

BARSTOW LOG

SUPPORTING MCLB'S VISION FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

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Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

April 15, 2004

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Check out the Marine Corps Web site.

<http://www.usmc.mil>

Egypt urges Iraq power transfer

By **Gerry J. Gilmore**
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – Egypt's senior leader told President Bush it's paramount to transfer sovereignty to an Iraqi government "as soon as possible."

During his visit to Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak praised Egyptian-U.S. relations, noting that he'd had a "constructive, candid and friendly" talk with the U.S. president "on a wide range of issues."

One of those issues, Mubarak noted during a news conference at the ranch, was Iraq. "I conveyed to the president our serious concerns about the current state of affairs" in Iraq, Mubarak told reporters. Egypt, he pointed out, was especially concerned about humanitarian and security matters stemming from recent fighting in Fallujah and in the southern por-

tion of the country. Mubarak said he'd also emphasized to Bush "the importance of restoring Iraq's sovereignty as soon as possible within a context that preserves its territorial integrity and unites all Iraqis toward a common future."

The Egyptian president noted he and Bush "agreed to intensify our extensive cooperation" in fighting global terrorism, to include "finding solutions to the political and economic problems that represent the underlying causes of terrorism."

Bush welcomed "my good friend, Hosni, to my home," declaring America and Egypt "have three decades of solid, beneficial relations behind us." The United States, Bush pledged, "will continue to work with Egypt and the Arab world in a spirit of common purpose and mutual respect."

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Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

Machine gunners with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division reposition themselves after a brief firefight with insurgents inside Fallujah, Iraq April 6. The company entered Fallujah to begin the effort of removing insurgents from the city. For story and photos turn to pages 8 and 9.

Annual N/MCRS Fund Drive kicks off

By **Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello**
Combat Correspondent

Monday marked the kickoff of this year's annual Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Fund drive.

The fund drive is six weeks long, lasting until May 21, and is aimed to raise money through donations, allotments and fundraisers around MCLB Barstow.

"The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society is an important society that provides grants and loans for Marines and sailors of all ranks who are in a financial bind," said 1st Lt. Michael Smith, this year's fund drive chairman and the finance officer here.

During the fund drive, a competitive atmosphere arises among the work sections and divisions, said Smith.

The work sections and divisions are challenged to hold different events in different locations on the base to raise money for the society.

"The fundraisers are a huge success and the civilians on base are a huge part of the

fund drive," said Smith.

"They really go all out thinking of ideas for the fund raisers."

Besides the most popular bake sales, sections around base have been coming up with new ideas and ways to raise money and they have been a big success in the past years, said Smith.

The battalion featured a dunk tank last year in which Marines could attempt to dunk their "favorite" officer or staff noncommissioned officer, and the Administration and Support Department held a silent auction that was also a big hit, said Smith.

All the sections did really well but the Communications Division raised the most money last year on Nebo with its four major fundraisers raising a total of more than \$1,400.

"The goal of this year's fund drive is 100 percent contact, which means that we have to make 100 percent of the Marines, sailors and civilians on base aware that the fund drive is going on," said Smith.

The plan to make this happen is a

member from each section or division will step up to take the role of the key volunteer.

The key volunteers will make sure that everyone in their organization is aware that the fund drive is going on and coordinate how they choose to participate in the fund drive.

During the fund drive Marines, sailors and civilians on base can donate money by cash, check or raise money with a fundraiser. Military members can also elect to donate money to Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society through allotments from their basic pay.

"The fund drive is a really fun way to raise money for a very worthy cause," said Smith.

"This year should be great, and I challenge the key volunteers to come up with new and innovative ways to raise money," he added.

For legal purposes, Smith requested that key volunteers bring new fund raising ideas to him for forwarding to the Office of the SJA before any preparations are

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

The Marine Corps: a 'band of brothers' or group of gossips?

By Master Sgt. John Cordero
Public Affairs Chief

Gossip is verbal dynamite. It has entertainment appeal, yet wields the power to divide people and destroy reputations. Gossip is prevalent throughout society. Much of what the media reports as news and what many daily conversations consist of qualifies as gossip. The only difference between gossip and news seems to be whether you hear it or tell it. The prevalence of gossip does not make it right. Gossip has been defined as

useless talk, especially about the personal or private affairs of others. It might even be called the art of saying nothing and leaving nothing unsaid.

Gossip, or scuttlebutt in naval terminology, is anything that anyone says unnecessarily about someone that damages that one's reputation in the minds of other people. Gossip is talking about someone's weakness, faults, conduct, or even your low opinion about him or her to people who are neither part of the problem nor part of the solution. While gossip may be

more than that, it certainly is not less.

There are three reasons why gossip, both the practice and tolerance of it, is wrong: it contradicts the core values of honor, courage and commitment; it violates several leadership traits and principles; and it can hurt the morale of a unit.

We as Marines, regardless of our personal beliefs before joining the Marine Corps, have assumed the values and ethics of the Marine Corps, whether they be found in the oath of office or allegiance, Uniform Code of

Military Justice, or code of conduct. Since we have voluntarily placed ourselves under all of the Marine Corps' regulations and traditions, we should gladly embrace them for our good and the good of others.

Consider how lying and stealing relate to faithful submission to Marine Corps standards. While someone might not have thought lying and stealing were wrong before he joined the Marine Corps, he must now behave as if they are wrong if he intends to honor his commitment to the Marine Corps.

Lying and stealing may seem like black and white issues for some people, but those same issues are gray areas for people who believe that absolute or universal truth and morality are relative.

Some people in a unit may not think it is wrong to take something that is unsecured. After all, somebody would have properly secured an item if he really did not want it taken, right? Other people may not think it is wrong to claim to be ill to avoid duty or physical

See GOSSIP Page 6

Serving creates change

By Lt. Cmdr. Randel Livingood
Base Chaplain



April 8 was a very special day in a very special week in the Christian Church. Last week was what is commonly referred to as Holy Week. Holy Week is made up of Holy Tuesday, a day in which we often

celebrate a Passover or Seder meal showing the preparation of the Children of Israel to depart from Egypt toward freedom.

April 8 was Maundy Thursday. Maunday comes from the Latin word "mandatum," which means "mandate." The "mandate" which is mentioned is that we love one another.

The other day in Holy Week is Good Friday. Good Friday is the day for Christians, in which the crucifixion of Jesus took place.

On that day we strip the altars bare and depart worship in silence.

There is certainly a sense of foreboding as we await the Easter Celebration, which begins with Easter Vigil on Saturday night.

