

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

March 4, 2004

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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>

Marines deploy for Haiti mission

By Jim Garamore
American Forces Press Service

Between 1,500 and 2,000 Marines will deploy to Haiti as part of peacekeeping operations in that nation, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said during a Pentagon news conference Monday.

"A couple hundred" Marines are already in and around Haiti's capital of Port-au-Prince, he noted. They are the leading elements of a multinational

interim force sanctioned by the United Nations.

Rumsfeld said he is not aware of any "abduction" used by U.S. forces to get President Jean-Bertrand Aristide out of Haiti after his Feb. 29 resignation. The Marines will secure key sites in the capital and will stabilize the security environment there to allow political progress to begin, Rumsfeld said.

The interim force has a "shelf life" of three months, and then a U.N. mul-

tinational force will take over security operations in Haiti.

The Marines arrived the night of Feb. 29 and more will deploy in the next few days.

"The United States will take on the initial leadership of the Multinational Interim Force in Haiti," Rumsfeld said.

Leadership of the interim force may pass to another nation, and leadership of the follow-on force will be determined later, he pointed out.

France, Canada and some Caribbean and Latin American countries also are participating in the effort.

Rumsfeld said the situation in Haiti is living proof that the world needs more peacekeeping forces.

He said the United States will work to build these capabilities in the Western Hemisphere and around the world.

"We're committed to working with friends and allies around the world and through alliances such as NATO, to improve these capabilities," he added.

BRAC looking at military value of bases

By Sgt. 1st Class Doug Sample
American Forces Press Service

Military value will be the focus for the final selection criteria to be used in the 2005 round of base realignment and closures.

That value represents the ability of the installation to contribute to Department of Defense future mission capabilities and operational readiness, said Philip Grone, principal assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment, in an interview with American Forces Radio and Television Service Feb. 26. In fact, four of the eight guiding principles are centered on military value.

The final selection criteria are also based on factors such as potential costs and

savings, community support and environmental considerations, Grone said.

However, he added, "Ultimately, the secretary must base his recommendations principally on how it contributes to our current and future mission capabilities, how it contributes to military value, how it supports the force."

The selection criteria for the upcoming BRAC round were finalized and published Feb. 12 in the Federal Register, a publication that fulfills the legal requirements to publish items such as proposed rules and notices, among other documents, for public comment.

Grone said Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld approved the final selection criteria after an earlier public comment

period for the draft version. The BRAC timetable also called for sending the draft and final criteria to defense congressional committees. Congress has 30 days to carry out any disapproval action on the criteria.

More review work continues in coming months on items such as a force structure plan and infrastructure inventory. The secretary makes final recommendations on base realignment and closures to an independent commission in May 2005.

The commission's nine members will review the secretary's BRAC recommendations before making their own recommendations to the president by September 2005. The president then either approves or rejects

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DOD introduces new medals

News Release
American Forces Press Service

Military members serving at home and abroad in the war on terrorism will now be recognized for that service. Defense officials announced Feb. 26 the final approval of two new medals and their criteria.

Individuals who have deployed to operations Enduring Freedom or Iraqi Freedom will be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. The Global War on Terrorism Service Medal will be awarded to those who served in airport security operations in the United States following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks or who supported operations Enduring Freedom, Noble Eagle or Iraqi Freedom.

"These medals recognize the significant contributions members of the armed forces bring to bear in com-

bating terrorism in all forms throughout the world - for both current and future operations," stated a DOD news release.

Individuals can receive both medals if they meet the individual criteria, officials said. To be awarded the expeditionary medal, individuals must have been deployed outside the United States for OEF or OIF for 30 consecutive days or 60 nonconsecutive days. The time requirement is not needed if the individual engaged in combat, was wounded or killed in action, or was medically evacuated for any reason, officials said.

The area of eligibility encompasses the U.S. Central Command area, excluding the lower Horn of Africa; Middle East; eastern Turkey; Philippines; Diego Garcia; and all air spaces

See MEDALS Page 4



The Department of Defense announced the final approval of two new medals, the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, on Feb. 26. Shown above is the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

January 2004 Safety Summary: 6 Marines in accidents

ALMAR 010/04

Headquarters Marine Corps

During January, one Marine died in an off-duty privately owned vehicle accident; one Marine died in a government-owned vehicle accident; four Marines died and two aircraft were lost in aviation accidents; and two Marines committed suicide.

Off duty

A civilian driving under the influence of alcohol and narcotics struck a private's vehicle and killed him.

On duty

A staff sergeant was killed driving a govern-

ment vehicle after he rear-ended a privately owned vehicle, left the roadway, and impacted several trees. He was not wearing a seat belt.

Aviation

A UH-1N crashed in the vicinity of Talega Canyon, Camp Pendleton, Calif. killing the four Marines that comprised the aircrew. An AH-1W was destroyed in an accident 25 miles east of MCAS Yuma. The pilot suffered minor injuries and the co-pilot was treated for burns.

Suicides

After involvement in a domestic disturbance, a gunnery sergeant was later found dead from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. A staff sergeant's spouse found him dead from an ap-

parent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

Trends/Observations

The 19 off-duty fatalities due to accidents this fiscal year equals last year's number at this time. Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 14 of these fatalities. Accidents involved speeding, drinking alcohol, falling asleep, and not wearing a seat belt. We must do better in our operational risk management and education.

It's not too early to start thinking about motorcycle safety for the coming months. Last year, 13 of the 17 motorcycle fatalities occurred in the summer. Those of you considering riding motorcycles should weigh the risks and begin to reduce them now. Sign up early for a class where motorcycle training is provided: you will be more

prepared; you will be a better rider; and you will have completed the mandatory training requirement. As we begin redeploying Marines to Iraq, recall the safety training you have received since boot camp. Follow established safety procedures to ensure tasks, from the simple to the complex, are done safely and correctly. Avoid shortcuts that increase risks unnecessarily and can potentially hinder or jeopardize the mission. Pay attention to detail; handle your weapon as you were trained; drive responsibly at a reasonable speed as conditions permit; and lastly, do not handle unexploded ordnance unless trained to do so.

