

# BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 7, No. 48

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

December 4, 2003

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**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>

## Authorization act pluses up pay, creates new civilian system

By Jim Garamone  
American Forces Press Service

The fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act has been called "transformational" for its support of the Department of Defense's aim to change to confront the threats of the future.

President Bush signed the act into law during a Pentagon ceremony Nov. 24. The \$401.3 billion budget funds the department through Sept. 30, 2004. The money is in addition to the \$87 billion supplemental bill passed earlier in November.

"We will do all it takes to keep our military strong, to keep the peace and to keep the American people secure," Bush said during the ceremony.

David Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, spoke about the personnel provisions of the legislation.

"The department is very grateful for Congress's action in passing the act," Chu said during an interview.

The undersecretary said the act is historic and will allow the department to rewrite those rules that need to be modernized for DOD to be effective in the early 21st century.

The act doesn't give the Bush ad-

ministration all it wanted in the personnel realm, Chu said, but it does substantially advance the agenda on three key fronts.

"First, it has given us authority for a new era in how we manage and treat our civilian personnel — the National Security Personnel System (<http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>)," Chu said.

Second, he said, the act provides a better balance between environmental stewardship and the training needs of the Department of Defense.

Finally, the act continues to support the transformational aspect of military compensation, Chu said. The act provides for an across-the-board military pay increase of 3.7 percent. In addition, mid-grade officers and mid-grade noncommissioned and petty officers will receive targeted raises of up to 6.25 percent. The average pay raise is 4.15 percent.

On the civilian personnel side, the legislation sets up the National Security Personnel System. The system is a new way of managing DOD's civilian work force, and was a centerpiece of Defense Secretary

See ACT Page 6



Photo by Helene C. Stikkel

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld listens while President George W. Bush speaks prior to signing the National Defense Authorization Act at the Pentagon on Nov. 24. The Act provides \$401.3 billion for the Department of Defense, which will allow for continued support of the missions of the U.S. military and its men and women serving around the globe.

## Marine, family nearly fall to 'silent killer'

By Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt  
Editor

Staff Sgt. John P. Kenney, finance chief in the finance section at MCLB Barstow, was fast asleep in his off-base home Nov. 19 when his pregnant wife, Jennifer, awoke, complaining of having a severe headache along with dizziness and nausea.

According to Kenney, she walked to the bathroom shortly before returning to their bedroom, where she fainted.

"That's when I called 911," said Kenney.

He described her symptoms over the phone, and was ordered by the operator to get everyone out of the house immediately, including his two sons, Caleb, 18 months, and T.J., 5.

"Three minutes later, (paramedics) showed up," he said.

Kenney and his family were taken to the Barstow Com-

munity Hospital, where carbon monoxide, or CO, levels in his blood were reading over 40 percent.

Luckily, said Kenney, his sons experienced very little effects, probably due to the fact that their bedroom door was closed.

Kenney was then taken from Barstow to Redlands hospital, and placed in a hyperbaric chamber to begin decompression therapy. Within two hours, he said, his CO level had dropped to nearly two percent.

Hospital personnel informed Kenney the danger was so serious that, "if my wife hadn't of woken up, we may not have woken up at all."

After further investigation, local fire authorities found that a wall heater not venting properly caused the extremely high CO levels.

Kenney said he had just moved out into

town, and since he was not issued CO detectors, he hadn't even thought about buying them.

"We picked some up on the way home from the hospital," he said.

Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless, deadly gas. Because you can't see, taste or smell it, carbon monoxide can kill you before you know it's there.

At lower levels of exposure, carbon monoxide causes health problems. Everyone is at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning.

Medical experts believe, however, that some individuals are more vulnerable to poisoning such as unborn babies, infants, children, senior citizens and people with heart or lung problems.

The great danger of carbon monoxide is its

See KILLER Page 8

# Vehicle accidents main cause of Marine deaths

**ALMAR 069/03**  
Headquarters Marine Corps

During October, three Marines and one sailor died in off-duty accidents. One Marine and one civilian Marine died on-duty, and two F/A-18A aircraft and one UH-1N were lost in aviation mishaps.

### Off duty

A Navy PO2 died when he lost control and sideswiped another vehicle while driving his motorcycle.

A private first class crashed his car after losing control, resulting in the vehicle being engulfed in flames, killing the Marine and a

civilian passenger.

A sergeant was killed when her vehicle was struck by another vehicle at an intersection, and a 21-year-old corporal died while swimming in the Colorado River.

### On duty

A sergeant was killed during a training free-fall parachute jump when he unexpectedly rolled onto his back during descent. He was unable to deploy his reserve chute in time.

A civilian Marine WG-11 with Maintenance Center Barstow, MCLB Barstow, was electrocuted and killed while working on an air-search radar.

### Aviation

Two F/A-18A Hornets collided over the water about 50 nautical miles off the coast of South Carolina during an aerial combat training flight. Both pilots were safely recovered.

A UH-1N crashed in the desert during a simulated troop insertion exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force Training Command Twenty-nine Palms, resulting in major injuries for one crewmember, while the other three received only minor injuries. The aircraft was destroyed.

