

THE PROSPECTOR



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

Vol.2 No.14

July 25, 2013



MCPD training

Base Special Reaction Team
trains to keep MCLB Barstow safe

Once a Marine Always a Marine

Vietnam Veteran becomes
honorary member of the MCG

Horse trainer

MCG trainer shows stable-
men how to take the reins



Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Sergeant Julio Acevedo, (top) the noncommissioned officer in charge of the administration office on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., grapples with Pfc. Garrett White, a combat correspondent on the base, July 23. The Marines were practicing moves from the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program to enhance their skills.

On The Cover:

Front Cover:

Photo by Carlos Guerra

Lieutenant Colonel Gregory Fields, (left) director for Fleet Support Division, Barstow, receives the guidon from Master Sgt. Dale Cobin, senior enlisted advisor, Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, MCLB Barstow during an assumption of command ceremony July 23.

Back Cover:

Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Lance Corporal Jeffrey Rieck, a supply clerk on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., runs with the Headquarters Battalion guidon during a battalion run, July 19.

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Michael L. Scalise, Commanding Officer
Sgt. Maj. Karl D. Simburger, Base Sergeant Major

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Rob L. Jackson
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Reina Barnett
Press Chief: Sgt. Shannon E. Yount
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. T. Allen Bricker
Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Garrett White

The editorial content of this magazine is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: Public Affairs, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 204. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282. This magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **THE PROSPECTOR** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Colonel Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., presents the Safety Excellence and Special Recognition Award to Michelle Bledsoe, a base fire inspector on MCLB Barstow, on behalf of security and emergency services on base, July 17. Scalise presented awards to several departments on base to recognize their safety achievements.

Contents



Motorcycle Safety 5



Once a Marine Always a Marine 9



Locked and Loaded 6



When Liberty Calls 10



Horse Whisperer 7



Chaplain's Corner 11

On the web

Website:

<http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil>

Follow us on:

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

http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow



2nd ANNUAL Fort Irwin Golf Tournament
in Apple Valley, CA

Event Date: **Saturday, Aug. 17th**

Where: Apple Valley Golf Course

Sign In: 0700 to 0730
Shotgun Start: 0745

Type of Event: 4-Man Scramble

Each team MUST have 4 players

Cost: \$75 per person until 4 August.
\$80 per person from 5 Aug. thru 11 Aug. Must pay for all 4 players at once.
FINAL DAY TO REGISTER IS 11 AUG.

Non-refundable

Price includes: Hotdogs at the turn/ 18 Holes of Golf, cart included/ Awards Banquet/ Games
(**Some games will be for purchase**)

Hole-In-One Car sponsored by Victorville Motors

For more info call Janet Ford at 760-380-3509

MCO 1700.28 B: Hazing

The Marine Corps has released a revised policy on hazing, Marine Corps Order 1700.28B. Acting as a cancellation to any previous orders on the matter, the update outlines and defines hazing, what are considered acts of hazing, responsibilities for Marines to ensure the ranks remain safe from these acts, and measures taken for those who violate this order. For more information on MCO 1700.28B, please visit marines.mil or use your chain of command.



Photo courtesy of Marine Corps Times

Motorcycle safety saves lives of Marines

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps has implemented, for many years, motorcycle safety to ensure Marines know the dangers, associated with riding a motorcycle.

The Corps put Marine Corps Order 5100.19F, chapter four into effect in 2009 because of incidents, sometimes fatal, caused by Marines not knowing proper techniques when riding a motorcycle.

“Ever since I can remember, there has been motorcycle safety,” said Brian Korves, a safety and occupational health specialist and motorcycle instructor on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. “Safety has always been a part of riding a motorcycle. However, the rules were different from now.”

Now, riders must complete a basic riding course before riding on the steel horse; then a rider must complete follow on courses. This was implemented in 2009, Korves explained.

“The reason the Corps put this into effect was because in 2008, there was a spike in motorcycle rider deaths,” said Korves. “Since they implemented the basic riders course, the basic riders course two, and the advanced riders course, the number of fatalities have dropped to 10 deaths a year, since 2009.”

