



PRO THE SPECTOR

Vol. 4 No. 8

Serving the Marine Corps since 1947
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

April 23, 2015

Pumping Iron

Seldom Seen

Desert Tortoise

Alternative Fuels



KIDFEST

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On The Cover:

Front photo by: Nate Lopez

Service members and base personnel on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., participate in the No More Domestic Violence 5K fun run/walk, April 17. The event raised awareness for domestic violence. More than 100 participants registered for the free event, which included information tables, artwork, and snacks.

Back photo by: Rob L. Jackson

Medal of Honor recipient Harold A. Fritz, one of the keynote speakers for the 50th Commemoration of Vietnam held at the National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., April 25, delivers his welcome home message to the hundreds of Vietnam veterans in the audience. Fritz was awarded the medal for his actions near Quan Loi, Republic of Vietnam, while assigned to U.S. Army Troop A, 1st Squadron, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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On the web

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Blessings: Military spouses offer food and hope

By Laurie Pearson | Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow | April 8, 2015



MARINE CORPS NEWS

- » Integrated Task Force Engineer Platoon charges for MCOTEA assessment
March 25, 2015
- » Integrated Task Force Tank Platoon MCOTEA assessment
March 20, 2015
- » Integrated Task Force Infantry Marine MCOTEA assessment
March 11, 2015



Photo by: Keith Hayes

Nancy Johnson accepts the American flag presented by U.S. Navy Capt. John Schulman during memorial services held to honor the passing of her husband Greg Johnson, a Navy veteran. The April 15 service was heavily attended by family, friends and co-workers at First Baptist Church in Barstow, Calif. Johnson was a 30-year employee and a civilian supervisor of Fleet Support Division aboard the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., when he died April 7.

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Leave Share Program

Individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations:

William Anslow
Wanetta Blackwell
Jedediah Donahue
John Ordonez-Ramirez

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Share Program should contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6915.

Commissary Case Lot Sale April 29 - May 2

Hot Dogs and Dunk Tank May 1

Watch the entertainment at the Dunk Tank while you eat a hot dog on May 1 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Single Marines will sell hot dogs, chips and drinks, and you can try your hand at dunking the base commander or the store director.

For information: 577-6403

Maximum Leave Accrual Guidance for Marines

Effective Oct. 1, 2015, all Marines with an annual leave balance in excess of 60 days will lose those days unless subject to Special Leave Accrual. This is a change from the 75-day maximum accrual that is in effect until Sept. 30, 2015.

For information: MARADMIN 151/15

Information Table MCX May 13 - 9:30 a.m.

Stop by the information table to learn what the Family Advocacy Program can do for you.

For information: 577-6533

Career Resource

Looking for employment? Check out the weekly employment listings from the Career Resource Center at www.mccsbarstow.com/careerresource. The center also provides job search help or resume writing assistance.

For information: 577-6533

Mother's Day Tea/Parent Advisory Board May 7 - 10 a.m.

Children of the Child Development Center will treat their parents to a tea and performance of 1950s songs and dance at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center.

The Parent Advisory Board for those who have children enrolled at the CDC and SAC will meet following the performance.

For information: 577-6287

Multi-Family Yard Sale May 9 - 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Marine Corps Family Team Building will host a Multi-Family Yard Sale at Sorensen Field, and it is open to the public. Seller space is available free to all MCLB Barstow patrons. Reserve by May 6. Tables are \$2.00 to rent; must be paid by May 6th. EZ-Up Tents can be rented for \$5.00; limited availability.

Sellers can access Sorensen Field for setup the afternoon/evening of May 8. The outside gates will not open until 8 a.m. May 9. Morning setup is accessed via the bridge. Sellers are responsible for removal of unsold items.

Make reservations with MCFTB by close of business May 6.

For information: 577-6408/6675

Story Time & Craft May 13 - 10 a.m.

Make something fun for Mother's Day while reading "Love You Forever" at the Library in Building 17.

For information: 577-6395

Story Time & Craft with Play Morning May 15 - 9 a.m.

Celebrate Asian Pacific Heritage Month by reading "My Name is Yoon" at the Library, Building 17.