Many churches around the world will be celebrating these events in one way or another, and you can probably select any church in the area to attend on Sunday and see a wonderful celebration of the Christian faith. Today is the day, if you are Christian, that you celebrate the "mandate."

In some worship services you will see the priest involved in washing the feet of several people that imitates Jesus washing the feet of his disciples.

The idea is that Jesus wanted to communicate and model a very special idea to his disciples and to us.

The idea was that it does not matter who you are; you must still have the ability to humble yourself and be a servant to all.

To act out the fact that you love one another is many times easier said than done. I read the story of Jesus washing the disciples' feet (St. John 13:1-15) and was reminded afresh of what it really means to be a servant. That is the thought I would like to discuss today.

I know that in our society being a servant is often looked down upon.

It is not thought of as a position of prestige or honor; in fact, it is often seen as a job that in some way may be lower than

See CHAPLAIN Page 7

Just doing my job ...



Photo by Pfc. Ashley Warden

Francis Villeme, base education officer and retired gunnery sergeant, goes through information before preparing a room for tests Marines are able to take at the education office. The education office provides an outlet for the Lifelong Learning Program. Through the program, Villeme offers educational counseling, planning and testing. Villeme said he is planning to hold an education fair in September with various schools from the Southern California area, including vocational schools.

Chapel Services

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.

Bible Study

Bible study will now be held at the Colonel's Workshop, Bldg. 573 Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m..

For more info call 577-6849.



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

Public Affairs Staff
Public Affairs Officer: Bill Bokholt
Public Affairs Chief: Master Sgt. John Cordero
Public Affairs Specialist: Rob L. Jackson
Editor: Cpl. Andy J. Hurr
Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello
Correspondent: Pfc. Ashley Warden
Public Affairs Support Clerk: Bertie Dailey

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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, Cactus Cafe and the Lanzer's Lounge are the same. Lunch menus are subject to change.

Today – Meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Friday – Deep fried catfish, collard greens and rice pilaf.

Monday – Chili mac, mashed potatoes and gravy.

Tuesday – Chicken salad sandwich on a croissant.

Wednesday – BBQ pork ribs, baked beans, and corn on the cob.

Active duty military \$3.25, all others, including civilians, \$4.75. Lunch entrees include roll/butter, vegetable, coffee, tea or soft drink. Lunch hours: Family Restaurant: 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cactus Cafe: 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. Lanzer's Lounge: 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. For more information call 577-6428.

Breakfast

Breakfast at the Family Restaurant is from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m., and 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 – Boggogi Night: beef boggogi, chicken pancit, stir fried vegetables with steamed jasmine rice, tossed green salad, dessert, plus a fountain drink of choice. Prices: adults \$6, children 5 to 11 years \$4, children under 5 years eat for free. Price the same for military and civilian personnel.

Luncheon

The CWRA Committee is holding an Administrative Professionals Day luncheon Wednesday from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at the Oasis Club.

The guest speaker will be Mike Stewart, Barstow City manager.

The menu served will be Salisbury steak, California blend vegetables, new potatoes or chef salad, roll with butter and iced tea. The price is \$7.50.

For ticket information, contact any of the following CWRA committee members by close of business today:

Fred Molino, MCB x7210
Bruce Rowe, FSD x7207

Cliff Ades, MCCA x6431
Vince Chaves, MCB x7580
Tangia Joseph, MCB x7230
Barbara Kulseth, SSO x6771
Erine Hawkins, AFGE x7046
Richard Tusing, ROICC x6492
Wrayanne Huddleston, I&L x6506

The luncheon is open to all military, civilian employees and their guests with supervisor's approval.

MC Ball Fundraisers

Fundraising season for the Marine Corps Birthday Ball has begun. Marines, sailors and civilian employees here are invited to participate throughout the year's various activities.

Krispy Kreme doughnut sales are new to MCLB's efforts and can be expected to appear around both Nebo and Yermo Annex.

Golf, football, softball and basketball tournaments have been effective and exciting fundraising methods for base personnel and should also be looked out for.

Friday at the Tees N Trees Golf Course, the Marine Corps Birthday Ball Committee is holding a golf tournament, open to all base personnel. The costs are:

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

A basketball tournament, to be held at the base gym, is also slated for Friday. The cost is \$10 per player.

The tournaments are scheduled to begin around 6:30 a.m. at their respective locations.

For more information, contact Danielle Heinze, Headquarters Battalion, at 577-6307.

Town Hall Meeting

All military personnel and civilian employees are invited to attend the MCLB Combined Town Hall meeting.

The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday at the Youth Activity Center at 6 p.m.

Barstow College Summer Schedule

Barstow Community College will not be producing a hard copy of the summer course offerings.

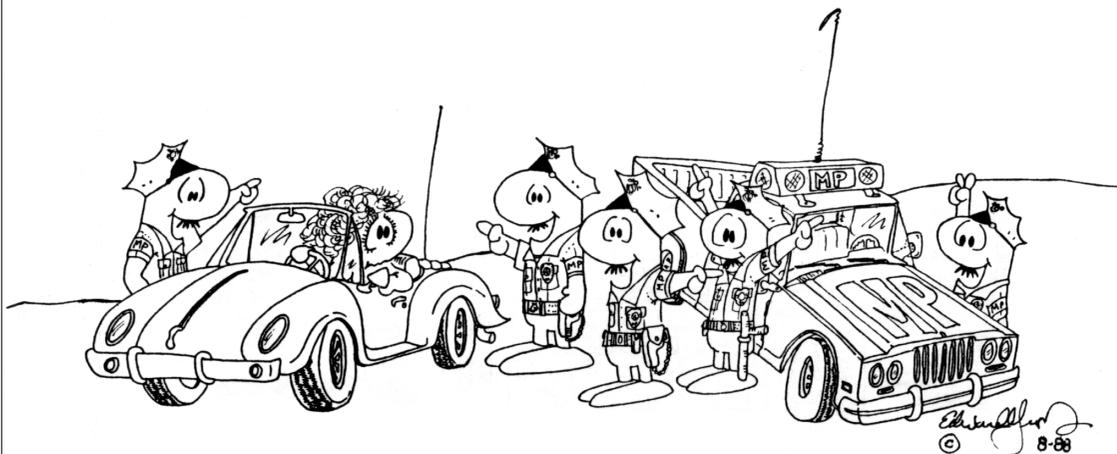
Prospective and current students wishing to further their off-duty education opportunities should call and set up an appointment with Francis Villeme, education services officer, at 577-6118.