The Department of Defense has also reinforced personal protective equipment as well, he added.

“It is easier for you to remember the proper requirements if you check from head-to-toe,” said Korves. “You must wear a



Master Sergeant Matt Blais, operations chief on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., rides his motorcycle through a section of the advanced riders course, July 19. The ARC is a mandatory course held for service members to improve their skills as motorcycle riders.

helmet that is certified by the Department of Transportation (DOT), and depending if your helmet has face protection or not, you must wear eye protection. Next, make sure you are wearing a long sleeve shirt, long jeans to protect your legs from the engine heat, wear ankle-high boots with a low heel, and lastly, remember to put on full-fingered gloves before going on a ride.”

The gear mandatory for Marines is the bare minimum. All other PPE is recommended by the Department of Defense, Korves expressed.

If a service member crashes and they are not wearing the proper PPE, the accident investigation will be submitted up through the chain of command and the individual could possibly receive a Non-Judicial Punishment for not obeying the Marine Corps Orders, explained Korves.

“A Marine can receive anything from a negative counseling to the maximum punishment which would be an NJP,” he further explained.

The safety program is good for Marines because they now have the mentorship program, explained Darwin O’Neal, the chief of police with the Marine Corps Police Department on MCLB Barstow.

“The mentorship program is good because it prepares Marines for long rides and gets them used to their motorcycle,” said O’Neal. “If a Marine isn’t used to riding his or her bike for five to ten minutes at a time, then decides they want to go for a long ride, they can injure themselves. They are not used to riding their motorcycle that long and their body is not accustomed to the bike.”

Guidelines and courses are given to Marines to ensure their safety when driving a motorcycle that can not only to save their life but others as well, concluded Korves.

For more information on motorcycle safety read Marine Corps Order 5100.19F, chapter four or contact your local base safety office.



Staff Sergeant Jeffery Worley, a substance abuse counselor on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., readies himself to ride his motorcycle in the advanced riders course, July 19. The course gives riders an opportunity to perfect their riding technique.

Upcoming Events

Spouses Social is a monthly opportunity to meet with fellow military spouses. Join us Aug. 8, and Sept. 10, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cooking classes will be held every Monday during July, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., in the Multipurpose Room. Sewing and craft classes are slated to be held in August and September, and Jane Wayne Day will be held on Friday, Oct. 4. Save the dates! For more information, contact MCFTB at 760-577-6408.

Energy Tip:
Install a programmable thermostat to lower utility bills and manage your heating and cooling systems efficiently.

News Briefs

Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations: **Alvin Blackford, Robert Munroe, Johnny Davis Jr., Roger Dull, Uriah Garcia, Lisa Lucero, Tulu Niusulu, and Lisa Wood.**

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Sharing Program may do so by obtaining a leave donor application form from the Human Resources Office. Ensure completed forms are turned into HRO as well. For more information, contact Josie Marquez at 760 - 577 - 6481.

Anticipated Vacancies

Trades Division- Machinist, WG-3414-10. Rigging worker, WG-5210-08. Welder, WG-3703-10. Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer, WG-5803-08. HME Mechanic, WG-5803-10. ME Metal Mechanic, WG-3809-10. Painting worker, WG-4102-07. Painter, WG-4102-09. Electrical Equipment Repairer, WG-2854-10

Business Division- Production Controller Leader, GS-1152-11.

Please look for announcements under the new link at <http://usajobs.gov>

Swimming Lessons

The Oasis Pool & Water Park offer swim lessons this summer. Children are placed in appropriate levels based on their swimming skills. Scheduling, payments, and sign-ups are available at the pool. For more information, call Recreation services with Marine Corps Community Services at 760-577-6971.

NMCRS Thrift Store

New hours! The MCLB Barstow NMCRS Thrift Store is open the second Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to 1. **Volunteers are needed!** If interested, stop by or call the Thrift Store at 760-256-0444.