For information: 577-6395

Tutoring Center

Would you like to be a tutor? Does your child need a tutor? The School Liaison Program is offering a K-12 Tutoring Center in Bldg. 126.

For information: 577-5854

Play Morning Every Friday

New Parent Support, in conjunction with Marine Corps Family Team Building and Victor Community Support Services, invites active duty personnel and dependents with children to Play Morning at the Desert View Housing Community Center, every Friday at 9 a.m. Join in for singing, stories, crafts, and play time.

For information: 577-6533

Nurse Advice Line

TRICARE's Nurse Advice Line provides professional information 24 hours a day, with access to a team of registered nurses, health care advice, referrals for urgent care, or help with making appointments.

Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-TRICARE

Environmental Management is Everyone's Responsibility

All MCLB Barstow personnel must:

- Learn about any possible environmental impacts that may be related to our duties.
- By improving our job performance, our impacts on the environment can be minimized.
- Know our roles and responsibilities, including our role in emergency preparedness and response.
- Understand that there are possible consequences of not following procedures; consequences that can cause environmental problems for us and/or our community.
- What can I do to minimize my impacts to the environment?



**COMMANDING OFFICER'S
POLICY STATEMENT
ON
SUSTAINABILITY AND
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow is committed to environmental excellence, sustainable use of our resources, and ethical and safe operations to enhance mission readiness.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow shall advance an environmental and sustainability ethos by preventing pollution through best management practices, encouraging the purchase and use of environmentally friendly products (through sustainable acquisition), and reducing or eliminating hazardous waste streams. Further, we will endeavor to reduce electricity, fuel, and water consumption; pursue alternative renewable energy production; vehemently protect our natural and cultural resources; clean and restore contaminated sites; and strictly comply with our nation's laws and applicable orders.

We will further maintain strong community relations by partnering with our neighbors and regulatory agencies to create goodwill, build trust, and demonstrate our commitment to environmental compliance and protection. We will use the Environmental Management System to continually improve our environmental performance.

I ask that each and every Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Marine, Sailor, tenant, family member, and civilian employee, take responsibility to preserve our resources so that we can continue to enable operational readiness in support of the Marine Corps' mission.

Semper Fidelis,

MICHAEL L. SCALISE
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

MCLB Barstow Environmental Objectives

- Implementing and maintaining EMS
- Reduce energy intensity /use
- Reduce water consumption
- Improve management of hazardous materials
- Improve Management of hazardous waste
- Improve Air Quality Management

Significant Practices Aboard MCLB Barstow

- Hazardous Waste Accumulation Areas
- Storage Tank Management
- Painting Operations



Clean, green alternative fuels

Story and photo by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

The Marine Corps might not be known for its initiatives in green technologies, but that could be because the average person doesn't know much about them.

Actually, all federal agencies are mandated to go green, reducing use of resources and greenhouse gas emissions, and often saving money in the process. Several Executive Orders, including the latest in 2015, Executive Order 13693 have resulted in such initiatives, as well as the creation of the Environmental Management System to assure compliance and to consider environmental impacts in mission decisions and operations.

Tim Hutzley, fleet manager at Southwest Regional Fleet Transportation, Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., said meeting the goals set forth in these orders can sometimes be a challenge. The Marine Corps is trying to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by four percent in the first two years, to 15 percent in the next six years, reaching a target of 30 percent by 2025.

"We are converting from gasoline and diesel, to compressed natural gas, liquid propane, ethanol, biodiesel, and electric," he said. Those conversions have been ongoing, with some of the new technologies working well, and others taking time for the industry to work out the problems. For vehicles that can't be retrofitted to accept alternative fuels, buying vehicles made to run on more efficient fuels is one of the major ways to meet the target of reducing petroleum-based fuels.

Hutzley added, "Our requirement for 2025 is to have 20 percent of the 127 over-the-road vehicles (that can operate outside the base) as hybrids. And replace the rest when possible with smaller better, technologically advanced vehicles."

