

THE PROSPECTOR



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

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Photos by Curt Lambert

Sergeant Major Micheal P. Barrett, 17th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, looks at a layout of Marine Depot Maintenance Command during his visit at the base, April 26. Barrett toured Fleet Support Division and Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, aboard the Yermo Annex. During his visit, Barrett spoke with Marines and civilian employees on both sides of the installation. Barrett also reenlisted Sgt. Jacey Marks, the S-3 chief aboard the base, and spoke to Marines after a special breakfast held at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center. This was the sergeant major's first visit to MCLB Barstow.

On The Cover:

Colonel Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, base sergeant major, ride with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard in the 124th annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., Jan 1.

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, Base Sergeant Major

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Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command hosted its annual Employee Appreciation Day Oct. 19, aboard the installation for its employees and family members. PPB hosted the event as an opportunity for family and friends to spend time together and build camaraderie among the employees. During the event, attendees looked at classic automobiles, listened to music performed by a local band, enjoyed catered food, and played numerous games and activities while children enjoyed several attractions.

On the web

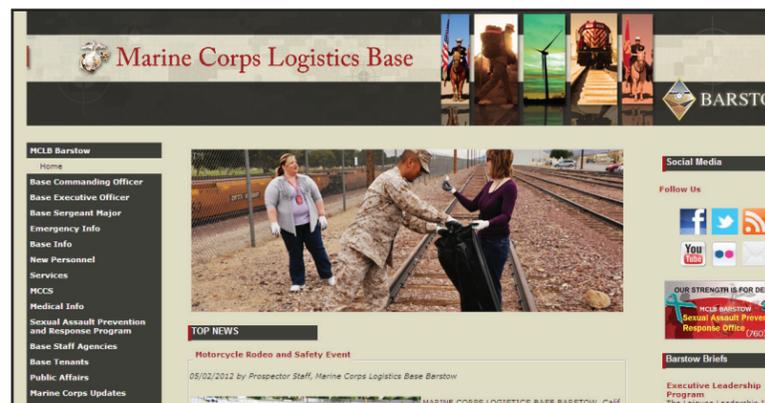
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Marines with the Silent Drill Platoon, 8th and I, Marine Barracks, Washington D.C., demonstrate their precision and professionalism during the 2012 "Music in Motion" tour aboard MCLB Barstow, March 5.



Col. Michael L. Scalise, MCLB's commanding officer, and Roger Natsuhara, Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment), cut the red ribbon, signifying the opening of the solar farm aboard the Nebo side of the installation, Oct 18.

The Prospector returns to Barstow

The first publication out of the public affairs office in 2012 was, in a way, reminiscent of one first published in 1947.

It's in the name. The Prospector, MCLB Barstow's internal newspaper, returned to its original namesake.

The newspaper's name came from a favorite hobby at the time, prospecting for gold. Today, that pleasurable pastime can still be enjoyed by enthusiasts here in the High Desert.

In its infancy, The Prospector first covered news and information about Korea, and throughout the 1960s, provided coverage of Marines during

the Vietnam War. The writers of the publication also authored stories on local events, feature articles about personnel and units aboard the installation, and covered trends and changes taking place throughout the Marine Corps.

The Prospector provided news and information to about 2,500 Marines stationed here at one time, and although that number has significantly decreased, our mission remains unchanged – informing, educating, and entertaining our Marines, Civilian Marines, their families and our retired military community.

Marines use hikes, security training to stay fit, alert

Marines stay ready for combat in numerous ways. They train annually in areas like marksmanship and swimming while keeping physically fit throughout the year.

In 2012, Marines with Headquarters Battalion aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow participated in several training exercises to keep themselves combat-ready.

On base, members of the Security Augmentation Force learned about the use and escalation of deadly force and trained in areas such as search-

ing and assessing vehicles coming on to the base, defensive tactics, and the use of oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray. Those completing the training then assisted the Marine Corps Police Department with base access at the gates aboard both Nebo and Yermo Annex.

