

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Vol. 8, No. 1

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

January 8, 2004

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

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



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard helped ring in the new year at the 115th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., New Year's Day amongst an estimated crowd of 1 million spectators. From left to right are Lance Cpl. Jesse Madrid, Cpl. Jeremiah Russo, Base Commander Col. Liz Bergman, Lance Cpl. Lenard Dockter, Lance Cpl. Christal Powell and Master Gunnery Sgt. Kim Ortamond.

BRAC '05 criteria submitted

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

The National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2002 authorized the Department of Defense to pursue one Base Realignment and Closure round in 2005.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld issued a memorandum on Nov. 15, 2002 directing that the BRAC 2005 process for analyzing DOD installations begin immediately.

The memorandum established authorities, organizational structure, goals and objectives for DOD's implementation of the BRAC process.

A primary objective of BRAC 2005, in addition to realigning DOD's base structure to meet post-Cold War structure, is to examine and implement opportunities for greater joint activities, according to the memo.

By creating joint organizational and basing solutions, DOD will facilitate multi-service missions, reduce waste, save money, and free up resources to recruit quality people, modernize equipment and infrastructure, and develop the capabilities needed to meet 21st century threats.

On Dec. 23 Secretary Rumsfeld took the first course of action, as required by the Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, by publishing in the Federal Register and submitting to the congressional defense committees a draft of the selection criteria DOD will use in making its recommendations for closure or realignment of bases inside the United States.

The final selection criteria must be published no later than Feb. 16, 2004. Also in February, DOD must submit to Congress with its FY'05 budget, a 20-year force structure plan, a com-

prehensive infrastructure inventory, and certification justifying the need for a round of closures in 2005.

As with previous rounds, and in accordance with BRAC statutes, DOD will base its recommendations upon approved selection criteria that reflect military value as a primary consideration.

Keep in mind that every installation will be considered equally regardless of whether DOD has previously considered the installation for closure or realignment. In that regard each installation can expect to receive data calls soon from DOD requesting pertinent information about the installation.

What exactly the data calls entail are unknown; however, the information provided to DOD must be signed off by the commanding officer certifying that it is accurate.

Rumors have been surfacing about which bases are targeted for closure or realignment since DOD announced it was authorized to pursue another BRAC round.

To date there is no list identifying which bases are recommended for closure or realignment. There are several Web sites containing such lists that should be ignored because they are based on speculation.

In light of this, here are the milestones established for the BRAC 2005 round:

March 15, 2004 – Deadline for Congressional approval of the final selection criteria.

March 15, 2005 – The president nominates BRAC commissioners.

May 16, 2005 – Secretary of De-

See BRAC page 10

Marine Corps updates TA funding policy

By Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt
Editor

Marines planning to further their off-duty education by enrolling in college courses can breath another sigh of financial relief due to the Marine Corps' Tuition Assistance Funding Policy, updated recently per MARADMIN number 461/03.

"It's free education," said Francis Villeme, MCLB Barstow's resident education "guru."

Throughout the year, Villeme assists devil dogs young and old in the pursuit of mind-expanding off-duty education.

Marines may utilize tuition assistance for a myriad of reasons, said Villeme, including pre-

paring for upcoming promotions, commissioning programs and earning degrees in preparation of the day uniforms come off, goatees spawn and days begin at 9 a.m., or, an EAS.

A retired gunnery sergeant of Marines, Villeme is living proof of TA benefits. While enlisted, Villeme earned his bachelor's and master's degrees with money out of Uncle Sam's pocket, though it was not quite as much as is available these days, he said. "(TA) used to be only 75 percent," said Villeme.

According to the recent MARADMIN regarding TA authorization, 100 percent tuition is covered by TA funds for individual Marines. The TA funds cover lab, instructional, computer and mandatory course enrollment fees.

The monetary assistance is not to exceed \$250 per semester hour (15 clock hours) or \$4500 per fiscal year. Service members are responsible for costs not covered by the TA policy. Tuition for courses longer than 18 weeks, or self-paced courses, will be reimbursed upon successful completion of the course. TA is not authorized for books, according to the MARADMIN.

Marines wishing to utilize TA must first contact Villeme at the base education office. There, they may seek guidance on what direction to take with off-duty education and complete a TA voucher. The TA voucher (NAVMC form 10883) includes personal information, and service members must also provide de-

tailed information about the courses and school where the TA is to be applied. The Marines' commanding officer must sign the form, which is forwarded to the institution following approval. Marines are authorized to use the Montgomery G.I. Bill to fund costs not covered by the TA policy; however, special precautions must be taken upon filling out the form.

Simply put, said Villeme, TA funds are "free money to use," for Marines wishing to develop professionally. According to Villeme, if one chooses not to utilize the benefits, "You're throwing it away." For more information on MARADMIN 461/03, or for those wishing to pursue off-duty education, contact Francis Villeme, base education officer, at 577-6118.