According to Hutzley, more than half of the base's gasoline type vehicles run on E-85 fuel, meaning 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline, which cost \$3.18 a gallon compared to unleaded gasoline at \$3.21. California's consumer summer blend unleaded gasoline has only 10 percent ethanol. "The upside," he said, "is we are cutting our dependence on foreign oil as well as cutting our greenhouse gas emissions, which are the main reasons for using alternative fuels."

Most diesel vehicles on base are running with a blend of 20 percent biodiesel. Biodiesel is typically made from corn, but can also be distilled from other vegetable and animal fats as well as algae, said Hutzley. "Biofuels are renewable, produced in the U.S., and often cheaper," he continued.

Several years ago the Marine Corps leased 15 all-electric Chevy Volts and Nissan Leafs. But because MCLB Barstow was more than 100 miles from a repair facility - beyond the range allowed by the Government Services Administration - they ended up on other bases, said Hutzley. However, MCLB Barstow does have 132 all-electric vehicles in the fleet. Most are Global Electric Motor carts, seven are forklifts, and four are manlifts.



Greg Walker, from the Engineering Equipment Unit, refuels his water truck with biodiesel at the Yermo Annex.

Consumer-grade hybrids, however, are a good compromise. The base has three, for base commander Col. Michael L. Scalise, the Marine Corps Police Department, and SWRFT. The requirement in the EO 13693 is to acquire at least 20 percent of the fleet as hybrids over the next several years, meaning approximately 20 vehicles.

Off-road equipment is also a good candidate for alternative fuels. "Ninety percent of the forklifts, as well as the warehouse tractors and one manlift, run on liquid propane," said Hutzley. They carry a separate propane tank which can either be refilled at the pump station there, or can be switched out when empty.

There is also a compressed natural gas refueling station for two trash trucks, a dump truck and a line maintenance truck, but it does take awhile to fill the tank. "These trucks can be left overnight for refueling," he said. "A lot of buses and trash trucks in cities run on CNG."

Of the 349 vehicles at MCLB Barstow, 311 of them run on alternative fuels. Such fuels are not only cost-effective in the long run, they decrease dependence on foreign oil and foster sustainable practices important to national security. As President Barack Obama stated in Executive Order 13693, "Pursuing clean sources of energy will improve energy and water security, while ensuring that Federal facilities will continue to meet mission requirements and lead by example."

Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow is charging hard (pun intended) to do its part. It is just one of the many initiatives that help the Marine Corps be a good steward of the Nation's resources. 🐻

Desert tortoise: Seldom seen, handle with care

Story and photo by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

What desert creature spends 95 percent of its time out of sight, can live a half-century or longer, and although harmless, can be a problem for Marines and soldiers during training when it finally makes an appearance?

Anybody who works on a military installation in the desert should know that answer: The desert tortoise, *Gopherus agassazii*.

The tortoise doesn't intend to cause a problem for humans. After all, it just goes about its business eating juicy plants, finding a mate, and digging burrows. But thanks to humans living in its habitat, the official California state reptile has a hard time surviving. So it has been listed as "threatened" on the federal and state of California endangered species lists - one step from the highest protection category of "endangered." And that's why it's a problem.

About 540 acres of the rifle range at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., have been designated as critical habitat for the desert tortoise by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Marine Corps Order P5090.2A chapter 2, gives guidance to the Marine Corps on implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act, which requires federal agencies to consider the environmental impacts of their proposed actions and reasonable alternatives to those actions.

Stephanie White, natural and cultural resources specialist for MCLB Barstow, advised, "Only authorized biologists are permitted to handle desert tortoises. Anyone found to be causing harm is subject to fines and jail time." Part of the environmental awareness training base personnel receive is a 15-minute video, which is available on the MCLB Barstow YouTube channel.

Right now is a good time to see tortoises, as they are most active in spring and fall. During hot weather they will rest in shade or in their burrows. If you encounter a tortoise, the best action is to stop and back away, advised White. She added that they are also very curious. "It's okay if they come to you," added White. "Treat tortoises with respect. Don't startle them, and don't have them perceive you as a threat."

Sometimes people think a tortoise is in trouble when it is just going about its business, explained White. "Tortoises are on a mission. They know where their burrows are, where the food is, and where the water holes are. People think it looks like a slow-moving rock, but tortoises are very well adapted to their habitat, and they know their surroundings better than we do."

