

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 43

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

October 30, 2003

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

DOD helps fight SoCal firestorm

Base sends 4 firefighters, 1 engine

By Gunnery Sgt. John Cordero
Public Affairs Chief

As the most destructive wildfires in California's history rage through Southern California, as of Tuesday killing 16 people, destroying nearly 2,000 homes, and consuming more than 500,000 acres stretching from the Mexican border to Ventura County, local Marine bases are doing their part to save lives, property and provide humanitarian assistance.

The Fire and Emergency Services Division here sent one fire engine and four firefighters Saturday morning as part of a high desert strike team, according to Robert B. Wyman, MCLB Barstow fire chief.

The team directly responded to the Waterman Canyon fire, also known as the Old Fire, and was assigned to independent structure protection, said Wyman. The team members' first

break from firefighting didn't come until Monday, when they reported to a headquarters camp for food and rest. The four firefighters were relieved by four other base firefighters on Tuesday.

"Our engine and personnel have been responsible for saving numerous homes," said Wyman.

On Sunday evening, MCLB Barstow sent 100 cots and blankets to a Red Cross shelter to help people who have been displaced by the fires.

Although Marine bases in San Diego County have had their own firefights, base personnel have been ready to help people affected by the fires.

The "Roblar Fire" burned 6,892 acres at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, but no people were injured and no property was damaged.

See FIRE Page 4



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Cpl. Erik Dortch, TMO clerk for the Base Adjutant, rappels down an apparatus at the Pine Summit Resort in Big Bear during the Big Bear challenge held by Headquarters Battalion, MCLB Barstow, Friday. See related story and photos on Page 6.

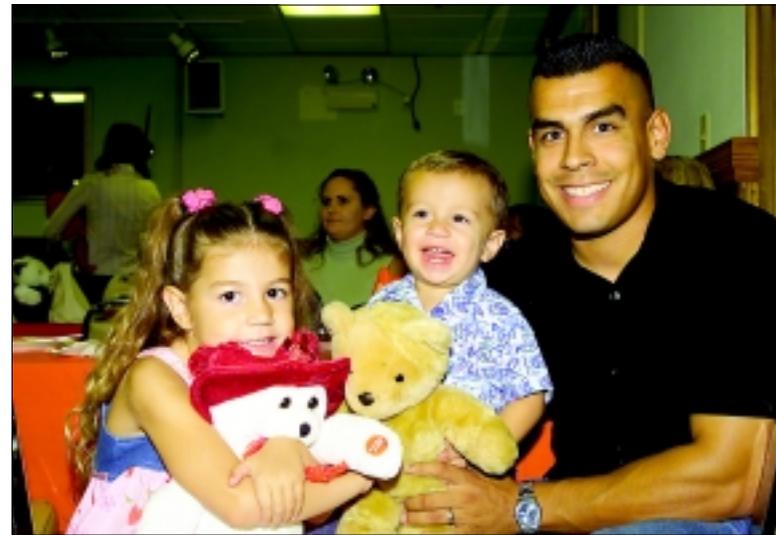


Photo by Pfc. Jenna Lassandrello

Samantha, 4, and Anthony, 1, the children of Staff Sgt. Anthony Cisneros, received teddy bears at Troop Appreciation Night Oct. 23 at the Oasis Club, in recognition of the hardship they endured while their father was deployed.

Children of deployed parents receive bears

By Pfc. Jenna Lassandrello
BARSTOW LOG staff

War not only affects politics or the economy, it goes deeper. It affects children in their own homes.

When a parent leaves to go overseas a gap is left. Children can often have a hard time dealing with or understanding their situation.

It can be difficult to fathom a conflict on the other side of the world that keeps daddy from going to this year's school play. It can be difficult when other people seem not to care.

But Operation Teddy Care has found a way to let those children know someone cares.

Sixteen children of service members who deployed from MCLB Barstow in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom received bears from Operation Teddy Care on Oct. 23 at Troop Appreciation Night at the Oasis Club.

Operation Teddy Care is a non-profit organization that reaches out to children in unfortunate situations through the arms of a teddy bear.

"We want the children of deployed service members to know that we acknowledge the hardship they are going through and we want to make sure they know how special they are," said Barbara

Moran, one of the founders of Operation Teddy Care, the organization that is donating teddy bears to children of service members who deployed to support the global war on terrorism.

In 1995, Dr. Bob Baker, a former Marine and Vietnam veteran, his wife, Barbara Moran, and their family started to collect bears to send to unfortunate children.

"We chose bears because of many different reasons. First, they are the American symbol of friendship; they have a deep American background dating back to President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt. Second, they can transform into anyone. Teddy bears have no ethnicity, race, religion, sex, color, age, or creed. And third, there is nothing better than a hug from a teddy bear," said Moran.

Through word of mouth the idea grew and there were soon requests and growing demand for the bears for children all over the world in all different kinds of unfortunate situations.

