Tournament

The Marine Corps Ball committee is hosting a three-on-three basketball tournament at the base gym scheduled Tuesday at 5:30 p.m. Entry fee is \$20 per team, with a four-player team limit. Proceeds benefit the Marine Corps committee.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Castillo at 577-6708, or e-mail at castillojg@barstow.usmc.mil

BLA Open House

The Bureau of Land Management's Barstow field office is hosting an open house celebrating the completion of the Harper Lake Project.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled Friday at 9 a.m. at the Harper Lake Wildlife Area.

For more information contact Rose Foster at 252-6011.

Pilates and Yoga classes cancelled

Pilates and Yoga at the base gym

classes have been cancelled today and are scheduled to resume Tuesday. For more information contact Jennifer Wales, health promotions coordinator, at 577-6817.

Bridge replacement

The California Department of Transportation will be replacing bridge placement on 39 bridges from Barstow to Red Wash Bridge along I-40. Up to 24-hour lane closures along the 39-mile segment can be expected Mondays through Thursdays during construction. The project is scheduled to be completed Summer 2004.

For information contact Caltrans Public Information Officer Holly Kress at (909) 383-4631.

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.

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 Wis-



consin), (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.

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). Certi-

fication 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.

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

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Military Spouse's Day

ALMAR 025/03
Headquarters Marine Corps

Since 1984, the Friday before Mother's Day has been set aside to acknowledge the vital contributions made by military spouses. Friday, has been designated Military Spouse Day.

Despite the daily challenges of military life including deployments, family separations, and frequent moves, our spouses continue to provide the stability that allows our Marines to perform their assigned mission.

Current operations in Iraq and Afghanistan have greatly increased the challenges our spouses face and the sacrifices they continue to make. Not only are these spouses supporting their own families, many provide support to other

Marine Corps families through volunteer programs such as the key volunteer network and L.I.N.K.S. The contributions of these spouses often require long hours and significant personal sacrifice, yet their overwhelming loyalty and enthusiasm are in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Marine Corps.

As we celebrate Military Spouse Day, I encourage each Marine to take the time to thank your spouse for a job well done.

Silke and I congratulate all Marine Corps spouses for their many accomplishments and we wish to express our heartfelt appreciation for your continued support and dedication.

Semper Fidelis, M. W. Hagee, General, U.S. Marine Corps, Commandant of The Marine Corps

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
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.donbr.navy.mil> and/or <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding open continuous announcements go to <http://www.donbr.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.

NCO takes title home to PMO

PMO desk sergeant sets standard on and off the board

By Sgt. Joseph Lee
BARSTOW LOG staff

A desk sergeant with the Provost Marshal's Office has distinguished himself as Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for the second quarter of 2003.

Cpl. Christopher Barrera was chosen from among his peers to represent the command after he out-drilled, out-polished and out-smarted his competition April 2 when the board convened.

"It didn't surprise me that he did really well," said Gunnery Sgt. David C. Paul, PMO operations chief, "because we knew he would."

Barrera grew up in Corpus Christi, Texas, and attended school in George West, Texas, about 45 miles northwest of Corpus Christi. In October 1999, Barrera joined

the Marine Corps as a military policeman and arrived at MCLB Barstow in March 2001 after a one-year tour overseas.

"I've always found the military way came pretty easy to me," said Barrera. "Drilling, handling weapons and speaking to superiors has been a pretty simple concept to master, and as far as the (physical fitness test) goes, if you can't PT, you just have to get out there and hit the pavement."

Weapons handling may be a strong point for Barrera because he has been interested in hunting deer since the early age of 11.

"I own some land out in Texas where I used to hunt white tail pretty often," said Barrera. "It's one of my hobbies, favorite past times you might say."

A Marine of many hobbies, Barrera frequently visits the golf course, and is interested in eventually becoming a basketball coach.

"I got into golfing when I got here, and a couple other Marines

were playing so I figured I would play one with them," said Barrera. "I hit that one good shot and kept coming back."

Barrera has now become a decent golfer because of his constant practice dedication to his hobby.

Though his golf hobby will always be in his life, according to Barrera, his main aspiration for the future is to coach basketball and is nearing a degree in kinesiology.

"My first goal is to be a high school coach, and eventually a college coach," said Barrera.

In order to accomplish his goal, Barrera plans on reenlisting in the Marine Corps.

"I'll probably reenlist so I can finish up my degree," said Barrera. "Hopefully, I can go to recruiter school so I can be a recruiter for the San Antonio area."

