

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

February 19, 2004

Proclamation

President George W. Bush proclaims February National African American History Month.

Page 2

New Medal

Congress authorizes Korean Defense Service Medal.

Page 4

TRICARE

TRICARE releases an updated medical claims policy.

Page 7

FSD NBC training ops

Fleet Support Division trains for Nuclear, Biological and Chemical warfare.

Page 8, 9

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>

Final selection criteria for BRAC released

Compiled by Rob Jackson
Barstow Log Staff

The Department of Defense has finalized its selection criteria for base realignment and closures and posted it to Thursday's Federal Register, and as expected the criteria were unchanged from the original draft.

The final criteria to be used by DOD to make recommendations for the closure or realignment of military installations inside the United States under the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act are as follows:

In selecting military installations for closure or realignment, DOD will be giving priority consideration to military value, the first of four criteria:

Military Value

1. The current and future mission capabilities and the impact on operational readiness of the Department of Defense's total force, including the impact on joint warfighting, training, and readiness.

2. The availability and condition of land, facilities and associated airspace (including training areas suitable for maneuver by ground, naval, or air forces throughout a diversity of climate and terrain areas and staging areas for the use of armed forces in homeland defense missions) at both existing and potential receiving locations.

3. The ability to accommodate contingency, mobilization, and future total force requirements at both existing and potential receiving locations to support operations and training.

4. The cost of operations and the manpower implications.

Other considerations

5. The extent and timing of potential costs and savings, including the number of years, beginning with the date of completion of the closure or realignment, for the savings to exceed the costs.

6. The economic impact on existing communities in the vicinity of military installations.

7. The ability of both the existing and potential receiving communities' infrastructure to support forces, missions, and personnel.

8. The environmental impact, including the impact of costs related to potential environmental restoration, waste management, and environmental compliance activities.

The selection draft was posted to the Federal Register for public comment Dec.23.

Since that time the Department of Defense received numerous comments from the public, members of Congress, and other elected officials in response to the proposed criteria.

DOD also received a number of letters from members of Congress regarding the BRAC selection criteria and treated those letters as comments on the draft criteria. DOD included points raised from those comments in its assessment of the public comments.

A complete analysis of those comments and the selection criteria can be found on DOD's official BRAC Web site (<http://www.defenselink.mil/brac>).

www.defenselink.mil/brac).

March 15, 2005 is the next step in the BRAC 2005 process in which the president nominates new members for appointment to the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Commission.

Meanwhile, DOD will be taking the final criteria, the force structure plan, and a comprehensive inventory of all military installations to make recommendations for base closures or realignment.

No later than May 16, 2005, the secretary of defense must publish to the Federal Register and transmit to the congressional defense committees a list of the military installations he recommends for closure or realignment.

To date no such list has been published, although there are several Web sites on the Internet containing lists of bases slated for closure or realignment. No official information has been released regarding which bases will be closed or realigned to date based on the established timelines set for the BRAC process.

Pendleton Corpsmen deploy with 1st MarDiv

By JOSN Dustin Q. Diaz
Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. (NNS) — The first group of hospital corpsmen from here reported to the 1st Marine Division Jan. 21 for duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

The 64 corpsmen are Medical Augmentation Program (MAP) personnel and came from Branch Medical Clinics Barstow and Port Hueneme, as well as the hospital. They will train with the Camp Pendleton-based division prior to deployment. The corpsmen are scheduled to remain in Iraq, supporting the Division's nine battalions, until the next rotation of military personnel later this year.

"Sixteen of the 64 corpsmen are returning to Iraq after deploying there in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom last year," said Lt. Cmdr. Lee A. Kiolbasa, medical mobilization department head.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Charles San Luis said he is nervous about going back to the Persian Gulf area, but that it won't deter him from doing his job.

"It's our job; we have to go back," San Luis said. "No one looks for war, but that's what we train for."



Photo by Lance Cpl. Andy Hurt

Corpsmen from MCLB Barstow's Branch Medical Clinic prepared for deployment with the 1st Marine Division out of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., in January.

Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Zach Impastato said he has been deployed to Djibouti, Jordan and East Timor in the past. Each time it has been "life-changing," and he expects taking part in OIF to be no different.

"This will be my fourth time overseas," Impastato said. "I've been with the Marines every

time, so I can't complain. The Marines take care of me, and I take care of them."

Capt. Richard Jeffries, commanding officer of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, echoed the same sentiments during the corpsmen's departure.

See DEPLOY Page 10

National African American History Month 2004

By **George W. Bush**
President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

During National African American History Month, we honor the heritage and accomplishments of African Americans and recognize their extraordinary contributions to the United States.

African Americans have upheld the ideals of America, defended our homeland, and enriched American culture and society. Brave leaders such as Sojourner Truth, Harriet Tubman, Booker T. Washington, Martin Luther King Jr., and Leon Sullivan caused America to examine its heart and to respect the dignity and equality of all people, regardless of race. Today, African Americans are leaders at the highest levels of the military, business, education, law, government, the arts, sports, and religion.