Vehicle and motorcycle accidents continue to be the primary cause of Marine fatalities. While alcohol-related fatalities have declined over the past two years, excessive speed resulting in loss of control has increased as a primary casualty factor. These mishaps and deaths are preventable. With the end of daylight savings time and the holidays approaching quickly, Marines will be traveling longer distances with shortened periods of daylight. Reducing vehicle mishaps and deaths begins with something as simple as wearing a seatbelt and encouraging all passengers in

Observations and Trends

See **SAFETY** Page 4

## Holidays could be healing times

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood  
Base Chaplain



Thanksgiving is a wonderful time of year and a time of year that even in the desert you can appreciate the wonderful colors of the trees as they change, and you can also sense the mood of people changing as

we all begin to recount the good things in life.

This is a time of year when we often can find time to pause for reflection on the things that we hold most dear; family, friends, health, and home.

As we think about all these things, our memories can conjure images of Thanksgivings past and the wonderful moments that are associated with family gatherings on that scale.

If you work hard, you can sometimes even "smell" the aroma of the freshly baked pies waiting on the kitchen counter and delightful scent of Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings waiting to be tasted.

Yes, our memories are wonderful things and can bring us richness of life with which we continue to imbue each new Thanksgiving.

As we pause this year I believe it would be good to reflect on all of these things and more. We should take time this year to remember those who are not able to eat dinner with us because of various reasons.

We know that many are abroad fighting and dying for our freedom and we certainly want to remember them. Without those folks doing a hard job at a very special time of the year we might not be able to celebrate Thanksgiving at all. There are those who are in hospital and will be ill on Thanksgiving Day instead of being at home with family. Hopefully, some of those families will be able to bring Thanksgiving to their family members in hospital. There are those who will be working on Thanksgiving, serving meals, dispensing gas, providing health care, and serving the public interest in patrol cars or in fire stations.

We need to remember all those people and say a prayer of thanksgiving for them if not a real verbal thanksgiving to those

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 4

## Just doing my job ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Stephen Mulcare, assistant chief, MCLB Barstow Fire and Emergency Services Division, loads toys into the back of a truck on "Toys for Tots Tuesday" morning at the Nebo front gate. Mulcare said the event was a success. "We collected almost 100 toys plus two bikes ... and made everyone aware of the Toys for Tots program. I am expecting things will really pick up now," he said.

### Chapel Services

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

**Confession services before Mass**

### Catholic Rosary

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

For more info call 577-6849.

### Nebo Bible Study

Wednesday Noon-1:30 p.m.

At the **Chapel Office**.

For more info call 577-6849.



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

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# News Briefs

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

## Lunch Menu

Lunch menus for the Family Restaurant and Cactus Cafe are the same. Lunch menus are subject to change.

**Today** – chicken cordon bleu.

**Friday** – fish.

**Monday**– chili mac.

**Tuesday** – baked pork chops.

**Wednesday** – chicken a la king.

**Thursday** -- sliced roast sirloin of beef.

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians \$4.75. 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 7:30 a.m. At the Cactus Cafe from 5:30 to 6:30 a.m. Prices: Active duty military \$1.60, all others \$3.25.

## Family Night Dining

**Tonight** – Spaghetti and meat sauce, chicken alfredo, garlic bread, dessert plus a fountain drink of your choice.

and civilian volunteers for the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. Volunteers will provide free income tax assistance and electronic filing to active duty military, retired military and their dependants for their 2003 income tax returns.

This program is sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service in cooperation with Headquarters Marine Corps through the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate and provides a major quality of life benefit to the military community.

VITA volunteers will attend a two-week training program from Jan. 12 to the 23 at Building 236.

Volunteers will become knowledgeable in federal and California income tax law. In addition, volunteers will also be trained to use software so that tax returns may be electronically filed.

Each volunteer will be required to commit at least eight hours per week from Jan. 27 to April 15 at the tax center to provide assistance.

If you are interested in helping our military community by participating as a VITA volunteer or would like more information, contact Jacque Fadeley at 577-6874.

## Blood Drive T-Shirts

The last blood drive for this year was held on Nov. 20 and it was noticed that blood drive T-shirts were not distributed to donors. In order to receive a shirt, individuals must have donated blood three times in the past year. If you qualify and did not receive a T-shirt, please send your name, social security number and mailing address to Josie Marquez, blood bank coordinator, at 577-6483.

## Safety Shoe Mobile

Safety shoes will be available for purchase on Wednesday at the following locations:

Yermo Annex: Parking lot in front of Building 573 (Maintenance Center)



from 7 to 11 a.m.

Nebo: Parking lot across the street from Building 236 (east end) from noon until 1 p.m.

For more information, contact Agnes Bialkowski, Base Safety Office, at 577-6626.

## Leave Sharing Program

Mr. Edward B. Hayes, Badge #7698, Maintenance Center, has been affected by a medical emergency. Anyone wishing to donate leave may do so under the Leave Sharing Program by obtaining a leave donor application through his or her division/center administrative officer.

For more information, contact Pat Snyder, Manpower and Administration Department, at 577-7138.

## Construction-Bldg. 129

The Marine and Family Services Division, Building 129, is undergoing minor construction for the next 60 days.

The office has announced it will be open for the regular business hours of 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays.