HERO ON HOOVES

On October 26, 1952, the United States Marine Corps recruited an unconventional member to join their ranks. Her name was Staff Sgt. Reckless, a Mongolian mare who played a crucial role in the Korean War.

Lieutenant Eric Pederson, the commanding officer of the Recoilless Rifle Platoon, Anti-tank Company, 5th Marine Regiment, bought the horse from a young Korean boy to carry the heavy ammunition for the recoilless rifles.

Marines within the platoon trained her and took her in as one of their own. She was trained to get in and out of trailers, take cover on the command 'incoming,' to string communication wire, and to carry up to ten rounds of ammunition. Reckless could carry up to three times as much ammo as her human counterparts and string more telephone wire in a day than 12 Marines.

During a battle in February 1953, the war horse made 24 trips from the ammo supply point, through no man's land, to the Marines on the firing site. She traveled more than 20 miles that day carrying six rounds each trip, according to www.mca-marines.org.

The very next month, during the five-day battle of Outpost Vegas, Reckless accomplished even greater

feats. Reckless traveled trails with steep inclines and strenuous terrain and turned to firing lines up to 700 yards away. In a single day, Reckless made 51 trips, carrying 386 rounds more than 35 miles. The 386 rounds were equal to more than 9000 pounds. Reckless would also often carry wounded Marines from the firing lines back to the supply point, reload with ammunition and make the trip again. Her fellow Marines guided her from the ASP to the firing lines for the first few times however after that, the horse was able to make the trips alone. Reckless was injured twice during the battle; a piece of shrapnel cut her over her left eye, and she was cut on her left side. Reckless went on through the day, fighting exhaustion and injury to accomplish the mission, according to Sgtreckless.com.

On November 10, 1954, Reckless came to America in time for the 179th Marine Corps Birthday Ball; she was the guest of honor, stood at the head of the table and ate cake. In 1960, the mare retired with full military honors and was provided quarters and mess at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Stables for retirement benefits, as stated on mca-marines.org.

By the end of her career, the four-legged war hero



earned two Purple Hearts, a Good Conduct Medal, the Presidential Unit Citation with a star, the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, according to Sgtreckless.com.

On May 13, 1968, the Marine Corps' beloved horse and sister passed away; but her legacy continues to thrive. On July 26, 2013 a dedication ceremony will be held to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Korean War's end with a statue of Staff Sgt. Reckless at Semper Fidelis Memorial Park in Triangle, Va. "It's difficult to describe the elation and the boost in morale that little white-faced mare gave Marines as she outfoxed the enemy, bringing vitally needed ammunition up the mountain," said retired Sgt. Maj. James E. Bobbitt.

MCG: THE MAN BEHIND THE CURTAINS

Story and photos by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

Stablemen of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard did not all grow up as cowboys, nor were they all raised on farms or ranches; in fact, prior to checking into the unit on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., some members had never ridden a horse at all.

That being said, Marines often have a lot of training to do before presenting the nation's colors, on horseback to thousands of spectators at special events around the country.

This extensive training is done by Terry Holliday, a former soldier, school teacher, and no stranger to the equestrian world.

"I have been teaching for 15 years," explained Holliday. "I have been a horse instructor specifically since 2011."

Holliday applies his lifelong experience with horses, his military background, and his time as a school teacher, to give his students an all-around perspective of horseback riding.

The Dinuba, Calif., native does not simply teach his students how to ride, he explained. Holliday teaches the anatomy of the horse, how to treat the horse, he trains the horse how to respond to the rider, and trains the riders how to respond to the horses.

"The most important part of proper training is safety... for the horse, the rider and for the specta-



Terry Holliday (left), the horse trainer for the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard stationed on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., goes over ground-work techniques with Sgt. Jacey Marks (right), a stableman with the MCG, July 18. The Marines go over various techniques with Holliday in preparation for presenting colors at special events.

tors," said Holliday. "If the rider doesn't know how to properly ride or control the horse around thousands of people, someone could be seriously hurt."

Holliday's training is broken into three parts: classroom work, ground-work, and riding, he explained.

