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THE PROSPECTOR

Sgt. Aron retires from K-9 Corps

In "The Box" at Fort Irwin

Ready to get HITT

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

Serving the Marine Corps since 1947

Photo by: Carlos Guerra

(Left) *Staff Sgt., Nicholas W. Beberniss is congratulated by Lt. Col. Thomas P. Favor, executive officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., during Berberniss's reenlistment ceremony in front of base headquarters building 15 Aug. 21.*

On The Cover:

Front Cover: Carlos Guerra

Sgt. Aron of the K-9 Corps at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., was thanked for his service at his retirement ceremony, Aug. 20. Trained as a patrol explosive detector dog, Aron served at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton before coming to MCLB Barstow in October 2014. Aron was adopted by Officer Jeffrey Minter of the base's Marine Corps Police Department.

Back Cover: Carlos Guerra

Cpl.Monica Hilpisch, stableman with the Mounted Color Guard aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., poses with mustang nicknamed Ares, whose battle name is Peleliu. The Marines received riding and horsemanship lessons between on-the-road engagements

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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On the web

Links in this publication are interactive in the online version

Website: *http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil*

http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Logistics-Base-MCLB-Barstow/116845431679314

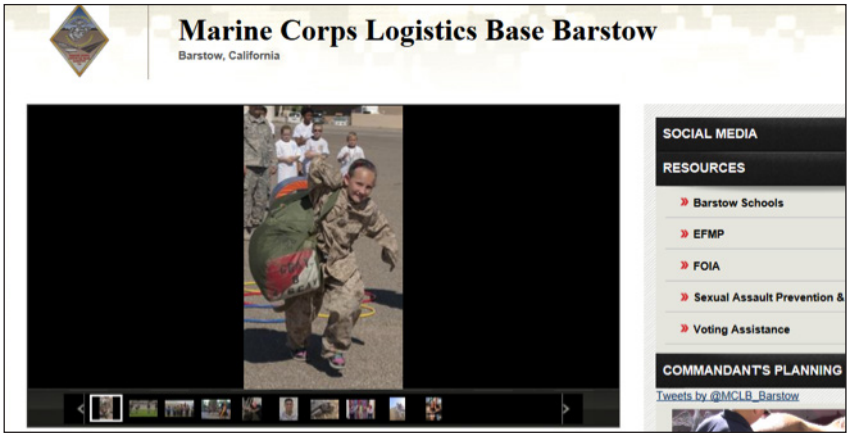

Photo by: Carlos Guerra

(Left) *LCpl. Javier Castellon, Cpl. Amir Mohamed and Sgt Xzavier Wolef stand with Col. Sekou S. Karega, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, to accept the thanks and a bag of gifts from retired Marine MSgt. William Ponder, commander, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12034 Apple Valley, for presenting the colors at opening of the Wounded Warriors Foundation Golf Tournament in Apple Valley, Calif., Aug. 3.*

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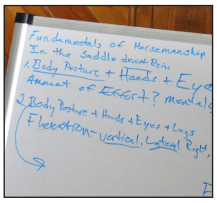

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News Briefs

Leave Share Program

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

Kenneth Merica
William Anslow
Wanetta Blackwell
Sarah Stevens
Tulutulu Niusulu
Jeffrey Houlemard

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Share Program should contact the Human Resources

Spouse Social
Hobby Shop
Sept. 8 - 9 a.m.

The Career Resource Manager will talk about the different aspects of spouse careers. From resumes to typing tests, the CRPM has the tools you need to jump-start your career.

For information: 577-6675/6408

Story Time & Craft
Library Building 17
Sept. 9 - 10 a.m.

What would you do if you were really hungry? Would you eat your friends? No, you wouldn't! Go on a journey with Buddy the monster as he learns that friends aren't food while reading "Don't Play With Your Food."

For information: 577-6395

Stork Club
Oasis Pool and Water Park
Sept. 16 - 10 a.m.

"Are You Ready for a Baby?" Moms and mothers-to-be will discuss preparations for when the new baby comes. Children are welcome. Bring a snack to share if you'd like.