According to Paul, PMO sends Marines up to the battalion-level boards well prepared to compete



-Cpl. Christopher Barrera

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CRITTER from Page 1

against your house, scorpions and mice will be attracted, and when mice come, snakes follow." Fortin also stressed the importance of removing standing water from areas because mosquitos will breed, and the West Nile Virus is making a strong comeback this season.

Housing residents who find solace in gardening may discover themselves in the midst of a freakish nightmare if they are not careful where they put their hands.

"If you get bitten by a Mojave Green, you better find a doctor. fast," said Fortin, who has been hunting snakes for most of his life.

Another species of insect, the Solpugida, is often confused with

the Desert Hairy scorpion, said Fortin. Solpugidas can be easily identified because they have no pincers or stinger, and are not venomous. Fortin added that if a Solpugida is captured, they should be placed in a jar or thrown in a garden because they are ravenous spider-eaters.

Black widow spiders are common in the high desert region and are extremely venomous, and webs should be knocked down frequently.

Editor's Note:

If any poisonous snakes, spiders, scorpions or bee swarms are identified, contact pest control at 577-6467.



Photo by PFC Andy Hurt

A Southern-Pacific Diamondback rattlesnake, native only to the San Bernadino Mountains, takes a defensive striking position.

Around the Corps

Soldiers, Marines, Iraqi police restore order

By Cpl. Jeremy M. Vought
1st FSSG

AD DIWANIYAH, Iraq - The Iraqis were victimized and harassed for over 30 years by Saddam Hussein's evil regime, so restoring civil law and order after a conflict such as Operation Iraqi Freedom is not an easy task. Especially when supporters of that now shattered regime still wreak havoc on the newly liberated Iraqi people in the streets of their very own cities. Not to mention that the Iraqi police force was used as an evil tool against the people instead of a protecting force for the people.

The Army's 716th Military Police Battalion, alongside 1st Marine Division Marines and Iraqi police, has been keeping the streets of Iraq safe and secure so those walking on those streets can breathe the breath of freedom without fear.

On top of providing a military police presence in the cities, the 716th is securing and protecting all the main supply routes used by the 1st Force Service Support Group in south and central Iraq. Coming to 600 kilometers of main supply routes enforce-

ment in all, says Army Lt. Col. Kim S. Orlando, 716th battalion commander.

In an arrangement not seen by many in the past, the battalion, instead of deploying with its 101st Airborne Division, deployed with the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. They were then assigned to the 1st FSSG. Because the FSSG was tasked with missions such as enemy prisoner of war handling and MSR regulation and enforcement missions but lacked the Marine MP assets, higher officials decided the Marine Corps needed a combat support MP battalion, and the 716th stepped up to the challenge.

The Fort Campbell, Ky., based battalion packed their bags and arrived to support the 1st FSSG. But on top of the five Army combat support MP battalions that deployed, they were also supplemented with two reserve Marine MP companies.

"Bringing it all together as a team has been a positive challenge," Orlando said.