The office requests all patrons please bear with them through this construction.

For more information, contact Bette Poe, administrative support clerk, Marine and Family Services Division, at 577-6533

## FEHB Open Season

All information concerning Federal Employee Health Benefits sponsored health care providers can be viewed and/or downloaded by accessing the Office of Personnel Management, at [www.opm.gov/insure/health](http://www.opm.gov/insure/health), to include health plan brochures, FEHB guides and the FEHB handbook.

Once an employee has made a decision on a particular health plan, changes must be made using the Employee Benefits Information System via the Internet or through the Benefits Line.

The EBIS can be accessed at [www.donhr.navy.mil](http://www.donhr.navy.mil) or [www.civilianbenefits.broc.navy.mil](http://www.civilianbenefits.broc.navy.mil). The Benefits Line phone number is 1-888-320-2917.

Both applications are available 24 hours per day, seven days per week. All changes must be completed by midnight (PST) Dec. 8.

For more information, contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6918.

## FSA Open Season

The open season for the Flexible Spending Accounts began on Nov. 10 and will run through Dec. 8. The open season of FSA coincides with the open season of the Federal Employee Health Benefits.

FSA's are effective financial management tools that can stretch the disposable incomes of the account holder and ensure that when funds are needed they are available to pay out-of-pocket medical expenses or dependant-care costs of a child or parent.

There are two FSA's. One is a Health Care FSA, which allows pre-tax reimbursements of eligible medical costs not covered or reimbursed by insurance.

The other FSA is a Dependant Care FSA that allows participants to be reimbursed on a pre-tax basis for childcare or adult dependant care expenses that are necessary to allow the employees and thier spouse to work or seek work.

Participation in the FSA is not automatic. Employees must make a voluntary election on an annual basis.

If employees do not make an election during the open enrollment, they will not have FSA for the following year.

The benefit election is irrevocable once the plan year has begun unless the employee experiences a "change of status" event.

If by the end of the year the money in an employee's account is not used, it will be forfeited.

To learn more or to enroll in the FSA program, employees can visit the Federal FSA Program Web site at <http://www.fsafeds.com/>

For specific tax information concerning FSA accounts, visit <https://www.fsafeds.com/fsafeds/faq.asp#irs>.

All inquiries should be made to the program administrator toll free at 1-877-372-3337. For the hearing impaired the TTY/TDY number is 800-952-0450.

## Maintenance Complaint Line

To report complaints about repair and maintenance work on real property (base buildings excluding housing), call 577-5159.

# Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
DEU-033-04 NR	Industrial Maintenance Manager GS-1101-14	11-21-03	12-22-03	12-05-03	MCLB Barstow
DEU-034-04 NR	Firefighter (paramedic) GS-0081-07	11-20-03	12-03-03	11-24-03	MCLB Barstow
DEU-027-04-NR	Firefighter (paramedic) GS-0081-04 (Target GS-07)	11-24-03	12-06-03	11-26-03	MCLB Barstow

Applicants interested in the above positions should submit resumes, online at the following Web sites: <http://www.donhr.navy.mil> or <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding Open Continuous announcements point your browser to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

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, 577-6357/6279/6481.

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

### SAFETY from Page 2

your vehicle to do the same.

In keeping with the first quarter safety theme, "Accountability: If there is a rule, enforce it," the Marine Corps is participating in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's "Click it or Ticket" campaign.

The greatest number of recreational fatalities is attributed to water sports. Swimming is the leading activity accounting for these deaths.

Although this month marked the first time in 10 years that a civilian Marine was electrocuted in an on-duty accident, it is the third electrical accident and the second fatal electrocution in the past three months. Electricity is unforgiving and always demands the highest care and adherence to safe practices. There are no part-time safety rules or shortcuts when it comes to electricity. The Marine Corps suffered two "bird strikes" in October, resulting in minor damage to an AH-1W helicopter, and serious damage to an AV-8B.

While the likelihood of bird strikes decreases as winter approaches, this hazard can be greatly magnified in the low-altitude environment because of reduced reaction times and lessened margin for error. Always check the forecast for bird activity levels prior to flying a low altitude route at any time of year. Local bird/wildlife activity can be accessed at <http://www.USAHAS.com>. Additional information can be found at <http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil/aviation/operations/bash>.

Semper Fidelis,  
M. W. Hagee, general, U.S. Marine Corps,  
commandant of the Marine Corps

### CHAPLAIN from Page 2

we meet. This is also a time for many when reflecting upon their faith brings a certain richness to the day. It is a time where for just a few hours most everything takes second place to just being together and celebrating the goodness that composes our broad and expansive family of humanity.

Yes, there are people in this large family that we may not necessarily like, but that does not mean that we cannot love them as part of creation. This can be a time of great forgiveness and sharing between estranged family members and friends. Is there anything more healing than sharing a meal with someone?

As hard as that may be for some, it can be a moment of catharsis and healing that you will recall with fondness in the years ahead and wish that you had done it sooner.

Maybe Thanksgiving is more than just a special day to have off work and watch football or parades or eat too much. Maybe, just maybe it is a day given to recapture some special things that were lost.