"I teach the students to know the horse and to know themselves. You need to know how the animal thinks, how it lives and how it will react to your actions," Holliday added. "The horse will do anything for you if you understand how to communicate with it."

Holliday further explained how important the riders' attitude is due to the horses' distinguished

senses. "Riders need to have positive attitudes and the horse will follow suit," he said. "The rider and the horse have a working relationship. You don't want it to fear you... or it won't work for you."

When the Marines aren't going over ground-work or in the classroom with Holliday, they are working on their technical skills. Holliday goes over their balance, posture, rhythm, and puts them through an obstacle course.

"During the obstacle course, the rider guides the horse through transitioning from a straight line to any given angle. The training also includes different types of jumps," Holliday said.

The Marines' all-around horsemanship has improved greatly since Holliday has become the MCG's official trainer, explained Sgt. Edgar Torrealba, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the MCG.

"The training has become much more structural since he has been here," explained Torrealba.

The most important thing taken from the training has been how to treat and communicate with the horses, he added.

"The relationships we have with our horses is like a Marine with his rifle; we know it in and out," he explained. "However in this case, it's with a living thing so we build a relationship."

Torrealba further explained that he now considers his relationship with his horses the same as the relationship he has with his Marines.

The Los Angeles native never had ridden a horse before coming to the MCG. However, because of to hard work and superior training from Holliday, Torrealba and the MCG as a whole, have come a long way.

"Mr. Holliday has an incredible passion for horses, the MCG, and our mission," added Torrealba. "He is the individual who is behind the curtains of the Mounted Color Guard."

MCLB Barstow's SRT remains ready to protect



Members of MCLB Barstow's Special Reaction Team fire their pistols on the base range July 16. During the exercise, members of the Marine Corps Police Department were able to keep their marksmanship skills up to par.



Members of MCLB Barstow's Special Reaction Team pose for a group photo July 16 at the base's range after completing marksmanship training July 16.



Lonnie Marney fires a round during MCLB Barstow's Special Reaction Team's marksmanship training July 16. While on the base's range, members of SRT were able to practice shooting both rifle and pistol.



Police officers with MCLB Barstow's Special Reaction Team fire their primary weapons during marksmanship training July 16. Throughout the day, the officers ran several drills to help retain their marksmanship skills.

Rail Operations

Compiled by Prospector staff

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Yermo annex is home to the largest rail yard in the Department of Defense.

The rail yard on base has more than 30 miles of track within its gates, maintains four locomotives, and can hold 750-1000 rail cars concurrently while still maintaining operations. The yard works to support MCLB Barstow, National Training Center Ft. Irwin's rotating units as well as the outside needs of the DoD.

MCLB Barstow's mission is to support Marine units west of the Mississippi, forward deployed environments, and the Southeast. The rail yard sends and receives supplies such as heavy equipment, military vehicles, weapons systems, and other mission essential items. The massive rail yard also assists in the storage and maintenance of these items.



ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE

Story and photos by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

The only remaining Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard declared its first honorary member during a buckle ceremony, July 5, in Cody, Wyo.

The prestigious ceremony involved former Marine Sgt. Gary Brown, a Vietnam veteran and long-time host and friend of the MCG, receiving his very own MCG belt buckle. The buckle, which displays the eagle, globe and anchor, was presented to Brown by Sgt. Edgar Torrealba, the staff non-commissioned officer in charge of the MCG.

Brown was recognized for his hard work and dedication to the MCG and the Corps as a whole.

"The belt buckle has been a Mounted Color Guard tradition for years," explained Torrealba. "Only official members of the MCG receive one."

The reasoning behind making him an honorary member is simple, explained Torrealba. He is a Marine through and



Former Marine Sgt. Gary Brown (left) receives the official Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard belt buckle from Sgt. Edgar Torrealba, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the MCG, July 5.

through.