With around a 1,200-soldier and Marine battalion, "we have a lot of

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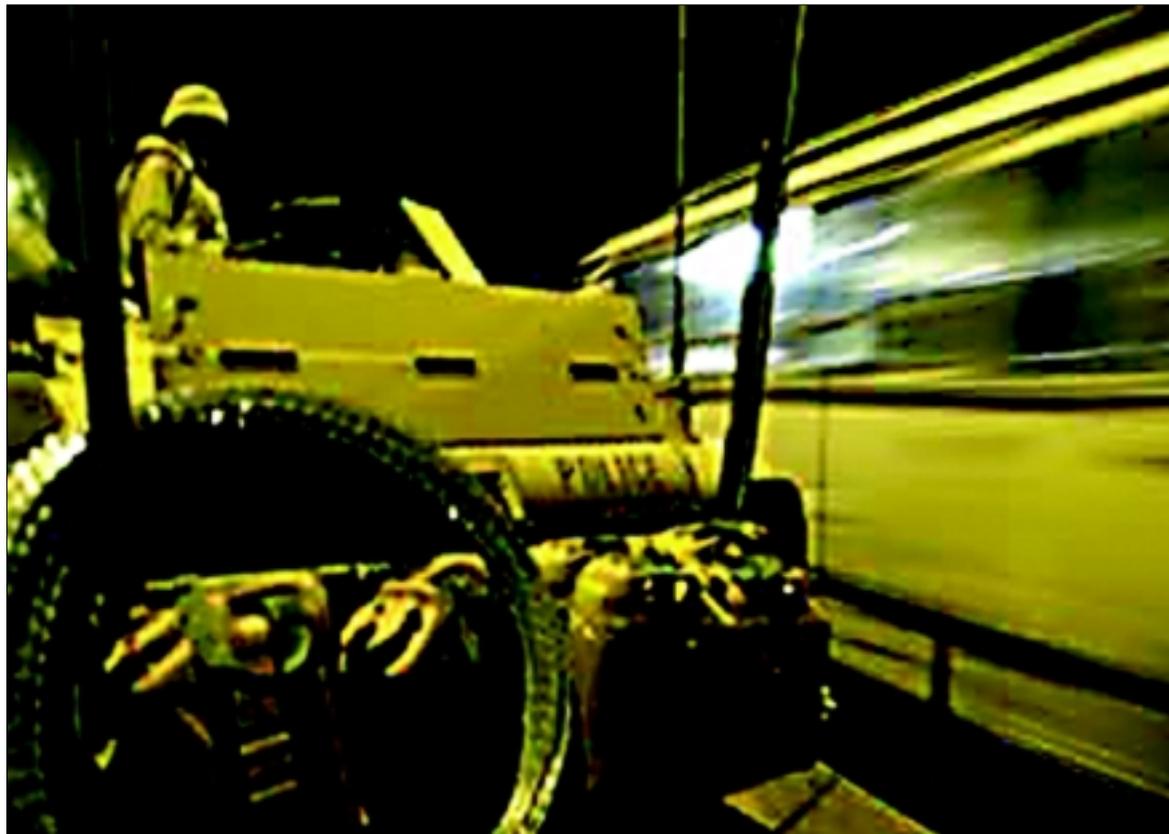


Photo by Cpl. Jeremy M. Vought

Spc. Christopher L. Randolph, an Army military policeman with the 716th Military Police Battalion, watches as a bus departs a checkpoint in Ad Diwaniyah April 29. U.S. Marines in charge of the city have begun joint patrols with local Iraqi police during the city's evening curfew, and the Army MP battalion has been assigned to assist the effort.



PMO trains Marines in land navigation

By Pfc. Andy Hurt
BARSTOW LOG staff

On April 30, the Marines from MCLB Barstow's provost marshal's office took the initiative to go where few Marines here have gone: into the field for some good old fashioned land navigation training.

Lance Cpl. Michael Ojeda, training noncommissioned officer for PMO, said it was an opportunity for Marines to get out of the office or off the gate for a day and get back to their roots.

"We gave a class in the morning covering things like how to shoot an azimuth, plotting coordinates on a map and how to read maps," said Ojeda.

Marines were then given a short lunch break and reported back to building 167 where they were "deployed" by Humvees into the Bureau of Land Management area north of MCLB Barstow.

The Hummers traveled over steep hills, through riverbeds and mud to reach points on the course where Marines would begin.

The course, which was designed by Ojeda and 1st Lt. Ricardo

Benavides, deputy provost marshal here, was based on 12 geographical locations where ammunition cans containing encrypted messages could be found. Four teams of two Marines each were tasked with the mission of locating the boxes, utilizing land navigation techniques taught to them during the morning class, and calling in the message to confirm the correct location.

The course was part of the monthly basic infantry skills training PMO has implemented.

"Myself and (Gunnery Sgt. David Paul, operations chief, criminal investigation division) came up with the idea," said Benavides.

Ojeda was tasked with coming up with new ideas for the upcoming months, and said that a patrolling and tactical formations exercise will probably be next, and (PMO) is working at securing paintball guns for a possible field evolution in the near future.

Ojeda said that he hopes the concept of monthly field training takes to the rest of the Marines on base whom normally wouldn't have a chance to hone their infantry skills.

"This kind of training is awesome."