All it takes is for each of us to put aside our pride, to dispose of petty jealousies, and try to see the other person as something special. I think that getting out the old address book and inviting someone you haven't spoken to can be a wonderful act of thanksgiving and an act that many of us can benefit from at this time of year.

It will be a challenge to be sure and will also take the other person desiring reconciliation but what a small effort compared to the wonderful possibility of harvesting a caring relationship. I hope you had a wonderful and happy Thanksgiving Day.

Peace,  
Fr Randel

## Gunny's Picks

Week 14



Congratulations to Janet Wilson, QA Specialist with Public Works Division, this week's winner of the Gunny's Picks. Wilson went 10 - 4, not including the Monday Night game and the Eagles/Panthers games which we inadvertently overlooked. Wilson's win closed the gap between the MCLB Barstow women and men at 7 - 6. With the end of the regular season fast approaching the playoff picture is becoming a little clearer. This may sound unusual but keep an eye on the Baltimore/Cincinnati match up this weekend. This game

will determine who will take the division and which team will be vying for a wildcard spot. Here are the rest of pairings for Week 14.

### Sunday, Dec. 7

San Diego @ Detroit\*  
Chicago @ Green Bay\*  
\*Indianapolis @ Tennessee  
Seattle @ Minnesota\*  
Tampa Bay @ New Orleans\*  
\*Washington @ NY Giants  
Dallas @ Philadelphia\*  
\*Oakland @ Pittsburgh

Houston @ Jacksonville\*  
Cincinnati @ Baltimore\*  
Arizona @ San Francisco\*  
Miami @ New England\*  
\*NY Jets @ Buffalo  
\*Kansas City @ Denver  
\*Carolina @ Atlanta

### Monday Night

\*St. Louis @ Cleveland  
Total points: \_\_\_\_\_

Name, work section and phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Monday night's game is a tie-breaker and must include a total score.

## SJA offers legal assistance

**Submitted by**  
Staff Judge Advocate



1st Lt. A. K. Szymanski

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate recently announced the arrival of 1st Lt. A. K. Szymanski, the deputy staff judge advocate and legal assistance attorney.

Szymanski will provide legal assistance for active duty service members, retirees, and their dependents in matters relating to family law, consumer law, landlord/tenant law, and wills and estate planning.

When going through a divorce, the Legal Assistance Office will help draft court documents that will help avoid potential problems in the future.

For service members, or other eligible clients, who rent an apartment or house, the LAO can give advice regarding rights and obligations and provide assistance on redressing problems with landlords. The LAO may also review and explain rental agreements and leases.

Parents who have custody of children and are not receiving child support can receive information on how to make complaints of non-support.

The LAO can also advise parents on terminations of child support amounts, wage

assignments and support orders.

The legal assistance attorney can give advice regarding creditor problems and consumer issues. For example, reviewing a car purchase agreement or helping to correct identity theft.

For service members, retirees, and their families, the LAO can assist in immigration proceedings, including citizenship and naturalization. LAO also provides powers of attorneys, wills, and living wills. These are vital legal documents that most active duty service members should not be without. Notary services are available on a walk-in basis during the hours of 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays. These are only some of the legal matters the LAO can assist service members, retirees, and their families with. If you have an issue that you think the LAO may be able to assist you with, you may call 577-6874 or come to Building 236 to make an appointment.

assignments and support orders.

## Reserve, Guard receive full commissary benefits

### MCLB store gets new sign, decor, 'face lift'

**By Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt**  
Editor

Local members of Reserve and National Guard units are now able to enjoy unfettered access to the MCLB Barstow's Commissary.

The Department of Defense recently announced that with the president's signing of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2004, commissary benefits are now available full-time to members of the Ready Reserve (Selected Reserve, Individual Ready Reserve and Inactive National Guard) and members of the Retired Reserve who possess military identification.

Former members eligible for retired pay at age 60 but who have not yet attained the age and possess Department of Defense civilian identification, and dependents of the members described above are also granted full-time benefits, according to a recent DOD news release.

"I think it's a smashing idea myself," said Bill McCorry, MCLB Barstow Commissary store director.

"Instructions have gone out to all continental U.S. stores informing them that reservists now have unlimited shopping and telling store managers how to welcome members of the National Guard and Reserve to the full use of the commissary benefit," said Patrick Nixon, deputy director of the Defense Commissary Agency.

McCorry said that special signs welcoming the new shoppers can be expected as soon as next week.

Guard and Reserve members were authorized only 24 commissary shopping days per calendar year until the president signed the National Defense Authorization Act, which contained provisions eliminating the restrictions.

Commissaries have immediately adopted the new provisions, which means Guard and Reserve members will no longer have to present a Commissary Privilege Card when they shop.

McCorry said he expected the news to increase sales, and "that's good for everyone."

**See BENEFITS Page 8**

# 2004 NDAA sets up National Security Personnel System

## ACT from Page 1

Donald H. Rumsfeld's transformation efforts. The new system will make managing the civilian work force easier and will allow defense managers to reshape the force to respond to the challenges of the 21st century, Chu said.

"We have great civilians in the department, but frankly they, as (an) institutional element of the department, were handicapped by the rules in which we had to operate," he said. "What this does is liberate us from the perceived restrictions of the past. It gives us a modern transformational way of hiring people, advancing them, reassigning them."