Equal Opportunity PME

On Monday and Tuesday, Staff Sgt. Carlton A. Knox, MCLB

101 things you should never ask a Marine to do

By E. Temple



Never ask a Marine for directions.

Albany equal opportunity advisor, is scheduled to come to MCLB Barstow to conduct EO training for Marines.

The training is mandatory for all Marines stationed here.

The tentative schedule is as follows:

Monday -- 1st and 4th platoons.
1 to 3 p.m., EO training for Marines.

Tuesday -- 2nd and 3rd platoons
8 to 10 a.m. EO training for Marines.

1 to 4 p.m., make-up training.
For more information, contact

Cpl. Hilda Heads, Headquarters Battalion S-3, at 577-6502/6960.

Leave Sharing Program

Willie C. Wright, Badge No. 7889, Maintenance Center Barstow, has been affected by a medical emergency.

Anyone desiring to donate leave under the Leave Sharing Program may obtain a leave donor application through their division/section administrative officer.

For more information, call Pat Snyder, Manpower Division, at 577-7138.

Ramp Closure

The California Department of Transportation will close the northbound on-ramp at Stoddard Wells Road/Bell Mountain Wash on Interstate 15 until May 1.

The detour is as follows: Go east on Stoddard Wells Road to the southbound I-15 on-ramp. Travel south on the I-15 to the Stoddard Wells Road off-ramp. Turn left onto Stoddard Wells Road to access the northbound I-15 on-ramp.

For information, contact Holly Kress, CalTrans liaison, at (909) 383-4631.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandrello

A group of employees representing the MCLB Barstow civilian work force were recently presented the new Marine Corps Civilian Service Pin by base commander Col. Liz Bergman. Pictured from left to right are: Beverly Short, Office of the General Counsel, Colleen Kamiyama, Business Performance Office, Robin Cross-Walker, Marine Corps Community Services, Thomas Stickley, Fire and Emergency Services Division, Betty Green, MCCA, Janet Wilson, Installation and Logistics Department, and Veronica McClintock, command headquarters, and Col. Bergman. These civilian Marines have served from less than 5 years to over 30 years with the Marine Corps. The pin was created to give civilian Marines a sense of pride for the service they provide and show them they are valued by the Marine Corps. Department heads are scheduled to distribute the pins soon.

Creepy critters crawling back to MCLB Barstow

By Pfc. Ashley Warden
Combat Correspondent

Shade is the only refuge nature provides from soaring desert temperatures. Like most people, certain other creatures hide in dark secluded places to escape the unrelenting sun.

These animals can be found anywhere on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, but the most common areas they are found are in base housing and the warehouses, said Eric Fortin, pest control coordinator.

Garages, woodpiles, newspaper piles, furniture, boxes or under rocks or piles of clothes are prime hiding spots for such creatures as poisonous snakes, spiders and scorpions.

“Clutter around the house brings mice, which will bring snakes,” said Fortin. Problems also become present when homeowners allow grass to grow tall around the edges of the house, he said. This provides a great hiding spot for snakes, spiders, and scorpions.

Barren desert grassland, open juniper woodland, and scrubland of the Mojave Desert are home to one of the most dangerous rattlesnakes in the United States, the Mojave Rattlesnake. Often nick-named the “Mojave Green,” this snake has a triangular-shaped head

and diamond shaped or hexagonal markings along its body. At lower elevations, the snake is brown, gray, green or yellowish in color, as elevation increases to mountainous regions, this color will darken into a green.

“The snake is easy to recognize, it is the only one with an olive drab color,” Fortin said.

This snake has a highly potent venom, which contains both neurotoxins and hemotoxins, this is what makes the snake extremely dangerous, said Fortin. The venom is used

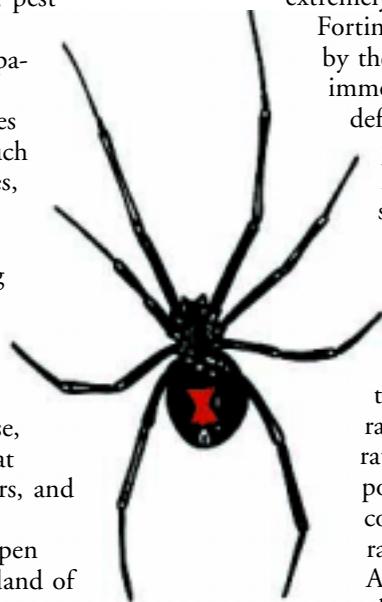
by the snake primarily to immobilize its prey and defend itself against

predators. Neurotoxins affect the nervous system while hemotoxins affect the bloodstream.

Baby rattlesnakes are poisonous, and will bite, so it is best to treat them as adult rattlesnakes. Even dead rattlesnakes are still poisonous; venom is still contained within the rattlesnake’s body.

Avoid playing with dead rattlesnakes, especially their fangs, which might dig into the skin and deliver poison.

Mojave rattlesnakes do not always rattle, since the rattle sometimes breaks



off, said Fortin.

If bitten by a venomous snake, there are several things that can be done to prevent further spread of the venom, suggests Steve Grenard, Staten Island University Hospital South, in his research on the treatment of snakebites. These include:

- o Allow the bite to bleed freely for 15 to 30 seconds.

- o Cleanse and rapidly disinfect the area with Benzene or Iodine, if you are not allergic, to prevent infection of the wound.

- o Remove clothing to include: pants, shirt, rings and jewelry on the bitten side.

- o Apply hard, direct pressure on the bite to contain venom.

- o If bitten anywhere on the arm or leg, be sure to immobilize the limb with a wrap. Use splints if available.

- o Try to keep the affected limb at heart level, or have the victim lay down. Raising it above heart level can cause the venom to travel throughout the body, while holding it below heart level can increase swelling.

- o Go to the nearest hospital for treatment, try to keep the victim calm, look for signs of shock such as body numbness, restlessness, fainting or dizziness, difficulty breathing or vacant or distant look.

- o If possible, try to identify the snake. “Get to the hospital as soon as possible,” said Fortin.

There are also things that should not be done to snake bite victims.

- o Do not remove pressure dressings from the bite; this will release the venom, allowing it to spread.

- o Do not allow the victim to eat or drink anything unless okayed by medical professionals.

- o Do not engage in strenuous physical activity.

- o Do not try to remove venom from the victim by mouth.

- o Do not cut or incise bite marks with a knife.

- o Do not apply hot or cold packs to the wounded area.

The best way to avoid getting bitten by a rattlesnake is to not tease the animal, according to the California Poison Control System, at www.calpoison.com.