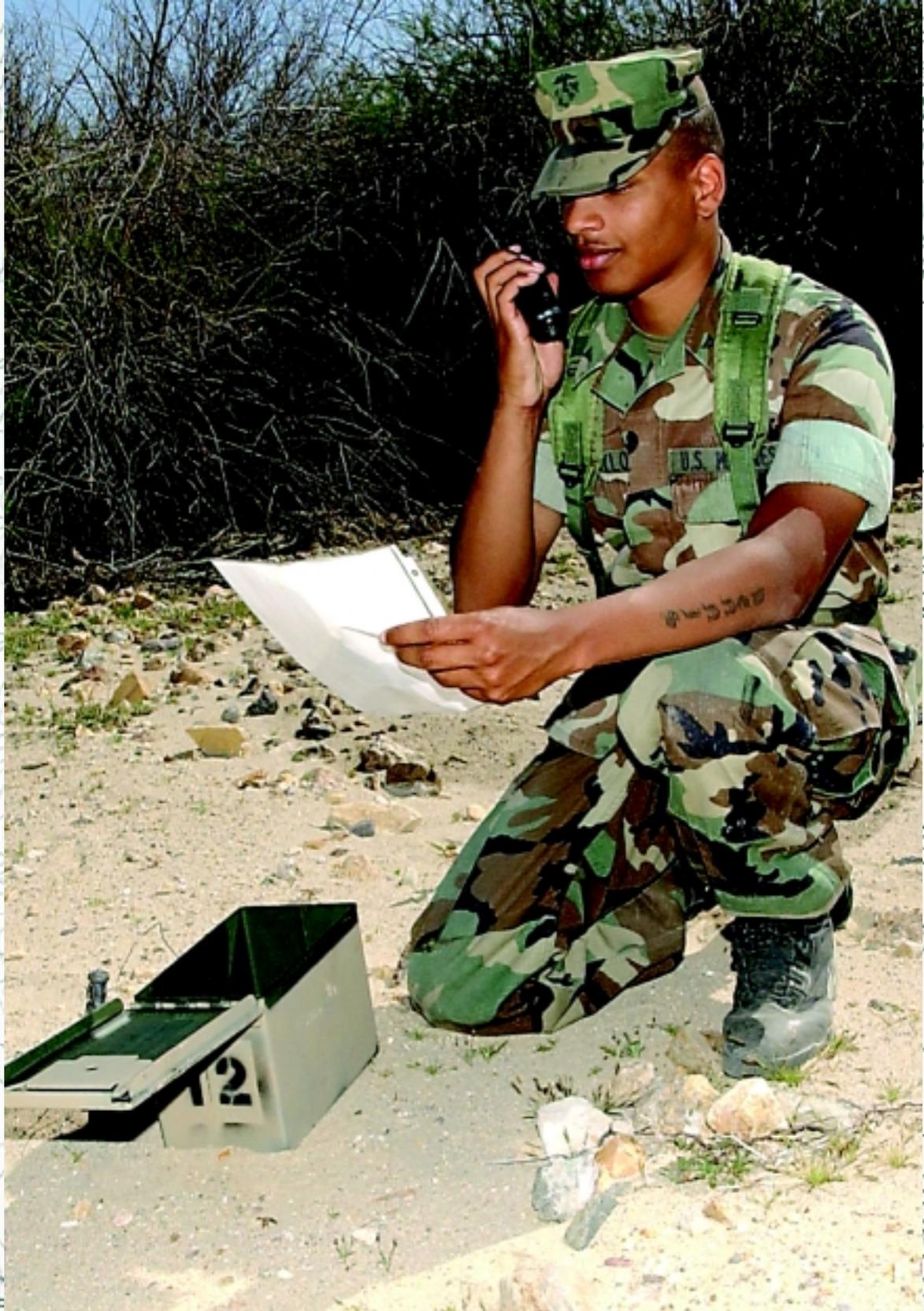
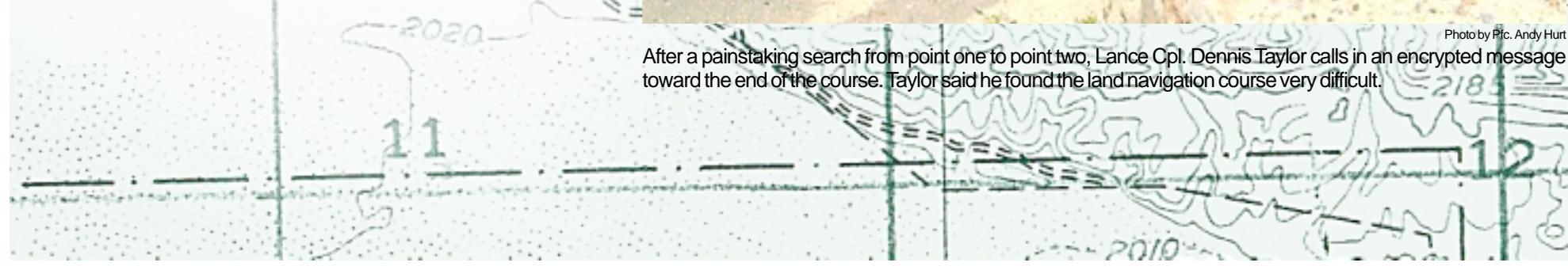


Photo by Pfc. Andy Hurt

Camouflaged ammunition boxes containing encrypted messages were well hidden in the rugged landscape of the Mojave Desert.