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

Looking inside to learn

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



I was reading a book recently that was written about the ascent of Mount Everest. I believe the book was titled "Into Thin Air." It is, in my opinion, well written and very interesting; even for someone who has never done a day

of mountain climbing in his life. What I found interesting as I read was that the writer challenged me to learn new words. I would run into a word that was unfamiliar and have to look it up in the dictionary. As I was looking it up I began to think back to all the times as a child I would hear an adult use a word that I did not know and then I would ask what it meant. At my house the response to that question was to "look it up in a dictionary."

Frankly, I was always put out by having to go and get the dictionary and wade through all the words until I found the word. Often, I needed help with the spelling of the word and would have to try to phonetically sound it out so that I could eventually look up the word

and learn the meaning. There were certainly lots of times that I felt very frustrated because I did not get my way and have the answer handed to me without effort. At that age it just seemed silly to me to waste time looking it up when the person who used the word knew what it meant.

Over the years I have looked up many words and while reading this book I was particularly intrigued by how my attitude had changed. I no longer saw it as a chore to run into words that I did not know, rather I enjoyed the fact that I was getting to learn a new word. I no longer believed it to be a waste of time to have to look something up, instead I thought of it as a learning moment. The fact is that sometimes it takes effort to learn, but there is always a reward for the effort.

For any readers who may not know, we have just entered the portion of the Church year that is known as "Lent." Lent is a time of great learning, learning about ourselves, and learning about others. It is a time that takes discipline and steadfastness to work through. The purpose of Lent is to become introspective and for once in the year to turn the bright spotlight that we often use on others and point

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 6

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello

Pfc. Lauren Johnson shows off her newly learned MCMAP skills on the testing day for the MCMAP gray belt. Johnson received her gray belt during a formation on Monday and was also voted by her fellow Marines that took the gray belt course to receive the "Gung-Ho" award for displaying a high level of motivation during the gray belt training.

Chapel Services

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

**Confession services
before Mass**

Catholic Rosary

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

For more info call
577-6849.

Nebo Bible Study

Wednesday Noon-1:30 p.m.

At the **Chapel Office**.

For more info call
577-6849.



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

News Briefs

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

Lunch Menu

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

Today – Baked Potato and Salad Bar.

Friday – Three piece fish.

Monday – Beef stroganoff.

Tuesday – Chicken cacciatore.

Wednesday – Tuna casserole.

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

Lunch is served at the Family 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 – Prime rib night. Prime rib, baked or mashed potato, vegetable, tossed salad, dessert and fountain drink.

Limited Manpower

Due to operational commitments and staffing changes, the Contracting and Purchasing Office is currently experiencing a reduction in personnel.

Although the office is taking

steps to correct manpower reduction, C&P encourages all base organizations to plan accordingly and allow adequate time in the day for orders to be processed.

C&P apologizes for any inconvenience. For more information, call David A. Reeves, head, Contracting and Purchasing Division, at 577-6174.

Tournaments

Marines and civilians are welcome to play in a golf or basketball tournament scheduled for March 19. The basketball tournament will be held at the base gym. The golf tournament is planned for the Tees 'n' Trees golf course. Entry fees are as follows:

E1-E5	\$15
E6-E9	\$17
O1-O2	\$17
O3-O6	\$18
Civilians	\$19

Team names and tournament fees may be submitted prior to tournaments and is encouraged to speed up registration.

For more information, call Danielle Heinze, Headquarters Battalion support clerk, at 577-6307, or e-mail team names to heinzedm@barstow.usmc.mil.

Phonebooks

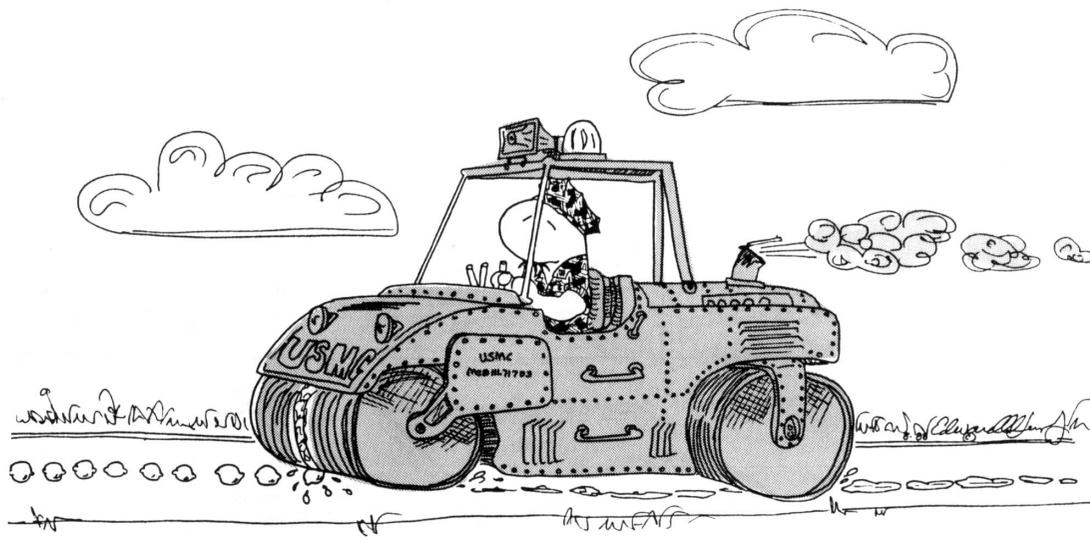
Free updated local area phonebooks are now available. All base personnel are authorized to receive the phonebooks, which are available in bundles of five. The phonebooks may be picked up at Building 15, Red Wing, in the Base Adjutant's Office.