For information: 577-6533

Information Table
MCX - Sept. 9 - 9:30 a.m.

Learn what the Family Advocacy Program can do for you.

For information: 577-6533

Chaplain's Bible Study
Commanding Officer's
Conference Room Bldg. 15
Sept. 16 - 11:30 a.m. - noon

Join the Chaplain in a short Bible Study and fellowship with others while learning to understand God through His Word.

For information: 577-6675/6408

Wellness Series
McCarver Hall, Semper Fit Gym
Sept. 16 - 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Learn about interactive and meditative activity. Register:
wellnesssept2015.eventbrite.com

For information: 577-6533

Story Time & Craft
with Play Morning
Library Building 17
Sept. 18 - 9 a.m.

Read "Hilda Must Be Dancing" and find out why the animals don't like Hilda the Hippo's dancing, and how they work together to help her find a quieter way to dance.

For information: 577-6395

MCPD Seeks Feedback

To address issues, concerns, comments, or suggestions regarding the level of public service provided by the Marine Corps Police Department or its employees on MCLB Barstow, you can use the Interactive Customer Evaluation (ICE) website: http://ice.disa.mil, or you can contact the Chief of Police at 577-6678 or the Deputy Chief of Police at 577-6409. This will help department leadership take appropriate corrective or commendatory action.

Job Fair
National Training Center
and Fort Irwin
Sept. 10 - 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Spend one-on-one quality time with more than 30 employers in several career fields, and receive detailed guidance on the hiring process. Find out what employers are looking for, and get tips on filling out applications. Open to the public.

Bring your resume.

Dress for success.

For information: 760-380-5165 or
silvia.m.moreno2.civ@mail.mil

Ongoing:

Anger Management Group
Tuesdays 5 p.m.
Marine and Family Programs
Conference Room

For information: 577-6533

Marriage Enrichment Group
Thursdays 5 p.m.
Marine and Family Programs
Conference Room

For information: 577-6533

Oasis Pool and Water Park
Open weekends 11 a.m.- 7 p.m.

For information: 577-6817

Play Morning
Desert View Community Center
Every Friday

All active duty personnel and dependents with children are invited to Play Morning every Friday at 9 a.m. Join in for singing, stories, crafts, and play time.

For information: 577-6533

Nurse Advice Line: 1-800-TRICARE

Fundamentals of horsemanship

Story by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

Photo by: Keith Hayes

Marines are often assigned to an occupational specialty on the basis of the Corps' needs, not necessarily on the skills or desires of the Marine. And it is the same for those assigned to the prestigious Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, stabled at the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. Most of them have never ridden a horse. Ever. Or even expressed the desire to do so.

For the past decade, horse trainer Terry Holliday of Hodge, near Barstow, has been teaching these Marines the fine art of horsemanship. After all, they are one of the showpieces of the Corps, leading the Tournament of Roses Parade, riding in hometown parades, and presenting the colors at rodeos and ceremonies. Both horses and riders need to look sharp and be disciplined. As with any military training, it all takes practice.

Holliday met with the stablemen, and the new NCOIC Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Flores, several times last week for classroom instruction as well as actual riding lessons. The new base commander, Col. Sekou S. Karega, was also taking his first riding lesson on Aug. 17.

Holliday stressed that even the CO needs to learn the fundamentals of horsemanship the same as anyone else, and those who say their steeds performed well in the past using shortcuts are not exempt from using proper techniques.

"It's like Russian roulette," he said. Horses can be easier to manage when they're with other horses because of "pattern training," he explained. They may be following another horse's lead and not necessarily under full control of the rider, and can be a problem in an unexpected situation where full control is mandatory, such as in a parade with small children darting in front of them.

For some of the Marines, his classroom instruction at the stables office on Aug. 20 was a refresher; for Flores, it was essential. He is replacing Gunny Sgt. Daniel Garcia who is on medical leave, and Flores had never ridden a horse before last month.

Holliday stressed the importance of body posture, which he compared to a tripod - both feet and the rear end are the tripod's "legs," and the rider can easily become unbalanced should one of those stability points be missed.