To help keep their bodies conditioned, Headquarters Battalion organized several hikes throughout the year, in order to condition Marines and get them used to hiking with their gear. The locations took these hard chargers from Barstow's High Desert to Big Bear, Calif., and Mount San Antonio or "Mt. Baldy" in the San Gabriel Mountains.

New technology arrives at CDC



Early in 2012, the Child Development Center aboard MCLB Barstow received a new piece of equipment that gave children a chance to learn in new and exciting ways.

Teachers at the CDC incorporated new technology, like the smartboard, to teach the children using a different medium.

According to wisegeek.com, the smartboard is a like a whiteboard and computer at the same time. The smartboard uses a local computer

or network to function. It also has the capability to save any written documents onto the computer it is connected to. The smartboard is also touch sensitive, which some say makes it easier for children to use interactively.

At the CDC, children use the smartboard to learn new things before heading to kindergarten. Children can walk up to the board and write or draw what the lesson is instructing them to do.



CLR-17 comes to High Desert to train



In late January 2012, Marines with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., received training at MCLB Barstow, while in the High Desert.

With the impressive climate here, the railheads are used daily. This gave the Marines of LS the opportunity to conduct multiple training exercises aboard the installation.

The purpose of this training was to re-familiarize ourselves with railhead work within the continental United States, said Sgt. Kevin Myers, landing support specialist

with LS Company.

The Marines also worked with the Army Movement Control Company stationed aboard the Yermo Annex. Sgt. 1st Class Chris Hammersky, senior movement coordinator with MCC explained that it worked out for both services and Marines and soldiers worked as one team to get a variety of jobs completed.

MCLB Barstow has multiple training opportunities for other units within the Marine Corps, and starting January 2013, MCLB Barstow will host a number of units allowing a myriad training opportunities for fellow Marines.

Security manager achieves first in Marine Corps

The Security Asset Protection Professional Certification by the Defense Security Service is a very prestigious certification. The test is made up of 20 scenarios with more than 300 questions.

It is a level of professionalism that has not been obtained in the Marine Corps until Tony Rose, MCLB Barstow's security manager and former Army command sergeant major, passed the test and received certification, February 2012.

"It's a certification of my knowledge and abilities to protect government properties and assets," said Rose. "It shows the base that I know what I'm talking about."

The test covered every aspect of security, from anti-terrorism to contract and purchasing, he explained.

Rose plans to reach for higher levels of certification to make himself even more of an asset to the base and to the DOD than he already is.

Sergeant Major Relief and Appointment ceremony

In early February, MCLB Barstow received a new sergeant major.

Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, a Hackensack, N.J. native, assumed his duties as the senior enlisted Marine Feb. 10, in a Relief and Appointment ceremony at Sorensen

Field. Charron assumed duties from Sgt. Maj. Donovan G. White, who retired after 30 years of service to the Marine Corps.

Charron explained to those present that he is excited and motivated to be here in Barstow and is going to give the Ma-



rines, base employees and families 110 percent while here. "MCLB Barstow has a very deep, rich history within our Corps and it's an honor to be [a] part of that legacy," explained Charron, who just completed a tour as the top enlisted advisor of 7th Engineer Support Battalion at Camp Pendleton.

Since Charron has been aboard the base he has motivated the Marines to put their best foot forward. He has also made professional military education a priority with Marines, providing a forum in which both teaching and learning take place with an open dialogue. 5

MCLB Barstow earns second consecutive VPP star



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow is the only installation to receive multiple star certifications from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program.

In April 2008, MCLB Barstow received the first VPP star in the Marine Corps.

The base was re-inspected in October 2011, and in March 2012, MCLB Barstow was notified of the base's success, explained Ray Aguilar, the base safety manager.

According to osha.gov, VPP recognizes employers in the private industry and federal agencies for effectively apply-

ing safety and health management systems, and keeping their injury and illness levels below the National Bureau of Labor Statistics averages.

"It was a group effort," said Cliff Acles, a VPP steering committee co-chair member aboard MCLB Barstow. "Everyone had to work together

to get this."

MCLB Barstow has met the standards of VPP twice in a row. This continued success comes from every service member and base employee doing what they have to do to stay safe while they are at work, Aguilar.