Their bladders act as canteens, holding up to 40 percent of the water they need to survive the rainless months, but when frightened they may urinate. Losing any amount of water can affect their survival, so they should only be picked up if they are in danger of being hit by vehicles.

Unfortunately, a natural predator - the raven - eats about half the baby tortoises that hatch each year. This native bird's population has increased greatly in the last several decades.



Keeping down the raven population is another responsibility of employees and residents on base, and the best way to do that is to clean up trash and put it in receptacles that ravens can't get into.

A good place to see the desert tortoise is the Rainbow Basin Natural Area, 13 miles north of downtown Barstow on Irwin Road.

As the Bureau of Land Management website states, "If you find a tortoise in the desert, DO take pictures, get down and look at it (but not so close that you disturb it). Watch to see how it moves and what it eats, then walk away and know that you have done a good deed by letting it live in peace. 🐢"

TORTOISE TIPS

- *DO keep an eye out for tortoises crossing the road. If the tortoise is in immediate danger, you may move it. Slowly approach the front of the tortoise. Carefully place your fingers under and thumbs on top of the tortoise's shell, grasping it on the sides. Keep your hands away from its head. Lift the tortoise slowly and gently, keeping it level and no more than 18 inches off ground. Move it to a safe place 50 to 100 yards away and in the same direction that it was traveling. Carefully set it down, preferably in the shade.
- *DO check under your car or truck before driving away. Sometimes a tortoise will seek the shade underneath a parked or stopped vehicle.
- *DON'T drive off roads in areas not designated for off-highway vehicles. (Tortoises can be crushed in their burrows).
- *If you want a pet tortoise, DON'T take one out of the desert. DO contact the California Turtle and Tortoise Club, which has many chapters: <http://www.tortoise.org/cttc/adoption.html>. They will also find a home for a pet tortoise if you can't care for it. DON'T let it go in the desert. Release of pet tortoises violates the Endangered Species Act and can spread a deadly upper respiratory tract disease.
- *To report a tortoise that appears to need help:

Trouble Desk: 577-6220

MCLBB Emergency Response: 577-6666

Team Garcia: The couple that lifts together, stays together

Story by:
Laurie Pearson
 Public Affairs Specialist

Pushing the odds as they lift weights together, a local bodybuilding gunnery sergeant, along with his wife and teammate, prove that they have what it takes to be successful on and off the stage.

Gunnery Sgt. Russell Garcia, communications chief aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. and certified elite trainer with International Sport Sciences Association, is a nationally qualified men's physique competitor. His wife, Kat Garcia, is now a professional women's figure competitor and operations manager for their trainer in Temecula, Calif. When they started this adventure nearly three years ago, people were not optimistic about couples working out together successfully, but they knew that common goals would keep tight the ties that bind.

"We've learned from past relationships (what) happens to a lot of marriages," Garcia recounted, saying that some couples grow complacent, and stop doing things together.

"At first you go through that honeymoon phase," he said. "Then after that it's like 'Okay I want to do my own thing and you hang out with your friends.'"

This was not the case for him and Kat.

"For us, if we weren't doing it together, we're like 'Why do I want to do it?'" he asked. "We want to be able to share all these experiences together. And that's what made competing great was the fact that we both fell in love with it. We know what the other person is going through, especially when it's time for a competition. We know the other person's got this coming up, they're stressed about this. So you can help the other person kind of deal with that stress."

When people said it could not work, they leaned on one another to make it happen. "When we first started competing, we actually had a lot of people tell us 'There's no way you guys are going to stay together. You're going to get divorced,'" said Garcia, laughing. "It's very, very stressful. Especially when you're in prep because you're hungry, you're tired, you get irritable."

This stress can be compounded by someone's own personality. Garcia pointed out that how a person reacts to stressors such as carbohydrate cravings and exhaustion vary. He says he can be more reactive than Kat as it gets closer to competition and his coach starts to cut back on more of certain foods.

"I'll admit it," he said with a grin, "she tells me all the time that I 'Divo-out' when I'm in prep."