The system also will give the civilian work force a whole new pay construct called "pay banding," which will include pay for performance.

"We will be moving away from the general-schedule system," Chu said. "This allows us to be much more competitive in terms of setting salaries, and allows us to adjust salaries as duties change."

The change will make it easier for defense managers to reward top performers, Chu said. "It will be helpful in terms of recruiting, because it says to a young person, 'This is the kind of organization that if you are a high performer, you'd like to join,'" Chu said.

The legislation also gives the department a new way to negotiate with unions. Now the department will be able to bargain at the national level on cross-cutting human resource issues, the undersecretary said.

"It's now our job to implement the act," Chu said. Department officials will communicate with workers and listen to their suggestions. "One of the first things we will resolve is who gets to be the first group of employees to join this new system, and how is that transition going to unfold," Chu said.

He is appointing an implementation team and said he will have the answers shortly. He added that employees will start to see changes from the new system in 2004.

The undersecretary also spoke about the environmental provision of the authorization act. He said the changes to the Marine Mammal Act and the Endangered Species Act recognize that DOD is a good steward of the environment. He said that when many DOD installations have been closed, the areas make "extraordinary wildlife areas because we kept out of development."

But there has been an increasing clash between stewardship and military training, he said.

"It is critical that our people train in a realistic way: that they are prepared, and they know exactly what to do when they hit the ground in a combat environment," Chu said. The changes Congress made will allow the military to do just that, he added.

DOD officials still believe the pay of a mid-career NCO still is a little short of comparable salaries in the private sector, so another targeted pay raise is a possibility.

"Ultimately it's the president's decision to make," Chu said. "I can't commit to what we're going to do, but I do think we will look seriously at this (targeted pay raise) again. We want to be fair to our people, especially with the burdens they bear."

The act directs the Executive Branch that



Photo by Helene C. Stikkel

President George W. Bush (seated) is surrounded by members of Congress and senior Defense Department leaders as he signs the National Defense Authorization Act at the Pentagon on Nov. 24. The Act provides \$401.3 billion for the Department of Defense, which will allow for continued support of the missions of the U.S. Military and its men and women serving around the globe.

the annual military pay increases after fiscal 2006 will be equal to the increase in the Employment Cost Index. The act continues the "buy-down" of out-of-pocket expenses by increasing the Basic Allowance for Housing. Currently service members living "on the economy" pay 7.5 percent of the housing costs out-of-pocket. That percentage will drop to 3.5 in fiscal 2004, and be eliminated in fiscal 2005.

The act also continues hostile-fire or imminent-danger pay at the current level of \$225 per month through Dec. 31, 2004. It continues separation pay at the current level of \$250 per month for the same period. The act authorizes an increase in the Army's end-strength. The administration did not request this plus-up. Congress authorized an increase of 2,400 in the active duty Army and an increase of 1,779 for full-time Army reserve component soldiers on active duty.

End-strengths for the services are Army, 482,400; Navy, 373,800; Marine Corps, 175,000; and Air Force, 359,300. Selected reserve end-strengths are Army National Guard, 350,000; Army Reserve, 205,000; Naval Reserve, 85,900; Marine Corps Reserve, 39,600; Air National Guard, 107,030; and Air Force Reserve, 75,800.

Overall end-strength for the military is 1,390,500 on the active side and 863,330 on the reserve.

In addition, Congress increased the National Guard by 264 full-time personnel to man 12 more weapons of mass destruction-civil support teams.

The act gives reservists and their families more access to Tricare – the military's health care program.

The act authorizes a phased-in concurrent receipt program for military retirees. The current law requires that retired pay be reduced by the amount of any VA disability payment. Last year, the fiscal 2003 authorization act instituted a program allowing retirees who were awarded the Purple Heart and have disabilities rated at 60 percent or higher to keep both retirement pay and disability compensation.

Effective Jan. 1, 2004, all 20-year retirees with a Purple Heart or a combat-related disability will be eligible for concurrent receipt. The act authorizes a phased-in full concurrent receipt program over the next 10 years for retirees who are most severely disabled (50 percent or more).

Overall funding levels are \$74.2 billion for procurement, \$114.4 billion for operations and maintenance and \$63.4 billion for research, development, testing and evaluation.

On the equipment side, the act authorizes \$1.7 billion in research and development funding for the Army's Future Combat Systems program. It allots \$2.9 billion for 42 Navy and Marine Corps' FA-18E/F Super Hornet aircraft. The act has \$3.5 billion for 22 Air Force F/A-22 Raptor aircraft, and \$4.4 billion for the multi-service Joint Strike Fighter program.

The act forged a compromise on aerial refueling.

The Air Force proposed leasing 100 Boeing 767 aircraft as tankers. The compromise calls for the service to lease the first 20 aircraft and buy the rest outright. Officials estimate this will save the American taxpayers \$4 billion over the life of the aircraft. The compromise allows the Air Force to begin replacing the

aging fleet of KC-135 and KC-10 aircraft. The first KC-767s will be delivered in fiscal 2006.

The act addresses the gap in strategic airlift by putting \$2 billion toward delivery of 11 C-17 Globemaster III aircraft.