Photo by Pfc. Andy Hurt

After a painstaking search from point one to point two, Lance Cpl. Dennis Taylor calls in an encrypted message toward the end of the course. Taylor said he found the land navigation course very difficult.



2nd Quarter Civilian Awards

Length of Service Awards

30 Years

Michael A. Shaw
John W. Hines
Jo Ann Riley
Helen W. Duty

25 Years

Bella D. Nies
Glenn L. Wyatt

20 Years

Susan E. Durant

15 Years

Barbara V. Rodriguez
James A. Kagy
Bonnie El Hulse
James Troutman

10 Years

Ceferino Lim Morabe, Jr.
Marke C. Hutchens

Letter of Appreciation

Nancy J. Derryberry

Special Act

Joseph D. Barela
Darrel G. Richter

Special Act Group Award

Joseph D. Barela
Vincent Chavez
Fred A. Haskin
William E. Lane
Cheryl A. Mitchell
Edward F. Rodriguez
Timothy J. Zamora

On-The-Spot Award

Evan C. Bernardo
Michelle S. Bledsoe
Matthew E. Byrd
Steve A. Mathos
David C. McKee
Michael R. Okeson
Donald R. Simard
Steven P. Waugh

Time Off Award

Albert W. Brady
Oceola Bradley
Dale A. Degroot
Jerry E. Enaligo
Tito Escobedo, Jr.
Anthony B. C. Mesa
Vicki McDougall
Steven J. Phalon
Jack L. Stormo

SERGEANTS from Page 2

Marine Corps. Some of us were barely of legal age as we found ourselves in charge of endless tasks, duties, responsibilities and a large number of Marines. At 22 years of age I graduated my first platoon as a senior drill instructor. I had about four years in the Corps at the time.

My two junior drill instructors were sergeants and had about the same time in service as I did, give or take a couple of years. That may sound odd, but it was a reality.

Interesting enough, the sergeants of yesteryear did not have the wide array of Professional Military Education that is available today. Instead, they were self-starters who possibly had attended noncommissioned officer school if they were fortunate enough. Every sergeant who I knew could conduct close order drill, march and control a platoon, hold a formation, and conduct Marine Corps physical training. Sergeants on weight control or running anything less than a first class physical fitness test were unheard of.

As young Marines, my peers and I found ourselves raised and mentored by sergeants who knew our whereabouts at all times. We checked out with the sergeant before we went anywhere. The sergeant would constantly hold us accountable through concerned and constant supervision.

The sergeants would make their presence known stopping by the barracks to check on us throughout the week and on weekends. I knew his first name, but I would never address him by it. The only social setting we would see him at was, if we attended, "bosses night."

Even while he was there, his military presence was evident. He would always socialize with other NCOs. When we made corporal, the sergeants would bring us into the fold, but would still maintain their professionalism, all the while preparing us to be sergeants ourselves. They did this through setting the example, plain and simple.

I never saw the sergeant late for work, needing a haircut, not squared away or without his logbook. My sergeant was at work before I was, and left after I did. I developed great habits because he ingrained them into my "brain housing group" on a constant basis. Unlike today, sergeants were like irritating gnats; you could never get away from them. Their presence would follow you everywhere.

Whether they were making uniform corrections, telling you to spit your chewing gum out or to take your hands out of your pocket, they cared immensely about setting the right example. Not only was the presence of sergeants a trait to be respected, their concerned leadership was never in question.

Let's review a few of my past experiences. I would only talk to a staff noncommissioned officer if the sergeant could not handle my question or problem. Many times, if my sergeant did not know the answer, he would liaison with the SNCO or officer-in-charge to assist me. If any of us jumped the chain of command without his knowledge, we would owe him, and he would collect in many ways; all of which were unpleasant and training tools to remind us that he was in charge. He constantly counseled us, both positively and negatively if needed. Proficiency and conduct were never a surprise, because we always knew where we stood.

He taught me everything about taking care of my own. I sometimes would see the sergeant standing up for us when discussing issues with the "gunny." The gunny was hard on him, but he never complained or bad mouthed his superiors. The sergeant's personal life was never an issue. I never knew of him acting irresponsibly with his finances or family.