That's when it became clear that help would be needed. Donations became the perfect solution.

"We get bears to send, and the American people have a way to

See BEARS Page 7

Tax refund and child credit checks returned to IRS

Submitted by
Office of the Staff Judge Advocate

WASHINGTON — IRS Commissioner Mark W. Everson reminded taxpayers they have until Dec. 5 to claim 115,744 undelivered checks from this summer's advance child tax credit. After the December cut-off, taxpayers cannot claim the checks until they file their tax returns next year.

These undelivered checks are among nearly 24 million issued this summer and fall for the advance child tax credit.

In all, more than \$14 billion in child credit checks have been issued.

"Time is running out to get an advance child

credit check," Everson said. "We encourage taxpayers to visit IRS.gov to see if they have an undelivered check from the advance child tax credit mail-out."

In all, the IRS has money for more than 200,000 taxpayers whose income tax refund or advance child tax credit checks were undelivered and returned to the agency. Taxpayers need to update their addresses before the IRS can reissue the checks, which total more than \$118 million.

In addition to the 115,744 child credit checks worth more than \$50 million, there were another 92,810 "regular" tax refund checks, those issued to refund tax overpayments, returned to the IRS as undelivered.

These "regular" refund checks total more than \$66 million — an average of \$722 per check.

"Our Web site makes it easy for taxpayers to track undelivered checks," Everson said. "Our goal is to get this money back in the hands of the people it belongs to, and we want to get the checks out as soon as possible."

IRS.gov, the IRS Web site, lets taxpayers track both their refund and their advance child tax credit. "Where's My Refund?" provides information about refunds and "Where's My Advance Child Tax Credit?" provides information about the tax credit. Both are available on the IRS home page.

To use the resources on IRS.gov, taxpayers enter information including their Social Security

number and their filing status (such as single or married filing jointly). In addition, the refund amount shown on their 2002 tax return is required for refunds. To get information on the advance child tax credit, taxpayers must also enter the number of exemptions shown on their 2002 tax return.

When the information is submitted online, taxpayers see Web pages that show the status of their refund or advance child tax credit check. In many cases, they also get instructions they need to resolve problems.

"All we need is a good address," Everson said. "As soon as we get the correct address we

See IRS Page 7

TSP open season begins

By Pfc. Jenna Lassandrello
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Thrift Savings Plan is in open season from Oct. 15 to Dec. 31.

Whether looking to put children through college or just to fill retirement piggybanks, the TSP is a long-term savings and investment plan that is available to Marines and federal employees.

"It is a really good way to familiarize yourself with investing," said Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Charles, personnel officer, Military Personnel Division here.

The TSP offers the same type of savings and tax benefits as a corporation's 401K-retirement plan.

For federal employees and service members to enroll in the TSP it must be 60 days after they join the service or agency, or during an open season. There are two open seasons per year, April 15 – June 30 and Oct. 15 – Dec. 30. Any TSP adjustments that a participant wishes to make can only be done during open season. But the cancellation of contributions can be done anytime.

To enroll, service members and federal employees can print out the TSP election form from the TSP Web site, or acquire the form from his or her agency or service. Enrollment can also be done on the MYPAY Web site.

The TSP is a defined contribution plan in

which a participant initially sets the investment amount. For active duty service members, the investment limit has been raised to 9 percent of the service member's base pay annually, but cannot exceed the Internal Revenue Code limit of \$13,000.

Service members can also contribute incentive, special or bonus pay to TSP, but they must be contributing basic pay to be eligible to contribute incentive or special pay. Contributing special or incentive pay can only be designated during open seasons, but bonus pay can be contributed at any time.

There are five TSP investment funds that a participant can invest their money into. Two are fixed income funds: Government Securities Investment (G) Fund and the Fixed Income Index Investment (F) Fund. The other three are stock funds: Common Stock Index Investment (C) Fund, Small Capitalization Stock Index Investment (S) Fund and the International Stock Index Investment (I) Fund. A participant may also move all or part of the money in the account from one fund to any other fund or funds. This is called interfund transferring. With the exception of the G-fund all TSP investments involve some type of risk.

There are also loans available through the TSP for federal employees and service members. The TSP loan program gives participants

See TSP Page 7

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Staff Sgt. David Bargas, primary marksmanship instructor for Headquarters Battalion, MCLB Barstow, helps a Marine from MAG-46, stationed at Edwards Air Force Base. Bargas primarily works at Fleet Support Division but took on the duties as a PMI when Headquarters Battalion needed a new one.

Chapel Services

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

Morning Prayer in the Building 15 Administration Office Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Catholic Rosary

First Saturday of every month.

3 p.m. at the Base Chapel.
For more info call 577-6849.

Episcopal Mass

Tuesday at 4 p.m. at Building 406 in Yermo.
Thursday at 11 a.m. at the Base Chapel.