Life goes on in any time of year

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



I believe that this is a time of year when many are particularly given to thinking of others. As you watch the news and read the stories in our local papers you see that no matter what

time of year, life goes on. For some it gets better, for others it simply gets worse. For many there is a sense of closing one year down and starting a new one. For others there is the onerous feeling that things will never be different again and that there will always be a struggle. I am particularly reminded today of those who struggle valiantly to make it every day. As I watch the wind howling outside and leaves flying through the air and feel the sting of debris as it hits my face I think of those struggling to make it.

Struggling to make it in jobs that seem to be going nowhere. Struggling to become something more than what

one person termed "throw away people."

Many people help those who are struggling by offering shelter or food or clothing or warmth or friendship. They are making a difference. Others stand by and watch, sometimes giving, sometimes saying a prayer, sometimes offering a chance to someone in need. Those people still are making a difference.

Then there seem to be others who would almost stand in the way of something good for those less fortunate.

As I was reading today the story was about a group of people who did not want others to be able to receive a spiritual heritage like they seemed to have and so did everything they could to block them from learning about how they might gain spiritual enlightenment.

The story reminded me of the many stories we have heard about those who are marginalized, for whatever reason, and about the titanic struggles that these people face just to break through the barriers that have been placed before them. For many, even the help they receive from family and friends doesn't

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 7

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Pfc. Jenna Lassandrello

Pat Castillo, a supply technician item manager for Fleet Support Division, toils away at her desk Tuesday morning. Though her physical size may not be an intimidation factor, Castillo said her daily ritual at FSD consists of "issuing weapons to fleet Marine forces."

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
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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.

Lunch Menu

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

Today – Baked potato and salad bar.

Friday – Fish

Monday – Spaghetti and meat sauce.

Tuesday – Tuna casserole.

Wednesday – Fried chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, \$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 – Pork adobado, chicken pancit, fried/steamed rice, stir-fried vegetables, tossed salad, desert and fountain drink.

Leave Sharing Program

Danne M. Cline, Badge No. 9275, has been affected by a medical emergency. Anyone desiring to donate leave under the leave sharing program may obtain

a leave donor application through his or her division/center administrative officer.

Point of contact is Pat Snyder at 577-7138.

Prayer Breakfast

The ticket purchase deadline is Friday for a prayer breakfast in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. scheduled for Jan. 15 from 7:30 to 9 a.m. at the Oasis club.

The guest speaker for the event is the Rev. Jeanette Glass, associate minister with the Agape International Spiritual Center.

The breakfast costs \$6.75 per person and includes scrambled eggs, creamed beef, biscuits and butter sausage or bacon hash browns, and coffee or hot tea.

Tickets may be purchased from the following Black Employment Program Committee members:

- Robin Cross-Walker 577-6395
- Brenda Santiago 577-6552
- Toni Gentry-Irvin 577-7006
- Wendy Jackson 577-7220
- Gunnery Sgt. Craig Stanley 577-6984
- Marva Johnson 577-6965
- Ed Virgil 577-7118
- Clarence Green 577-6585
- Howard Wyche 577-7193
- Odis Gentry 577-6002
- Rob Jackson 577-6451