He was always dressed professionally; wearing a belt with his shirt tucked in when I would see him on liberty.

Finally, it seemed that he knew everything about our military occupational specialty. When I would ask him a question, he would make me look it up in the MOS manual before he would answer it. We attempted to answer it ourselves before he would help us. Little did we know that he was preparing us to stand on our own.

I felt his sole purpose was to develop me as a Marine. He certainly did that. My image certainly reflected an image of him; a Marine.

Words cannot express the feelings of pride that I feel when I see a confident sergeant organized, concerned and "sold out" to the Corps. There is something special about the vigor and military presence of a squared away sergeant who has stood the test of time since the Corps' beginning.

Chesty Puller once stated "There is nothing better than a sergeant." We as Marines need to ensure that this legacy lives on. Semper Fi.

RAIL from Page 1

In light of this, Rios went to his people to get additional funding for upgrading the rail, said Hines. This funding was used to buy additional equipment such as rail spanners, switchers and "frogs" which are items used in conjunction with the switchers that allows a train to change tracks. MCLB Barstow also pitched in funds to assist with the upgrades.

"It was a joint effort as far as funding goes between MCLB Barstow and the Army," said Hines. "Lt. Col. (Charles) Bridgeman, former director of I&L, was very much involved with getting a lot of this done, as far as coming up with the additional

funding to upgrade the tracks."

With the exception of one engine, the new arrivals are larger, more powerful and capable of towing more cars than the locomotives MCLB Barstow previously had on hand. The additional locomotives also provide MCLB Barstow with the backup it needs to continue an operation should any of the engines go down, and the added horsepower to move rotating units in and out.

"Which was kind of the idea behind this thing," said Hines.

Having a Marine Corps and Army CAX going at the same time is one thing, but some of the Army rotations would get so large that it would just overwhelm the Yermo area, trying to get

everything in and out and then move all the cars around in one day, Hines explained.

"Now if that happens, if we get one of those 400- to 500-car rotations come in, if the Army continues to do so, they can very easily ship cars to the Nebo side and we can move it around the base utilizing the locomotives on this side."

Hines attributes a lot of what has been done with the railhead to Rios. He came to MCLB Barstow, told them what the Army's requirements were and MCLB told him what they could and could not provide.

"He (Rios) said, 'I hear you loud and clear. Now let's see if we can do something about it,'" Hines said.

NCO from Page 4

against the best.

"In times past, we've had to have our own boards, internal, because we have so many squared away Marines that want the opportunity to win a board," said Paul. "In this case, though, we sat back and took a look at the Marines who were

locked on and chose to send Barrera because he's been a squared away Marine since I've met him. His performance coming in first place at Corporals Course just further justified that he was as squared away as we've observed."

As desk sergeant, Barrera is one of the few corporals who have what it takes to handle the

capabilities of sergeant, said Paul. "Of course, if we had more sergeants, we would like to have a sergeant doing that job, but corporal Barrera can get the job done effectively. He does what an NCO is supposed to on a regular basis."

"I hear there's a meritorious sergeant board coming up," said Barrera. "I plan on taking that."

BRIEFS from Page 3

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" pro-

gram 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.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Mother's Day Specials

The Super Seven Day Store has great specials for mom - check these out: Black Hills jewelry 20 percent off, all women's watches 20 percent off, women's fragrances, including Chanel, Elizabeth Arden, White Diamonds, Obsession, Eternity, RED, RL Romance, all 20 percent off.

Visit the "Mom's Gift Center" with gifts for mom under \$10: Scented

candles, potpourri, small ceramic vases and more. Gifts under \$20: Ladies wallets, handbags, boxed candles and more.

Teleflora special: Send flowers to mom from the base exchange and receive a free 10 minute phone card, compliments of the Super Seven Day Store.

Kitchen appliance specials: coffee pots, can openers, hand mixers, chop master, seven-speed blenders, coffee grinders, toasters and more - from \$6.99 to \$14.99.

These Mother's day specials run

through Sunday. Shop early for the best selections.

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

Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and from 5:30 a.m. to 6:30 a.m at the Cactus Cafe. Prices: Active duty military \$1.60, all others \$3.25.

Lunch Menu

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

Today - 6" meatball subs.

Friday - Sauteed mini scallops.

Monday - Veal parmesan.

Tuesday - Beef fajitas.

Wednesday - Sweet and sour pork. Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians \$4.75. Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch is served at the Family Res-

taurant from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 11:30 a.m. to noon.