"Mr. Brown is very welcoming and supportive of every devil dog he meets. Anyone and everyone who has taken the oath and earned the EGA is a brother or sister to him," explained Cpl. Bryanna Kessler, a stableman with the MCG. "He is always willing to help anyone. That's what makes him a Marine's Marine; he lives by honor, courage and especially commitment."

Brown played an integral part in getting the MCG to Cody for their Independence Day celebrations. A tradition that has now been going on for seven years, said Torrealba. Each year the MCG has come to Cody, Brown and his wife Leslie have hosted the Marines and made sure they were taken care of.

During the current sequestration, for example, Brown fought for the MCG to come to Cody, knowing many other military functions were being cancelled due to the budget cuts, explained Torrealba.

Nothing means more to him than the Marine Corps' presence in town, said Leslie.

"From the moment we arrive, Gary is with us. He works with us from the early mornings to the late nights," added Torrealba. "He is always the first one to greet us and the last to see

us off."

"Gary has supported the MCG without having any obligations to us. He has gone out of his way time and again to make sure we get to Cody," said Sgt. Jacey Marks, a stableman with the MCG. "Gary makes it his mission to take care of Marines even though he has been out of the Corps for years. He has done more for the MCG than any other civilian ... he rates a Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard belt buckle."

Marks further explained this goes to show that Marines are brothers in arms ... no matter what generation.

"Gary Brown is a true American hero," said Sgt. Joel Richards, a stableman with the MCG. "Words cannot describe how much he has done for the Mounted Color Guard and for the Marine Corps."

Richards added that the ceremony brought him to tears. Watching someone who has done so much for America, not only during his time on active duty but decades later, and then becoming an official member of the MCG, was an emotional experience.

"Nothing means more to me than the Marine Corps presence here in

Continued on page 11



Sergeant Joel Richards (left) and Cpl. Bryanna Kessler (right), stablemen with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., congratulate former Marine Sgt. Gary Brown for becoming an honorary member of the MCG, July 5, in Cody, Wyo.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR BACKYARD AT THE VICTOR VALLEY MUSEUM

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

California is home to some of the country's most well-known features: Los Angeles, the Redwoods, and the Golden Gate Bridge, but it is also home to the Mojave Desert. To the naked eye, it seems as if there were just blankets of sand piled upon one another, but the Mojave has its own secrets.

At the Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley, Calif., visitors learn about the animals that used to inhabit the High Desert and some that still live in this barren landscape. The museum is also home to the history of the High Desert, where visitors can learn about the fault lines that cause earthquakes, and much more.

The museum was established in 1992 and lasted for a decade, according to the San Bernardino website, www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us. The museum then re-opened in 2010 with the help of the former San Bernardino County First District Supervisor, Brad Mitzelfelt. "In the Museum we have multiple

exhibits on the animals that used to live in the desert," said Rhonda Almager, the facility manager of the museum. "The museum has the Victorville Mammoth that was found while construction workers were breaking ground for new development housing."

All the animals in the exhibit are 100 percent real, but are taxidermied so they are preserved for long periods of time, explained Almager. The museum showcases more than 25 animals that visitors can learn about such as, coyotes, snakes, mice, birds, and lizards, all indigenous creatures of the High Desert.

The museum holds lectures and events to inform the community and visitors about the unique features found in the Mojave Region, she added.

"The next event we are holding is on Aug. 10," said Almager. "This event is called Insecticles."

At the event, children and adults alike will have the opportunity to touch many different insects. The event also holds



A taxidermied coyote stands in an exhibit along with multiple animals that are indigenous to the Mojave Desert, July 13. All of the animals in the exhibit are 100 percent real.

cockroach races, arts and crafts where children can make their own insects out of arts and craft materials, and story time, which are stories read about insects, she explained.

"The museum is very helpful and informational," said Almager, "but don't go through it in 20 minutes because you will not learn anything. We are based on the theme 'Discover your Backyard.' When you are looking through your backyard at home, do you just scan it or do you actually take the time to learn about it? That's the same mentality you have to have here."

"There are many picnic tables for groups or families to relax and have lunch, we also have a picnic area in the garden here," said Almager.