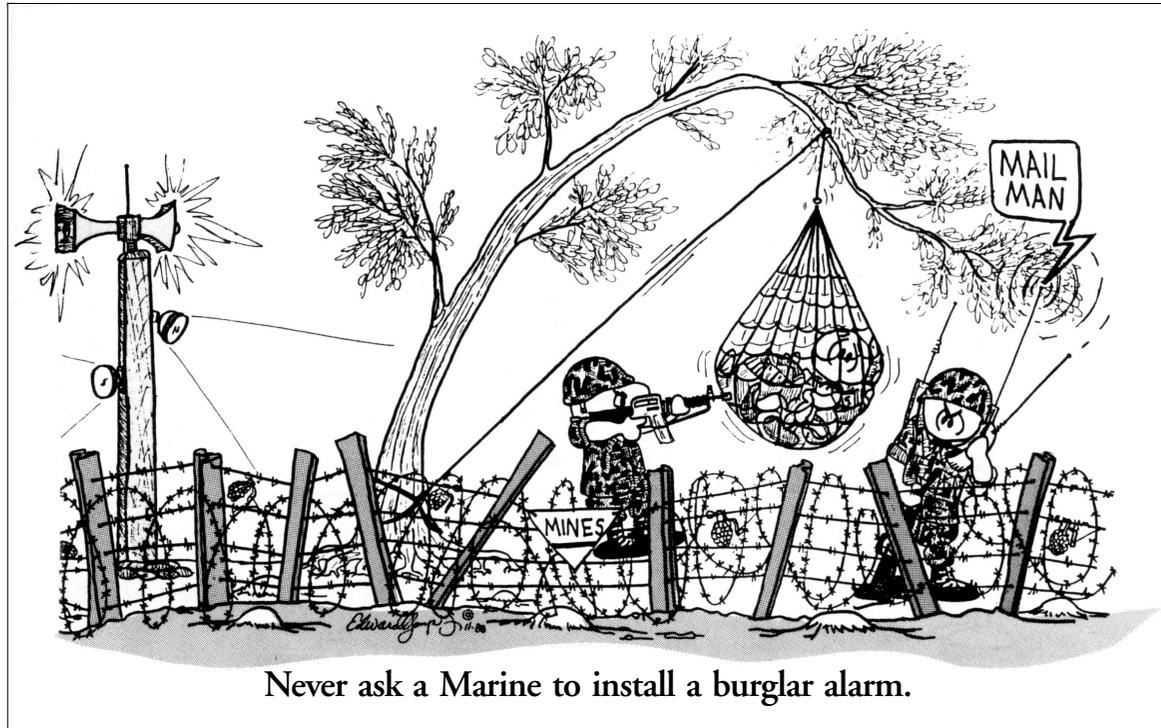
Town Hall Meeting

The January Town Hall meeting was cancelled. Town Hall Meetings are usually scheduled for the 3rd Wednesday of each month and start at 6 p.m. at the Youth Activities Center.

MSG Duty

The Marine Security Guard screening team is scheduled to visit the West Coast during Jan 21 and 30 to conduct screenings and briefings about the program.

Marines interested in MSG duty should contact Sgt. Joseph K.



Janez, Headquarters Battalion career retention specialist, at (760)577-6684 or janezjk@barstow.usmc.mil.

City Web site

The City of Barstow's new Web site is now accessible at www.barstowca.org.

The new site will provide a one-stop communication and information tool for city residents, visitors and businesses.

The site provides visitors with a plethora of city-related information, including access to city council and planning commission agendas and minutes, the latest city news, community programs and services, access to city staff and elected officials as well as job opportunities with the city.

Site visitors are directed on the home page to areas of interest organized specifically for them as a resident, business or visitor to Barstow.

The city encourages visitors to save the site as a "Favorite" in their

browser for quick future reference.

VITA Volunteers

The MCLB Legal Assistance Office is once again gearing up for tax season and seeking dedicated military 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.

Mystery Shoppers

The Marine Corps Exchange is looking for "Mystery Shoppers" to participate in periodic assessments for the exchange operations.

Mystery Shoppers enter the local exchange as average custom-

ers and evaluate the products and services offered.

They would provide feedback on the service and quality they received. Mystery Shoppers must have exchange privileges and are paid \$15 to \$25 for each completed assignment.

To become a Mystery Shopper, register with Confero at www.confero.com/mccs-mcx.htm. On the Mystery Shoppers page click on the "Apply Here" link at the bottom of the page to complete an application. For more information about the Mystery Shopper program go to <http://www.confero.com/mccs-mcx.htm>.

Online Training

Online training is available through Army, Navy and other Web sites.

Some courses are free, but courses charging a fee must be authorized by a supervisor. Training is available at:

MCLB Barstow Online Training at <http://www.mclbtraining.com/>

Navy E-Learning at <http://www.navylearning.navy.mil/>

Gov Online Learning Center at <http://www.golearn.gov>

Graduate School USDA at <http://grad.usda.gov>

Marine Corps Institute (MCI) Online at <http://www.mci.usmc.mil>

Chief of Naval Education & Training at <https://www.cnet.navy.mil>

Army Correspondence Course Program at <http://www.atsc.army.mil/>

accp.aipdnew.asp

Advance Learning Technology Resource Center at <http://altrc.gov>

Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning at <http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afiadl>

Memorial service for base employee scheduled today at Base Chapel

A memorial service for Daniel G. Keirn Jr. is scheduled for 8 a.m. today at the Base Chapel. Uniforms for servicemembers wishing to attend is Dress "A."

Keirn was born May 11, 1951 in Greenville, S.C.

He entered the U.S. Air Force April 23, 1971 and was discharged at George Air Force Base, Calif., as a staff sergeant on April 30, 1988.

Keirn began his career at

MCLB Barstow on Dec. 30, 1991 as an audiovisual equipment repairer and remained in that position until his death on Dec. 19, 2003.

He is survived by wife Kristi L. Keirn, children Heather and Brian, twin sister Janice, older sister Clara and mother Helen.

Dan was a friend to everyone he met.

If people needed something, he had one or knew someone who



Daniel G. Keirn

did.

He was always willing to help out.

He will not soon be forgotten.

Maintenance Center comes out on top in 2003

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG Staff

2003 was a year of sweeping changes for Maintenance Center Barstow.

Looking for ways to improve its operation and continue providing support for the fleet Marine forces especially during Operation Iraqi Freedom, MCB realigned its entire operation to improve the way it does business.

By instituting new business and management tools, such as Theory of Constraints and Lean Thinking, MCB managed to move its products in and out the door at a greater pace more efficiently than before.

While performing this massive task, which involved everyone from upper management to the workers on the floor, MCB managed to dispatch teams of maintenance experts to Camp Pendleton to assist the Marines in upgrading the M9 ACE earthmovers for participation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

After President George W. Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq were over, MCB sent personnel to Kuwait to team up with duty experts from Maintenance Center Albany to assess ground equipment damaged or destroyed during the war.

Back home, Maintenance Center Barstow's internal reorganization process continued and all its hard work finally paid off in August when it achieved International Organization for Standardization 9001:2000 registration.