Warrior Preservation Award for safety

In late March, MCLB Barstow received its third Warrior Preservation Award as part of the 2011 Marine Corps Safety Awards Banquet held in Washington, D. C.

The installation was honored for their vital role in reducing the number of mishaps, increasing mission readiness and preserving the Corps' most vital asset its Marines, and Civilian Marines.

The Warrior Preservation Award was presented to base officials by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Joseph F. Dunford, Jr., and is one of four safety awards that all Marine Corps installations hope to win.

The award was won through the hard work and dedication of everyone aboard the installation, said Ray Aguilar, base safety manager.



Battle Color Detachment visits Barstow

Comprised of three performing ceremonial units from Marine Barracks Washington, D. C., the Marine Corps Color Guard, the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, and the Marine Corps Drum & Bugle Corps, showcased their skills as they performed for thousands of spectators at Sorensen Field, March 5.

Local school children from all over the High Desert, residents and visitors alike, packed the bleachers and settled on the outskirts of the lawn, to see the world-renowned performance.

The BCD's 2012 "Music in Motion" tour brought the Marine Corps Color Guard with the Battle Colors, bearing fifty streamers authorized for the Marine

Corps, representing U.S. and foreign unit awards as well as those periods of service, expeditions, and campaigns in which the Marine Corps has participated, from the American Revolution to today.

The 24-man rifle platoon, otherwise known as the Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon, entertained the crowd with their unique precision drill exhibition performed entirely without any verbal cues or commands.

And to cap off a superb afternoon, "The Commandant's Own," with 85 Marines, combined contemporary songs, traditional marching music and special choreographed drill movements that captured the attention of every person there.

Career and Education expo showcases opportunities

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow held its annual Career and Education expo at McCarver Hall in late April.

The event was held for Marines, base employees and spouses to get on track with their college courses.

The event's main focus was to assist Marines getting ready to transition from the Marine Corps to the civilian sector.

The vendors discussed job and college opportunities with everyone at the expo. Marines also spoke with vendors about their Military Occupational Specialties



and how they could use it toward a degree.

"We love helping military members," said Fabiola Hurtado De Mendoza, education coordinator with American Military University. "It's nice to be able to show people how to use

what they enjoy or want to do."

This career and education expo provided an abundance of information about opportunities for service members and others to accomplish their goals outside the gates of Barstow.

MCLB Barstow breaks ground on new solar farm

The first power purchase agreement in the Marine Corps took place aboard MCLB Barstow May 15 in, not surprising given the base's environmental and energy friendly efforts overall.

In early May, city and base officials marked the groundbreaking ceremony for two solar farms aboard the installation. The project is comprised of two sites that contain approximately 4,500 photovoltaic solar panels that will



produce enough electricity to power roughly 150 homes. The president and CEO of Sundurance Energy, the company who constructed the solar panels, Al Bucknam, said

although there were challenges with complying with both state and federal laws, fixing renewable energy is our responsibility.

MDMC team creates better work flow

The Process Improvement team at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, made great strides in 2012, and worked hard at creating new ways for its employees to work easier and faster.

Melissa Taft, the process improvement specialist, explained the employees' ideas are incorporated into the way business is done. The artisans are the ones that know their job ... they know how to work more efficiently, Taft said

Taft's team created new ways to keep organized, making for a better work environment and work flow. They accomplished this by using the Lean Six Sigma process and Theory of Constraints steps.

We've created a peg board that has the items shadowed onto the background so that you know where things are supposed to be placed, said Isaac Luna, process improvement specialist. "It is amazing how such a simple object can help a shop run smoothly."

The BPI team works with many departments within PPB, MDMC and says ideas not only help with accountability, it also saves time, energy and money.

"As we are growing as a team, so are our projects," said Taft. "We are able to get bigger and better ideas from people we work with."

Bikes are a big hit for motorcycle rodeo



In early May, local motorcycle riders came to show off their bikes aboard MCLB Barstow; as more than 100 motorcyclists arrived, the thunderous roar of their bikes could be heard from miles around.