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

News Briefs

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

Lunch Menu

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

Today: Family Restaurant: Soup and salad bar. Cactus Cafe: grilled chicken salad.

Friday: Catch of the day.

Monday: Spanish chicken

Tuesday: Yaki soba.

Wednesday: Pork roast

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, \$4.75. Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch is served at the Family Restaurant from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 11 a.m. to noon.

Cactus Cafe serves hamburgers, subs, salads and other line items available for walk in lunch.

For other Family Restaurant lunch menu items, call in orders before 9:30 a.m. to the Family Restaurant at 577-6428.

Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 to 8 a.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m.

Family Night Dining

Tonight – Southern night. Fried chicken, collard greens, black-eyed peas, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn bread, and fountain drink of choice.

The Family Restaurant is open Mondays through Wednesdays and Fridays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. for dinner. They offer a dinner menu as well as regular menu service.

Marine Corps Ball tickets on sale

The 228th Marine Corps Birthday Ball will be celebrated by MCLB Barstow Nov. 7 at the Flamingo in Laughlin, Nev. Tickets are now on sale and can be bought until Friday.

Cocktail hour will start at 6 p.m., the ceremony will begin at 7 p.m. and dinner will be served at 8 p.m.

The prices for tickets are:

Civilians and officers, \$25; staff non-commissioned officers, \$20; non-commissioned officers, \$15; and lance corporals and below are free. It will cost \$15 for lance corporals and below to bring a date. Tickets can be purchased in the Green Wing of Building 15 from Danielle Heinze. Her phone number is 577-6307.

Child care is now available at the

Marine Corps Ball. It will cost \$20 per child and the hours of service will be from 6 p.m. to midnight. Child care must be paid in advance. For more information on child care, call Theresa Meugniot at 577-6059 or Gunnery Sgt. Nohelia Fritz at 577-6459.

For room reservations, call the Flamingo in Laughlin at 1-800-662-5825.

Room rates are \$39 for a regular room, \$150 for a junior suite and \$350 for a two bedroom suite.

Trick or Treat hours

Family members living on base will be allowed to "trick or treat" Oct. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. in base housing. The reason it is on Oct. 30 is because the city of Barstow holds its annual Mardi Gras Parade Oct. 31. Since the city of Barstow will be "trick or treating" on Oct. 30, MCLB Barstow has elected to follow the city and encourage participation by base residents of the community events.

Cake Cutting ceremonies

There will be a base-wide Marine Corps birthday cake-cutting ceremony Nov. 6 at 8 a.m. in front of Building 15. The uniform for Marines will be the Dress Blue "D" uniform.

The employees of Maintenance Center Barstow and Fleet Support Division are invited to come to the Nebo side of the base and participate in the ceremony. Buses will be provided for those wishing to come for the ceremony.

A cake-cutting ceremony will also be held at noon at the Veterans Home of California - Barstow. All Marines are invited to attend to celebrate with the former Marines at the veterans home.

For more information, call Ronnie McClintock at 577-6555.

ID card deadline

The deadline for CAC ID Cards has been extended to April 1, 2004.

All military and civilian employees (to include eligible contractors) need to have their CAC ID Cards in hand by the deadline. Please call 577-6969/6371 for an appointment.

CWRA Turkey Giveaway

The CWRA Committee is sponsoring another turkey giveaway. There will be a drawing for eight \$15.00 gift certificates, two at each drawing, at Stater Brothers to purchase anything desired, "a turkey," on the following dates: Oct. 30, Nov. 6, Nov. 13, and Nov. 20.

Winner's need not be present to win. The CWRA Committee members will circulate cans with the survey slips to be filled out. There is no cost to the individual. Please include first name and last name printed clearly and work phone number. The following CWRA Committee members and volunteers will have slips and cans available to fill out and participate in.



- | | |
|---------------------|----------|
| Dan Keirn | 577-6614 |
| Fred Molino | 577-7210 |
| Barbara Kent | 577-7330 |
| Barbara Kulseth | 577-6771 |
| Cliff Ades | 577-6968 |
| Bruce Rowe | 577-7346 |
| Wrayanne Huddleston | 577-7346 |
| Richard Tusing | 577-6523 |
| Vince Chavez | 577-7580 |
| Tangia Joseph | 577-7230 |

Tae Kwon Do classes

Tae Kwon Do classes will be starting at the Base Gym Tuesdays through Thursdays from 5 to 7 p.m.

The classes are available for all base employees and military family members age 6 years old and up.

For more information, call Semper Fit at 577-6812.

Official Passport Agent

An Official Passport Agent is now on base. Sarah Warta will be providing services for all no-fee official and diplomatic passports and visas.

Warta can't process tourist passports but can provide you with the necessary forms and information.