All spiders have some amount of venom but the degree of potency varies. Most spiders are not dangerous to humans because their fangs are either too fragile to puncture human skin or they are too short. Among spiders, the two most dangerous spiders in the United States are black widows and brown recluses.

The most common poisonous spider bite comes from the black widow, recognized by a shiny black body and large round abdomen. Females have a red hourglass shape on the underside of their abdomen, while males are smaller,

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Photo courtesy of the National Park Service

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with no markings, and are harmless.

The venom of the female black widow, a neurotoxin, is 15 times more poisonous than a prairie rattlesnake's. One to three hours after being bitten the pain is maximized locally, along with swelling and sometimes redness. The venom may cause muscle cramping, which can first be felt in the back shoulders, abdomen, and thighs, while weakness, sweating, nausea, vomiting

and in extreme cases difficulty breathing may also be symptoms of a black widow bite. No one in the United States has died from a black widow spider bite in over 10 years, according to the California Poison Control System's Web site. If bitten by a black widow, wash the wound well with soap and water to help prevent infection and apply an ice pack. If muscle cramping develops, take the victim to the nearest hospital.

A true brown recluse does not live in California, said Fortin, but there are

some related species found in the surrounding area, such as the desert recluse.

Tarantulas, common in the desert terrain, are large hairy spiders. We are seeing less and less of these in the past years, said Fortin. They are mostly docile and make great pets.

Handling one can result in irritation of the skin.

If hands are not washed after handling and eyes are touched, the sharp hairs can cause eye irritation.

If cornered, a tarantula will make a purring sound and may rear up on its back legs.

Tarantula bites rarely produce any significant poisoning, but may be quite painful due to the large size of the spider.

A scorpion's sting can produce symptoms similar to that of a black widow bite. Common Mojave Desert scorpions include the Desert Hairy scorpion and the Thick-tailed scorpion.

Chiefly nocturnal, most scorpion stings are reported at night.

To treat a scorpion sting, put an ice cube on the bite to slow the spread of the venom, then go to the nearest hospital, suggests the California Poison Control System.

There are several precautions that can be taken to avoid getting bitten or stung by any of these animals.

o Never go barefoot or wear sandals when walking through "the rough."

o Always stay on paths, being sure to avoid walking through tall grass, weeds, or heavy underbrush.

o Look for concealed snakes, spiders, or scorpions before picking up rocks, sticks, or firewood.

o Check before sitting on logs or stumps.

o Make sure corners and other undisturbed areas in the home are kept clean. Outdoor areas, such as scrap or log piles should be clean as well.

o Always shake out and check clothes and shoes before putting them on, especially if they have been lying around on the floor or have been sitting outside.

Spiders, scorpions, and even snakes won't come looking for a fight, so the best way to avoid getting bitten or stung is to avoid confrontation with these animals. If any poisonous snake, spider, or scorpion is identified, contact pest control at 577-6467.

Editor's Note:

Information from this story was taken from the California Poison Control System's Web site at www.calpoison.org and the National Park Service's Web site at www.nps.gov.

FMF sailor takes quarterly honors

By Lance Cpl. Jenna Lassandro
Combat Correspondent

Many are nominated, but only one is chosen to hold the title of the Branch Medical Clinic's Sailor of the Quarter.

This quarter the honor goes to Hospitalman 2nd Class (Fleet Marine Force) Brian Strahl, the records lead petty officer at the BMC.

"I nominated Strahl because he is a great example of how people in the Navy should be, said Chief Petty Officer David Bockelman, senior enlisted leader at the BMC.

Strahl was working as a white water rafting guide when he decided his life needed a little more direction.

He joined the Navy in 1995 and attended the Recruit Training Command in Great Lakes, Ill.

After completing Hospital Corps School at the San Diego Naval Medical Center, Strahl then attended Field Medical Service School at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Strahl's first duty station was at Naval Hospital Lemoore at Naval Air Station Lemoore, Calif.

Following his time in Lemoore, Strahl was stationed with the 1st Marine Division at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

In January 2003 Strahl deployed with the Marine Regimental Combat Team One in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Strahl

served in Iraq until June of 2003.

Strahl was stationed at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow in November 2003 and is enjoying being a part of the BMC and



HM2 (FMF) Brian Strahl

feels grateful for being named the Sailor of the Quarter.

"I appreciate the recognition and am glad to know that the command supports the decisions that I make.

Strahl plans on retiring from the Navy and continuing his career in the medical field as a civilian after retirement.

"I believe that he'll have a successful career with the work ethic he has. He is very hard working. Strahl is just one of those sailors that I can assign a task to and then walk away confident that he will do it to the best of his ability," said Bockelman.

Throughout his career, Strahl has earned two Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals with Combat "V" devices, a Combat Action Ribbon, a Presidential Unit Citation, a Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation, two Navy Good Conduct Medals, a National Defense Medal, an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, a Humanitarian Service Medal and a Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

Marine of the Quarter awarded to PMO MP

By Pfc. Ashley Warden
Combat Correspondent

The U.S. Marine Corps is known for its fiercely proud tradition of excellence in combat, its hallowed rituals, and an unbending code of honor.

A lesser-known fact is the importance of quarterly boards that are held on bases throughout the Marine Corps.

On one of these boards, Marines, lance corporals and below, compete against each other to win the title of Marine of the Quarter in areas such as physical fitness, drill execution, Marine Corps knowledge, and their appearance in uniform.

Lance Cpl. Jeremy Rogers, of the MCLB Barstow Provost Marshal's Office, was named Marine of the Quarter here March 25.

It was Rogers' first time going on a board.

"At first, I was uncomfortable about (the board)," said Rogers. "For the past two or three days, I spent a lot of time not sleeping to get ready."

The long hours of no sleep and study sessions paid off, though. Out of the eight questions asked in the knowledge competition, Rogers answered five correctly.

"It was the question and answer session that distinguished him," said 1st Sgt. Donald George, Headquarters Battalion

first sergeant.

"It was his knowledge that made him stand above everyone else."

There's a lot of pressure to get ready, so it's better to be prepared, said Rogers. "Know your knowledge, practice drill, and keep in shape."

Rogers grew up in Grand Prairie, Texas, and did electrical work before joining the Marine Corps, something he has always wanted to do, he said.

Everyone in his family has been in the military, but Rogers is the first Marine.

He enlisted Feb. 18, 2002, attending Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego.

After boot camp, he attended Marine Combat Training at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., followed by Military Police School at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

After school, Rogers was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, for a year where he worked in the Joint Services Vehicle Impound Lot and received a Certificate of Commendation for outstanding duty.