The Motorcycle Rodeo and Safety event was held for Marines, soldiers and

civilian employees aboard the base. Attendees spent the afternoon looking at the various bikes. The event also held a timed corner course and a slow race event. As each motorcycle enthusiast gathered around each motorcycle, conversations began to brew. As the day progressed, riders earned their brag-

ging rights over the others. "Motorcycle safety is twofold; it applies to the safety of the rider and the safety of others around him or her. Our goal was to get this message out to people here," explained Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Hamilton, a safety and occupational health specialist aboard the base.

Barstow displays appreciation for fallen veteran

Seaman Apprentice Brain M. Clinefelter, a native of Barstow was honored May 12, by the City of Barstow in a street renaming ceremony.

In May 1987, at the age of 19, Clinefelter was killed in a missile attack on his ship, the USS Stark, while off the coast of Bahrain, United Arab Emirates.

Jennifer Martinez, Clinefelter's sister, explained that her brother came from a long line of family in the Navy. Clinefelter left for boot camp December 1987, and completed his training the following month. He was then stationed aboard the USS Stark, which had been given orders to patrol off the coast of Bahrain.

Spring Fling brings base community together

There was plenty of food, entertainment and games as members of the MCLB Barstow community came together May 17, to enjoy the weather and camaraderie that early spring brings.

The Spring Fling, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services, was held at Sorensen Field aboard the base.

The Family Restaurant filled and served plates of food to patrons attending the event, and the Single Marine Program sold drinks as part of their fund-raising efforts for the Marine Corps Ball.

There were inflatables of every shape and size, including a boxing ring, a pugil stick arena, and a horse track, complete with inflatable horses. Traditional carnival-like games were also popular, the base fire department set up their smoke house for children to tour, and a zip line offered children the opportunity to climb to the top of a tower before speeding toward the bottom.

Capping off the full day of festivities, Desert Reign, a band from Hesperia, Calif., provided entertainment for everyone.

Car buffs enjoy classic car show

On June 6, the Round Nevada Classic Car Tour displayed more than 40 classic automobiles.

Barstow employees and residents admired the many vehicles inside and out. This was the first classic car show aboard the base. The Round Nevada Classic Car Tour is a charity tour open to those who wish to tour the western states of America in their classic cars. Charities include:

The Boys and Girls Clubs, senior centers, hospitals, Lions Clubs and many more. The tour was inspired by gaming pioneer and classic car enthusiast, Bill Harrah's love for preserving and showcasing vintage vehicles. Harrah's desire was to share these classics with the American public. Marines were seen admiring custom interiors and conversing with other car enthusiasts at the event.

Congressional Gold Medals awarded

Between 1942 and 1949, African Americans wishing to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, were able to do so and train at Montford Point, N.C. This marked the first time African Americans were able to join the Corps. These Marines dealt with segregation on a daily basis and in 2012, Congress recognized surviving Montford Point Marines by awarding them with the Congressional Gold Medal.

Three residents in California's High Desert went through Marine

Corps recruit training at Montford Point, now known as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson, and were presented the highest civilian honor awarded by Congress in July and September.

James Brewer, a retired master gunnery sergeant who spent 26 years in the Marine Corps, William Land, a three-year veteran, and Haston Cox, a cook who retired as a staff sergeant after 20 years were all recognized in ceremonies with friends and family present when they were given their awards.



Marines get muddy at first Barstow Mud Run



The inaugural Veterans Home of California-Barstow Mud Run, held May 12, had its share of Barstow Marines sliding, scrambling and splashing toward the finish line. The run was held at the Veteran's Home to show the community's appreciation for the veterans, and to promote a healthy lifestyle. "It was a great run to have in Barstow," said Cpl. Joleen Quitano, a Guam native and base supply administrative clerk. "We usually don't have big events like this and it was good to have everyone come together." The theme of this year's 5-kilometer mud course was "No Man Left Behind." The course featured a few obstacles, including stationary tanks and hummers, tires and no fewer than 12 different mud pits. City officials are anticipating more runners in 2013, with an added event: Mud Volleyball. It's traditional volleyball with a twist – it's played in a pit of mud.

New martial arts fighting pit opens Colonel Scalise takes command of installation

To increase the combat readiness of Marines aboard the base, the Semper Fit Gym opened a new martial arts training facility, June 6.