By doing so, MCB was included among a growing list of international businesses and organizations noted for their quality management system.

But the celebration of that achievement was brief as depot-level maintenance of Marine Corps combat equipment, as well as other Department of Defense components, continues.

Not only did the Maintenance Center's Paxman Shop perform



Photo by Rob Jackson

Left to right: James McMullin and David Merica, heavy mobile equipment mechanics, CWC 725, reassemble an M1A1 Main Battle Tank's transmission, an important phase of the reassembly process of the tank's rebuild.

massive in-house overhauls to the engines that power Coast Guard Cutters and Navy vessels through the open seas, but MCB also sent a Paxman team to Bahrain to repair and install some of the engines as well.

To honor the sons and daughters of MCB employees who were in uniform and deployed, the Maintenance Center took the time to set up a wall recognizing their hometown heroes on assignments around the world.

Now with accomplishing a massive internal realignment, getting ISO registered, and supporting operational forces before, during, and after Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2004 should be even better for Maintenance Center Barstow.

Fleet Support Division makes its mark in 2003

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

Fleet Support Division Barstow reached a few major milestones in 2003.

FSD completed the required paperwork, went in partnership with Office Depot, and finally opened the new ServMart store in Warehouse 401. From a No. 2 pencil to a digital camera, ServMart has it all and what's even better is a department can place an order and have it delivered within two hours.

Ground safety is always a major concern for all MCLB organizations and tenant commands, but FSD took safety to new heights when it logged 75,300 direct personnel hours with no injuries and only one Class "D" mishap during a six-month period in 2003.

For most businesses and organizations that deal with customers regularly and have a quality management system in place, the next step is becoming International Organization of Standardization registered.

FSDB reached that milestone in April 2003 and completed the task in 14 months, a record for any organization to achieve according to then-director Maj. Vincent Applewhite.

Like a lot of Department of Defense components, FSD too was called upon for its support for Operation Iraqi Freedom as some of the equipment it had preserved and placed in storage had to be de-preserved and put in service.

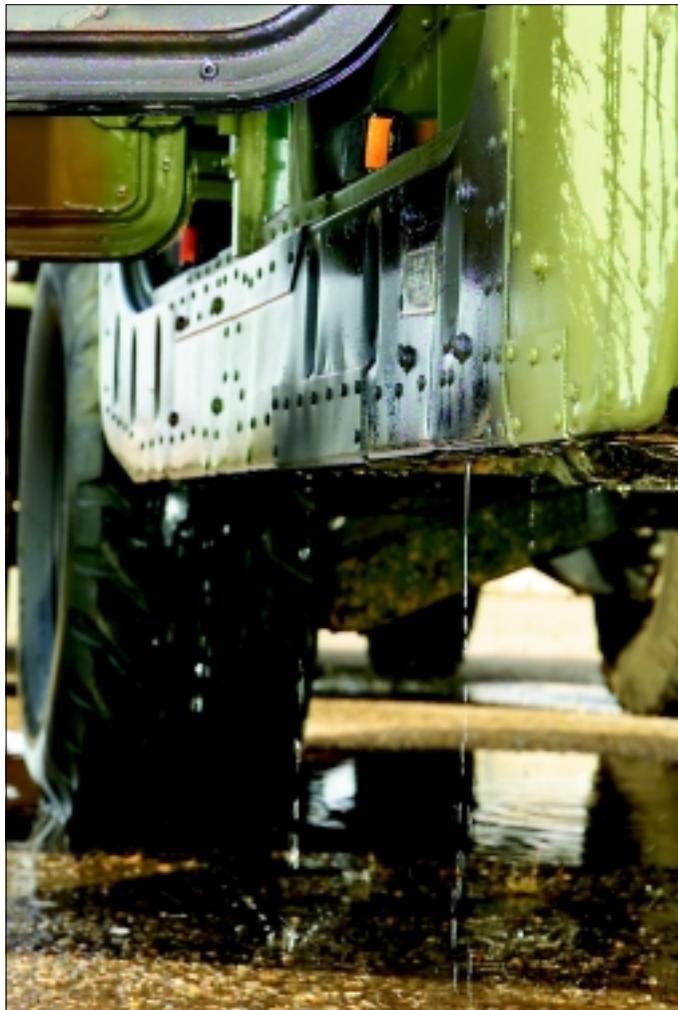


Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

The M998 HMMWVs are thoroughly cleaned out to remove any sand that has gathered in the smallest crevasses of the truck from years of sitting in the desert lots.