SMP Events

The MCLB Barstow Single Marine Program will be sponsoring trips to National Training Center, Fort Irwin, for a paintball tournament, and a trip to Six Flags Magic Mountain. The scheduled date of the paintball tournament is March

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine to make lemonade.

27. The starting time is to be determined.

The Magic Mountain trip is scheduled for March 13.

The Single Marine Program is seeking 15 Marines to participate in each event. Participation will be based on a first-come, first-serve basis. Marines who are interested should contact Sgt. Christopher Garcia, Single Marine Program president, at 577-6197.

Armory

All sergeants and below are required to report to the MCLB Barstow armory no later than March 12 for a weapons issue. This includes those Marines who already have weapons cards.

For more information, contact Cpl. Craig J. Granville, base armorer, at 577-6370.

MCMAP Training

A Marine Corps Martial Arts Program gray belt course is scheduled for March 22 to April 2. The class times will be every Monday, Wednesday and Friday

from 6 a.m. to noon during the duration of the course.

Tan belt remediation is scheduled for March 17 and March 19 from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Marines who are interested should contact Cpl. Hilda Heads, Headquarters Battalion S-3 clerk, at 577-6502.

CID Hotline

The Criminal Investigation Division hotline is up and running. If you or anyone you know has witnessed a crime or have knowledge of a crime being committed, call 577-6200 and report the details. Tipsters may remain anonymous without fear of reprisal, and calls are not traced or monitored.

If you wish to leave your name and contact number, an agent will contact you. If there is an emergency, call 911.

Water Outages

Due to the ongoing upgrades of Nebo backflow devices, a water outage is scheduled for Wednesday at Buildings 301 and 302 from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If you have any concerns and/or comments about the water outage, please call 577-6911.

VITA

The Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, MCLB Barstow has opened the Tax Center to provide free income tax preparation and electronic tax filing for active duty military, retired military and their eligible dependents.

This program saves taxpayers time and money.

SJA's certified tax preparers will complete and e-file your federal and state income tax returns.

These folks are trained to take into account military specific tax situations and are anxious to assist you.

Electronic filing of income tax returns reduces errors and speeds Internal Revenue Service processing time. Your refund will be directly deposited into your bank account within the same timeframe as "Rapid Refund" without the high interest rates charged by civilian tax preparers.

The Tax Center is located at Building 236 and is open Mondays through Thursdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Call or visit the SJA to schedule your appointment. For further information contact the Tax Center at 577-6874/6771.

KVN Meeting

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

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,

garcia@barstow.usmc.mil). Civilians who want to volunteer should contact Denise Hall, Veterans Home volunteer coordinator, at (760) 252-6288.

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
SW4102-04-156866-DE	Painter Worker WG-4102-07 Basewide (permanent employees only)	02-27-2004	03-11-2004	03-02-2004	MCLB Barstow
SW3414	Machinist	N/A	Open cont.	03-10-2004	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.



MEDALS from Page 1

above the land and adjacent water areas, according to the release. Each day aircrew members fly sorties into designated areas counts as one day of deployment toward the 30- or 60-day requirement. Individuals engaged in actual combat may be eligible for battle stars on the expeditionary medal. Only a combatant commander can initiate a request for a battle star, and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is the approving authority for them, the release states. Personnel eligible to receive the

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal must have participated or support operations on or after Sept. 11, 2001. Service medal eligibility dates run from Sept. 27, 2001, until May 31, 2002, for individuals who served in airport security operations. The same 30- or 60-day requirements apply to the service medal as to the expeditionary medal. "Each military department will prescribe appropriate regulations for processing awarding and wearing of the medals and ribbons for their service members, to include application procedures for veterans, retirees, and next-of-kin," the DOD release stated.

BRAC from Page 1

the commission's recommendation before sending them to Congress in November 2005. Congress has 45 legislative days to enact a joint resolution rejecting the recommendations or they become binding. While the mechanics of the basic BRAC process are similar to prior rounds, Grone pointed out that the department's emphasis on transformational options and a "capabilities-based" approach is a significant change. "BRAC can make a profound contribution to our defense posture by realigning our infrastructure to support the new defense strategy," he explained. And equally important, he added, emphasis will be placed on joint utilization for functions and facilities, as well as converting what he called "waste to warfighting." "We have facilities that we no longer require that are costing us millions or billions of dollars to maintain over their useful life. Those facilities are not adequate to the mission; we don't need them. Those resources that are devoted to facilities we do not need, need to be converted to warfighting capabilities," he said.

In addition to eliminating waste at bases in the United States, Grone said the department will also look at overseas assets through a global posture review. "The important part about the global review is to look at all of our infrastructure and to look carefully at how they are positioned to support the mission, and to assess whether or not we can make changes — not just where the wars of the 20th century ended, but where we need to realign and re-position our assets to deter, or where necessary, defeat any potential adversary in the 21st century," he explained. Meanwhile, Grone said BRAC has become a "key component" of the secretary's transformation initiatives to realign the department's warfighting capability. He said the department's transformation will not be the best possible "unless we have the infrastructure in the right place to support the missions where they need to be. ... We can only accomplish that through a comprehensive base closure and realignment effort." Although he emphasized there are no specific goals on the number of bases the department

plans to close, he indicated past studies have estimated there to be roughly a 23 percent excess capacity across DOD. However, he said, "That doesn't translate into a number of bases that we might close or realign." "There are no lists of bases to close, we have no specific targets," he explained. "And the reason we don't have specific targets is because it is important for us to put all of our transformational options on the table and not be constrained to an artificial number that we must close a given number of bases." Grone said that installations affected by a closure and realignment recommendation must begin to implement the closure or realignment within the first two years in which the recommendation becomes law. All closure and realignment activity must be completed within a six-year window, he said. "So it is a phased approach, but we want to get on with it aggressively because we want to do what we can to get the missions where they need to be to support force and business transformation of the department."