To help share the stories of the millions of African Americans who have strengthened our country, I recently signed legislation establishing the National Museum of African American History and Culture as a part of the Smithsonian Institution. This museum will commemorate the triumphs of African Americans — their determination in overcoming the evil of slavery and discrimination and their many achievements and contributions to our Nation.

This year's National African American History Month celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*.

In that landmark decision, the Supreme Court declared an end to the shameful and unconstitutional practice of legal segregation in schools, ruling unanimously that the Constitution requires all Americans to be treated equally without regard to the color of their skin.

The *Brown* decision transformed America and fulfilled the principles of our Constitution. This year, we remember the brave schoolchildren and parents who challenged segregation. We recognize the legal and moral advocates who paved the way for this decision, including Thurgood Marshall, the heroic lawyer who represented Linda Brown and fought for her rights and the rights of all African Americans. We remember the nine justices of the Supreme Court who helped America begin to make equal justice under law a reality for African Americans. Nearly 50 years after *Brown*, we are grateful for the progress America has made, but we also recognize that there is still work to be done to ensure that our country lives up to the founding principle that all of God's children are created equal.

See **HISTORY** page 10

There is still hope for morals

By **Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood**
Base Chaplain



As I continue to move along in life and the years keep passing me by I am often reminded of the attitudes and behaviors of the previous generation. Tom Brokaw called them the "greatest generation,"

and did so because of all they went through and how that generation survived and did so basically by pulling itself up by the bootstraps and getting on with life.

I can remember all the uproar over things like long hair, hippies, free love etc. and how that generation derided those particular things.

I was too young really to have much of an informed opinion about those things but now I see and hear the same reflections being verbalized all over again and I often hear myself making them!

As we look out onto our society and see much of it reflected in television

and newspapers it is easy to have the impression that the moral fiber of our country has completely deteriorated.

In fact, things are now done quite openly that would have only been done in secret just a few years ago.

As I have written before, it seems that the pitfalls of the current generation are so vast that the bulk of the children and teenagers are, to use a common phrase, "at risk."

It doesn't seem to matter if you are raised in a family with money or without.

The same pitfalls await, just for different reasons. It is easy to begin to believe that people of a given generation are just different, that somehow they have been born without a sense of right and wrong or that in growing up they have learned to disregard that sense in order to obtain the things they want.

There are so many factors that come into determining what kind of people we will be that it is hard for us to point our finger at a fix for all these problems.

I believe that as a society we are

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 10

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Pfc. Jenna Lassandrello

Anita Lewis, the director of the Communications Division here, gives the opening segment of the Navy Marine Corps Intranet Customer Transition Brief Tuesday. The change over to NMCI is scheduled to begin in late February at MCLB Barstow.

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-1:30p.m.

At the Chapel Office.

For more info call 577-6849.



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News Briefs

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

Lunch Menu

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

Today – Open faced roast beef sandwich and mashed potatoes.

Friday – Baked trout and rice.

Monday – Baked chicken and vegetables.

Tuesday – Turkey a la king and rice.

Wednesday – Chicken cordon bleu and mashed potatoes.

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 – Beef and pork ribs, corn on the cob, baked beans, roll, tossed salad, dessert plus fountain drink.

married service members and spouses who have not yet participated in the Key Volunteer Network Internet Survey do so by Feb. 29 by using the below information:

Service Member Survey at www.kvnsurvey.com. The username is Marine1, and the password is USMC1.

Spouse Survey at www.kvnsurvey.com. The username is spouse1, and the password is USMC1.

The Marine Corps is conducting a study of the Key Volunteer Network Program to determine the effectiveness of this program.

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Gutierrez at 577-6556.

Science Fair Judges Needed

Headquarters Battalion is looking for both Marines and civilians to volunteer as science fair judges for the Barstow Unified School District Science Fairs. The remaining judging dates of the science fair are as follows:

Today from 9 to 11:30 a.m.
Feb. 26 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Due to the short notice, volunteers will be briefed on their duties prior to judging by 1st Lt. Aniela K. Szymanski or Gunnery Sgt. Tad C. Snidecor.