Photo by Sgt. Joseph Lee

Richard Chavira, heavy mobile equipment repairman for Fleet Support Division, washes out the interior of an M998 High Mobility Multi-Wheel Vehicle that would soon be deployed to Kuwait for assistance in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

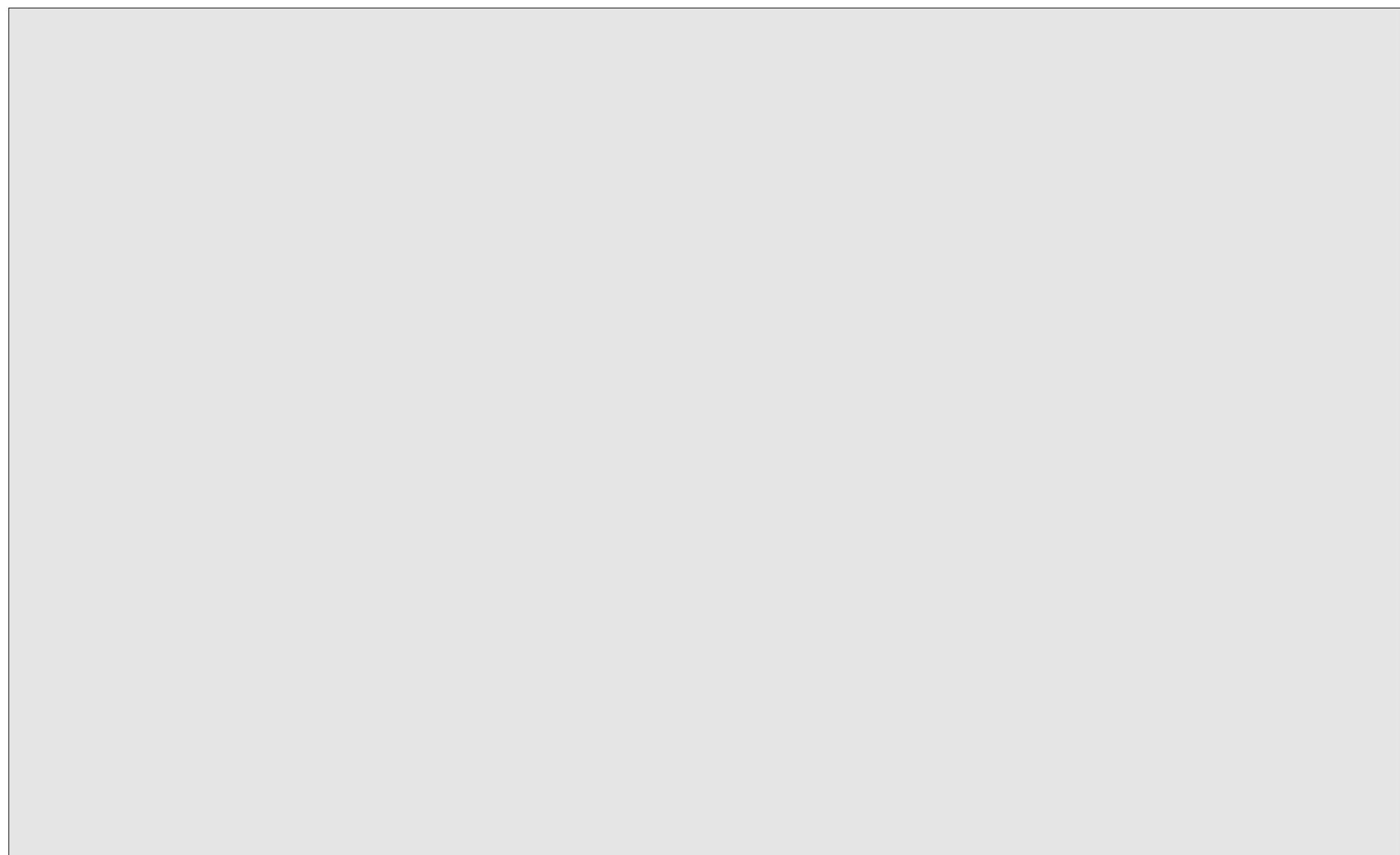
General Schedule pay chart for calendar year 2004

Incorporating the 1.5 percent general schedule increase and a locality payment of 18.57 percent for the locality pay area of Los Angeles-Riverside-Orange County, Calif., including Santa Barbra county and all of Edwards Air Force Base (total increase 2.24 percent)

Effective January 2004

GRADE	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	STEP 8	STEP 9	STEP 10
GS-1	\$ 18,310	\$ 18,921	\$ 19,530	\$ 20,136	\$ 20,746	\$ 21,104	\$ 21,704	\$ 22,310	\$ 22,335	\$ 22,901
2	20,587	21,076	21,758	22,335	22,584	23,248	23,912	24,576	25,240	25,904
3	22,462	23,210	23,958	24,706	25,455	26,203	26,951	27,699	28,447	29,195
4	25,215	26,056	26,896	27,737	28,578	29,418	30,259	31,100	31,940	32,781
5	28,213	29,153	30,093	31,033	31,974	32,914	33,854	34,794	35,735	36,675
6	31,447	32,495	33,543	34,592	35,640	36,688	37,736	38,784	39,832	40,881
7	34,946	36,110	37,275	38,439	39,604	40,768	41,932	43,097	44,261	45,425
8	38,701	39,991	41,281	42,571	43,861	45,151	46,441	47,732	49,022	50,312
9	42,747	44,172	45,597	47,022	48,448	49,873	51,298	52,723	54,149	55,574
10	47,075	48,643	50,212	51,781	53,349	54,918	56,487	58,055	59,624	61,193
11	51,721	53,445	55,169	56,893	58,617	60,341	62,065	63,789	65,513	67,237
12	61,990	64,056	66,123	68,190	70,256	72,323	74,390	76,456	78,523	80,590
13	73,715	76,172	78,629	81,085	83,542	85,999	88,456	90,912	93,369	95,826
14	87,110	90,014	92,917	95,821	98,725	101,629	104,532	107,436	110,340	113,244
15	102,465	105,881	109,297	112,713	116,129	119,545	122,961	126,377	129,793	133,209