He also discussed some of the individual horses' idiosyncrasies, and quizzed the riders on how they handled them. Then they went in the covered outdoor pen for some riding lessons.

Holliday says he's always had a passion for horses, and realized he also liked helping people. He was a schoolteacher for 15 years before turning back to his first love. He is grateful that the Marine Corps has kept the Mounted Color Guard active, as it is a part of not only Corps history, but also the history of American settlement.

During the riding lessons in Monday's 110 degree heat (nobody complained either) Col. Karega had his first lesson with Norman, the horse former base commander Col. Michael L. Scalise rode. Norman is the tallest and brownest of the palominos, and Scalise once jokingly called him "the grumpiest, meanest, and orneriest horse" in the stables. However, both steed and greenhorn rider performed very well.

Holliday stresses that one needs to understand a horse's mindset in order to train it. "A horse is a prey animal," he said. "If you try to force a prey animal into a corner, mentally or physically, it's going to come back at you. Most horses, if you provide them with comfort, trust and safety, will do just about anything you want them to." He pointed to the fabled mare Reckless, who carried ammo under fire to Marines during the Battle of Vegas in the Korean War. "Nobody was leading that horse, and nobody was riding that horse." Staff Sgt. Reckless was awarded two Purple Hearts, among other medals and citations.

However, it is an occasional hard-headed rider that generally causes problems. "The number one thing (you can do wrong) is to pretend that you know. That comes from someone who lacks self-leadership, and they're forced to pretend. You can't pretend with a horse."

Holliday, who competes in team roping and is also the MCG's farrier, said he's also benefited from the Marines he's worked with over the years. "I've learned to be highly flexible and to individualize my teaching to a greater degree than I did 20 years ago."

"You help people a lot more than you thought you did through a horse," he continued. "These fundamentals can be learned. It's all about your attitude. Are you willing to accept the knowledge, the tools, and are you willing to apply them?" He added, "The Marines that come here and work with the horses didn't know how much they were going to learn about themselves and life. That's the part I appreciate the most is I get the opportunity to do that. The Marine Corps is paying me to live my dream."

In "the box" at Fort Irwin

Story and photos by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

U.S. Army Soldiers dressed for combat drove down the main street of Ujen, a fictional town with a Middle Eastern flavor. Dozens of tourists looked down from a viewing area at an open-air market with shopkeepers selling vegetables, pottery, and raw meat as the Humvees rolled through. Suddenly an explosion startled the onlookers, and the shopkeepers disappeared. From a second-story window a man wearing a keffiyah and ball cap took potshots at the soldiers, who had already stopped to return fire. An LUH-72A Lakota helicopter whirred overhead, while flames from the barrel end of the M16 rifles and smoke from explosions added to the chaos.

Instead of fleeing, the tourists took photographs and listened to a blow-by-blow description of the fighting from a loudspeaker.

This was what it was like on August 14 during a public tour of "the box" at Fort Irwin's National Training Center north of Barstow, Calif. The combat was a re-creation of "free play" training that occurs regularly in and around this authentic-styled village that constitutes "the box."

The visitors ranged from a tourist from Spain, to military veterans and new Army recruits. They were first greeted outside the main gate by Col. Scott Taylor, the new Fort Irwin garrison commander, who gave a brief overview of the NTC's mission.

"We do 10 rotations a year out here," said Taylor. A rotation is when a unit comes to NTC from its home base, taking with it the vehicles and equipment necessary for the month-long training cycle, usually several months prior to deployment overseas. These rotations involve moving tanks and heavy equipment through the railhead at the Yermo Annex, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

"Guys are living hard, they're eating MREs (meals, ready to eat), they're living in these rough conditions, and they're fighting," said Taylor. "It's a continuous battle. We call it 'free play' - the opposing forces can attack at any time. There's no restrictions placed on them. We do have rules of engagement."

Maj. Gen. Joseph M. Martin, commanding general, National Training Center and Fort Irwin, presented a briefing on why NTC is the Army's premiere training facility.

