



THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 3 No. 6

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

March 27, 2014



Bronze Star Medal on MCLB Barstow
Farewell to Stableman
Kick Butts Campaign

Multi-Family Yard Sale

Saturday, April 5, 2014 | 8am

Sorensen Field

Our military families are about to move and this multi-family sale has it all!



Items Include:

- Wooden Cradle
- Car Rims
- Glider Chair
- Baby Swing
- Bikes
- 4 Wheeler
- Car Tires
- Coffee Table
- Loveseat



For more information contact
Marine Corps Family Team Building at
577-6675 or visit MCCSBarstow.com



On The Cover:

Front Cover:

Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Brigadier General John W. Bullard, commander of Marine Corps Installations West and Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, receives a crash course on horsemanship by Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Garcia, staff noncommissioned officer of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, March 21.

Back Cover:

Photo by Lance Cpl. Garrett White

Captain Robin Lee, deputy director of the communications office on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., participates in the 'Total Control,' an advanced riders course here, March 12. Riders learned new techniques to help them control their motorcycle while on the open road.



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. David J. Drafton

Press Chief: Lance Cpl. Samuel Ranney

Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Garrett White

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Photo by: Carlos Guerra

First Sergeant Edward Kretschmer, battalion first sergeant of Headquarters Battalion on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., stands at attention while receiving a Bronze Star Medal for his efforts and support while deployed in Afghanistan, March 14. Kretschmer's efforts included keeping Marine's morale up and making sure his Marines were taken care of. He also dealt with the Afghanistan leaders face to face.

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Courtesy Photo by: Cpl. Thomas Bricker

On March 28, more than one hundred motorcycle riders will be escorting veterans through Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. The veterans will be stopping on MCLB Barstow for a welcome home ceremony on their way to National Training Site Fort Irwin.

News Briefs

Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and are in need of leave donations: **Tyrone Wilford Holt, Ernest Langford, Amy Loughridge, Cheryle Magorno, Clairisa Mattig-Smith, Konrad Miles.**

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 Michelle Cunningham at 760-577-6915.

Library Services

Due to remodeling, the base library has moved to Bldg. 17, on the corner of Day Street and Wake Ave. Story Time and Craft is to be held every other **4** Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m.

Spouses Social

The Spouses Social is a monthly get together with other active duty spouses to build new friendships, offer support and learn new things. There will be a different topic of discussion each month.

Yard Sale

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow is slated to hold a multi-family yard sale, April 5 on Soresen Field here. The event will be open to the public with proper identification. Items include: wooden cradle, baby swing, car tires, car rims, bikes, coffee tables, glider chair, 4-wheeler, and a love seat. For more information, contact Marine Corps Family Team Building 760-577-6675.

Power Outage

The Nebo Annex will have a power outage on March 29, from 9 - 11 a.m. and on April 14, from 10-11 p.m. the outage is required to repair the transformer fuse at the Nebo substation. Please note all of the Nebo Annex will be affected.

Thrift Store

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store here has a new number. They can now be reached at 760-577-5880.

Energy Tip:

Use ceiling fans for less money. Ceiling Fans use no more electricity than a standard light bulb. However, be sure to turn fans off when you leave - they only cool people, not rooms. The breeze of a fan can make you feel three to four degrees cooler so you can raise the thermostat and still stay comfortable. By raising the thermostat a few degrees, you can save money in cooling costs.

TWO WHEELS OF FREEDOM

Story by:
Lance Cpl. Garrett White

The Motorcycle Mentorship Program on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is a Marine Corps mandated program to help new and experienced Marines learn and maintain safe riding fundamentals.

To ensure riders are maintaining safe riding habits and fundamentals, the Marine Corps requires Marines who want to ride a motorcycle attend two riding safety courses, said Sgt. Julio Tovar, Vice President of the MMP here.

The Basic Riders Course, the level one training teaches new riders the basic fundamentals of riding and operating a bike, explained Tovar. The Advanced Riders Course, the level two training course, is designed to teach riders advanced cornering skills and bike maneuvers. The ARC must be taken within 120 days of completing the BRC, and must be re-taken every three years thereafter.

While level three training isn't a requirement for each individual rider, the MMP is required to have at least three of its members be level three certified to act as mentors to less experienced riders, Tovar added. Six of the MMP's riders recently completed 'Total Control' an advanced riding course approved by the Marine Corps that meet its level three training criteria.

This training course teaches riders more advanced cornering, breaking, and maneuvering techniques and makes riders apply them in a controlled, but more realistic riding scenario, said Tovar. It also teaches riders how to set up their bike's suspension to better suit their personal riding styles.

Along with ensuring formal training is completed, the MMP also provides a motorcycle club-like environment to allow experienced riders to mentor those who are not as experienced, said Sgt. William Koepp, President of the MMP here. As a motorcycle club, the MMP holds meetings that allow its members to discuss anything motorcycle related. This can range from new forms of personal protective equipment available, to discussing riding styles and techniques.