Warta is located in Building 15, Red Wing, in the Base Adjutant's Office. Hours of operations are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Call 577-6308 or e-mail her at wartase@barstow.usmc.mil for appointments or more information.

TAVSC will be taking the photographs for no-fee passports only. Please make an appointment with Curt Lambert at 577-6646.

911 system upgraded

The base 911 systems are currently being replaced and updated. All of the

dispatchers have been certified as Emergency Medical Dispatchers. There are two dispatchers on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The goal is to improve the medical as well as police services to all of the personnel who work and live on the Marine base. Emergency services personnel are currently operating on older 911-trunking systems. This system does work. However, it is slower than the new systems available. If you dial 911 to report an emergency, there will be a short delay of about 8-10 seconds before you hear the phone ring.

Yermo personnel will have a few seconds longer. Be patient, seconds feel like hours during an emergency. Personnel can give you instructions for medical and other types of emergencies.

If you use a cellular telephone on base and you have an emergency, dial 911. The California Highway Patrol in Barstow will answer your call. Tell them you are calling from the Barstow Marine base and which part of the base you are calling from, either the Yermo Annex or Barstow (Nebo).

If "911" is not working, you may dial the center's 7-digit emergency 911 phone number, 577-6322.

The non-emergency phone number for the Public Safety Dispatch Center is 577-6666. If you have any questions or concerns with the current dispatch center or personnel, you may contact Thomas Stickley, lead dispatcher, at 577-6666.

Freeway improvements

The California Department of Transportation on Oct. 7 started to reconstruct the Main Street interchange at Interstate 15 in the city of Hesperia.

The \$9.5 million interchange reconstruction project is slated to be complete in winter 2005.

The city of Hesperia in partnership with Caltrans will hold Public Awareness Campaign (PAC) meetings throughout the life of the interchange reconstruction project.

The meetings will be held the last Wednesday of each month at the Bob's Big Boy Restaurant at 12728 Main Street, Hesperia.

Marines wanted

How would you like to earn a promotion while working in your hometown? Recruiting Station Louisville, Ky., is seeking Marines from Kentucky, southern Indiana and the greater Cincinnati area to participate in the Permissive TAD Program.

For more information, please contact Sgt. Maj. R.E. Howard, at (502) 582-6612/6610.

Reunion Service

The U.S. Naval Institute's free, online Military Reunions Service is promoting nearly 300 reunions.

The service, designed to link reunion organizers with potential reunion attendees, is available for reunions being sponsored by any military unit or group as well as any military-related association. The Web-based database allows participants to post and modify reunion notices, search for reunions, and sign up as a reunion attendee.

Anyone may browse and search the reunion database. To post a reunion or signup to attend an event requires the user to register online. For more information, visit www.usni.org/reunions/reunions.html or call (410) 295-1058.

FIRE from Page 1

When the "Cedar Fire" crossed onto Marine Corps Air Station Miramar on Sunday, approximately 200 emergency personnel there worked to contain and control the fire, which burned 12,500 acres of brush. No people were reported injured, and the air station did not suffer any damage to aircraft or buildings.

As of Tuesday, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar personnel were working with San Diego County firefighters and thousands of personnel from across the West Coast to contain and control fires that have broken out in Southern California counties, including areas adjacent to the air station.

Hundreds of military families and thousands of fellow San Diegans have been evacuated because of the San Diego fires. Miramar, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and San Diego area naval facilities are welcoming military families who have been displaced.

Firefighting equipment California officials requested from the Department of Defense is also battling the wildfires.

The National Interagency Fire Center requested two modular airborne firefighting systems from DOD. The systems fit inside C-130 Hercules transport planes and can spread water or flame retardant over an area 60 feet wide by a quarter mile long.

Each unit carries 2,750 to 3,000 gallons of water or fire retardant in five

500-gallon interconnected tanks.

The U.S. Forest Service owns the systems, but they are on extended loan to National Guard and Air Force Reserve units. Air Guard or Reserve units will fly the aircraft.

President George W. Bush on Monday designated four California counties a major disaster area making federal money available for disaster-struck people in Los Angeles, San Bernardino, San Diego and Ventura counties.

Editor's Note:

Information from Associated Press, Armed Forces Press Service, and Marine Corps stories were used for this article.



Photo by Sgt. M. P. Shelato

Fire sweeps across the northern edge of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar in an area known as "East Miramar," at 9 a.m. Sunday. Approximately 200 emergency personnel were aboard the air station to contain and control the fire. The fire burned an estimated 12,500 acres of brush and did not cause any loss or damage to aircraft or buildings.

DRMO changes operating hours due to budget cuts

Submitted by
Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office

Due to Department of Defense mandated cutbacks, the Defense Logistics Agency has instructed Defense, Reutilization and Marketing Service to reduce and streamline its workforce across the United States at all Defense, Reutilization and Marketing offices as well as its overseas operations.