The V-22 Osprey program receive \$872.2 million for continued development, including nine aircraft for the Marine Corps and two for the Air Force.

Again in fiscal 2004, unmanned aerial vehicle programs are doing well.

The Air Force Global Hawk is slated for \$40.2 million, while the UAV receives \$211.6 million for 16 systems. Congress included an additional \$18 million in the request for a turboprop version of the Predator.

The Army's Shadow Tactical UAV will receive \$73.8 million for eight systems, and an additional \$12.4 million for continued research.

In shipbuilding, \$1.2 billion is slated for advanced procurement of the CVN-21 next generation aircraft carrier.

Full funding for the carrier is planned by fiscal 2007, but the ship will not join the fleet until 2013.

The budget also puts aside \$1 billion for continued research for the DD(X) – an experimental warship that will be the test bed for the Littoral Combat Ship and the future cruiser.

The act authorizes \$3.2 billion for three more Arleigh Burke-class destroyers and \$1.2 billion for another LPD-17 San Antonio-class ship.

The authorization act sets aside \$1.5 billion for another Virginia-class attack submarine and \$1 billion for another boat in fiscal year 2005.

# Around the Corps

## 8th ESB Marines win Annual ROWPU RODEO

By Lance Cpl. John E. Lawson Jr. The second place team was Cpl. Jacob D. Busch, and Lance Corporals Peter Smith, Jimmie M. Bass, and Bakhit McBride.

Water is a precious commodity. Without it, people wouldn't survive. But, according to NASA's "Classroom of the Future" program's Web site, only 1 percent of the world's water is drinkable, and much of that water contains harmful elements that could be fatal if ingested.

But those harmful elements are the business of the Marines assigned to Utilities, Support Company, 8th Engineering Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group here. They are responsible for turning dangerous muck into clean drinking water for Marines in the field. They do this using reverse osmosis water purification units, or ROWPUs.

Recently, two teams from 8th Engineering Support Battalion participated in the 6th annual Sgt. Maj. John C. Marigliano Award of Excellence competition, formerly the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit Regulated On-site Demonstrated Efficiency Objective, or ROWPU RODEO, at the U.S. Army Coastal Water Purification Training Center, Fort Story, Va., and U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School, Fort Lee, Va. The competition took place in two phases.

The Marine Corps started participating in the once Army-only event in 1999, and 2003 is the first time the Marines have won. The two teams from Camp Lejeune took first and second place over-all, beating U.S. Army units from around the world. The first-place team consisted of Cpl. Jeremy A. Benton, and Lance Corporals Mathew B. Foust, Keith Carr, and Heriberto Becerra Bravo.

"It's an honor to have won." Benton, a Titusville, Fla., native, said. "The only real competition was between our two teams. We were so far ahead of the others." He added, "On every event, the Marine Corps set the standard."

The competition was divided into lanes, or categories, in which each team was tested. The lanes included a written exam, a reconnaissance operation, water storage and distribution system testing, and multiple lanes using the 600- and 3,000-gallon-per-hour ROWPUs. Presently, the Marine Corps does not use the 3,000-gallon-per-hour ROWPU.

"It was great working on gear we don't usually get to work with. We got to show-up the Army on their own gear, but we also gained experience," said Foust, of Macedonia, Ohio.

The Marines from Camp Lejeune were presented more than 20 awards in a ceremony at Fort Lee. The Army and WATEC have teamed up to train service members on the ROWPUs, the Tactical Water Distribution System, the Water Storage Distribution System, and organizational maintenance, said Larry Wilkinson, WATEC Inc., site administrator, United States Army Coastal Water Purification Training Center, Fort Story, Va.

This year's competition was between 14 teams; 10 U.S. Army teams from around the world, two



Photo by Cpl. Jeremy A. Vought

Corporal Jeremy A. Benton and Lance Cpl. Mathew B. Foust of Utilities Section, Support Company, 8th Engineering Support Battalion, 2nd Force Service Support Group here, prime a reverse osmosis water purification unit intake pump at the recent Sgt. Maj. John C. Marigliano Award of Excellence Competition. Lance Cpl. Heriberto Becerra Bravo carries the pump's intake line into the surf behind them.

Marine teams from Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C., and two teams from Camp Lejeune. The contest itself is named for Sgt. Maj. John C. Marigliano, the first honorary sergeant major of the Army's Quartermaster Regiment and the first enlisted member to be inducted in the Quartermaster Corps Hall of Fame. This honor is the highest water purification award the military has to offer.

"I think this water competition rates in the very top when com-

pared to other competitions throughout the Army. Skills attained from this type of training and competition are regarded as the very best the Army has to offer," said Sgt. 1st Class Robert J. McGhee III, water and petroleum training advisor, Army Forces Command.

"The competitive environment of the RODEO fosters confidence and esprit de corps between individuals, teams, and services. It is also a training management tool the commander can use to assess the competency and readiness of water teams," he said. The

East Orange, N.J., native added the Navy had a team sign up for the competition this year but cancelled due to operational commitments, and the Air Force has expressed interest in competing next year. Plans are also under way to hold next year's inter-service competition here, but nothing has been finalized, he said.