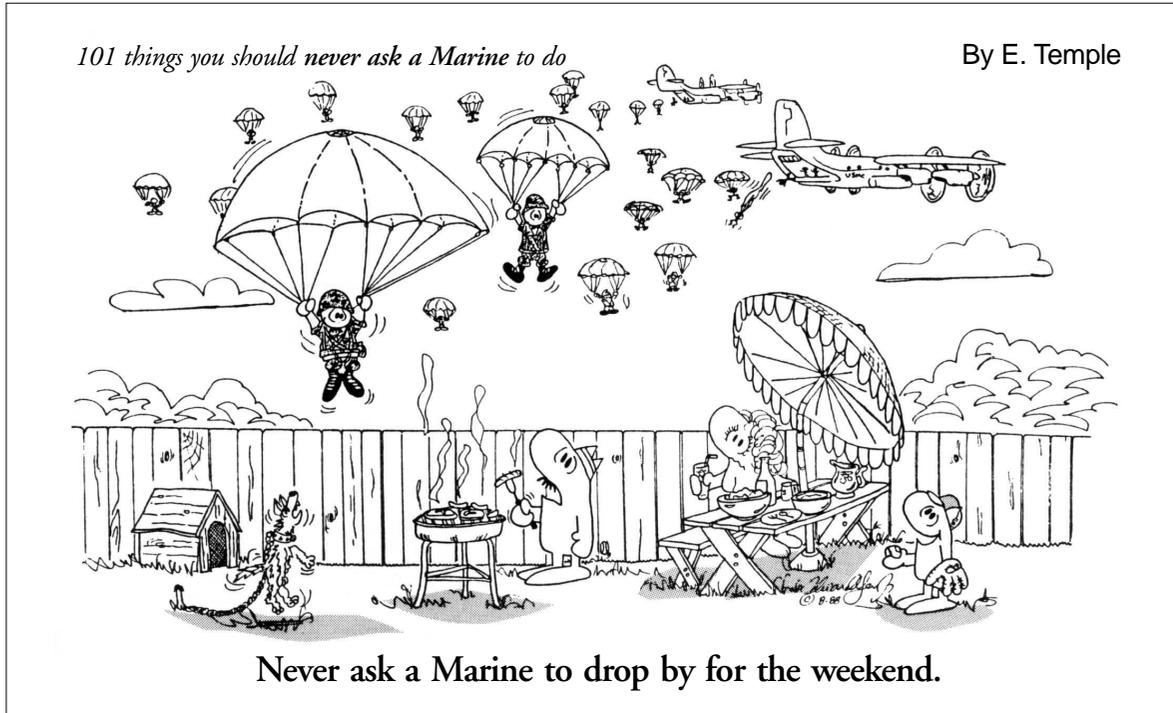
People who would like to volunteer should send an e-mail to Szymanski at szymanskiak@barstow.usmc.mil letting her know when they would like to volunteer.

Bosses Night at the E-Club

Tonight is Bosses Night at the Enlisted Club.

Beginning at 5 p.m., there will be darts, pool, music, food and drinks to enjoy with the boss. For more information contact Tammy at 577-6418.

KVN Meeting



The next meeting is scheduled to take place on March 10. For more information contact Nancy Gutierrez at 577-6555.

Fighting Cancer with Flower Power

The local chapter of the American Cancer Society will accept orders until Friday for Daffodil Days, an annual fundraiser that allows residents to support cancer programs.

Residents can order daffodils for themselves or arrange to have volunteers leave them at the resting site of a deceased loved one at the Mountain View Memorial Park.

Daffodil purchasers can choose from a range of options, from \$10 bouquets to a \$75 Friendship Bouquet — a large vase with 40 daffodils.

The yellow flowers will make their first appearance March 13, when volunteers place them at the cemetery.

The rest of the community will get them March 15.

Last year's event raised more than \$20,000.

The money goes toward cancer research, assistance for

patients and other cancer-related programs and services.

Residents can place orders through Barstow Flower and Bridal Boutique (1248 E. Main St., 256-8408), Rainbow Florist (Rainbow Florist, 1303A E. Main St., 256-7175), or any of numerous volunteers in the community.

Veterans Home Volunteers Needed

There are opportunities for community involvement at the Veterans Home of California-Barstow.

The Veterans Home is always looking for volunteers to help in a variety of areas such as office work, ground maintenance, and the library.

Volunteers may help during the weekdays or the weekends. Marines interested in volunteering should contact Sgt. Christopher Garcia (577-6197, garciaac@barstow.usmc.mil). Civilians who want to volunteer should contact Denise Hall, Veterans Home volunteer coordinator, at (760) 252-6288.

Online Training

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

Class categories such as environmental and safety, Microsoft application software, administrative support, communication curriculum, customer service, finance, team building, safety and health, strategic planning and management are just a few.

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

www.nko.navy.mil

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

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

Marine Corps Institute (MCI) Online

Type link: <http://www.mci.usmc.mil>

Chief of Naval Education & Training

Type link: <https://cnet.navy.mil>

Army Correspondence Course Program

<http://www.atsc.army.mil/accp/aipdnew.asp>

Advanced Learning Technology Resource Center

<http://www.altrc.gov/>

Air Force Institute for Advanced Distributed Learning

<http://www.maxwell.af.mil/au/afiadl>

Research Web sites to locate desired course, check for fees associated with the class.

Courses requiring fees will need to be requested through the usual channels.

For convenience, courses may be taken at home independently or at work with approval of the employee's supervisor.

For more information, contact Norma Watson at 577-6252.

Water Outages

Due to the ongoing upgrade of the Nebo backflow devices, the following water outages are scheduled for the listed dates and locations. Call 577-6911 for additional information.

Feb. 26 at Building 176 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

March 1 at Building 177 from

Job Watch

Ann No.	Title/Series/Grade	Open	Close	1st Cutoff	Location
SW0610-DH	Nurse GS-610-09	10-01-2003	Open cont.	N/A	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.donhr.navy.mil>.