As a result of this major effort, DRMO has sustained deep reductions in staff during fiscal years 2002 and 2003 with more expected in FY-04.

These workforce reductions have caused the need for the orderly influx of property at DRMO Barstow. Now more than ever, DRMO must plan its workload to preclude unmanageable fluctuations from occurring, which may affect its ability to continue providing its customers with world-class support.

In planning how to best meet disposal needs, DRMO has

implemented a scheduling policy as required by DOD 4160.21-M, Defense Material Disposition Manual.

On Oct. 20, DRMO Barstow began accepting turn-ins from small and major commands, for disposal of excess property, by appointment only between 7:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays. However, if an urgent situation arises with disposal of excess property at a particular site, DRMO Barstow will be ready to assist on an individual, case-by-case basis.

DRMO Barstow apologizes for any inconvenience this may have caused its valued customers. However, it is determined to provide the best customer service possible within existing resources.

For all appointment scheduling, call the Receiving Office at 577-6808/6562 or (DSN): 282-6808/6562.

For additional information or questions regarding these disposal changes, call the DRMO chief at: 577-6568 or (DSN): 282-6568.

MASP boosts advancement potential

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

The Marine Corps offers an array of educational programs members from all ranks can take advantage of to increase their career potential and contribute to the Corps' overall readiness.

The Military Academic Skills Program is one such program designed to improve the competence of enlisted personnel and to improve their promotion potential, which in turn, strengthens the enlisted personnel base of the Marine Corps, according to Marine Corps Order P1560.25C, Marine Corps Lifelong Learning Program.

MASP is a four-week program conducted during normal working hours that provides academic skill education development related to

military, professional, and personal requirements at no cost to the service member.

According to the order, enrollment in MASP may be voluntary or directed and requires the approval of the individual's commanding officer. Participants do not incur additional obligated service as a result of their participation in the program. The Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) and Broadened Opportunity for Officer Selection and Training (BOOST), for

"It was a pretty good course," said Sgt. Stanley Rawles, postal chief for the Base Post Office. "MASP offers basic academic skills such as mathematics, English, and reading comprehension."

Services Vocational Aptitude Battery scores (ASVAB) no longer exist, according to Francis Villeme, education officer, Lifelong Learning Center, MCLB Barstow.

"Not only can you enroll to raise ASVAB scores, but you can also use MASP to prepare for college," he said.

example, are two programs that individuals incur additional obligated service time.

The old school thought of enrolling in MASP to raise Armed

Sgt. Stanley Rawles, MCLB Barstow's postal chief, took advantage of what MASP had to offer and revealed that the program has helped tremendously in improving his academic skills.

"It was a pretty good course," he said. "MASP offers basic academic skills such as mathematics, English, and reading comprehension."

Rawles said he voluntarily enrolled in MASP to raise his ASVAB scores, in hopes of making a move into another military occupational specialty, and to brush up on his academic skills to get ready to take some college courses.

According to Villeme, MASP can be delivered in the traditional classroom, the Marine Corps Satellite Education Network, or online.

Rawles took the course via the

satellite network, or teleconferencing method, and noted that the instructor was very informative and helpful. He even took an evening to travel to 29 Palms to sit in on one of the math study groups.

His advice to anyone considering taking MASP is that "if you want to advance or just get the cobwebs out, this is a very good course to take."

For anyone interested in enrolling in MASP keep in mind that the course goes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., five days a week for four weeks. The next two courses are scheduled for Nov. 17 through Dec. 17, and Jan. 5 through 30.

"The program is also offered to military dependents 18 years and older as well," Villeme added.

For more information about MASP, contact the Lifelong Learning Center at 577-6118.

Marines attack Big Bear to compete in challenge

By Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt
Editor

Marines from MCLB Barstow participated in the Big Bear Challenge, held by Headquarters Battalion, MCLB Barstow Friday at the Pine Summit Resort in Big Bear.

For the Marines, it was time to cut loose and have fun, while competing in team skills events to build unity, teamwork, leadership skills and esprit de corps.

The first event got the Marines wet from the start by having them cross the pool in a blow up raft by pulling themselves across using ropes that were stretched across the length of the pool.

After running to the next station, Marines had to use teamwork skills to carry one of their teammates for a certain distance while they were laid out on a stretcher. Next came sniper training, where Marines had to navigate a course while trying not to get shot with a paintball gun, carried by the sniper.

Once Marines accomplished that, they had to fireman's carry one of their teammates across a field and then their teammate had to return the favor and carry them back.

Next came the confidence portion of the event, including events like rappelling, crossing a log 40 feet in the air, and climbing a rope course about 20 feet in the air.

Marines were judged on how fast they completed the timed obstacles and how well they completed the other obstacles. Marines could subtract time from their total by doing well in the confidence events.