Call in Cactus Cafe orders before 9:30 a.m. to the Family Restaurant at 577-6428.

Family Night Dining

Tonight - Cinco de Mayo Night: Beef and chicken fajitas, flour tortillas, refried beans, Mexican rice, tossed green salad, churros for dessert plus fountain drink of choice.

Family Night Dining prices: Adults \$6, children 5 to 11 years \$4, children under 5 years eat free. Dinner hours are from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Mother's Day Brunch

Bring mom to the Family Restaurant's Mother's Day Brunch, Sunday, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Menu includes: Baked and fried chicken, assorted omelets cooked to order, baron of beef carved on line, oven roasted potatoes, french toast, pancakes, fresh cut fruit, tossed green

salad and dessert.

Everyone is welcome. Adults \$10.95, Children 5 to 11 years \$7.95, children under 5 eat free.

For reservations, call 577-6428.

Golf specials

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 and Trees golf course is open seven days a week from 7 a.m. to dusk.

Disneyland season passes

ITT has them - the Premium Pass includes 365 days admission to both Disneyland and California Adventure, plus free complementary parking. The Deluxe Annual Pass includes 320 pre-selected days to both parks, with option to purchase parking fees. For more information, call ITT at 577-6541.

ORDER from Page 5

capabilities," said Orlando.

The battalion's fleet of over 400 armored HMMWVs is battle fitted with heavy machine guns and grenade launchers to provide support for just about any mission. The battalion is also trained for civil disturbance response, equipped with riot gear. For night patrols the MPs carry a large infrared spotlight that virtually diminishes every shadow, but only those with night vision goggles on can see.

On top of providing convoy security, the battalion successfully handled and processed over 1,400 EPW's for the 1st FSSG with "a lot of compassion and professionalism," Orlando said.

Now that the war-fighting phase is coming to a close and coalition forces are focusing efforts on the next phase of security and stabilization, 716th isn't packing up their bags yet, rather the workload has increased over their shoulders.

"We're working just as hard or harder now than during combat operations," Orlando said.

"We're now transitioning to law and enforcement," the 42-year-old Nashville, Tenn., native said. "Expanding our law enforcement operations adds stability for the FSSG to operate safely in this phase and allows the Iraqi cities to get their own police forces up and running," he said.

Once much of the fighting ceased, coalition forces found that the Iraqi police infrastructure was almost en-

tirely diminished because the police force was made primarily of Baath party members who were killed or are now in hiding. Because of the corruption of the police force within Iraq, officials are now in the process of building new police units the Iraqi people can turn to instead of fear.

"Each town is starting nearly at ground zero," Orlando explained. Some police departments have no vehicles; others, no uniforms; others, no weapons; and others, very little personnel, he said.

The Iraqi police force is making a new name for itself in the local population.

"We are giving them old Coast Guard uniforms with orange vests to change their look," said Army 1st Lt. John R. Braun Jr., future plans officer by day and 3/5 liaison officer by night for 716th MP Battalion. "They're winning back their credibility with the people by acting like law enforcement officers vice before."

"We're here to work with the Iraqi police in each city to help them stand back up again," Orlando said. "That's the overall goal."

On top of working with the still forming Iraqi police forces, the MP battalion is teaming up with various Marine units to secure cities and continue to keep the streets safe.

"716th is working hand-in-hand with Marine task force commanders who have the responsibility for each respected city in order to provide professional law enforcement support to



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy M. Vought

Soldiers with the 716th Military Police Battalion alongside 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment Marines search a truck that was out past the curfew in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq at a mobile traffic control point April 29. The Army MP battalions are working with Marines and Iraqi police secure the surrounding cities in central Iraq.

the area," says Orlando. Those cities include An Nasiriyah, Al Kut and Ad Diwaniyah.