For more information concerning 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 at 577-6357/6279/6481.

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

Congress authorizes Korean service medal

By Jim Garamone
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – A satellite photo Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld showed the Senate Armed Services Committee recently graphically depicts why Congress authorized the Korean Defense Service Medal.

The new Korean Defense Service Medal will be available for eligible service members who served in Korea from July 28, 1954, to a future undetermined date.

Rumsfeld showed the senators a photo taken at night and the entire southern half of peninsula is bright with light. Almost the entire north is dark.

“The (demilitarized zone) is the line in the middle,” Rumsfeld told the senators during the budget briefing Feb. 4.

“South Korea has got light ... and energy and opportunity and a vibrant democratic system. North Korea is a dark, dark country. The little dot of light to the left in the center of North Korea is Pyongyang.”

The new medal is America’s

way “of recognizing the tremendous accomplishments,” said a Pentagon spokeswoman, of service members who served in Korea from July 28, 1954, to a future undetermined date.

“The Republic of Korea is prosperous, free and democratic because of the sacrifices of generations of Americans in that land,” she added.

Officials say the medal should be available at the beginning of June.

Those currently on active duty will receive the medal via their units.

Those retired or out of the service may apply through contacting their former service branches.

Officials said the services are still working out procedures for applying for the award.

To qualify for the medal, service members must have served in support of the defense of the Republic of Korea.

The area of eligibility encompasses all land area of the Republic of Korea, and the contiguous water out to 12 nautical miles and all air

spaces above the land and water areas.

Service members must have been assigned, attached or mobilized to units operating in the area of eligibility and have been physically deployed in the area of eligibility for 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days or meet one of the following criteria:

Be engaged in actual combat during an armed engagement, regardless of the time in the area of eligibility;

Is wounded or injured in the line of duty and requires medical evacuation from the area of eligibility; and

Is participating as a regularly assigned air crewmember flying sorties into, out of, within or over the area of eligibility in support of military operations.

Each day that one or more sorties are flown in accordance with these criteria shall count as one day toward the 30 or 60-day requirement.

Personnel who serve in operations and exercises conducted in the area of eligibility are considered eligible for the award as long as the basic time criteria is



met.

Due to the extensive time period for medal eligibility, the nonconsecutive service period for eligibility remains cumulative throughout the entire period.

The military may award the medal posthumously.

Only one award of the medal is authorized for any individual.

According to DOD, more than 40,000 service members have been on South Korean land or adjacent waters each year since the July 1953 cease-fire establishing the DMZ.

Corps' magnetism beckons future general into world of warriors

By Rudi Williams
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON - Cornell A. Wilson Jr., a 6-foot-2-inch, 215-pound, former high school baseball and football player, chose academics over sports in college. And even though he was in the Navy ROTC program, he chose a commission in the Marine Corps over one in the Navy.

College was where young Wilson became fascinated by the gung-ho reputation, fellowship of valor and esprit de corps of America's warrior elite - the Marine Corps.

The future Marine general loved sports, but during his college years, he opted for the oratorio choir, African-American Society and Semper Fidelis (Latin for "Always Faithful") Society, a student organization dedicated to providing professional development for future Marine Corps officers. He played baseball and football in high school, but he was also a member of the student council, National Honor Society, Boy Scouts, glee club and drama club.

While attending Butler Senior High School in Hartsville, S.C., Wilson said, he

thought about a number of professions such as science, professional sports, business and the armed forces.

But the Marine Corps' magnetism beckoned him into the world of elite warfighters. "My focus narrowed when I discovered that I could become a Marine officer in college through the Navy ROTC program," said the brigadier general, who has been selected for his second star.

When he receives his second star, Wilson will be the highest-ranking African-American on active duty in the Marine Corps. He's now commander of the II Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element at Camp Lejeune, N. C.

Marines have been called a number of different affectionate names, including "devil dogs," "leathernecks" and "shipboard soldiers." But no matter what they're called, the Marine Corps was like a giant, super-powerful magnet pulling him into its fold, Wilson said. To him, Marines exemplified

**"The Marine Corps had some tremendous challenges to overcome when I first came in."
- Maj. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson Jr.**

the virtues of "honor, courage and commitment," and he wanted to be a part of it.

So, even though he was in the Navy ROTC program, he decided to become a Marine. "I wanted to be part of an organization that

desired to be the best in all that it did," he said, "and an organization that was tough, but fair, and a cut above all the rest. The Marines seemed to fit that bill."

Commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps when he graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1972, Wilson spent about 10 years on active duty before being discharged and joining the Marine Corps Reserve.

In January 2002, he completed a sales and marketing career with Siemens Information and Communications Network, which has its headquarters in Munich, Germany. His office was in Charlotte, N.C. The Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America made

sure he wouldn't have a quiet retirement.

"As a result of Sept. 11, I have had to devote more time to the Marine Corps," said Wilson, 54, who keeps in shape by doing calisthenics, jogging and lifting weights. "I wanted to ensure that my Marines were prepared to support the various requirements the Marine Corps demanded," he said.