Note: The Department of Defense is the lead agency responsible for conducting Federal Wage System wage surveys and issuing wage schedules. DOD's Civilian Personnel Management Service maintains a Web site with all FWS wage schedules. People may access FWS wage schedules by visiting www.cpms.osd.mil/wage, or by contacting DOD directly at (703) 696-1746.



CHAPLAIN from Page 2

seem to be enough to push them over the top toward success. Even when they have everything they could ever need to make the right decisions some people still find themselves making poor choices and ending up in bad situations. Comparatively, there are those who have to battle the ones who are standing in the "entrance to the garden with the flaming sword" trying to keep them from succeeding. For these folks there doesn't seem to be any real help. They are no longer looking for platitudes and graciousness; they are looking for real, tangible help that will make a difference. They are looking for educational opportunity that will get them a better paying job. They are looking for a chance to move up the ladder out of the "mail room" where they can earn the respect of those around them and build their self-esteem through job knowledge. They are looking for greater responsibility and a chance for excellence and yet for these folks there always seems to be someone standing in the way. The writer of this story goes

on to say that these same people who stand in the way of others would cross the sea to make one convert that would help them in there attempt to be destructive but, would not lift a finger to do something positive.

All this talk makes me think of how I might be able to help some of those people who are looking for a better life. I think sometimes that the best way to help is to spread the word that people do need help and that they are looking for it. I like to believe that people want to help others, and I have had that reinforced over the last few years as I have watched Americans pull together during times of crisis.

So I am writing to say that even though there are those who stand in your way there also many who are on your side rooting for your success.

Sometimes we are not very vocal or visible but we are learning more and more how important it is to help others because when we help others we help ourselves and when we hurt others we hurt ourselves.

Peace,
Fr Randel

I&L helps upgrade MCLB's infrastructure in 2003

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

Something very unique occurred within the Installation and Logistics Department in 2003, when Navy Cmdr. Jeff Johnston took the reins of the department from Marine Lt.Col. Charles Bridgeman upon his retirement in March. Now that may not seem too unusual to the average person because it has happened at different times and places throughout the course of military history, but at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow?

2003 was also a year of upgrading MCLB Barstow's power systems as I&L oversaw the demise of the old power system and the installation of a new advanced underground system. One of the more exciting occurrences, at least to those assigned to the department, was I&L Division being recertified as a Most Efficient Organization. This is something the organization achieved after 18 months, and well into the second option year of the initial

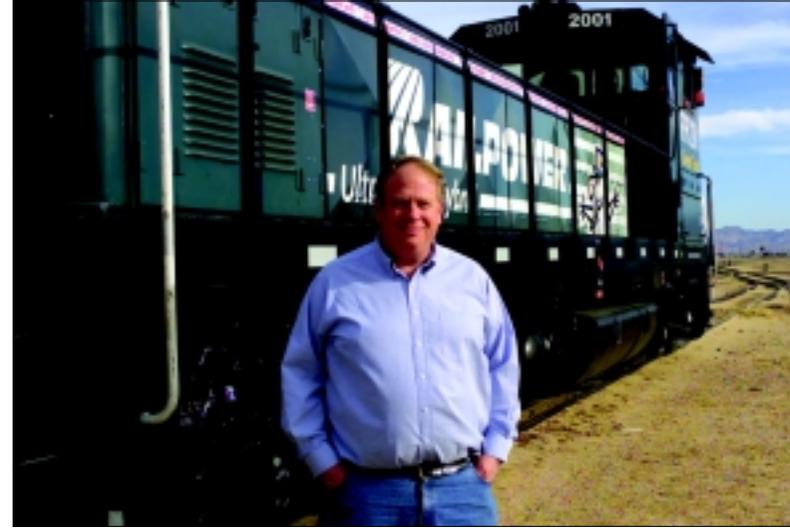


Photo by Rob Jackson

Frank Donnelly, chief technology officer with RailPower Technologies Corp, stands with the Canadian-based company's hybrid locomotive, the Green Goat. The Goat is powered electronically and is environmentally friendly.

agreement under the A-76. To help relieve some of the congestion of the Yermo railhead, I&L located four locomotives at Yorktown Naval Shipyard in Virginia and had them shipped to MCLB Barstow to help move rotational units in and out quickly, using both the Yermo and Nebo railheads. Ending the year with a bang, although a silent one, the department debuted a hybrid

locomotive called the Green Goat.

Essentially, the Goat is powered by a bank of batteries and produces less noise and releases less nitrous oxide in the air making it very environmental friendly. The locomotive was brought in only as a test.