Lance Cpl. Timothy Graham, Lance Cpl. Brian Bannister, Lance Cpl. Christopher Moore and Cpl. Douglas Hawks took home the first-place trophy.

Cpl. Daniel Humble, Lance Cpl. Joshua Pascua, Cpl. Chuen Lam and Pfc. Britney Schneidt finished second.

1st Lt. Casey Taylor, Cpl. Erik Dortch, Lance Cpl. Jeffery Raymond and Lance Cpl. Curtis White came in third.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Lance Cpl. James Hainer, DMS technician for the Communications Division, pulls his way across a swimming pool to complete the first event at the Big Bear Challenge.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Lance Cpl. Ryan Simmons, communications center operator for the Communications Division, holds his teammate up while he climbs a wall during an event at the Big Bear Challenge.



Photo by Cpl. Joshua Barnhardt

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Skjelver, operations support chief for the Communications Division, climbs across some ropes on an obstacle at the Pine Summit Resort in Big Bear, where the Marines of MCLB Barstow held the Big Bear Challenge.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

November Specials at Super Seven Day Store

Black Hills gold jewelry (earrings, necklaces, and bracelets) are \$38 to \$76. Apex portable DVD players are \$179.99. Sony 20" TV/DVD/VCR combo with Truflat screen for \$349.99. Eton & Totes gift sets for \$8.99 to \$14.99. Godiva chocolates are \$4.80 to \$10. Assorted kitchen appliances go for \$6.99 and up.

Drop by the Super Seven Day Store and check out these great bargains.

It's also time to start early Christmas shopping. The best place to start is right here at the Super Seven Day Store.

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

The Super Seven Day Store is open Mondays through Fridays from 6:30

a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Check for special holiday hours.

Veterans Day schedule

Giving time to plan ahead, here is the MCCS Veterans Day holiday schedule.

Open Veterans Day (Nov. 11):
Super Seven Day Store: Nov. 10, 6:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., Nov. 11, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

The Base Gym: 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
The Family Restaurant: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with menu service.

Tees and Trees Golf Course: 7 a.m. to sunset.

Closed Veterans Day: All other MCCS facilities will be closed. The Auto, Ceramic and Wood/Rock Hobby Shops will also be closed Nov. 9.

Semper Fit classes

Two classes are available, and both

are held in the gym.

Aerobic Class will be held every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20 per month.

The Tae Kwon Do Class will be held every Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. Call for information on the fee.

Exercises tapes are also available for check out (for in-gym use only). The exercises cover aerobics, kickboxing, pilates, tae bo and yoga.

For more information on the classes and the exercise tapes call 577-6971.

Football at the Oasis Club

Enjoy Monday Night Football at the Oasis Club Monday. This event will determine if there is sufficient patron participation to continue providing this service.

If you want these games at the Oasis Club, show up and be counted. For more information on the Football games or other club activities call 577-6418.

Veterans Day special

Knott's Berry Farm is offering a Veterans Day special to all veterans, active duty military personnel, reservists, retired military and spouses of deployed military personnel.

The special includes two free admissions and \$5 for each individual person up to six people.

This offer is good Nov. 2 through Nov. 27.

Proof of military service and veterans DD214 form required.

Semper Fit closure

The Semper Fit Gym will be closed Tuesday from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. for gym staff training. We apologize for any inconvenience.

Book signing at Super Seven Day Store

The author of *Bagdad Butcher*, Mike Jackson will be at the Super Seven Day Store Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to autograph books.

Bagdad Butcher (Ampro Publishers) currently on sale at the Super Seven Day Store is an action packed story with intrigue and romance.

Plan to attend this one-day event and meet the author at the Super Seven Day Store.

Golf Special

Tees and Trees Golf Course is offering a Winter Golf Special: After 1 p.m. every day, \$15 for a single player includes green fees and cart. For two players \$20 includes green fees and cart.

A Turkey Shoot is planned for Nov. 15. Details to follow.

For more information call 577-6431. The Tees and Trees Golf Course is open everyday from 6:30 a.m. to sunset.

Don't miss the Halloween Costume Party at the Enlisted Club

Tonight 6 p.m. - 2 a.m.

There will be Prizes Food Music/DJ

For details call 577-6418

BEARS from Page 1

support the military," said Moran. "Many people are glad to find a way to reach those who defend the country."

There were many requests about military children, and bears for the children of deployed service members became the new goal.

MCLB Barstow got a shipment of bears in for the children of Marines and sailors from MCLB Barstow who were deployed in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During Troop Appreciation Night, Maj. Clarence Guthrie III, the commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion,

MCLB Barstow, presented the children with the teddy bears and a certificate of appreciation.

Staff Sgt. Anthony Cisneros, a Marine Corps Exchange chief was deployed to Kuwait for six months, leaving behind his wife and two children. He recently returned from his deployment, and his children received teddy bears on Troop Appreciation Night.