Wilson said he wanted to "personally respond to assignments that took me to (U.S.) Central Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Fla., and as commanding general of a task force in Kuwait."

He commanded the Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management at Camp Doha, Kuwait, during Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. Wilson was assigned the task of providing a response force to assist countries in the CENTCOM area of operations in the event of an attack using weapons of mass destruction.

"This included nuclear, biological and chemical warfare monitoring and detection,

See **GENERAL** Page 6



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bill Libson

Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson Jr. talks to troops when he was commander of the Combined Joint Task Force Consequence Management at Camp Doha, Kuwait. Wilson has been selected for promotion to major general, and when he receives his second star, he will be the highest-ranking African-American in the Marines.

GENERAL from Page 5

extraction, security, engineering and medical support," he noted. "To do this, I had members from all four services and five different countries."

Wilson said that over the years, attitudes toward African-Americans have changed dramatically for the better since the Marines integrated in May 1942 and since he was commissioned some 30 years later.

"The Marine Corps had some tremendous

challenges to overcome when I first came in," he noted. "In true Marine Corps fashion, once the Corps recognized it had a problem, it tackled the problem aggressively to educate and create a climate of mutual trust and understanding. The Marine Corps also took the advice of its senior African-American leaders, such as Lt. Gen. Frank E. Peterson, to actively recruit more African-American officers from the Historically Black Colleges and Universities. "HBCU provided a rich treasure trove of talent to

improve the Corps' officer ranks," Wilson said.

In 1979, Peterson became the first African-American to reach star rank in the Corps 150-year history. He also was the Marines' first black aviator and the first black commander of Quantico (Va.) Marine Corps Base. Wilson said the opportunities to command battalions, squadrons and higher organizations — both in combat and peacetime — are the most significant improvements in opportunities for African-Americans during his tenure in the Marines.

"This provided the necessary experience and visibility for African-Americans to reach the general officer ranks," he noted. "Additionally, in 1999, the Corps selected its first African-American sergeant major of the Marine Corps, which is the highest-ranking enlisted Marine. This spoke volumes about the progress made since the days of the Montford Point (N.C.) Marines."

Sgt. Maj. Alford L. McMichael holds distinction of being the first African-American sergeant major of the Marine Corps. He's now serving at the U. S. European Command headquarters in Stuttgart, Germany. Another African-American, Sgt. Maj. of the Marine Corps John L. Estrada, replaced McMichael.

The Montford Point Marines to whom Wilson referred were established after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802, which allowed African-Americans to be recruited during World War II. The first African-American Marines trained at Montford Point Camp, New River, N.C. Wilson said he's particularly proud to have commanded a task force in Kuwait during Operations Enduring and Iraqi

Freedom, calling the experience "a real highlight in my career."

When U.S. and coalition forces launched an attack on Iraq as morning dawned in Baghdad on March 20, 2003, Wilson's Combined Joint Task Force for Consequence Management was responsible for providing a rapid response if chemical and biological agents were detected. His unit also was to help with decontamination efforts, if needed. Not only was the outfit ready to support U.S. and coalition forces, he said, its members also helped the citizens of Kuwait and other countries during major combat operations in Iraq. "I had members from all four services and five different countries in my unit," Wilson noted. "We responded to several missile strikes that, fortunately, were negative for biological or chemical agents. Our presence and ability to respond quickly assured the citizens and government of Kuwait that we were their partners to assist in saving lives in the event they were hit by a weapon of mass destruction." To people who question the need for African-American History Month and other ethnic observances, Wilson said, "It's important to know where you came from in order to know where you're going. These observances are a periodic reminder to everyone that, although we've made great progress in this country in the ability of the different ethnic groups to live, work and play together, we still have a ways to go.

"There is a rich culture of ideas, customs and traditions that we all can learn from as we delve into each other's culture," Wilson continued. "This can be of great benefit to this country as we move further into the 21st century."

TRICARE updates medical claims filing procedures

TRICARE Press release

Trying to figure out how and where to file medical claims? Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could eliminate some of the stress of filling out medical claim forms? If you're a TRICARE Prime enrollee or a TRICARE Extra user, your worries about filing medical claims are greatly lessened. In general, your TRICARE network provider will forward completed claim forms for you when you receive health care services. If you use a non-network provider or otherwise are required to pay for a covered service, you will need to file a claim to get reimbursed. TRICARE Standard patients using a non-network provider may have to pay for health care services up front and then submit claim forms to get reimbursed. For TRICARE For Life users, your provider files a claim with Medicare (Medicare pays first). Then after Medicare pays its portion, your claim is automatically sent to TRICARE. If you have to pay for a TRICARE covered service up front, you will need to file a claim to get reimbursed. This may happen if you have other health insurance in addition to Medicare and

TRICARE For Life. If you ever have to file a TRICARE claim for reimbursement, remember these important points.