For this dynamic team, this is when patience and communication save the day. "We had to figure out how to find balance, how to motivate each other without making the other mad," Garcia said, "(We had to) figure out what's going to work for (each other). It's a give and take."

People questioned them when they decided to do a show together, preparing and then competing at the same time. "People said we were nuts," said Garcia. "We actually found that when we prep at the same time, we actually loved it. There were times when tension



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

Bodybuilding competitors Gunnery Sgt. Russell Garcia and wife Kat find challenges and support as an iron-pumping couple.

would get high and (we were) fighting for the last piece of chicken because (we) didn't have all the meals together like (we're) supposed to. We'd always take a step back and say 'You know what, I'm sorry, we're both in prep, neither one of us is more important.'"

He pointed out that if one is in preparation for a competition, then whoever is not in competition puts the current competitor first. The person competing may need more food, or rest, because they have to be 100 percent. However, if both are in preparation at the same time, neither can sacrifice. Both have to be as strict as possible.

"Whenever you step on stage, if you don't do well (you wonder if) it was that one little point where I gave in and I went out and had a cheeseburger," said Garcia. Or he would wonder if it was something he should have done, such as work out at the gym on a day he skipped. Through it all, they support one another. In a competition in which he scored lower than he would have liked, it was Kat who bolstered his spirits and rekindled his drive to return to the stage that afternoon. She reminded him of his hard work, the progress he had made and of the inspiration he is to others.

"Go out there and have fun," Kat reminded him. He did.

"This sport is hard on you," he said. "That's where you have to find that balance between your training, relationships (and) work."

"We've had a lot of people come up to us and say 'Oh my God I get so mad at the other person because they're pushing me,'" Garcia recounted. He said you have to learn that balance between how to push the other person, without making them mad.

To learn more about bodybuilding, men's physique and women's figure competitions, contact Gunnery Sgt. Russell Garcia at (760) 577-6751, or find them on Facebook at "Russ & Kat Garcia – Husband & Wife Fitness Team," or on Instagram @Garcia7984. 🍌

Marines' Lives in Civilians' Hands ...A look inside PPB, MDMC

Photo essay by:
Cpl. Samuel Ranney
Press Chief



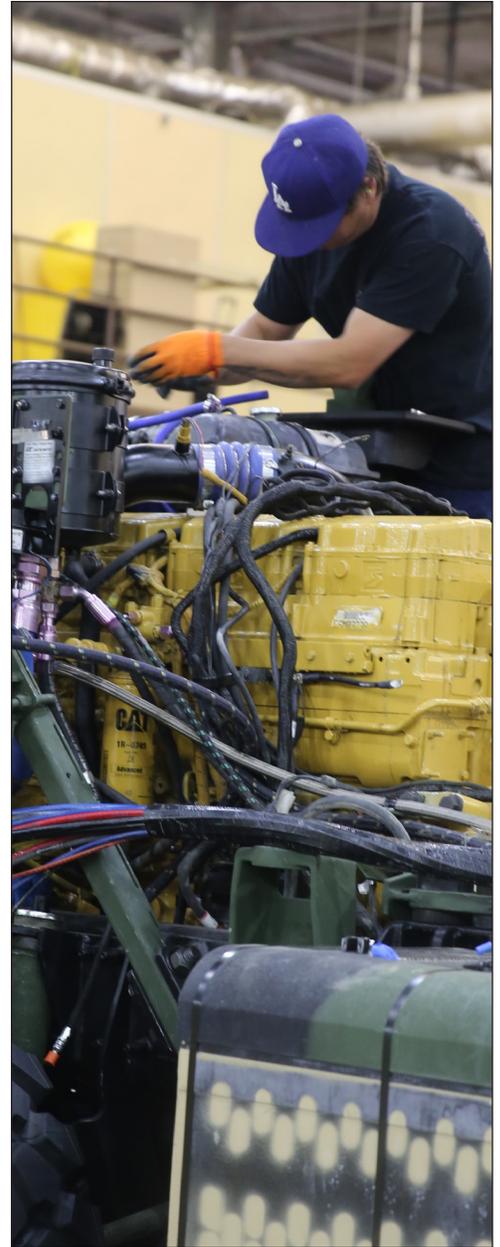
**WHAT YOU DO
EVERYDAY IS
IMPORTANT,
MARINES' LIVES
DEPEND ON IT!**

Each day, employees at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command come into work reading this sign, hung on a wall over the Eagle, Globe and Anchor.