"I'm excited that they are being recognized and getting presents," said Cisneros.

Editor's Note:

For more information or to make a donation to Operation Teddy Care visit <http://teddycare.coastside.net>

TSP from Page 2

access to the money that they have contributed to their TSP account and the earnings on that money. Participants must be in pay status to obtain a loan, because regular loan payments are made through payroll deductions. There are two types of loans available, a general-purpose loan and a loan for the purchase of a primary residence.

To find more information or to participate in the TSP, visit the following Web sites: www.tsp.gov or <https://mypay.dfas.mil/mypay.asp>. Marines may also contact Charles at 577-6727.

Gunny's Picks

Week 9



Congratulations to Spike from Transportation Support Branch. Spike picked up the win via tiebreaker on the Monday night game. He doesn't have any trash talking for the rest of the Gunny's Picks fanatics out there, but will let his picks do the talking. He said his team is the Redskins, but since they aren't going to do anything this year, he is going to root for his mother's

team, the Baltimore Ravens. This win brings the men one closer to the ladies, but the ladies still have the lead for the year.

Since the resident Gunny's Picks guru is out for the week, this week's predictions will fall in the hands of one corporal who has very little time left in Barstow, so I'm not worried about the rath of my prediction. Detroit will beat Oakland. How is that for all you Raider fans?

To submit your choices for Gunny's Picks, fill out this section of the newspaper and drop it off at the Public Affairs Office in the Green Wing of Building 15, or e-mail who you think will win each game to editor@barstow.usmc.mil.

- *Indianapolis at Miami
- *NY Giants at NY Jets
- New Orleans at Tampa Bay*
- Jacksonville at Baltimore*
- *Carolina at Houston
- *San Diego at Chicago
- Washington at Dallas*

- Oakland at Detroit*
- Pittsburgh at Seattle*
- *Cincinnati at Arizona
- *St. Louis at San Francisco
- *Philadelphia at Atlanta
- Green Bay at Minnesota*

Monday Night

*New England at Denver

Total points: _____

Name, work section and phone number: _____

Monday night's game is a tie-breaker and must include a total score.

IRS from Page 2

can start the check on its way. We urge taxpayers to act before Dec. 5 for the advance payments so we can reissue the checks before the end of the year."

Taxpayers without access to the Internet who think they may be missing a refund or advance child tax credit check should first check their records or contact their tax preparer before calling the IRS toll-free assistance line at 1-800-829-1040 to update their address.

Taxpayers can avoid undelivered

refund checks by having their refunds deposited directly into a personal checking or savings account. Direct deposit also guards against theft or lost refund checks.

The option is available on both paper returns and electronically filed returns.

More than 44 million taxpayers chose direct deposit this filing season, up 11.6 percent from last year. Direct deposit was not available for the advance child tax credit checks.

Refund checks go astray for reasons that can vary with each taxpayer.