While working in the impound lot, Rogers inventoried and processed vehicles, dealt with military personnel who owned the vehicles, sent impound noticed and was in charge of calling tow trucks to move and pick up vehicles.

After Okinawa, Rogers came to MCLB

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training. Yet those actions hurt the people involved and reduce their unit's readiness level.

A cursory reading of the following excerpts from the UCMJ indicate that it is wrong to lie or steal:

"Any person (in the U.S. military) who, with intent to deceive, signs any false record, return, regulation, order, or other official document, knowing it to be false, or makes any other false official statement knowing it to be false, shall be punished as a court-martial may direct." (Article 107, UCMJ)

"Any person (in the U.S. military) who with intent to steal takes anything of value from the person or in the presence of another, against his will, by means of force or violence or fear of immediate or future injury to his person or property or to the person or property of a relative or member of his

family or of anyone in his company at the time of the robbery, is guilty of robbery and shall be punished as a court-martial may direct." (Article 122, UCMJ)

Someone who is merely concerned with the letter of the law may claim Article 121 applies only to people who sign or make false official documents or statements or that any article in the UCMJ applies only to people who get caught.

But integrity demands that all Marines obey all orders, regulations, and laws from the heart, not merely while knowing somebody else is watching.

The mandates of the UCMJ clearly have moral implications. And those ethical standards should not be viewed as chains that limit our freedom.

They should be valued as precious precepts that aid us in taking care of each other and accomplishing our missions.

As we value them, we should not seek to obey merely the letter of the law; we should conform our behavior to the spirit of those standards.

... someone who is unselfish or loyal will not entertain himself or others at the expense of another Marine's reputation ...

Conforming our behavior to the deeper meaning of standards may be seen by applying the principles of not lying or stealing to gossip.

Passing on unnecessary information might not be lying as in making up an untruth, but it can do the same damage as a falsehood if it gives a false image about another person. And giving news may not be stealing as in taking something tangible from another person, but it can steal a person's reputation or peace of mind. That gossip is contrary to the standards that promote good order and discipline may also be seen by looking at gossip in the light of such things as the Marine Corps' core values, leadership traits and principles, and the concept of the Marine Corps as a "band of brothers."

It is not honorable to unnecessarily speak poorly of other people.

Nor is it courageous to sit idly by while someone unnecessarily defames someone else. To do so reveals a lack of commitment to our treasured motto "Semper Fidelis" — to be always faithful to God, country, and the Marine Corps.

Anyone who considers the 14 leadership traits or the 11 leadership principles should conclude that there is no place for gossip in the practice of good leadership.

For example, someone who is unselfish or loyal will not entertain himself or others at the expense of another Marine's reputation, whether that Marine is a superior, subordinate or peer. Speaking poorly of a Marine is not looking out for his or her welfare.

Gossiping does not set a good example.

Gossip can hurt a unit's morale by dividing people. It can cause disharmony among

people and can prejudice one person against another person. If you found out that someone had spoken badly about you behind your back, it would probably make you angry with that person. You might resent the person for wronging you. It could even lead to open hostility.

When someone speaks to us about someone else, those words stick in our minds and are incorporated into our view of the person spoken of. Those words have the potential power to influence us for or against that person.

Anyone who values the mission and people of the Marine Corps, and who is serious about setting a good example, should not practice or tolerate gossip.

On the contrary, we

See GOSSIP Page 7

GOSSIP from Page 6

should carefully weigh the effects that our words are going to have whenever we speak to or about other people. We should THINK before we speak. Is what we want to say true, helpful, inspirational, necessary or kind?

Sometimes people repeat what they have heard without verifying whether it is true. Even if it is true, it may not be helpful to repeat it.

For example, a Marine shares his personal problems with another Marine. The second Marine then tells other Marines about the first Marine's problems.

Spreading the information will not be helpful if the other

Marines do not need to know the information and cannot help. In fact, the information may cause the other Marines to look down upon him.

One way words can be helpful is if they inspire people to positive action.

Sometimes words of rebuke and correction are also helpful.

If a Marine consistently drops out of formation runs, a few strong words of encouragement, added with remedial physical training, may be the best thing for him.

Yet many things that we speak are not necessary, especially unkind words.

In this politically correct age, Marines often negatively refer to the Marine Corps as a "kinder and gentler Corps."

There is, however, room for kindness in the Marine Corps. Kindness is not weakness, but strength shown in treating people respectfully, even when they might not deserve it.

Thinking before we speak can help us control a small but mighty tool. As leaders of Marines, we should be concerned about how our seniors, our subordinates, and we use words.

We must be tactful in correcting seniors of their oral and moral errors.

We must set the example for our contemporaries and subordinates by practicing self-control, refraining from that which is not profitable. Granted, gossip may not be the most pressing problem leaders face, but it can be very divisive. And anything that can affect a unit's morale and cohesion should and must be seriously dealt with.

CHAPLAIN from Page 2

others.

In the story mentioned above being a servant is exalted. The reason that it is exalted is because of the changes that take place in the human psyche as we learn to serve.

I believe that the writer of the story knew that people were filled with pride and that our natural inclination was to have others serve us, to be exalted or prideful.

These seemingly natural actions run contrary to a strong sense of community and so were singled out as the opposite behavior of people who love and care about each other. When we take it upon ourselves to serve others, something special happens inside us. We begin to feel the special value of the gift that we are giving those whom we serve. We begin to understand the kind of love that enables us to love each other in tangible and helpful ways. It is not easy to "wash the feet of others,"

but it is remarkable.

Does this mean that we must carry around a basin of water and towel?

I don't think that is the point. The point is that instead of assuming a superior position to those around us that we should be thinking of ourselves as equals who simply do different things.

If we can somehow eradicate the notion that some people are "better" than others, we can then begin to love each other and see each other as people rather than as objects to be used. This is not an easy lesson for anyone to learn, and I suppose that is why the lesson comes to us so strongly during the Lenten season. Serving is not easy but it is rewarding and it is not just a one-day event. Carry it with you past Easter and on into your everyday life and watch the changes that happen around you.

Peace,
Fr Randel

Thinking before we speak can help us control a small but mighty tool.

MARINE CORPS STREET F



Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

Capt. Doug Zembiec, the commanding officer of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, gives orders to his men over a radio prior to leaving their secured compound for a short patrol in Fallujah, Iraq April 8. The company entered Fallujah April 6 to begin the effort of destroying enemy held up in the city.