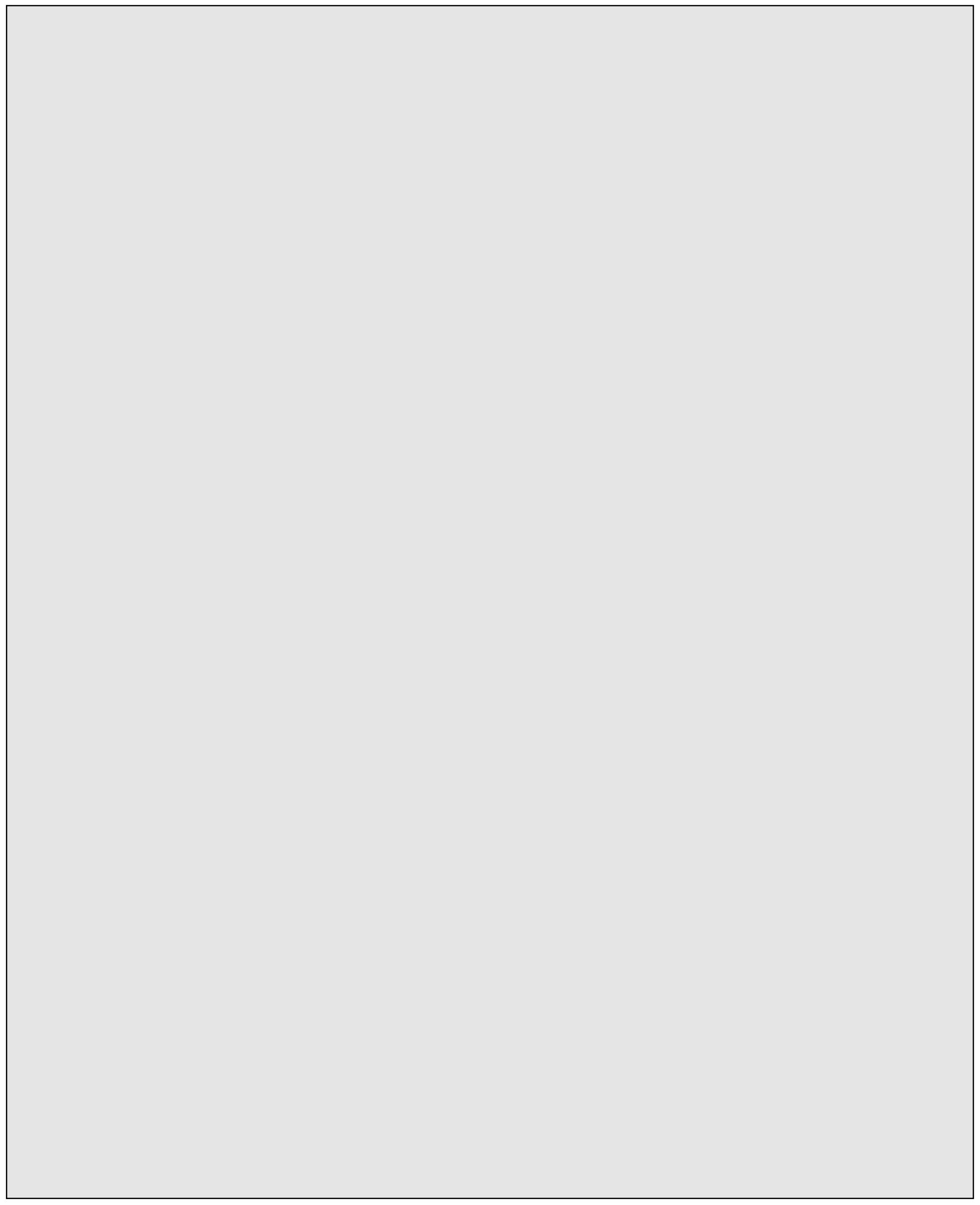
In Ad Diwaniyah, for example, the soldiers work with 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment Marines to safeguard the civilians and coalition forces operating within the city limits by setting up mobile traffic control points,

mobile patrols and sudden response forces. On one recent night they inspected 132 vehicles that were out beyond the set curfew and confiscated one AK-47 machine gun with ammo as well as detaining a drunk who was found to have grenades on him, according to Braun.

Ever since the MPs have begun their

nightly patrols they have seen crime on the downside. They've gone from seeing looting, sporadic shootings and finding large amounts of weapons each night to virtually nothing, Braun said.

"Crime is drastically decreasing around Ad Diwaniyah," he says. "The people are happy we're out there. They feel more secure."



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

1998 HONDA ACCORD: Low miles, loaded, \$10,500, OBO. Call 252-5181

1994 CHEVY ASTRO VAN: 8 pass, loaded, \$5,500, OBO. Call 252-5181

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., \$3,500 OBO. Call Roger at 256-2774.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: 1984 5th Wheel Alpenlite 19', queen bed, sleeps 4, awning, A/C, heater, shower, xlt. cond., \$4,300 OBO. Call 253-1200

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: 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: Oak single bed frames (2) xlt. cond., 1950s 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, xlt. cond., manual included, \$1,000, 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, \$1,000. Call 254-1913.

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

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

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