1. Be sure you are properly listed in DEERS as being eligible for TRICARE benefits. If you are not listed properly, your claim will be denied. You can check your DEERS status by calling 800-334-4162 (California), 800-527-5602 (Hawaii or Alaska) or 800-538-9552 (Arizona).

2. When you file a TRICARE claim, make sure you include:

- A completed Department of Defense Claim Form #2642. Be sure the patient signs the form if he or she is 18 years old or older. Otherwise, the sponsor should sign if the patient is a child.
- The itemized bill from the provider(s), including procedure and diagnosis codes.

- The sponsor's social security number and the patient's name, address, and date of birth.

- A brief explanation of your medical treatment, including the diagnosis.

- Any Explanation of Benefits from your other health insurance,

if applicable.

3. For TRICARE claims in California, Hawaii, Alaska and Yuma, Arizona, send your claim to: Palmetto Government Benefits Administrators

TRICARE Claims Processing
P.O. Box 870001
Surfside Beach, S.C. 29587-8701

For TRICARE For Life claims, send your completed paperwork to:

PGBA/TRICARE
TRICARE For Life
P.O. Box 7059

Camden, S.C. 29020-7059

4. If you are traveling and receive medical care outside of your region, you need to file your claim in the region in which you live, not the region where you received the care.

Claim forms are available at your local TRICARE Service Center, from the websites of TRICARE (www.TRICARE.osd.mil) or Health Net Federal Services (www.hnfs.net) or by calling 800-242-6788.

Retired county officer slated as guest speaker

MCLB Barstow's Black Employment Program Committee will hold its annual African American History Month Luncheon Feb. 26 at the Oasis Club from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This year's guest speaker is Capt. Richard A. Diggs, of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department, and a native of the county.

Diggs began his career in law enforcement in 1974 after being hired by the San Bernardino County Marshal's Department.

While with the marshal's department, Diggs instituted and implemented the video arraignment system and the Marshal's Automated Civil Enforcement System throughout the county.

He was also responsible for field operations, dispatch, internal investigations, and logistics support for the marshal's department.

Also while with the County Marshal's Department, Diggs commanded Central, Chino, Fontana and the Rancho Cucamonga Divisions until the marshal's department merged with the County Sheriff's Department in 1999. As a captain with the sheriff's department, he was the commander for Desert Division Court Services and security, which included Victorville, Morongo, Barstow, Twin Peaks and Big Bear.

Diggs is an active member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, National Black Peace Officers Organization, Inland Empire Peace Officers, and the California Organization of Police and Sheriffs. He was a representative for the Sheriff's Employees Benefit Association and a past president of the San Bernardino County Marshal's Association.

Diggs retired Feb. 21 after 30 years of service.

He and his wife of 33 years, Carlotta, had two children: Rudolph J., and Lauri.

Their daughter passed away in December 1999.



FSD 'gets some

Story and Photos by Lance Cpl. Andy Hurt
Barstow Log Editor

It may seem that without "operational" units, albeit infantry or artillery, MCLB Barstow doesn't see much action.

Marines from MCLB's Fleet Support Division are changing that.

Friday morning around 7 a.m., 13 motivated leathernecks at the MCLB Barstow Yermo Annex gathered in the brisk morning breeze at Building 551 in little more than "green on green." Some Marines wore beanies.

Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder, maintenance chief with Fleet Support Division, began his class on Nuclear, Biological and Chemical war fighting defense and tactics, including a short lesson in "selective de-masking," performed on an unsuspecting lance corporal.

Throughout the duration of the class, Marines went from no NBC protection all the way to Mission Oriented Protective Postures level four.

The MOPP gear used in Friday's training session came from a surplus of gear from Defense Reutilization and Marketing Organization here, said 1st Lt. Jason Kut, operations officer at Fleet Support Division.

The MOPP gear had reached its shelf life, he said, but could still be utilized for valuable training.

Kut and Snyder came up with the NBC training about two weeks ago, said Kut.

"The Marines here don't get the same amount of training as the fleet Marine force because of the workload," said Snyder.

"We wanted to get some Marine training," he said.

The morning's class ended after a MOPP exchange and personal decontamination brief, with the Marines suited in MOPP level four.



Lance Cpl. Duy Ngo, supply clerk, Fleet Support Division, decontaminates an Army UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter shortly after decontaminating the bird, on a route back to the decontamination area.



Marines shuffle through a dirt slurry in order to decontaminate their MOPP boots during the personal decontamination phase of Friday's NBC training.



Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder, Maintenance Chief, Fleet Support Division, gave a class Friday morning at Building 551 on NBC environment protection and tactics, including MOPP levels. Throughout the session, Marines geared up from PT gear to MOPP level four.

Right: Marines decontaminate an Army UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter at the MCLB Barstow Yermo Annex Friday during an NBC training session. The training was implemented about two weeks ago when Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder and 1st Lt. Jason Kut decided that the Marines "need more training."



The devil dogs then moved to the MCLB Barstow Yermo Annex to decontaminate an Army UH-60L Black Hawk helicopter.

The Marines responsible for the decontamination of the helicopter pilots and crew to save the power washer.