Victor Valley Museum employees are all volunteers. These volunteers ensure visitors are taken care of and assisted throughout the museum, she expressed.

Volunteers do not make a profit for their hard work; however, there is a cover charge of \$5 for adults, \$4 for active duty service members, and \$2.50 for children under five, according to the San Bernardino website.

The staff at Victor Valley Museum encourages everyone to come and learn about the High Desert and what has happened in it, she concluded.

For more information about the museum contact the main museum in San Bernardino at 909-307-2660 extension 229.



The skull and tusks of a mammoth that was found in Victorville during the ground breaking for the construction of new housing, sits in the Victor Valley Museum, July 13. The Victor Valley Museum in Apple Valley holds multiple exhibits on animals of the High Desert, history of the High Desert and much more.

Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Benjamin Warner
Base Chaplain

What happens when we fail?

There's a famous theory about crime called "broken windows theory." I'm probably not going to do it justice, but the basic premise is this: if small incidents of vandalism or crime (breaking windows on an abandoned building) go unrepaired, more incidents of vandalism and more significant crime are sure to follow. One experiment featured an author abandoning a car with its hood up in two different neighborhoods. In one neighborhood, the car was quickly vandalized and stripped of anything that had value. In the other neighborhood, the car was ignored until the author himself broke the windshield. Shortly thereafter, that second car was completely destroyed and vandalized. Broken windows theory traces this idea to how neighborhoods become a place where "no one cares."

Despite the criticisms leveled against it in academic circles, broken windows

theory seems to make logical sense to us. That's because it reflects a broader truth: if we do not care about the little things, we will stop caring about the large things. Consider this for your family: if you don't pay attention to your children in the everyday, a huge birthday party once a year would not create a loving, healthy relationship. Or consider the spiritual side of this reality: many people talk about the amazing things they'd do for God in big situations (if they were rich, if they had to take a stand for their faith, etc) but are not faithful in the little things. Making the small choices tells us who we will be in the big choices. Yet, like all good things, the small details can become a problem, too. We have the ability to take anything good and prioritize it wrongly.

Consider the ongoing debate Jesus had with the Pharisees

about how they disproportionately valued the little things. Their value for the Sabbath (a good thing, though not necessarily little) wound up devaluing an injured man (Matthew 12). It's possible Jesus' most forceful words on this subject come in Matthew 23:23: Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you tithe mint and dill and cumin, and have neglected the weightier matters of the law: justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. The point Jesus is trying to make seems pretty clear: this is not an either/or situation, this is a both/and situation.

The challenge and requirement for our lives is to take everything we face—little, big, important, irrelevant, and



everything in between—and figure out where it stands. How close is it to the heart of God that I tithe my mint, dill, and cumin (figuratively, because it turns out I don't actually grow any of these things)? It's important—but that does not mean I'm allowed to lose the forest for the trees. These things are valuable because God loves a cheerful giver, and His heart is set on generosity. If we can understand how little things play into the bigger picture, we're more likely to do them—but we're also more likely to do them for the right reasons. We won't begrudge the little things, but we will understand their power to shape big things.

Once a Marine, Always a Marine cont.

Cody," said Brown.

Brown also added how proud it makes him when people from the community come up to him and tell him how good the MCG looked after their performances.

He can often be overheard saying, "I wish I was still in the Corps," and although that may not be possible for this Vietnam veteran, he is and always will be a Marine and honorary member of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard.

"Receiving that buckle meant everything to me ... and I mean everything," Brown said.



Former Marine Sgt. Gary Brown (center) poses with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard wearing his official MCG belt buckle, July 5, in Cody, Wyo. The MCG Marines are wearing buckles presented to them from the Cody Stampede Rodeo committee for their hard work and their part in Cody's Fourth of July celebrations.

"It was the biggest honor of my life."

The Purple Heart recipient has been out of the Corps for decades, yet demonstrates the epitome of esprit de corps day in and day out. He is a true example of 'once a Marine, always a Marine,' which was the consensus of all four members of the Mounted Color Guard.