"Winning this award says a unit is combat ready in its field of expertise and is ready to successfully provide life's most important substance to survive: potable water," McGhee said.

## Devil Dog wins board, moves up in competition

By Pfc. Jenna Lassandro  
Barstow Log Staff

On Nov. 13, the Marines at MCLB Barstow were given a chance to prove that they deserved to be meritoriously promoted to corporal.

Lance Cpl. Nicholas Paul, a patrolman for the Provost Marshal's Office came out on top and will now go against the winners from the boards at MCLB Albany and Blount Island Command to try to claim the title of Marine corporal.

"Out of the five Marines who competed, (Paul's) military bear-

ing, attention to detail, wearing of his uniform, and knowledge of the (basic skills) and current events is what made him stand out from the competition," said 1st Sgt. Donald George, the first sergeant of Headquarters Battalion.

Paul joined the Marine Corps in September of 2001 and attended recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, S.C.

Paul completed his nine-week training for military police at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and headed overseas to serve at Camp Courtney in

Okinawa for 16 months.

After Okinawa, Paul was stationed at MCLB Barstow.

After completing his four-year term in the Marine Corps, Paul plans on moving back to his home state of Florida to work for the Tampa Police Department, and eventually walk the beat as a homicide detective.

Master Sgt. Richard Holman, the provost sergeant for the Provost Marshal's Office, nominated Paul.

"(Paul) has demonstrated that he has the ability to lead by setting the example. He has

a high (physical fitness test) score, impeccable appearance in uniform, has completed eight (Marine Corps Institute courses) with two (Marine Corps Institute courses) active, and is enrolled in college majoring in psychology. He is exactly what an old Marine like myself loves to see in a young Marine," said Holman.

The service record books and letters of recommendation for nominees within the Marine



Corps Logistics Command will be evaluated, and the Marine who wins the board will be promoted on Dec. 2.

No matter the results from Albany, Paul is still proud to have been selected to represent MCLB

Barstow.

"I was honored to be chosen from the board," Paul said. "I thought everyone did a really good job."

## **KILLER from Page 1**

attraction to hemoglobin in the bloodstream, which normally carries life-giving oxygen to cells and tissues. As even small amounts are breathed in, carbon monoxide quickly bonds with hemoglobin in the blood, displacing the oxygen that organs need to function. When CO is present in the air, it rapidly accumulates in the blood, forming a toxic compound known as carboxyhemoglobin (COHb).

Carboxyhemoglobin causes symptoms similar to the flu, such as headaches, fatigue, nausea, dizzy spells, confusion and irritability. As levels of COHb increase, vomiting, loss of consciousness and eventually brain damage or death can result.

Carbon monoxide is a common by product of combustion, present

whenever fossil fuels are burned. It is produced by malfunctioning or unvented home appliances such as gas or oil furnaces, clothes dryers, ranges, ovens, water heaters, space heaters, fireplaces, charcoal grills and wood burning stoves. Fumes from automobiles also contain high levels of carbon monoxide that can enter a home through walls or doorways if a car is left running in an attached garage. All of these sources can contribute to a CO problem in the home.

If a home is vented properly and is free from appliance malfunctions, air pressure fluctuations or venting and chimney blockages, carbon monoxide is usually vented safely to the outside. However, insulation meant to keep indoor air warm during the winter or cool in the summer can help trap CO-polluted air in the home.

Additionally, furnace heat exchangers can crack, or vents and chimneys can become blocked.

If there is an inadequate indoor fresh air supply for combustion, airflow in flues and chimnies may reverse direction causing a downdraft, which traps combustion gases in the home.

The Consumer Product Safety Commissioner (CPSC) recommends installing at least one carbon monoxide detector with a audible alarm near the sleeping area. If a home has multiple floors a detector on every level provides extra protection. Choose a detector that sounds an audible alarm. There are several different types of detectors from battery operated ones to plug in models with digital display readout of CO levels. In addition to installing carbon monoxide detectors,

consumers should have a qualified professional check all fuel burning appliances, furnaces, venting and chimney systems at least once a year.

The extra effort to safegaurd your home may take some time and possibly a quantity of money, but if you ask Staff Sgt. Kenney, a man who almost lost everything to the silent killer, he'll offer his words of wisdom.

"Make sure you have carbon monoxide detectors, and make sure they work!"

### **Editor's Note:**

*Information from this article was submitted by MCLB Barstow's Base Safety Office. For more information on CO poisoning, contact Jonathan Moore, safety specialist, at 577-6722, or MCLB Fire and Emergency Services Division, at 577-6731.*

## **BENEFITS from Page 5**

"I want to thank Congress and the Department of Defense for their efforts in bringing the commissary shopping privilege to the total force," said Nixon.

Nixon noted that special thanks should go to Charles Abell, principal deputy under secretary of defense for personnel and readiness, for acting decisively. In other local commissary news, McCory announced recently that the MLCB Barstow store is scheduled to receive a "face lift."

"How 'California' is that?" McCory asked. The face lift will include new interior and exterior decor, and a backlighted outdoor store sign. Construction is taking place after hours, said McCory, so shopping will not be effected.



**By Jim Gaines**  
MCCS Publicity

### **Gift ideas at Super Seven Store**

For great gift ideas drop by your Super Seven Store and check out these Christmas bargains.