Extra payday doesn't necessarily mean extra cash

Submitted by
Civilian Payroll Office

Periodically the pay year will be comprised of 27 paydays instead of the more common 26 paydays. When this occurs as it does for pay year 2004, some deduction and withholding amounts will be affected.

Some of the deductions that will be impacted due to 27 paydays in 2004 include federal, state and some local taxes, Thrift Savings Plan, TSP catch-up contributions and repayment of student loans.

With federal tax deductions the Defense Civilian Pay System annualizes biweekly earnings to determine the amount to deduct. For Pay Year 2004, 27 paydays of earnings will be used in the calculation, which may result in an increase on the biweekly tax deduction. Using the following calculations as an example, take a look at how much would be deducted for 27 paydays vice 26:

27 Paydays

Biweekly taxable wages: \$1,306.38
Tax status: Single/0 exemptions
 $\$1,306.38 \times 27 = \$35,272.26$ annual salary
Biweekly Federal Income Tax
Withholding: \$184.74

26 Paydays

Biweekly taxable wages: \$1,306.38
Tax status: Single/0 exemptions
 $\$1,306.38 \times 26 = \$33,965.88$ annual salary
Biweekly Federal Income Tax
Withholding: \$179.29

The process works the same to determine how much state tax will be withheld from an employee's paycheck. Because there are 27 pay periods, there is one additional payday of earnings and also one more payday used in the annualizing process, which may result in an increase in the biweekly state tax deduction. Using Virginia as an example of the state tax

calculation is as follows:

27 Paydays

Biweekly taxable wages: \$1,306.38
Tax status: Single/0 exemptions
 $\$1,306.38 \times 27 = \$35,272.26$ annual salary
Biweekly Virginia Income Tax
Withholding: \$60.26

26 Paydays

Biweekly taxable wages: \$1,306.38
Tax status: Single/0 exemptions
 $\$1,306.38 \times 26 = \$33,965.88$ annual salary
Biweekly Virginia Income Tax
Withholding: \$59.68

Most local taxes are based on percentages applied to subject earnings, and as such would not be impacted. However, there are some local taxes that are based on the federal withholding and therefore could be impacted.

For those employees under Federal Employees Retirement System, they may exceed the TSP maximum deduction amount if 27 paydays are not used to determine the pay period deduction amount. Care should be taken when determining the biweekly deduction so that the employee will receive the maximum amount of matching government contributions.

For example, let's say an employee's TSP maximum contribution for 2004 is \$13,000

$\$13,000 / 26 = \500 per payday over 26 paydays.

$\$13,000 / 27 = \481.48 per payday over 27 paydays.

Taking the \$500 and multiplying it by 27 paydays is \$13,500. If the maximum employee contribution for 2004 is \$13,000, that employee will reach his or her maximum contribution in payday 26. For pay period 27 there is no employee contribution, and no agency matching; the employee receives only the automatic one percent government contribution. If the TSP contribution is calculated based on 26 paydays versus 27 paydays, the employee will reach the

maximum contribution prior to the end of the pay year. This will result in the loss of matching government contributions. Employees are encouraged to review their TSP elections during the next open season for 2004 to avoid a potential loss of TSP matching government contributions.

The amount of TSP Catch-up Contributions to be withheld each payday may be calculated using 27 paydays versus the normal 26 paydays. For repayment of student loans the amount to be withheld each payday should be calculated using 27 paydays versus the normal 26 paydays.

Those deductions not impacted because of the 27 paydays in 2004 include the following:

– Charity -there is no impact because charity deductions begin the first full pay period of the calendar year and only 26 deductions will be withheld as normally done.

– Flexible Spending Account (dependent care and health care) The Flexible Spending Account provider will stop the deduction when the annual authorized amount has been deducted and restart the deduction in the next pay year if authorized. The provider will also make any necessary adjustments to the deduction amount to ensure that no more than the annual authorized amount is collected.

– Long Term Care (dependent premium and employee premium) Deduction for Long Term Care will be stopped by the provider when the annual authorized amount has been deducted and restarted in the next pay year. The provider will also make adjustments to the deduction amount to ensure that no more than the annual authorized amount is collected.

– TSP loans and military deposits. 27 deductions will be taken because deductions are calculated as a biweekly amount.

– Voluntary child support, voluntary alimony, voluntary payment of back taxes and savings allotments – The normal biweekly amount requested by the employee will be deducted for 27 paydays.

– Federal Employees Group Life Insurance for nine-month educators – The prorated deduction amount will not change.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

it directly at our own hearts and lives. At first it is very difficult to turn the light on ourselves because we are certain that others know about our strengths and weaknesses and we often can't see any real need to think about our spiritual and personal lives. I believe the thought process is that if we were doing something that was noteworthy for good or ill someone would tell us. Well the truth is that we know ourselves better than anyone. We know all of our strengths and all of our weaknesses. We know more than anyone else how we really feel about others and we feel about ourselves. At first we may see Lent as a time that is only difficult to go through and forces us to self-examination. I believe though that it can become a very blessed time. It can be a time for us to see the beauty that God has created in all of us. It can be a time to see the real nature of our humanity toward others and ourselves and can lead us to many learning moments. Like anything worth having it will take effort on our part to look inside ourselves and to be honest, but with that accomplished we are in for an experience that will only make us better. So, whether you have ever observed the season of Lent or not allow me to encourage you to take the time over the next 40 days to really examine yourself on a daily basis and build on your strengths and to identify areas that you would like to improve. It will be a learning experience but the reward is a better you.