The facility includes everything from punching bags and a sparring pit, to pull-up bars and free weights.

"I wanted to have a facility that focused on different areas of the Marines' physical performance," said Shelley Hines, the Semper Fit division head. "We have stations that train them in athleticism, reaction speed and balance, push-pull drills, and kinesthetic awareness so it's not just ground fighting; the Marines are getting an all-around training session."

The \$600,000 facility was approved in order to further train Marines and to build camaraderie.

Sergeant Major Richard Charron, the base sergeant major, explained that it's great to have and challenged all Marines to use the facility to its fullest potential.

The opening of the facility marked the 68th anniversary of a historic amphibious battle in World War II when thousands of U.S. service members stormed the beaches of Normandy -- June 6, 1944. This training facility will aid Marines in continuing the tradition of being the nation's 'force in readiness.'

On June 27, Col. Daniel P. Ermer bid farewell to MCLB Barstow and relinquished his duties as base commanding officer to Col. Michael L. Scalise.

The change of command ceremony included the passing of the installation colors and a performance by the 1st Marine Division band from Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Ermer, the commanding officer since June 2009, played a vital part in the base's operational readiness through infrastructure, logistics and services to support the war fighter.

"I only hope that at the end of my three years, I have accomplished just as much as you," said Scalise to Ermer as

part of his opening remarks.

Ermer announced Scalise as, "A great man to take over this command."

The gentlemen are both Iowa natives who have crossed paths throughout their careers and have been friends for more than 13 years.

Ermer, who was presented the Legion of Merit during the change of command ceremony, has moved on to serve in the office of the Secretary of Defense.

Scalise, the current commanding officer of MCLB, explained that he looks forward to working for the command and being a part of the Marine Corps Installations West team.

MCLB Barstow Marines help SHOCK Apple Valley youth



Marines aboard MCLB Barstow volunteered their time to help the "at-risk" youth of the high desert in the Self-discipline, Honor, Obedience, Character and Knowledge program, in early September. The SHOCK program was started by the Apple Valley Police Activities League in 2007 for juvenile intervention in Apple Valley. The Marines play a big role in the program, assisting officers and deputies as they try to steer the young men and women on the right path. The program puts the students in a high stress environment that creates mental fatigue. This causes the individuals to break down and hopefully "break" their old habits. The program has three phases, just like Marine Corps recruit training. First phase is used to break them down, second phase is the rebuilding process and the last phase helps the students plan for the future. "The program makes you realize what you're doing and want to change," said Alysa Piar, a SHOCK graduate. "It also makes you change your beliefs and how you make your decisions."

MCLB Barstow's annual Fall Family Fest with a Pacific twist



On Sept. 27, MCLB Barstow held its 10th annual Fall Family Festival at McTureous Hall aboard the base. This year's theme was "Ohana," the Hawaiian word for family.

Service members, retirees and base employees were seen in colorful outfits and flower leis while enjoying tasty Hawaiian food with family and friends.

The festival was also an opportunity for representatives from charities with the Combined Federal Campaign to present information about donating through the CFC, and served as a kick-off for the yearly campaign.

The younger guests enjoyed a mechanical surfboard, a puppet show and many inflatables. To end the night of festivities, patrons were entertained by the Namad Artz Polynesian Fire Dancers, presented by Entertainment Max. The dancers stole the night as they danced in bright outfits and fearlessly played with fire.

SMP hosts Sports Fair



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and its Single Marine Program hosted the third annual Sports Fair for base employees and their families Aug. 3, at the base gym. During the event, Marines with the SMP interacted with the guests as they all participated in games like beanbag toss, free throw basketball, and table tennis. While the children played, the SMP Marines guided them and helped. Guests also competed in a basketball competition and watched a demonstration from a local karate dojo.



MDMC hosts Customer Appreciation Day

Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command was the site of the third annual Customer Appreciation Day Sep. 19, aboard the installation for all base employees.