Without a moment's rest, the power washer was sprayed in nearly flawless fashion from the bottom and left to right side of the aircraft.

Snyder said the training gave the Marines a better idea of what to do in a nuclear, biological and chemical environment.

"(The Marines) need more training," Snyder said through the voice amplifier. He added, "They'll be getting more training. They need to know this stuff."

"The fact that NBC training is being implemented makes the training even more important," said Sgt. Perry Sikes, call sign "Spike," operations officer at the Center Barstow Cost.

With the pilots safe and the helicopter ready for flight again, the Marines moved on to decontaminating the aerial reconnaissance helicopter.

With the aerial reconnaissance helicopter decontamination complete, Kut, being the operations officer, decided it would be a long route back to the decontamination area.

Overcoming obstacles...

' NBC training



et Support Division, leaps out of an Army UH-60L Black Hawk helo during Friday's NBC training session. The Marines were sent on an aerial reconnaissance mission to scout out enemy strongholds and choose the best landing area.

en stepped off for an NBC hike from the Yermo Annex helipad, where a Black Hawk awaited NBC decontamination.

onded quickly, carrying the NBC gear for safety while others prepared a landing zone.

t's hesitation, the bird was in the air. Snyder, in NBC fashion-- from top to bottom, so as not to recontaminate the gear.

aining would give the Marines a realistic experience in a real-world situation.

eed more training," said Snyder. He is a plifier on his M40 NBC mask, and they are going out to the fleet and they are off.

C is a real-world situation and is even more valuable," said Staff Sgt. James Kut, operations chief at Maintenance and Work Center 680.

fe and the Black Hawk ready for the mission. The Marines boarded the bird on an aerial reconnaissance and photography mission. The case of the NBC training is a dedicated troop leader, and it is safer for the Marines to take the mission to the decontamination site. The obstacles including railcars, ravines

and a MOPP level four "fun run," the Marines arrived at the NBC decontamination site.

Following careful procedures, the Marines washed their M40 carriers in "bleach" and shuffled through a dirt slurry pit in order to "decon" their MOPP boots.

Pairing off, the war fighters then staged and carried out the dangerous task of personal decontamination.

The procedure is an exercise of trust and attention to detail, as one Marine is responsible for fully decontaminating his comrade as the MOPP gear comes off.

Any neglected NBC contaminants could result in casualties and threaten mission success.

Piece by piece, the gear came off, as Snyder barked out commands to the gas-masked vigilantes. A golden rule, said Snyder, is that the mask never comes off until the "all clear" is given.

And soon it was.

With the reception of the mission critique and a short debriefing, the training was secured.

Kut and Snyder agree that this was only one in a series of training missions to come. Preparing Marines to survive and operate in a world plagued by chemical warfare and terrorism is what FSD set out to do Friday. Mission accomplished.



Above right, below: On the hike back to the decontamination site, Marines were faced with obstacles that would normally prove easy to negotiate in MOPP level four, proving the tasks more difficult than meets the eye.



DEPLOY from Page 1

"You're going to be with the safest group in the world - the Marine Corps," Jeffries told them. "You are carrying out a new kind of mission, where medicine will be a high priority."

"The reality of the situation doesn't really hit you until something like this happens," said Hospitalman Shawn Bruner.

"If anything, I'm looking forward to the experience," Bruner added. "All I know is that it's going to be out of this world."

1st Marine Division is the oldest and most decorated division in the U.S. Marine Corps and has been involved in every major conflict since World War I. The division is made up of 1st, 5th, 7th and 11th Marine Regiments. 1st Combat Engineering Battalion, 1st Light Armor Reconnaissance, 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion and 1st Marine Division Band also help make up the division.

HISTORY from Page 2

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim February 2004 as National African American History Month.

I call upon public officials, educators, librarians, and all the people of the United States to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that highlight and honor the contributions African Americans have made to our Nation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this third day of February, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

looking for a solution to drug problems, to self-centered behavior, to violence at home and in the workplace, to poverty, and to racism in all of its forms.

It seems, however, that there are not any easy answers. If there were we would have addressed these problems long ago.

So have we lost hope? NO! We have not lost hope because the fact is that everyone is born with the gifts that are necessary to be decent, law abiding, giving people.

Each of us has been imbued with all the strength and conscience we need in order to make right decisions about our lives so that we will not fall into the traps that we have seen so many other fall into.

Otherwise, how can we explain why some people go

through life without so much as a speeding ticket while others spend their lives entangled with law enforcement and social care agencies?

I believe the answer is found within each of us and it is a gift from the Most High.

It is the ability to think. Yes, I believe it is that simple sometimes.

We have to think about what we are about to do, think of the consequences of our actions and ask the question that is hardest. Not "will I get away with this?" Rather, "Is this the right thing to do?"

When we are able to do that I believe that we will be able to become transforming agents in the world not people who conform to the poor behavior and low moral and ethical standards of others.

Peace,
Fr Randel

BRIEFS from Page 3

7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Power Outages

Due to the ongoing upgrade of the Nebo electrical distribution system, the following outages are schedule for the listed dates and locations.