Watches - Save 20 percent off already low priced Timex watches for men and women. MZ Berger, your choice boxed watch sets. Ladies' or men's \$29.99.

Remington shavers - Smooth & Silky rechargeable shaver \$36.99,

Tommy Hilfiger ladies' bags \$19.99, your choice of Mini Hobo, Black Pocket framed bag, Red Pocket framed bag or Barrel Bag.

We have many more great bargains waiting for you.

The Super Seven Store is open Mondays through Fridays 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Check for special holiday hours. For more information call 256-8974.

### **Winterfest**

Join us in celebrating the grand reopening of the Library/Research Center and the Education Center during Winterfest.

The event takes place Dec. 6 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Building 218.

Events include an Information Booth and a diesel tractor and trailer presented by the California Career School. Cookie Decorating will be presented by the Child Development Center.

An Ice Fishing Booth is scheduled to be presented by Park University. Mrs. Clause's Storytime is slated for presentation by Cameron University. Information Booth and giveaways presented by the University of Phoenix. A Sparky visit and Special Delivery presented by the Fire Department and McGruff will be there too, presented by PMO and Cpl. Jonathan Henderson.

For more information call 577-6118 or 577-6395.

## **Comedy Shows Friday, Dec. 5**

**Three outstanding comedians: Wally Wang is the show opener. You've seen Wally on A&E's Evening at the Improv.**

**Patrick DeGuire is the featured comedian. You've seen Patrick on NBC Friday Night.**

**Butch Bradley is the show's headliner. You've seen Butch on WB's Jamie Kennedy Experiment, CBS's Late, Late Show, FX's Martin Short Show and UPN's In the House. Great entertainment - don't miss it!**

### **First Show**

**At the Oasis Club - hors d'oeuvres served at 5:30 p.m.**

**Show begins at 6:30 p.m.**

**Open to E-6, GS-5, WS-1, WG-1 and NF-03 and above.**

### **Second Show**

**At the Enlisted Club - hors d'oeuvres served at 7:30 p.m.**

**Show begins at 8:30 p.m.**

**Open to everyone.**

**Oasis Club members may attend free of charge.**

**All others may purchase \$5 tickets at ITT.**

**Call 577-6451 for more information.**

2000 TOYOTA SIENNA VAN: LE, 4 Capt. seats, 4 doors, \$13,750, OBO. Call 253-4979.

1996 MERCURY SABLE: Cruise control, tilt wheel, A/C, front wheel drive, \$1,950, OBO. Call 253-4979.

1993 FORD: F250. 4x4, ext cab, 8 ft. bed, xlt cond., Diesel with matching topper, \$6,150, OBO. Call 253-4979.

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

1987 NISSAN SENTRA: Runs good, new brakes, needs minor front end and bodywork, \$600. Call 255-4339.

1987 YAMAHA: YHF Moto 4, 80cc shaft drive quad runner, new tires, plastic, battery, fresh tune-up and current registration, \$1,200, OBO. Call Kevin 252-7016 AWH, no answer lv. msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Car trailer, dual axle, 20', four new tires plus spare, several custom addition, xlt cond., \$1,500, OBO. Call 252-4996.

MISCELLANEOUS: Jeep wheels 15"x8", 5 each, brushed Alum. Best offer. Call 254-3675.

MISCELLANEOUS: Sofa rock table, white with glass top, paid \$300 will sale for \$100. Call 252-2420.

MISCELLANEOUS: 4 matching wood bar stools, \$30 each or \$100 for all; baby stroller, compact and lightweight made by Kolcraft, almost new \$20. Call 252-2886.

MISCELLANEOUS: Moving, toddler bed w/mattress \$30, OBO; auto amplifier x2, \$50 each; 16" off road truck tires, new, \$100, OBO; lawn mower, \$100, OBO. Call 252-8325

MISCELLANEOUS: Heritage sofa, light green velour, xlt cond., \$150 OBO; computer desk, Oak/black finish, xlt cond., \$50 OBO. Call 252-4996

MISCELLANEOUS: Oak corner group dining set, includes center pedestal table and benches \$350. Call (760) 947-8096

THANK YOU: I would like to thank all of you who have visited, called or sent cards during my illness and recovery. I appreciate your well wishes and prayers. Barbara Kent.

THANK YOU TO THE CO-WORKERS AND PEERS OF ROBERT O. LANZER: I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude for the assistance, compassion, emotional support and prayers that you displayed to our family at the time of our recent loss. It was an enrichment to our memories to know how much Bob was a part of your lives also, and that he was well respected and known by his peers and co-work-

ers. To know that his co-workers attempted to assist him and expended all efforts to do that has eased our pain somewhat. Colonel Gerlaugh, the wonderful outpouring of emotion at the Memorial service and the recognition with which you honored Bob reminds me what a wonderful support group you provided. I can only thank God for the encouragement and support that you each presented, and I will cherish the expressions of sympathy and your support through this difficult period. Michelle Lanzer and family

YARD SALE/GARAGE SALE: December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, tools, furniture, electronics, new and used clothing, exercise/fitness equipment, camping gear, much more, 34726 Birch Road, Barstow (Grandview area)