PPB, MDMC hosted the event to keep the federal customers and base employees informed of new equipment they need to accomplish their mission. During the event, vendors such as DeWalt, Grainger, Rigid, Office Depot, Makita, Edge Safety and 3M showcased their products for attendees.

Service members and base employees were given the

opportunity to walk around and view the latest products firsthand. Vendors explained to the potential buyers and users, the mechanics and purpose of their products.

The event gave the vendors a chance to show their newest products and upgrades since last year, explained Richard Green, supply officer of the Base Supply Division.

The purpose of the event was for base employees and service members to leave with more knowledge about the products, tools and equipment they use on a day-to-day basis.

MCLB Barstow welcomes MCI Command Sergeant Major

Sergeant Major John P. Ploskonka, sergeant major of Marine Corps Installations Command paid a visit to service members and Civilian Marines aboard MCLB Barstow, Sep. 24.

During his visit, Ploskonka spoke to the Marines about upcoming changes in the Corps, his experiences and the importance of staying motivated. He

also recognized Marines who went above and beyond the call of duty. Corporal Joleen Quitano was one of the Marines recognized by Ploskonka during his visit. He congratulated her for being named Marine of the Quarter twice, Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter twice, and was recommended for meritorious sergeant.

Base hosts annual Jane Wayne Day for military spouses



Spouses of service members aboard MCLB Barstow participated in Jane Wayne Day, Sep. 21. Spouses completed activities Marines do on a regular basis, such as a combat fitness test, a uniform inspection and firing rifles. They fired down range from the sitting, standing and kneeling positions. During the range portion of the day, spouses were coached by Marines to ensure safety rules were adhered to, and proper techniques were being used. Spouses then had a taste of Meals Ready-to-Eat before departing for a tour of Production Plant

12 Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, concluding the day's activities.

Barstow community strengthens ties through military mixer

Marines with MCLB Barstow attended the 23rd annual Community Military Mixer at the Sandy Basin Community Center, National Training Center, Fort Irwin, Calif., Sept. 26.

The annual event allowed residents and leaders in the Barstow community, Fort Irwin and MCLB Barstow the opportunity to enhance and develop strong community ties and network in a social setting.

During the mixer, Brig. Gen. Terry Ferrell, the commanding general of NTC, addressed the audience and encouraged them to reach out to the community and to their neighbors simply because this is their home.

This year's military mixer proved to be a success with the exchange of information, like contact numbers and opportunities for joint training.

As Anthony Riley, the public information officer for the city of Barstow scanned the room full of men and women in uniform from various branches, he said, "It was a great opportunity to continue to network and stay in touch with our military personnel. The military is such a vital component of Barstow."

High Desert community attends Barstow Rodeo Stampede



Open to the public, the High Desert community was given the opportunity to attend the annual Barstow Rodeo Stampede hosted by MCLB Barstow, Sep. 28-29. The Barstow Stampede which was held at the Base Stables and arena had a huge turnout, with approximately 3,500 guests attending the two-night event. "This is the only rodeo I know of that's held on a military base," explained Mal Wessel, chairman of the event. "The city has a long lasting and well working arrangement with the base to hold its rodeo at the [Mounted Color Guard's] stables each year," he added. The Barstow Stampede opened each night with the MCG presenting the national colors as the Star Spangled Banner played across the arena. The event featured many traditional rodeo events such as calf roping, mutton busting, and bull riding.

First Solar Farm aboard U.S. military installation

Base officials and residents of the High Desert attended a ribbon cutting ceremony here Oct. 18, for two solar photovoltaic farms aboard the base.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Energy, Installations and Environment) Roger Natuhara, attended the ceremony that marked the completion of the construction to the solar photovoltaic array power purchase agreement project,

which began in May 2012.

There are now two sites aboard the installation, one on Nebo, which encompasses 2.73 acres, and 4.82 acres at the Yermo Annex. The estimated savings these solar farms will produce is approximately \$3.9 million in electricity costs over the next two decades.

The ribbon cutting marked the first solar project at a Ma-

rine Corps installation, and adheres to the Department of Defense's energy goals from alternative energy sources.

The solar farms are expected to provide approximately 8 percent of the total energy load aboard the base and provide electricity at a lower cost to the Department of Defense.