Peace,
Fr Randel

Marines judge District Science Fair hopefuls

By Cpl. Andy J. Hurt
BARSTOW LOG Editor

Marines are known as the world's 911 force. They are known for quickly inserting into hot landing zones, storming beaches and securing embassies. They are known for eliminating enemy combatants with one shot.

They are also known for storming local school gyms and judging children's science fair projects.

Recently, a group of devil dogs from various MCLB Barstow organizations, including Supply, Provost Marshal's Office and the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, participated in the Barstow Unified School District Science Fair.

The Marines' main task was to seek out, identify and record outstanding accomplishments for children in grades 3-12. Beginning Feb. 10, the Marines, usually accompanied by a staff noncommissioned officer or a commissioned officer, hit eight local area schools through Feb. 29, when the District Science Fair competition was held at Barstow Community College.

"I think that community involvement is extremely important," said 1st Lt. Aniela Szymanski, deputy staff judge advocate and science fair coordinating officer.

"It lets the people of Barstow know that the Marines here are active in and concerned about their community," she said.

Personal satisfaction was one of the reasons Marines volunteered oftentimes more than half a day to help the children.

"It was wonderful to see how happy the kids were at the awards ceremony," said Szymanski.

The award ceremony was held in the evening of final competition at Barstow College, with the MCLB Barstow walking color guard performing military honors to kick the night off. Hundreds in attendance, clapped and rose to their feet as the color guard marched in and out of the gym. Shouts of "oorah" and "semper fi" were heard over the excitement.

"I got a sense of personal satisfaction when I got to see kids I thought were the best win," said Szymanski.

It may have been a lull in the midst of training ops, drug raids and prosecution, but for the Marines who participated, the judging was all in a month's work.



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

1st Lt. Aniela Szymanski, legal assistance officer in the MCLB Barstow Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, receives a briefing from a seventh-grade student on his project "Boys vs. Girls: Who has greater taste bud sensitivity?" at the Barstow Unified School District Science Fair final competition. The students, grades 3-12, were individual winners from various schools competing for top honors at Barstow Community College on Feb. 26. Marines from MCLB Barstow were selected to assist in judging the projects.

Are you prepared for deployment?

By Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandro
Combat Correspondent

Although there are no operational units aboard MCLB Barstow, it is always a possibility that any Marine at any time may get orders to deploy. It is vital to the Marine Corps mission and the welfare of the family to be prepared.

Some Marines know about a deployment they are going on months in advance. Others find out with only days to get ready. There are many different aspects of preparation and in a rush important things can be overlooked.

Cpl. Darin Cleveringa, a dog handler with the Provost Marshal's Office K-9 Unit here, is a perfect example. In February, Cleveringa got the word that he would be deploying to Iraq. With no set date of when he was deploying, it shows that had he not been prepared, he would have an unknown amount of time to get his affairs in order. "Because I am a Marine it is my job to be ready for this kind of thing," said Cleveringa.

The Marine Corps provides many resources to Marines to help prepare, cope, and return

from deployment.

Other than the obvious preparations, such as powers of attorney and wills, there are other things that can be done to help make the deployment easier.

Spouses, children and around the house tasks can often be overlooked while preparing military gear or legal and financial paperwork.

After a service member deploys many of their responsibilities are shifted onto the spouse. In addition to the pressures of being left behind the added responsibilities can be a burden.

"(Military wives) made the choice to marry into the military. Just like it is the service members job to go, it is our job to take care of things while they are gone," said Ashlee Bockelman, the wife of Chief Petty Officer David Bockelman, the senior enlisted leader of the Branch Medical Clinic here.

Bockelman was deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and left behind his wife and their four children.

"There is no real way to be emotionally prepared, except for knowing that its important to

stay strong to support (the deploying service member)," said Ashlee Bockelman.

The Bockelman's were well prepared due to prior planning, but there were a few things that they would have done differently, said Bockelman.

"He pays all the bills so he wrote down all the information I needed to know to continue the payments. But I hit a wall while trying to make changes, or canceling accounts. Even though I had a power of attorney I still had no control while trying to make changes to accounts, like the Internet or cell phone accounts, because they were in his name only," said Bockelman.

Children are another difficult aspect of deployment.

"It is important not to hide the issue from them," said Warrant Officer Anthony Cisneros, the former exchange chief here who was deployed to Kuwait and Iraq in March 2003.

When Cisneros deployed, he left behind his wife and two children.

"They are young so it was hard to explain to them that I had to go help get the bad guys," said Cisneros. "But communicating as a family

and talking openly was the best way to make them as comfortable as they could be," said Cisneros.

Returning from a deployment can be difficult for a family as well. Preparing for the return may also be overlooked. Military members may be expecting to come home to a picturesque reunion and find that young children don't remember them and that a spouse may seem like a stranger.

"It is important to have realistic expectations when returning from deployment. It takes time for things to transition back to the way they were," said Cisneros.

No matter whom you are leaving behind deployment is difficult but it is important to be prepared to go at anytime. Marines are referred to as the country's 911 force and must be ready to go and do their part.

Editor's Note:

Information from MCCS One Source (www.mccsonesource.com) was used for this article.

Marines battle inclement weather in summit attempt

Story and Photos by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt
BARSTOW LOG Editor

With not enough time for cold weather training, the Marines of Fleet Support Division had to find their own way “up the mountain.”

Through snow, ice and sleet.

In preparation for the cresting of Mt. Whitney, the tallest peak in the continental United States, Marines gathered on a windy Friday morning here at around “zero-dark-thirty” to begin their journey into the snow capped peaks of the Angeles National Forest.

The nine-mile conditioning hike was the first of more than a few planned hikes throughout the spring and early summer months.

1st Lt. Jason Kut, operations officer at FSD, along with Staff Sgt. Travis Snyder, tracked vehicle repairman, had a vision in early January that Marines with precious time, consumed mainly by maintaining and readying tactical vehicles and equipment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, might get similar training experiences as they would in the fleet Marine force.