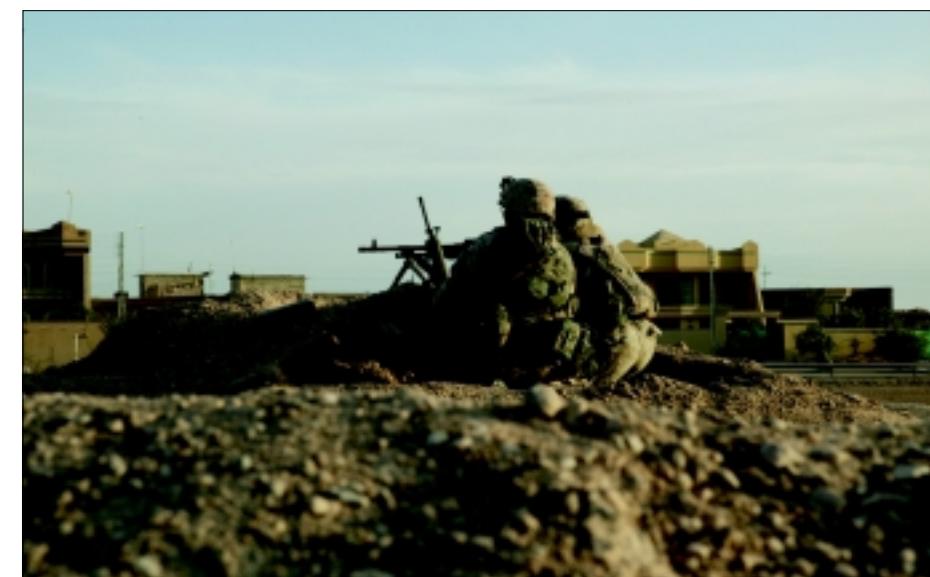


Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

Machine gunners with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, return fire at insurgents firing from a mosque in Fallujah, Iraq April 6. The company entered Fallujah to begin the effort of removing insurgents from the city.



A Marine with 1st Platoon, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division make improvised explosive devices April 6 in Fallujah, Iraq. The company entered Fallujah to begin the effort of removing insurgents from the city.

Marines battle guerilla insu

By Sgt. Jose E. Guillen and Sgt. Colin Wyers
1st Marine Division

The Company E grunts first moved into Fallujah on April 6.

FALLUJAH, Iraq - Marines battling enemy forces in Iraq pushed into the city after several days of violent and deadly clashes.

Marines with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, established a forward base of operations inside Fallujah in order to battle back the foreign terrorists and former regime loyalists holed up in pockets throughout the city.

Outside of the walled compound, the distinctive "pop, pop, pop" of AK-47 assault rifles can be heard in the distance. On the rooftops, Marines with M-240G machine guns and M-16A4 service rifles open fire in response to hidden insurgents.

"Our mission is to get rid of all the insurgents in the city," said Staff Sgt. Pedro Marrufo, the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon. "There's a lot of fighting going on, but my boys are still motivated. We've been successful."

Inside the building, Marines fresh off post sat in a parlor eating their Meals, Ready-to-Eat. The sounds of rap music from an American Forces Network radio station in Baghdad played in the background. Infantrymen smiled and laughed with shared jokes and stories, through the din and grime of several days of combat.

The push into the urban area came after enemy forces from a nearby mosque targeted the Marines' defensive positions on the city's edge. By sunset, Marines moved their foothold into the city.

From there, the company mounted foot patrols on city streets through the city in the following days, clearing buildings suspected of housing insurgents. The first step, though, was eliminating enemy firing positions from the nearby mosque.

The mosque, as a holy site, was protected by Geneva Conventions accords.

It lost its protected status, though, once enemy forces used the sanctuary to fire on advancing Marines.

Marines entered the grounds, sweeping through and anticipating a fight.

They found it empty.

But even as the Marines cleared the grounds, enemy forces fired rocket-propelled grenades from outside the mosque.

Marines returned fire, quieting the enemy positions.

In the surrounding neighborhood, Marines knocked in metal gates after sawing through them with a gas-powered chop saw.

They swept through room-by-room, talking to residents through a translator. At times, the locals were just innocents, caught in the

FIGHTING: FALLUJAH, IRAQ



Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

n, watches over a terrorist captured with tools used to
gin the effort of removing insurgents from the city.

Insurgents in streets

crossfire by an enemy mingling in their midst.

Other times, threats to Marines lurked behind every corner. Firing positions were mounted on rooftops as Marines took on insurgents moving through nearby alleyways.

Company E Marines finally settled on a group of abandoned houses as their base of operations. Searches of the structures turned up photographs of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein and his family, as well as documents and weapons used in attacks against Marines.

Marines in this section of Fallujah haven't sat idle behind walls, though. Foot-patrols through the surrounding neighborhoods continue, supporting M-1A1 tanks and directing fire from Air Force AC-130 Spectre gunships.

"We will win the hearts and minds of Fallujah by ridding the city of insurgents," said Cpl. Justin M. Rettenberger, a squad leader with 1st Platoon, from Hazelgreen, Wis. "We're doing that by patrolling the streets and killing the enemy."

The Marines have also been working with soldiers from the Army's Company A, 9th Psychological Operations Battalion, in order to communicate with the people around the area.

"We're making our presence known and letting them know we don't plan to leave anytime soon," Rettenberger explained.

"We're being successful because we've had families greet us - so we are making an impact here."