Fire Prevention Week



Base residents and employees learned the importance of having a primary and alternate escape route, and how that could be the difference between life and death. This year's theme was "Have 2 Ways Out", according to Terry Jenkins, assistant fire chief of Fire Prevention aboard MCLB Barstow. During fire prevention week, the base hosted several activities such as a field trip and tour of the fire station for three- and four-year-olds from the base Child Development Center, a visit from the fire department to the CDC and a Fire Prevention Week safety stand-down barbecue. Fire prevention is an every day job. Fire Prevention Week is used to stress the importance of fire safety to the public, said Jenkins.

Knowledge pays

The Foreign Language Proficiency Pay allows military personnel to earn up to \$1,000 extra a month for knowing up to three different languages.

Master Sergeant Barvan Lav, the communications chief aboard MCLB Barstow takes advantage of the program and earns \$300 a month for being fluent in Khmer, the language spoken in Cambodia.

To qualify, service members must pass the Defense Language Proficiency Test annually. Lav has been taking the test and earning \$300 a month for the past seven years.

Marines aboard the base interested in the program have many available resources at McTureous Hall. Transparent Language, Rosetta Stone and a variety of audio books are all available to use at no cost, according to Francis Villeme, the base education officer.

Lav encourages Marines to submerge themselves in a language if they want to be successful. Knowing a second, third or fourth language allows you to excel as an individual and become versatile in supporting military operations, thus making you more valuable to the Marine Corps, explained Lav.

Barstow Marines attend annual Mardi Gras Parade

On Oct. 27, the Kiwanis Club, a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time, sponsored the Mardi Gras parade that has been a part of the Barstow community for 14 the past 80 years.

The parade which starts and ends on Main Street, included Marines from the installation and soldiers from Fort Irwin, as they rode in tactical vehicles and waved to the crowd of children and adults.

Along with the Marines

and soldiers, local and civic organizations also participated in the parade. Hundreds of people braved the cold weather and showed up to support their community; many of them dressed in their Halloween costumes.

Marines bring smiles to children of Barstow

Marines aboard MCLB Barstow brought smiles to the children of the High Desert by collecting toys outside of local establishments, during the fall and winter months of 2012.

Marines stood outside the Bass Pro Shop in Rancho Cucamonga, Los Domingo's Restaurant in Barstow, and Chili's in Lenwood, collecting donations and socializing with local patrons. The uniformed Marines spent about five to eight hours collecting toys and educating the public about the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Toys and bikes were distributed to families at the Barstow Mall on Dec. 12 and Dec. 13.



MCLB Barstow rocks the boat for Marine Corps Ball



November 10, 1775 is a historic day for all Marines; it marks the birth of their Corps. MCLB Barstow held multiple celebrations in honor of this day with Marines and Civilian Marines aboard the base leading up to the actual birth date.

This included cake cutting ceremonies aboard both the Yermo Annex and Nebo where Marine Corps Birthday traditions continued, and a cake cutting ceremony at the Veteran's Home of California in Barstow, with veteran's from all branches of the U.S. military.

On the actual birthday, Nov. 10, MCLB Barstow Marines and Civilian employees celebrated the Corps' 237th birthday aboard the historic Queen Mary in Long Beach, Calif.

Before the party started, guests listened and watched intently as Marine Corps birthday traditions took place. Starting with the reading of Gen. John A. Lejeune's traditional birthday message and ending with the cake cutting ceremony.

During the cake cutting ceremony, the oldest Marine present, 1st Sgt. Arthur Hernandez, first sergeant of MCLB, Headquarters Battalion, passed a slice of cake cut by Col. Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of the installation, to the youngest Marine present, Lance Cpl. Kristopher Ezell, a wireman aboard the base. The passing of the cake symbolizes the passing of traditions from the old to the new.

To finish the ceremonial part of the night, Gunnery Sgt. Ryan White, the guest of honor, a retired Marine formerly stationed here and Purple Heart recipient, motivated the crowd with his speech.

Guests then took to the dance floor as they celebrated their 237th birthday together.



15

L. FRANCE DRIVE

HC

ROSE PARADE