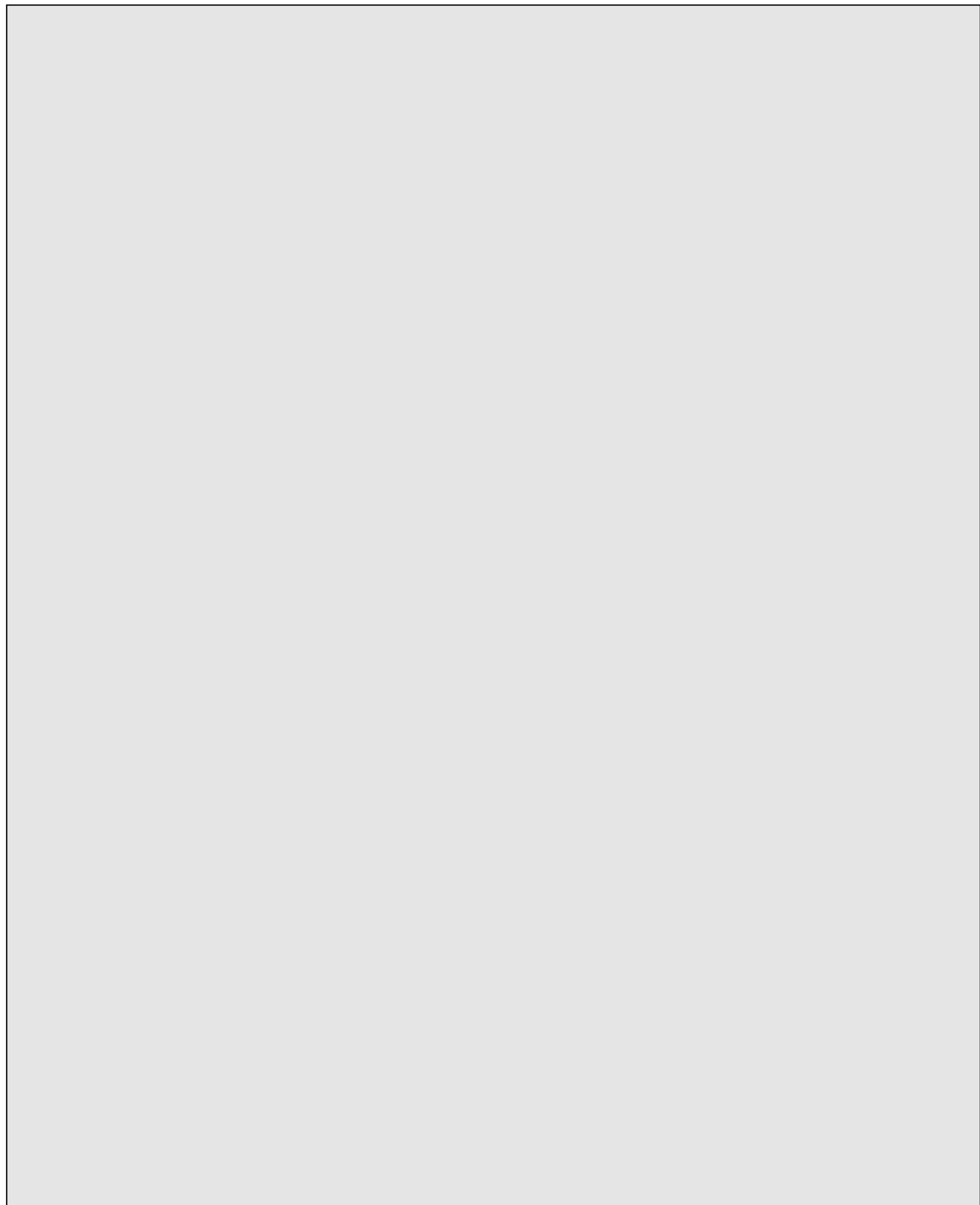
Often, it's because a life change

causes an address change.

If taxpayers move or change their address and fail to notify the IRS or the U.S. Postal Service, a check sent to their last known address is returned to the IRS.

The Postal Service says more than 40 million Americans change addresses annually.

Taxpayers who have moved since filing their last tax return can ensure the IRS has their correct address by filing Form 8822, Change of Address, with the IRS. Download the form or request it by calling 1-800-TAX-FORM (1-800-829-3676).



1966 DODGE : Station Wagon, 383 engine, auto, air, runs needs TLC, \$1,000 or trade. Call 254-1913 AWH.

1979 TOYOTA: 4WD, runs good, comes w/extra parts, eng, front and rear diff., transfer case, tranny and more, \$2,000. Call 253-1200.

1983 DODGE: Conversion van P/S, P/B, CD, A/C, tilt steering wheel, 318 V8 auto, \$2,000, OBO or trade. Call 254-1913.

1993 CHEVY S-10 TAHOE: 3.0 L, V-6, 5 speed, 140k miles, gray and red, little rust, very reliable, never had any major repairs, runs and starts xlt. \$1,500, OBO. Call Andy 252-3131, Cell 443-622-9937.

1992 FORD TRUCK F250xlt: 7.3 liter diesel with ATS turbo, 7,000 miles on D4OD automatic transmission, A/C, power windows & locks, cruise control, 12,000 lb. receiver, 5th wheel hitch, rhino liner, xlt cond. 166,800 original miles, \$7,950. Call 257-1055 or 954-1732. .Please lv msg.

1990 VOLVO: 740 GL, White, good condition, A/C, power doors, power windows, \$4,000, OBO. Call 254-3572, Cell 985-5077.

1984 GMC: 4X4 Pick-up (smog legal) 350eng. 700R-4 Trans, \$2,000 OBO. Call 252-8939.

1985 FORD ESCORT WAGON, 83K miles on original motor, new tires, passed smog, very dependable family or 2nd car needs a few minor repairs and registration is due (\$70.00), \$500, OBO as is. Call Shelley at 256-0924 or Daniel at 256-0110 lv msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Sears table saw, \$50 OBO. Call 253-1200.

MISCELLANEOUS: Vacuum cleaner, in great condition \$25; Dream Cast Video system, includes 2 controllers, memory chip and 6 games, \$100. Call 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Dog Kennel, portable chain link fence with gate, \$300; Volkswagen, four older style mag rims all \$55, Ford Ranger tailgate, \$55; Chevy 350 aluminum two quad manifold, \$125; push bumper with brush guard and mount for winch, \$150. Call 254-1913 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Oak couch and love seat \$75 set; entertainment center holds 27" TV smoked glass doors, \$100; exercise bike \$25; DVD player with karaoke \$50; child's headboard brass twin \$15; Sony color TV, 19", \$10. Call 252-7789.

MISCELLANEOUS: IBM word processor, memory-writer, includes separate monitor and manuals, \$40. Call 253-1200.