"The only reason we exist is to train and build brigade level (units)," Martin emphasized. "Think of 5,600 person organizations with about 2,200 vehicles. You can't do that where those units come from because you don't have the space, you don't have the capability we have here. We create an environment that's more complex than anything that exists out there, so that when they get to that fight they can not only adapt, they can prevail."

He said the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment plays the role of a professional opposition force. "The 11th ACR exists here to fight and win against the rotational training units that come. They create a very difficult environment for the rotational training units to win in."

The NTC uses about 600 observers, coaches and trainers who use high-tech capabilities that track every vehicle, record radio communications, look inside all of the buildings, and follow hundreds of Soldiers to allow a highly detailed after-action review.

"We can show a Soldier what they did so that we can focus on what went right, what went wrong, and how can we improve upon that," explained Martin.

"This is what separates us from the rest of the world for the most part. Nowhere else will you find in the Army where you can put the commander of a unit in the room where he can introspectively talk about his failures in front of his subordinates."

Martin extolled the "unmatched realism" of the NTC's urban battlefield - the role-players of Middle Eastern descent who play the parts of shopkeepers, imams, community leaders, and other civilians; the real-life amputees who wear moulage kits simulating torn limbs, complete with fake blood; and the sounds and smells ranging from chai tea to rotting human remains.

The training ends with a brigade live fire. "They use their real weapons systems; it increases their confidence," emphasized Martin. "We can drop anything the U.S. Air Force has, and we can shoot anything the United States Army has as long as it doesn't produce an environmental hazard."

After lunch in the dining hall, the air-conditioned bus took the visitors to Ujen. Armed combat Soldiers greeted them and led them through the village where shopkeepers, backdropped by Arabic style writing on the walls, aggressively hawked their wares. Cameras snapped away; there was no problem with operational security here.

Once the visitors were in the observation area, the combat scenario played out for about 15 minutes. Following the after-action report, visitors were allowed to fire the weapons. Even though it was like watching a polished Hollywood production, the undercurrent of meaning was always there.

These men and women will soon put their lives on the line in a real country, facing real bullets and grenades, and maybe watching people like themselves, or like the civilians that came to watch, suffer and die.

Fort Irwin is not your average tourist destination in the Mojave Desert. But it is one that is sure to leave a meaningful impression for those who tour "the box."

K-9 Aron has a new home

Story by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

Sgt. Aron's retirement ceremony lasted maybe 60 seconds. After all, there were tantalizing pizza odors that needed tending to, and other lovely smells to explore. And what can you say about a Marine who never got to see combat, or find a terrorist's bomb?

How about "Arf?"

It's not that Aron wasn't thanked for his service. He most certainly was. And more importantly, he found a forever home with another member of the Marine Corps Police Department at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

Aron M595 is a beautiful black German shepherd who came to MCLB in October 2014 from Camp Pendleton as a canine trained to detect explosives. Unfortunately, medical issues with his hips prevented him from becoming a permanent member of the base's K-9 Corps. So Lt. Robert Ortiz and his cadre of K-9 handlers began to prepare Aron for life in the civilian world.

They had to make sure he would not respond aggressively to a new family, and that he would become a safe and happy companion.

"We had to desensitize the dog to his training in controlled aggression," said Ortiz. The job was easier than with some K-9s. "His demeanor was very easygoing."

They produced a bite-muzzle video, which was evaluated by an animal behavior specialist, to show that Aron was well socialized and adapted to living in the civilian world.

And so a fellow police officer, Jeffrey Tyler Minter, adopted 8-year-old Aron, who seems happy sharing his new home with a Great Dane and a chocolate Labrador retriever, as well as Minter's human family. Minter had never worked with the K-9s, but he was friends with the handlers, and decided that Aron would be a good fit for his household.

Ortiz said being away from living in a kennel has improved Aron's health, even though the weakness in his back legs is still noticeable.

Even with all the fuss about his retirement, Aron was unfazed. Chasing around his red plastic bone seemed to occupy his energies, and he got to visit his old buddies back in the kennel. Plus he was allowed to eat some pizza.

"We're grateful for his service," said Ortiz during the ceremony, "his service to the Marine Corps, his country, and this department."