Kut and Snyder envisioned such training operations as nuclear, biological and chemical warfare training, machine gun skills and practical applications and conditioning marches, held usually on Fridays.

After a long week of knuckle scraping and wrench turning, most Marines are more than willing to commit the first day of their weekend to fresh air, sweat and lactic acid.

“I’d be more than happy to come out here any day of the week,” said Cpl. Douglas Yates, mechanic at FSD as the white government van crept slowly up the scorched earth of the San Bernardino Mountains.

In less than 100 minutes, the Marines able to participate in Friday’s hike made their way down a sinewy stretch of the U.S. Interstate Highway 15-south, crawling out of the arid wasteland of the high desert and into the hills that separate Barstow’s Leathernecks from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

The sun lay low behind the giant sequoia trees early in the day as Marines jumped out of their transportation in civilian hiking gear, complete with hydration systems and “pogey bait.”

With clear skies the morning’s trek looked to be an easy stroll up the 7,500 geologic monster named Mt. Baldy. The Marines planned on taking a more scenic, more strenuous route through Icehouse Canyon and past Icehouse Saddle to the crest.

Spirits were high and the group of Marines shared jokes, anecdotes and sea stories as the trek commenced.

A mountain stream flowed steadfast over the boulders, giving the feeling of a beer commercial as the devil dogs marched past several cabins built by determined mountain folk.

Although the trail was a little muddy at first, it was nothing to slow down the day.

Until the detail had reached the one-mile mark, when snow lay thick on the ground below and ice proved more slippery than some had imagined.

Yet the trail was blazed, and the snow even gave some Marines memories of their hometowns in anywhere-America.

“We should have sleds,” said Cpl. Joseph A. Tumpis, a calibration technician at Maintenance Center Barstow’s Cost Work Center 684, who accompanied the FSD Marines on the hike.

Switchbacks on the trail began as the slope got steeper and the snow became deeper.

Each and every step became more labored when the snow began to soften under the California sun, and Marines practiced taking softer steps to enable walking across the top of the frozen accumulation.

At the two-mile mark, altitude began to take its toll on the fragile human bodies, so Snyder distributed aspirin in order to thin the Marine’s blood and encourage oxygen distribution.

The Marines forged ahead.

The snowy earth and slippery incline reminded some Marines of their prior comrades-in-arms who fought through 10-fold difficulty at the “Frozen” Chosin Reservoir, during the Korean War.

“I can’t even imagine what they were going through,” one voice was overheard to say.

And just as the path couldn’t seem any more treacherous, the trail faded in the blanket of virgin snow.

Marines crossing fresh avalanche zones began forging their own trails up the mountain, throwing snowballs and joking as they became more and more aware of Mother Nature’s mood swing, traveling due south at an alarming rate.

No more than six tenths of a mile from the summit, Sgt. Quon Tran, a mechanic at FSD, ceased the progress up the hill and called for an assessment of the operational risk involved in proceeding.

“It’s called operational risk management,” he said to Marines still willing to mountaineer. “And this is too dangerous.”

Tumpis began chipping his feet into the increasingly steep mountainside as he began his descent.

By this time, the snow was so deep, Marines were punching through the icy surface up to their thighs on nearly every step.

Wind speed velocity increased and the Marines gathered for a quick energy-bar session and donned more layers to keep from developing hypothermia, though temperatures had not yet grown so extreme.

Word was passed to the few Marines who struggled with the ascent and had fallen shortly behind, and the final descent was underway.

Not five minutes had passed before the sky grew dark and a snow-ice mixture called sleet began to plummet to the planet, proving the risk assessment invaluable.

“This was one of the dangers we considered in making the attempt,” said retired Master Sgt. Neil Pinchefskey, head of the FSD Maintenance Branch.

“I thought this could happen, and it’s a good thing we turned back when we did,” he added.

The hike down the hill seemed to take less time than the trudge uphill, and soon the snow had vanished from site and the Marines began to pass along the familiar “beer” stream.

Boots were packed with snow and ice, and Marines were eager to change their socks when they returned to the parked vehicles.

“That was awesome,” said Tumpis. “I wish we could have gone to the top.”

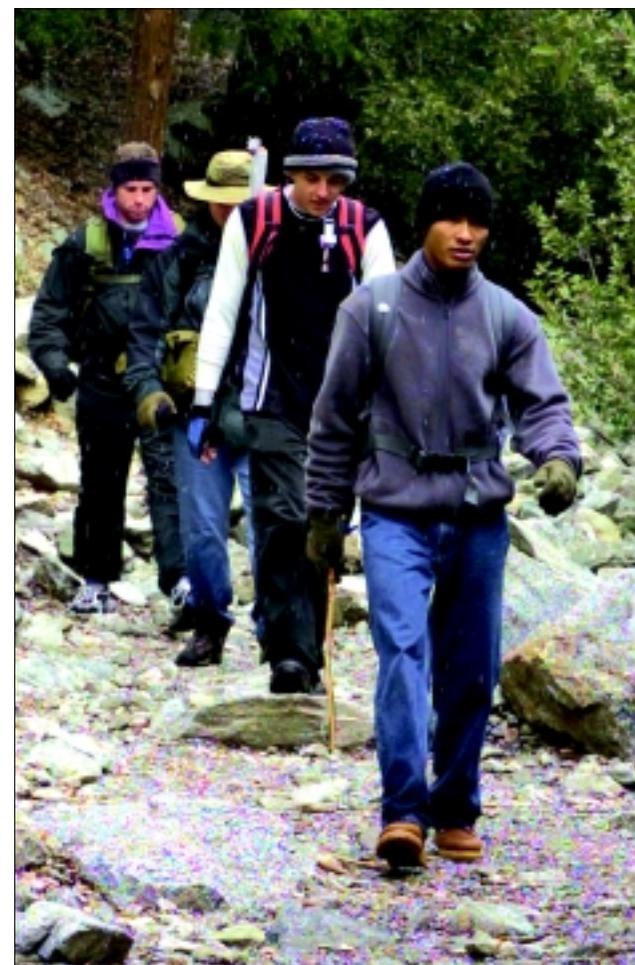


Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Sgt. Quon Tran, mechanic, Fleet Support Division, leads Marines in the Icehouse Canyon descent Friday through an unpredicted sleet storm. Tran was partially responsible for making the decision to turn back when the Marines had nearly reached the summit.