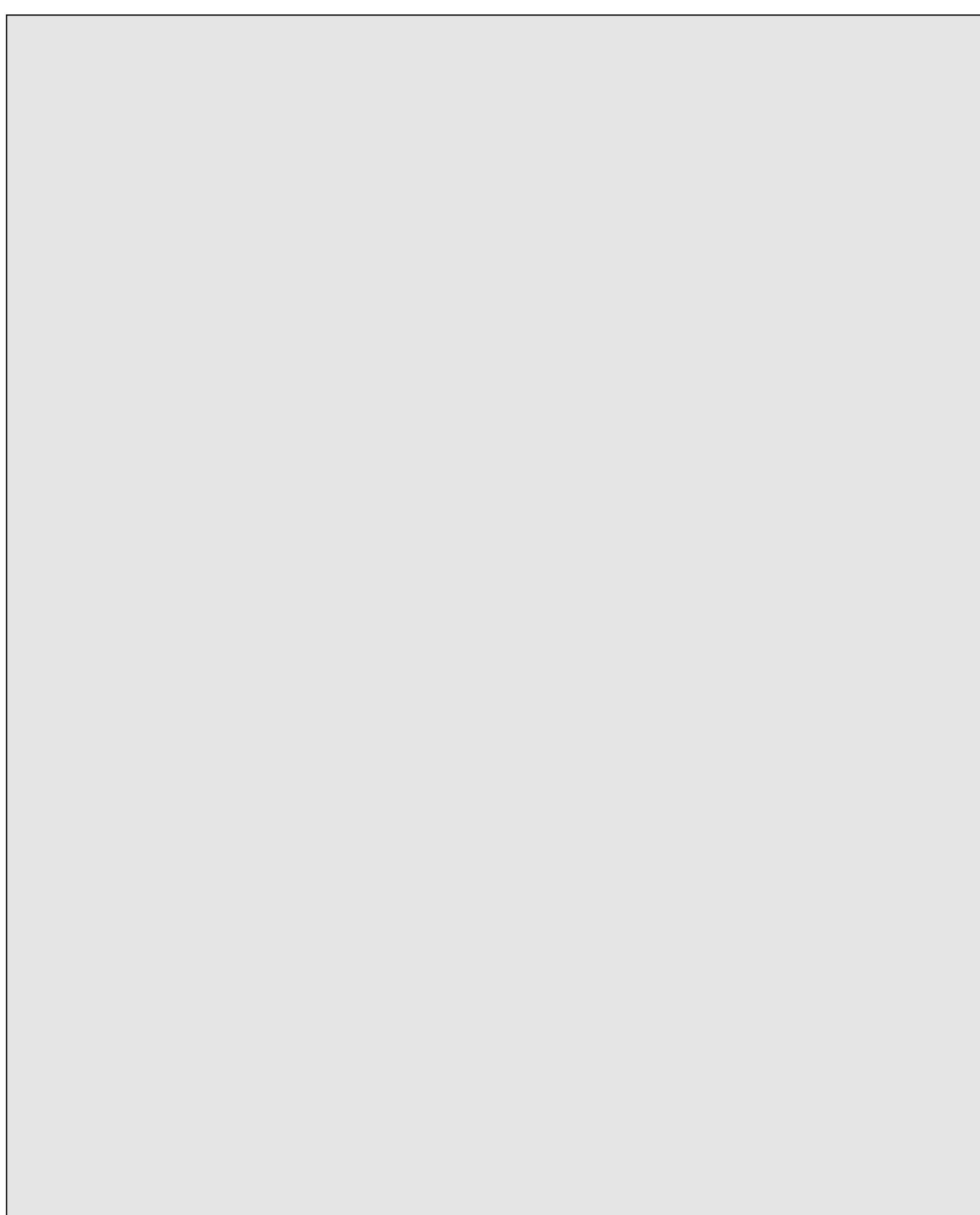
Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

An infantryman with 1st Platoon, Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, aims into the city as the company takes heavy small-arms fire from the enemy in Fallujah, Iraq April 6. The company entered Fallujah to begin the effort of removing enemy forces from the city.



Photo by Sgt. Jose E. Guillen

Marines with Company E, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, patrol into Fallujah, Iraq April 7. The company entered Fallujah April 6 to begin the effort of removing terrorist elements from the city.



IRAQ from Page 1

During a question-and-answer session with reporters, Bush vowed the U.S. and coalition "will transfer sovereignty" to the Iraqi people, despite "a tough week because of ... lawlessness and gangs that were trying to take the law into their own hands."

America and its coalition partners, Bush explained, are fending off insurgent attacks while providing "security for the Iraqi people so that a transition can take place."

The president emphasized that the United States "is a compassionate country that cares about the loss of innocent life."

However, he added, American troops in Iraq do have the right to defend themselves against insurgent aggression. The vast majority of Iraqis, Bush maintained, want a peaceful and free country.

The insurgents constitute "a small percentage of the Iraqi people," Bush said, and shouldn't be allowed to "decide the fate of everybody."

MOQ from Page 6

Barstow, where he's been stationed for the past six months.

Rogers said he likes being a military policeman because he enjoys the work he does and the hours that come with the job.

For the future, Rogers looks to get a bachelor's degree and is even looking at re-enlisting in the Marine Corps.

"I see him as being one of the NCOs of the battalion, a future NCO of the Quarter, and even Marine of the Year," said George.

"I would like to thank the NCOs and staff NCOs that have confidence in (their Marines)," said Rogers.

The staff NCOs and NCOs helped nominees with knowledge, drill, and the appearance of their uniforms as well as provide reassurance to the nominees that they will do well.

"I think this was a big accomplishment and a great start to my Marine Corps career," said Rogers.

MCLB CDC awarded NAEYC accreditation in March

By Pfc. Ashley Warden
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Child Development Center was awarded accreditation by the National Association for the Education of Young Children during the month of March.

This means that the center has voluntarily gone under a comprehensive process of internal self-study, invited external professional review to verify compliance with the Criteria for High Quality Early Childhood programs and was found to be in substantial compliance with the criteria.

The goal of the criteria is to promote interactions between children and adults that provide opportunities for children to develop an understanding of self and others, characterized by warmth, personal respect, individuality, positive support and responsiveness.

"Being accredited means that we provide high quality care," said Theresa Meugniot, the Child Development Center's program administrator for children, youth and teen programs here.

The National Association for the Education of Young Children defines a high quality early childhood program as one that meets the needs of and promotes the physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development of the children and adults, parents, staff and administrators, who are involved

in the program.

This is the third time the center has been accredited, said Meugniot. The CDC was first awarded accreditation in 1996.

This accreditation is different from past ones the center has received though. This is the first year it has been awarded a five-year accreditation.

That's the way the accreditation program works. The first two times a program is awarded accreditation, it is only for three years, then the third and every time after that a five year accreditation is given, said Meugniot.

"There's always a sense of relief that (the accreditation process) is done," said Meugniot.

The process takes about two years to complete, beginning with a self-study. The physical environment, cleanliness, food service and other areas are looked at to see where they can be improved. A center profile is then sent to Washington, D.C., then the waiting period begins.

"It's like having a baby elephant," Meugniot said jokingly. The gestation period for an elephant is two years, which is equivalent to how long it takes to get accredited.

A validation visit is next, where an evaluator will look at the program and see if everything on the center profile matches what he sees. If this is the case, the paperwork is sent to a commission, which will award accreditation.

"It's always a great sense of relief that (the accreditation process) is done," said Meugniot. "It's a period of great joy for the staff who are responsible."

In order to keep their accreditation and ensure that the center will win it again in future years, there is a continual cycle of making improvements. Staff must undergo frequent training, with 24 hours required for each employee a year. Along with staff training, the center must also continually make improvements to the center itself. The rooms must be full of choices for the children as well as provide a learning environment.