Semper Fi, Aron.

Photo by: Carlos Guerra

Members of the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Police Department pose for a portrait with K9 Aron on August 20. MCLBB PD Officer Jeffrey Minter (red shirt) is adopting K9 Aron.

The best of the Marine Corps compete to get HITT

Poster courtesy: Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif., Community Services

Lemon aid for used car buyers

Story by:
Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

Marines in the market for a used car should get to know the "lemon law" to avoid getting squeezed.

All 50 states and the District of Columbia have laws designed to protect consumers who buy defective automobiles. These laws are often referred to as "lemon laws."

In addition, the federal Magnuson–Moss Warranty Act, (see the Federal Trade Commission website at https://www.ftc.gov) provides additional protections that govern warranties on consumer products.

1st Lt. Adam LoCascio, Legal Assistance Attorney, Staff Judge Advocate Office, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif., has prepared a list of frequently asked questions about buying a used car.

1. What is the danger of buying a car "as is?"

It means the dealer doesn't trust the car. You shouldn't trust it either. Often, a car dealer will say, "We'll take care of the car if it has a problem," but then "as is" gets written in the contract. Verbal promises are often not honored. Read what you sign no matter what has been said.

2. Won't the lemon laws always protect me?

Not if you buy the car "as is." Lemon laws only apply to new cars and used vehicles that come with a warranty.

Under a warranty, the seller has a "reasonable number" of attempts to make a repair. If unable to do so, the seller must repurchase or replace the vehicle under the lemon law.

3. What is a "reasonable number" of attempts to repair my vehicle?

More than four attempts for the same issue, or 30 days out of service for multiple issues within the first 18 months or 18,000 miles, is just a presumption the car is a lemon. Most cars qualify under lemon laws because of repairs made after the first year and after the first 18,000 miles. It's based on the circumstances, so keep records.

If your "new" used car is not quite what you expected, Lemon laws in all 50 states give the buyer limited legal protection if they buy a problem automobile or motorcycle.

Insist upon getting a repair order that states your complaint as well as the date. When you pick up the car, get another repair order that tells you exactly what the dealership did to correct your complaint.

4. What else should I do before I buy a vehicle?

Use Kelley Blue Book to get a price estimate. The KBB lists market value prices for new and used automobiles of all types, as well as motorcycles, and is recognized industry-wide. You could pay significantly more than the Kelley Blue Book value of a vehicle if you are not careful.

Ask questions: "Has it been in an accident? Have you inspected the vehicle? Have you serviced the vehicle? Who was the previous owner? Where did you get the vehicle? Was it ever a rental car?" The dealer has a responsibility to tell you the truth, and they can be held liable under the vehicle code for their state if they lie.

Inspect the vehicle. Take advantage of the CARFAX Vehicle History Report, which records accidents and damage, maintenance and repair, whether the car was sold at auction, and other useful information on used cars and light trucks for the American and Canadian marketplaces. Many dealers offer the report for free, or you can purchase it online at CARFAX.com. In addition, you should also have your own mechanic inspect a vehicle before you buy it.

Finally, bring the contract to the Legal Assistance office aboard your base. They will go over the document with you before you sign it.

For more information: http://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/lemon (California Office of the Attorney General).

This article is for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. If you are an active duty or retired Marine or dependent in need of legal advice, contact the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Legal Assistance Office at (760) 577-6748.

AROUND THE CORPS

A look at the Marine Corps outside of Barstow

Photo by: Cpl. Christian Varney

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Marines from Bravo Company, Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., perform during an Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington, D.C., Aug. 21, 2015. The hosting official was Lt. Gen. Richard Mills, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North.

Photo by: Cpl. Preston McDonald

Photo by: Cpl. William Perkins

(Above)*MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.,- Marines with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion wait for the final check of their amphibious assault vehicles and then go ahead to conduct their training exercise on Onslow Beach aboard Camp Lejeune N.C. Aug. 17, 2015.*

(Left)*MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Marines assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, run along hills during the Dark Horse Ajax Challenge aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 20, 2015.*

United States Marine Corps
MOUNTED COLOR GUARD