Pinchefskey said he plans to return to Mt. Baldy possibly this spring when snow levels recede and the trail becomes again passable.

With full accountability and a change of socks, the Marines loaded the vehicles, cranked up the heat and rested their eyes.

It had been a trying day, but the right decision prevailed and the Marines of FSD and MCB are one step further toward Mt. Whitney.



Photo by Cpl. Andy J. Hurt

Marines from MCLB Barstow’s Fleet Support Division and MCB forge ahead through deep snow during Friday’s conditioning hike at Mt. Baldy, Calif., in the Angeles National Forest. The steep slopes and cold weather reminded some Marines of the hardships their predecessors faced at the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War. Summit attempts were thwarted by a flash sleet storm late in the hike.

READY, FRONT

Headquarters Battalion Marines get promoted, awarded, belts in March

Promotions

The following Marines were promoted to their listed ranks in March:

Cpl. Andy Hurt
Public Affairs Office

Cpl. Duy Ngo
Fleet Support Division

Cpl. William Rowson
Administrative Support Division

Lance Cpl. Devlin Howieson
Provost Marshal's Office

Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello
Public Affairs Office

Certificate of Good Conduct

Sgt. Quon Tran
Second Award

Cpl. Douglas Hawks

Cpl. Thomas Maxwell

Cpl. Douglas Yates

Certificate of Commendation

The following Marines received Certificates of Commendation

Lance Cpl. Brittany Schneidt

Lance Cpl. Rebekah Wavle

Tan Belt Recipients

The following Marines were awarded their MCMAP tan belts on Feb. 13:

Staff Sgt. LaFawn Skipper

Cpl. Micheal Diaz

Cpl. Hilda Heads

Gray Belt Recipients

The following Marines were awarded their MCMAP gray belts on March 1:

Cpl. Hilda Heads

Cpl. Diane Kopanski

Cpl. Curtis White

Lance Cpl. Marco Catanopena

Lance Cpl. Lenerd Dockter

Lance Cpl. James Hainer

Lance Cpl. Jason Jordan

Lance Cpl. Christal Powell

Lance Cpl. Brittany Schneidt

Lance Cpl. Steven White

Pfc. Lauren Johnson

Non-Judicial Punishment

A lance corporal was charged with violation of Article 112a of the UCMJ.

Punishment: Reduction to E-2, forfeiture of one half month's pay for two months, 45 days of restriction and extra punitive duty suspended for three months.

A gunnery sergeant was charged with violation of Article 107 of the UCMJ.

Punishment: Punitive letter of reprimand, forfeiture of one month's pay for two months suspended for six months.

Service members can apply for U.S. citizenship

By Gerry J. Gilmore
American Forces Press Service

Foreign-born service members can now speed up the process to obtain American citizenship.

The immediate eligibility for service members to become a naturalized citizen is based on Executive Order 13269 signed by President Bush on July 3, 2002. Section 329 of the 8 U.S. Code allows the president to authorize expedited citizenship during periods in which the United States is engaged in armed conflict with a hostile foreign force.

For example, members who have served honorably for any period of time beginning on or after Sept. 11, 2001, are eligible to apply for expedited U.S. citizenship, Air Force Col. Michael A. Pachuta, director of DOD's Morale, Welfare and Recreation policy office, told American Forces Radio and Television Service in a Feb. 20 interview.

The peacetime waiting period is shortened to one year of honorable service, thanks to the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

Prior to the executive order, the peacetime waiting period, Pachuta pointed out, was three years of honorable military service.

Effective Oct. 1, 2004, he continued, the new law allows for U.S. citizenship applications to be finalized at U.S. embassies, consulates and selected military installations overseas. Also effective Oct. 1, the new law waives the \$310 citizenship application and fingerprint fee.

The new law also provides sped-up avenues for the non-U.S.-citizen spouses, children and parents of service members who have died as a result of service in combat to obtain "immediate relative" alien status, Pachuta said. He said the new citizenship application rules cover active duty service members and National Guard and Reserve personnel who are classified as members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve. Army and Air Force members seeking to become naturalized U.S. citizens can contact their military personnel offices, Pachuta noted, while Navy and Marine Corps members can contact their legal assistance offices for help.

Editor's Note:

Service members who wish to apply for citizenship should contact the MCLB Barstow Legal Assistance Office at 577-6874.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello

Anthony Cortez, a network communication engineer with the NMCI Strike Team here, illustrates to the Marines going through the MCMAP Gray Belt Course on Feb. 25 some of the similarities between Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program. Gunnery Sgt. John Green, a drafting and surveying chief for the Public Works Division who is trained in both Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and MCMAP, joined in the demonstration. Green, a MCMAP brown belt instructor, was instrumental in starting MCMAP instruction at MCLB Barstow.

AROUND THE CORPS

FBI trains Marines with help from Djiboutian police

By Cpl. Adam Schnell
Combined JTF Horn of Africa

Eyes and ears were wide open as a team of FBI bomb technicians taught Marines and students from the Djiboutian National Police Force about improvised explosive devices here Feb. 24.

Twelve Marines from K Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, the force protection providers for Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, participated in the classes to learn how to better identify IEDs and the danger they can create.

As part of force protection, these Marines search vehicles before they pass through the gates of Camp Lemonier, Djibouti, where CJTF-HOA forces are stationed. Their job is to keep the base safe by inspecting vehicles for IEDs and other tools of terrorism.