"Everything is scaled so the child has the opportunity to succeed," said Meugniot. "We don't teach, we give (the children) the opportunity to learn and play on their own."

Most of this burden is put upon the staff. They must provide a bright, clean and cheery environment where children can learn as well as give care.

The interaction between the employees and children is teaching them social skills, language and even physical skills when the children go outside and play.

"With all the work they do, it's the staff that makes it possible for (the Child Development Center) to get accredited," said Meugniot. "It's not me."

Currently, the center is looking to get the school age program re-accredited.

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Saturday, April 24

9 a.m. Tent Raising Ceremony (free)
10 a.m. Endangered Species Show (free)

Main Events
2 & 4:30 p.m.

Pre-sale tickets
\$5 Child - \$7 Adult
Ticket Sale Locations:

MCLB Nebo : ITT and CDC
MCLB Yermo Annex: Lanzer's Lounge Bldg. 573
In Barstow: Foster's Freeze, Barstow Chamber of Commerce, Del Taco Mountain View / First Street / Lenwood

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. Credit
card sales for gas at the pumps 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.

Thursdays are Happy Hour from
3:30 to 5:30 p.m. For more
information, call 577-6418

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 E-club. For more
information, call 577-6418.

By Jim Gaines
MCCS Publicity

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Profile: Lance Cpl. Brett T. Newman

Two dreams, 10 years, one Marine back in action

By Cpl. Paula M. Fitzgerald
1st Marine Division

CAMP HURRICANE POINT,
Iraq - Waking up to the sounds of
machine-gun fire and Muslim prayer
songs is nothing new for Lance Cpl.
Brett T. Newman, an infantryman with
2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment,
1st Marine Division. The 35-year-old
from Albuquerque, N.M., first joined
the Marine Corps in March 1988 at
the age of 18. After taking a 10-year
hiatus from the military to teach
special education and coach high
school basketball in his hometown,
Newman returned to the Corps in
2001.

"While I was in the first time," said
the avid sports enthusiast, "I was on
sea duty aboard the USS Nimitz and
deployed several times. Then I was
transferred to 3rd Battalion, 1st
Marine Regiment, and went to Kuwait
for the first Gulf War in 1991."

While in Kuwait, Newman was in
charge of a squad of machine gunners.
His unit was involved in several
combat operations and also helped
during clean-up efforts after a commer-

cial aircraft from Sudan carrying about
220 people crashed into the desert sand.

"After the plane went down, we had to
go out there and help dig up dead
bodies," he said. "It was tough, but as a
grunt you learn to detach yourself from
certain aspects of life and death. We just
went out there and did what we had to do
-- no questions asked."

Newman applied the same attitude to
his combat experiences in 1991. "Combat
is kind of like a sport," he explained. "We
trained and trained before we went out
there. Our leadership made sure we were
properly trained, so when it came time we
didn't think about the rounds coming
downrange. We just did our jobs and
made sure we didn't let the guy next to us
down." Newman decided to pursue his
other dream of becoming a teacher for
special education students after he
returned from the war. He left the
Marines as a corporal in 1992.

"I've always been interested in pro-
grams for disadvantaged youth," the father
of an 8-year-old girl said. "Many of them
feel that they can't do anything productive,
but I want to help them realize that they
can." While teaching, Newman kept in
contact with Marine recruiters in the

area. Several of the recruiters attempted to
convince Newman to renew his allegiance
to the Corps. Newman, admittedly burnt
out with the education system at the time,
decided to take them up on their offers in
2001. He returned to the infantry field
with 2nd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment,
and was determined to pass on his
expertise and leadership to all the Marines
with whom he served. Currently, he is
working with 2nd Battalion's supply
section here as the enemy detention
center's noncommissioned officer in
charge. "The best thing I do out here is
teach the younger guys," he said. "The
Marines nowadays get a lot of contradict-
ing guidance, and if they don't understand
the system or the intent of certain
guidelines, then it creates confusion for
them." Staff Sgt. Vernal A. Hairston,
warehouse chief, said he's glad to have
Newman on his team because he helps
train the Marines of the supply section.
"He's very straightforward and brings with
him a lot of experience," Hairston said.
"The younger Marines know this and give
him respect and listen to what he has to
say. If I need to leave to take care of
business, I know that Newman ... will
make sure the other Marines stay on



task."

Cpl. Daniel S. Morris, who works
alongside Newman, was one of the
Marines to benefit from Newman's
experiences soon after being promoted
to the noncommissioned officer ranks.
"When I first picked up NCO, he
took me aside and gave me some
advice on how to deal with some
Marines we were having trouble with,"
Morris said. "He gave me his perspec-
tive on how to handle the situation,
and I listened to him because he was
in during the first Gulf War. He knows
what he's talking about." Newman
admitted that he found it difficult to
adjust to being a lance corporal again.

"I don't regret my choice to get out
the first time and become a teacher,"
he said. "I'm just glad I was able to
realize two lifetime goals: becoming a
Marine and a teacher."

1998 PLYMOUTH BREEZE: Runs good, \$2,500 OBO. E-mail olguinmf@barstow.usmc.mil or call 577-7767.

1966 DODGE POLARA: Station wagon, 383 engine auto, air roof rack, runs, needs TLC, \$1,200. Call 254-1913.

1966 PLYMOUTH FURY: A383 engine auto, air, four door, runs, needs TLC, \$1,200. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: VW bug older style mages, 5 lug all 4 rims, \$75; dual quad aluminum manifold for a 327 Chevy, \$125; 1998 and newer Honda Civic interior parts, make offer. Call 254-1913.

MISCELLANEOUS: Box springs, two twin box springs, never used \$40, OBO. Call Kevin 252-7016 AWH.

MISCELLANEOUS: Twin-size day bed w/mattress and white metal frame \$100; large birdcage, \$45; Murray 20" lawn mower w/bag \$65. Call 252-4787 or 447-2771.

MISCELLANEOUS: Baby items, rocking entertainer center, \$40; white rocking cradle w/bedding, \$65; large Century stroller \$90; small stroller, \$35; Blues Blue blanket (twin size) w/drapes and sheets \$40; Quite Time swing set, \$35. Call 252-4787 or 447-2771.

MISCELLANEOUS : Carpet, Burgundy, 12 x14, xlt Cond., \$50. Call 256-1653. lv msg.

MISCELLANEOUS: Recliner, xlt cond., \$75; Bridgestone truck tires, \$200, must see; television 32" w/ VCR-disk player combo, \$400, brand new, OBO. Call 256-1430.

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