Saturday at Quarters 9 and 13, pump house at Quarters 9, Warehouses 8, 10, 12 and 14, Buildings 146, 147, 165, 170, 236, 237, 290, S-41, S-48, DRMO truck scale and the east gate guard shack from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday at Buildings 301 (Family Restaurant) and 302 from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 28 at Warehouses 2, 3, 4 and 15, Buildings 27, 36, 44 and racquetball court, 143, S-184, T-100 (Golf Club House), filtration plant, and Sorensen Field from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

Home Electronics Sale

The Home Electronics Sale underway now and running through Sunday features 15 percent off all home and car audio and video equipment. Check out these great buys - there's only a few days left.

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

The Super Seven Store/Gas Station are open Mondays through Fridays 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sundays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 24/7 credit card for gas.

Club activities

At the Oasis Club this week: Tonight is Happy Hour from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Friday is TGIFamily Night. Tuesday is Burn Your Own Steak Night, and Wednesday is Movie Night. Tonight is Bosses Night at the Enlisted Club.

At the Enlisted Club this week: Darts, pool, TV and CD music every night. TGIFriday! every Friday.

Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays are Bar and Grill Nights, and Wednesday is Midweek Relaxation Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, be sure to catch the NBA game at the club.

Did we mention Tonight is Bosses Night? Bring your boss and come on down.

For more information call Tammy at 577-6418

Universal Studios

ITT has Universal Studios Hollywood annual tickets.

The price is \$39.50. Some blackout days apply.

Enjoy entertainment, dining and shopping at Universal Studios.

ITT is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets available after hours at the Bowling Center.

For details, call 577-6541.

Students with good grades

Your Marine Corps Exchange wants students with good grades to know they can win rewards for those grades. With good grades they will win a scratch-off card with a guaranteed prize (one scratch-off card per student per grade period). Every student will be a winner. A grand prize of \$1,000 U.S. Savings Bond will be awarded.

Students in grades six through 12 who attain an overall B average at the end of the grading period are eligible. To participate, students should visit the Super Seven Store as soon as possible after receiving their report cards. Prizes must be claimed within 30 days of receiving the report card. Winners must be eligible patrons of the Marine Corps Exchange (whose parents/guardians live and/or work on MCLB Barstow).

Your Marine Corps Exchange wants to congratulate students with good grades for a job well done. For more information call the Super Seven Store at 256-8974.

Aerobic class

The Aerobic class is held every Monday and Wednesday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the gym. The cost is \$20 per month, or \$2 per session. Call 577-6971.

Semper Fit sports resumes

Semper Fit is seeking resumes from Marines interested in competing in the following sports:

All-Marine Women's Basketball Team. Resume must be submitted not later than Saturday.

All-Marine Women's Volleyball Team. Resume must be submitted not later than Mar. 19.

All-Marine Women's Soccer Team. Resume must be submitted not later than Mar. 21.

All-Marine Men's and Women's Triathlon. Resume must be submitted not later than April 1.



Marines interested in competing must submit a resume through the Semper Fit Athletic Director for endorsement located in Building 44, at 577-6817.

All who are interested are encouraged to submit a resume and participate. Let's have some great MCLB teams this year.

Resumes can be found at:

<http://www.usmc.org/semperfit/sports/sports-main.asp>

1985 NISSAN MAXIMA: Not running, needs new transmission, \$500. E-mail olguinmf@barstow.usmc.mil or call 577-7767.

1998 PLYMOUTH BREEZE: Runs good, \$2500 OBO. E-mail olguinmf@barstow.usmc.mil or call 577-7767.

MISCELLANEOUS: Stove, gas, apartment size, Good Condition. Call 256-9813.

MISCELLANEOUS: Canoe, 17 foot aluminum gruman caps, xlt shape, no dings, used approximately 4 times, \$400. Call Naydean Williams 252-3456.

MISCELLANEOUS: Washer/dryer for \$75; futon, black, \$50; miscellaneous items from \$10 - \$100. E-mail olguinmf@barstow.usmc.mil or call 577-7767

MISCELLANEOUS: Heritage sofa, light green velour, xlt cond, \$150, OBO; computer desk, Oak/black finish, xlt cond, \$40 OBO. Call 252-4996.

MISCELLANEOUS: Electric dryer, works good, \$50. Call 760 486-6270.

MISCELLANEOUS: Yamaha keyboard, stand, bench and beginner music books, still in the box, \$160.00 and 252-1160.

MISCELLANEOUS: Camper shell utility type, Color white, fits Ford Ranger and has ladder rack on top, make offer. Call 252-7503 for further details.

GARAGE SALE: Two family, a little bit of everything. Everything must go, 900 Lillian Drive, Barstow, starting at 8:00 a.m., Saturday.

PETS: FREE Guinea pig with cage and igloo hideaway, excellent pet for apartment living. Call 252-2032 AWH.

PETS: Live Gecko lizard, (foot long) and aquarium, \$25.00. Call 252-1160