Will MCLB Barstow see the Goat here permanently in the near future?

For Headquarters Battalion, training in 2003 was the

'Name of the game'

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

Whether it was sending Marines in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom or providing additional security personnel to protect MCLB Barstow, Headquarters Battalion spent the majority of 2003 preparing for both possibilities.

With the threat of possible terrorist strikes constantly in the news and most military installations put on high security alert, Headquarters Battalion's plan of the day throughout '03 was making sure its Security Augmentation Force was ready to provide additional protection for MCLB Barstow if needed.

Not knowing whether MCLB Barstow Marines would be called upon to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom or not, battalion commander Maj. Clarence T. Guthrie III made sure that if the call came his devil dogs would be both

mentally and physically conditioned to take up the challenge.

Conditioning hikes, tackling obstacles during the Big Bear Challenge, remaining knowledgeable of basic warfare through Battle Skills Training and regular physical fitness training kept MCLB Marines ready to take up arms in any clime and place if called upon.

Battalion Marines also volunteered to assist Army National Guard Units with training in areas such as riot control during the ANG's Theater Open Force Module exercise at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin in June.

To close out the year Marines joined up with soldiers from Fort Irwin to train in another security force measure called Special Reaction Team training.

Marines are constantly training and MCLB Barstow Headquarters Battalion Marines were no exception with all that was going on during 2003.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Staff Sgt. Christian Galbraith, former S-3 chief at Headquarters Battalion, gets up close and personal with a member of the 30th Heavy Brigade Support Squadron, wrestling his weapon away while protesting military presence during the joint TOFM exercise in June.

Branch Medical Clinic deploys, continues to operate in 2003

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

In July 2003 MCLB Barstow's Branch Medical Clinic received a new commander in Lt. Cmdr. Donna Jefcoat, but imagine her surprise when but a few weeks later nearly 90 percent of the clinic's corpsmen are deployed to participate in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

However, the clinic showed its resilience and continued to provide service for MCLB Barstow personnel though understaffed.

For nearly three months families and friends of those corpsmen deployed continued to pray for their safe return; alive and unharmed.

In September their prayers were answered, and the Branch Medical Clinic's corpsmen began returning home.

One of the first to return was Hospitalman, Petty Officer 1st Class David Pope.

Upon his return Pope was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in action while attached to 3rd Battalion, 7th Marines in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The remaining corpsmen returned home unscathed.

Right: Hospitalman 1st Class David Pope is awarded the Purple Heart by Lt. Cmdr. Donna Jefcoat, officer-in-charge of the Branch Medical Clinic here, during a ceremony at the clinic Sept. 2 while wife, Kim, looks on. HM1 Pope was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat action while attached to 3d Battalion, 7th Marines during Operation Iraqi Freedom.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Marines practice forward shoulder rolls during MCMCAP tan belt training Sept. 19 at Sorensen Field here. According to the S-3 training statistics, nearly 36 Marines here have yet to be tan belt certified. About 140 Marines have received tan belt training here, and seven Marines have been gray belt certified.



Photo by Rob Jackson

MCLB Barstow participated in numerous events in 2003

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

MCLB Barstow over the years has become a major pillar in the city and surrounding areas, and in 2003 military and civilian employees helped to strengthen that bond through participation in numerous community events.

Annually, MCLB Barstow is called upon by the Barstow Unified School District to judge student projects in its annual Science Fair, and the Marines and civilians aboard the base have jumped at the chance to honor the students for their hard work.

Marines participated in the annual 40-mile relay race from Fort Irwin to the Veterans Home of California –

Barstow and speaking of running, a few Marines took time out to represent MCLB Barstow as competitors in Camp Pendleton's annual Mud Run.

Several walking color guards were requested and participated in local events from opening day of little league baseball to providing the colors for the City of Barstow's Sept. 11 observance. MCLB Barstow Marines also provided military honors to 16 fallen Marines during the year.

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard made its presence known through many events, like Military Appreciation Day presented by the San Diego Padres, numerous rodeo events, and starting the year off by participating in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade held in Pasadena,

Calif.

Back in Barstow, the community is always looking for MCLB Barstow's participation in the annual Mardi Gras parade, and getting together with the soldiers, sailors and airmen to honor former POWs and MIAs at the Veterans Home of California - Barstow every year.

The highlight of MCLB Barstow military and civilian personnel's participation in community events is the annual Toys for Tots campaign and the Barstow Community Toy's for Tots Telethon broadcast locally from the Barstow Elks Lodge. This past year MCLB Barstow donated more than 1,200 new toys to the campaign, which capped a good year for participation in community events.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

MCLB Barstow Installation Division maintenance work leader Leroy Fearon sings "Stars and Stripes" at the Sept. 11 ceremony held at the Robert A. Sessions Memorial SportsPark in Barstow. Fearon also sang "God Bless the USA," by Lee Greenwood.

F&ESD trains firefighters

By Rob L. Jackson
BARSTOW LOG staff

During 2003, MCLB Barstow's Fire and Emergency Services Division opened the gates of its training facility to prospective firefighters from the Victor Valley Fire District fire cadets, and for

about a dozen "bomberos" or volunteer firemen from Puruandiro, Michoacan, Mexico.