The sign serves as a reminder that lives depend on the quality of the work done by civilian hands. With myriad pieces of gear and vehicles being received from and shipped to forward-deployed environments, personnel here have a demanding and crucial mission.

MDMC employees are responsible for receiving, repairing, inspecting, testing, storing, shipping and even painting thousands of vehicles and military equipment, whether used for training purposes or actual combat.

From light armored vehicles to assault amphibious vehicles and everything in between, mechanics, technicians, supervisors, inspectors and other specialists here ensure each vehicle is safe, efficient and combat ready for Marines to use in every clime and place. 🇺🇸





CALICO EARLY MAN SITE

Story and photos by:
Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

Imagine standing on the shore of a 200-square-mile freshwater lake teeming with fish while antelope, hares and other animals feed off succulent vegetation in a lush, green river valley. Twenty-thousand years ago that is what the Mojave Desert looked like.

In 1958 a man-made artifact was discovered at a bentonite mining pit 16 miles northeast of Barstow. With the help of world-renowned archaeologist Dr. Louis Leakey, the Early Man Site was established in 1964 and has been actively excavated for 41 years by an all-volunteer cadre of students, scientists and geologists.

Chris Christianson, who has worked as director of the Calico Early Man Site for three decades, said the area was believed to have been a tool-making workshop for the denizens of the area who lived along Lake Manix, the huge Pleistocene epoch body of water which once existed. According to the Bureau of Land Management website <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/barstow/calico.html>, the discovery of the site may also be the earliest evidence of human occupation of the Americas.

No human remains have been found at the site, Christianson said. "We're not sure if these people were cultured to the point yet that they were practicing ritualistic caring for the deceased. If they were, they were going to do it down along the lake shore where they were living, not up in the rocks here."

Some of the artifacts, including arrowheads, scrapers, and knives excavated from the site are on display at the small visitor center.

Christianson said the massive Lake Manix, fed by the Mojave River, dried up about 20,000 years ago when the region started to become the current arid landscape of the Mojave Desert. Today, the Mojave River flows mostly underground, sometimes rising to the surface during the rainy season, and empties its water at certain inland spots in the desert.



Top: Calico Early Man Site director Chris Christianson shows some of the artifacts and minerals from the site.

Bottom: The Rock Wren pit is currently the only active archaeological dig at the site. More are planned for the old Lake Manix shoreline.

Off-duty Marines and others interested in taking a day trip to the attraction and exploring a fascinating aspect of human development in the region can drive to the Calico Early Man Site by taking the I-15 freeway north to Minneola Road and following the signs. Hours are posted on the website, and there is an entry fee.

The dig draws 5,000 curious people a year from all over the world. Christianson, who gives tours of the dig site, said "You can come up here to learn something new, broaden your horizons and learn about the first human intervention in the Western world." 🍷



AROUND MCLB BARSTOW



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

Preschooler Faith Perez holds a blue pinwheel she was "planting" in the blue pinwheel garden created in front of the Child Development Center to promote Child Abuse Prevention Month. All participants were provided with free t-shirts and mini-pinwheels to take home.



Photo by: Keith Hayes

Sgt. Justin Mears, a Wilmington, Del. native, is Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter. He was recognized for his accomplishment by the Greater Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce during its breakfast at the Harvey House, April 21.

Mears joined the Marine Corps April 13, 2009, and is one of two Marines with Marine Corps Community Services. He is also a Marine Corps martial arts instructor. In his official biography Mears states, "I look forward to continuing my progression as a NCO of Marines and setting the example for all Marines aboard Barstow, as the (subject matter expert) for the (Marine Corps Martial Arts Program.) I know my responsibilities will present an educational and rewarding challenge."



Photos by: Carlos Guerra

Base commander Col. Michael L. Scalise and his wife Anne treated the preschoolers at the Child Development Center to a reading of "The Very Hungry Caterpillar," April 22.