"We see a lot of vehicles each day, and this type of training really helps us to not get complacent in our jobs," said Lance Cpl. Eddie Ryan, an infantryman whose daily duties are composed of searching vehicles as they reach the entry control point aboard Camp Lemonier.

Ryan, an Ellenville, N.Y., native also said they learned that IEDs can be made out of and look like anything. The knowledge he and his fellow Marines received will help them to keep the base a little safer in the future.

Providing more knowledge about vehicle-born IEDs and what can happen if they are deployed properly was Special Agent Eric Morefield, bomb technician for the FBI. Morefield, along

with three other team members from the bureau, built devices out of materials readily available to terrorists.

Morefield said he wanted to instill in both the Marines and the Djiboutian Police Academy students that IEDs can be made out of anything with a little explosives.

He also wanted to show the damage that can occur when IEDs are employed correctly.

"I think it really opened the Marines eyes to how easy it is for a terrorist to hide a vehicle-born IED," said Capt. Edward J. Healey, company commander for company.

The Worcester, Mass., native said even though the Marines have only been aboard Camp Lemonier a few weeks, he wants to make sure they don't become complacent in their jobs.

"It really taught them what could happen if they don't do their jobs," said Healey. "In this case, complacency can kill."

The hours of training the Marines participated in was both a refresher and an eye-opener, but for students from the police academy here it was part of a two-week course given to them. The U.S.-funded program provided basic terrorism crime scene investigation techniques like crime scene security and proper evidence collection.

"It's been a pleasure working with the FBI here," said Djiboutian National Police Force Lt. Abdillahi Ibrahim, training officer for the academy. "I think all the police forces here need this training."

Ibrahim, who received basic explosive disposal training in Baton Rouge, La., also said he was very impressed by the Marines' interest in training with the academy. It shows the United States is sincere about making Djibouti a safer place.

"This was a great way to build relations with the Djiboutian police," said 1st Sgt. Joseph D. Shaw, company first sergeant for K Company.

The infantry company is open to more training with the Djiboutian police in the future, said Shaw.

Both sides will benefit greatly by learning from each other.

"It would be a pleasure training with

the Marines in the future," said Ibrahim. "We can learn a lot from the Marines because we need the experience to gain knowledge."



Photo by Cpl. Adam Schnell

Special Agent Morefield speaks to Marines and Djiboutian Police Academy students during a class Feb. 24.



Photo by Cpl. Adam Schnell

Marines from K Company, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, and Djiboutian Police Academy students look on as Special Agent Eric Morefield, bomb technician for the FBI, show them a highlighter turned improvised explosive device during a class Feb. 24.



Photo by Cpl. G. Lane Miley

Special Agent Eric Morefield, bomb technician for the FBI, shows Marines and Djiboutian Police Academy students a model improvised explosive device during a class Feb. 24.



By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

MCX March Sales

The Marine Corps Exchange's March sales include:

The Hardware Sale featuring 10 percent off all hardware and home improvement items. This sale runs through March 14. The St. Patrick's Day Sale is on March 17. This sale features 17 percent off all items in the store with a green balloon attached. The Beverage Sale, which runs from March 19 through the end of the month, features 10 percent off all 12-pack beverages. For more information, call the Super Seven Store at 256-8974.

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

Club activities

At the Oasis Club this week: Tonight is Happy Hour from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Tomorrow is TGIFamily Night. Tuesday is Burn Your Own Steak Night, and Wednesday is Movie Night. 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 Wednesdays are Midweek Relaxation Hour from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Sunday, be sure to catch the NBA game at the club.

For more information call 577-6418.

Grand opening

The Grand Opening of the Maintenance Center's Lunch Room will be held on Tuesday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The new name for the lunch

room will be unveiled at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Free food and beverages will be provided. The MC Lunch Room will be open weekdays from 5:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Breakfast served from 5:30 to 7 a.m. Lunch served from 11:30 a.m. to noon. For more information, call 577-7887.

Camping this Spring?

Save yourself time and costs by renting a Chalet pop-up trailer from the Auto Hobby Shop. The cost is only \$15 per day. Call the Auto Hobby Shop at 577-6441 for more information. The Auto Hobby Shop is open Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tickets at ITT

Disneyland is offering two days for the price of one. The cost is \$44 adults, \$34 children (3 to 9 years). The ticket can be used one day at Disneyland and another day at California Adventure. They cannot be used at both attractions on the same day. SeaWorld has two new yearly passes:

The Fun Card pass is \$51.50 adults, \$42.50 children (3 to 9 years). There are some blackout dates with this pass.

The Silver Pass is \$79.50 adults, \$64.50 children (3 to 9 years). There are no blackout dates with

this pass.

For more information call ITT at 577-6541. ITT is open Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets are available after hours at the Bowling Center.

Free movies at the gym

Every Thursday enjoy a free movie at the gym. Here's the March movie schedule:

Today – Master and Commander. Show time: 6:30 p.m.

March 11– The Rundown. Show time: 6:30 p.m.

March 18 – Under the Tuscan Sun. Show time: 6:30 p.m.

March 25– Gods and Generals. Show time: 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 577-6817.

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

Crying baby?

Tearing your hair out with a crying baby? Parents are invited to join Child Development Center staff for a one hour class on techniques to soothe "frequent criers." Parents who attend will receive a free Heartbeat Music therapy tape as an introduction to the New Parent Support Program services. For more information call, 577-6332

MCLB Barstow Bulldogs

The Bulldogs softball team will be practicing on Sorensen Field on Friday from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome. For more information, call 577-6817.

Lifting techniques

Recreation Specialist Cpl. Luke Webb will present a free class on correct lifting techniques. The class will be held on March 12 and March 26 at the gym. For details, call 577-6971.