Using perhaps the best training facility in San Bernardino County, base personnel offered the trainees live-fire training and other types of life saving methods the volunteer and prospective firemen would not

normally receive.

The Fire and Emergency Services Division not only opened its doors to help train other firefighters but also provided assistance to other fire districts especially during the recent California wildfires.



Photo by Rob Jackson

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



Photo by Rob Jackson

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

Gunny's Picks



Janet Wilson



"Spike" Speights



Rick Wiley



Kay Lundin

The 2003-2004 NFL regular season is finally over and the conference playoffs are in high gear. But before we move into that, and since this is the "Year in review" issue, let's congratulate Michael Luna who won the week 16 picks going 11-5, and the week 17 winner, Kenneth Breckenridge, who finished out the season going 13 - 3. Here's what the top pigskin prognosticators did for the season:

	Wins	Losses	Percentages
Janet Wilson	80	44	65%
Herman "Spike" Speights	101	54	65%
Rick Wiley	113	69	62%
Kay Lundin	84	54	61%

Congratulations to all who participated in this year's edition of the Gunny's Picks. You are all winners, even though this was one weird season.

Although the MCLB men took the season over the women at 11- 6, the women held their own as you can see by the winning percentages. Let's hope next year will be even better.

The first weekend of the playoffs unfortunately has past due to the holiday, but there's still a good month to go before the Super Bowl.

So here are the match ups for this weekend:

Carolina at St. Louis _____

Tennessee at New England _____

Indianapolis at Kansas City _____

Green Bay at Philadelphia _____

Note: You must pick total points for each game

BRAC from Page 1

fense forwards recommendations for closure and realignment to the commission, at which time the information will be available to the public.

Sept. 8, 2005 - Commission forwards its reports on the recommendations to the president.

Sept. 23, 2005 - The president has until this date to accept or reject the recommendations on all or nothing basis and forward the recommendations to Congress.

Once the president submits his final recommendations to Congress, Congress will have 45 legislative days to act on the recommendations or they become binding on the Department of Defense. Note again that DOD's official list of bases recommended for closure or realignment is not scheduled for release until May 16, 2005.

During the BRAC 2005 process as more information becomes available it will be released to the public through the media from the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

January Specials

Your MCX/Super Seven Store has some great buys this month - check out these specials:

Towels, pillows, sheets and comforters, all at special prices.

Need balloons for a birthday, anniversary or special occasion? They have balloons! How does 25 percent off sound? Helium is free.

Soft drink special - 12 pack Pepsi or Coke, \$1.99 (offer good Saturday and Sunday only).

Super Bowl chip special - 11 or 12 oz. bag of chips, regularly up to \$3.99, sale priced at just \$2.50. Coffee Cards - something new.

Get your card today - buy five cups of coffee and get the 6th one free. For more information call the Super Seven Store at 256-8974.

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.

Childcare Openings

Full-day and part-day care openings for children 2 to 5 years.

The Child Development Center provides developmentally appropriate care using the teaching strategies of Creative Curriculum. Creative Curriculum creates environments that build relationships, and offer a variety of experiences that interest and engage children.

Sign your child up now. Call 577-6287 for more information.

Ski Lift Tickets

Ski lift tickets are available at ITT. Mammoth weekdays \$48. Mammoth weekends \$57.50. Big Bear \$45. Mt. High \$33. Call ITT for details - 577-6541

MCLB Barstow Smokeout

Could this be the first day of a life without tobacco?

Are you thinking about quitting smoking, but not sure you're ready to take the plunge? Maybe the MCLB Barstow Smokeout is for you. It's an opportunity to join with fellow MCLB Barstow smokers in saying "no thanks" to cigarettes for 24 hours!

No ifs, ands, or buts ...

The MCLB Barstow Smokeout is patterned after the Great American Smokeout.

The Great American Smokeout traditionally takes place the third Thursday in November.

Here at MCLB Barstow we have designated Jan. 15 as the MCLB Barstow Smokeout. The decision to conduct our "Smokeout" during this time of year was to have it coincide with those smokers who made it a New Year's resolution to quit!

Marine and Family Services, Semper Fit and Branch Medical will be conducting two very informative classes on Jan. 15 titled the "Negative Affects of Tobacco Use." The classes will be held at the Base Gym. The times of the classes will be noon to 1 p.m., and 4 to 5 p.m.. Along with these classes there will be a booth set up at the Base Gym from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with 24-hour survival kits, materials, information, displays and tips to help you stay smoke free throughout the day. Marine and Family Services, Semper Fit and BMC will also be promoting the "Tobacco Cessation" four-week program that will begin Jan. 22.

The rules of the game ...

The rules are simple: You just quit smoking for the 24 hours of the Smokeout.

The wonderful thing is that you won't be alone; you can swap advice, jokes and groans with the other "quitters" and nonsmokers. Even if you don't go on to quit permanently, you will have learned that you can quit for a day and that many others around you are taking the step, too.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Johnson at Marine and Family Services at 577-6851