Photo by: Lance Cpl. Garrett White
The Motorcycle Mentorship Program on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., pose for a picture at a rest stop during their quarterly group ride, March 21.



Photo by: Lance Cpl. Garrett White
The Motorcycle Mentorship Program on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., ride on highway 18 in Lucerne Valley, Calif., on their quarterly group ride, March 21.



Though formal training, and discussion always help, the only way to apply these skills is to actually hit the road, explained Koepp. To ensure riders are maintaining proper riding fundamentals, quarterly group rides are organized by the MMP and are based around the skill level of the weakest rider.

These group rides allow new and experienced riders alike to apply any training or riding tips they have learned in a real world setting appropriate to their riding skill, said Koepp. This also allows riders to observe each other's riding habits, and allows them to help correct deficiencies in others, or adopt new techniques to their own riding styles.

When everything is brought together, the goal is to make sure Marines are riding safely both themselves, and other riders on the road, concluded Tovar.

Kick Butts Campaign: stay tobacco free

Written by:

Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent

The Youth Activity Center on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., held its first Kick Butts Campaign, March 19. Sponsored by the United Health Foundation, the Kick Butts Campaign is a program designed to educate children on the dangers of tobacco use. As the tobacco industry tries to lure in customers starting at younger and younger ages, the goal of this nationwide event is to get children to speak out and stand up against the tobacco industry. Held at the Youth Activity Center here, various activities and posters were set up to educate children on the potential dangers of tobacco use.



IT'S BEEN A GOOD RIDE

Story by:

Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, stationed on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is the last remaining mounted color guard in the Marine Corps.

This small unit of four to five Marines has the honor and privilege of representing the Marine Corps on horseback in events and ceremonies across the United States.

While most Marines are picked at random from infantry units to join the MCG, some Marines, like Cpl. Bryanna Kessler, requested to be a part of this unique unit.

Joining the MCG was the combination of two childhood dreams, said Kessler.

"I didn't know anything about (the MCG) until somebody mentioned it to me," explained Kessler. "I googled them and it looked like something I would want to do. I've always loved horses, and I wanted to be in the military (since I was) a kid, so it tied in two things I was passionate about."

Having participated in hundreds of events with the MCG, narrowing it down to a favorite one was difficult, said Kessler. From the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo in Houston, to the parades in Cody, Wyo., there are aspects of each event that make them special to her.

"I really enjoyed my experiences," she said. "It's helped me grow as a person and as a Marine. I got to see different aspects of the Marine Corps I wouldn't have seen before. It gave me an opportunity to see the whole country, meet different people, and experience different things."

Aside from the events, getting to know the other members of the MCG has been fun, added Kessler.

"As much as we get on each other's nerves, we are like a little family," Kessler added. "I've never been this close to a group of people before. I love that we are close enough that if someone is having a bad day or a good day we are there for one another. Plus if all else fails you can just go out and hug your horse."

But after two years of serving on the MCG, the needs of the Marine Corps are calling, Kessler said.

From the MCG, Kessler will be deploying with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit, she said. She hopes this experience will further broaden her view of the Marine Corps, and allow her to figure out where she wants to take her career from there.

Herr hard work and dedication didn't go unnoticed by her fellow members of the MCG, said Sgt. Edgar Torrealba, non-commissioned officer in charge of the MCG. Having worked with Kessler since she first checked into the unit, Torrealba saw her grow as a person, as a Marine, and as a member of the MCG.

"I believe she will do great things when she moves on from here," he added. "I think that being with the MCG will be one of those pages in her life she will never forget, and she will be remembered here."

"Kessler brought a special dynamic to the color guard that will be hard to replace," Gunnery Sgt. Daniel Garcia, staff NCOIC of the MCG. "She will be missed by everyone here."



Cpl Bryanna Kessler
MCLB, Barstow
Mounted Color Guard

THANKS DOC

Story and photo by:
Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent

While Marines respect all their brothers and sisters in the U.S. Navy, the hospital corpsmen holds a special place the hearts of Marines.

If Marines are closing with to destroy the enemy, there is a very good chance that "Doc" isn't far behind. For this reason it's no surprise that the rate of hospital corpsmen is the most decorated rate in the Navy, with 22 Medals of Honor, 174 Navy Crosses, 31 Navy Distinguished Service Medals, 946 Silver Stars, and 1,582 Bronze stars. Additionally 29 naval ships have been named after hospital corpsmen.

John H. Willis is one of those 22, unfortunately earning it at the cost of his own life.

Willis was born June 10, 1921 in Columbia, Tenn. Upon graduating from Columbia Central High School, he enlisted in the Navy in November 1940.

After receiving recruit training at Naval Training Station, Norfolk, Va., Willis attended training at the Norfolk Naval Hospital, Portsmouth, Va., to become a corpsman.

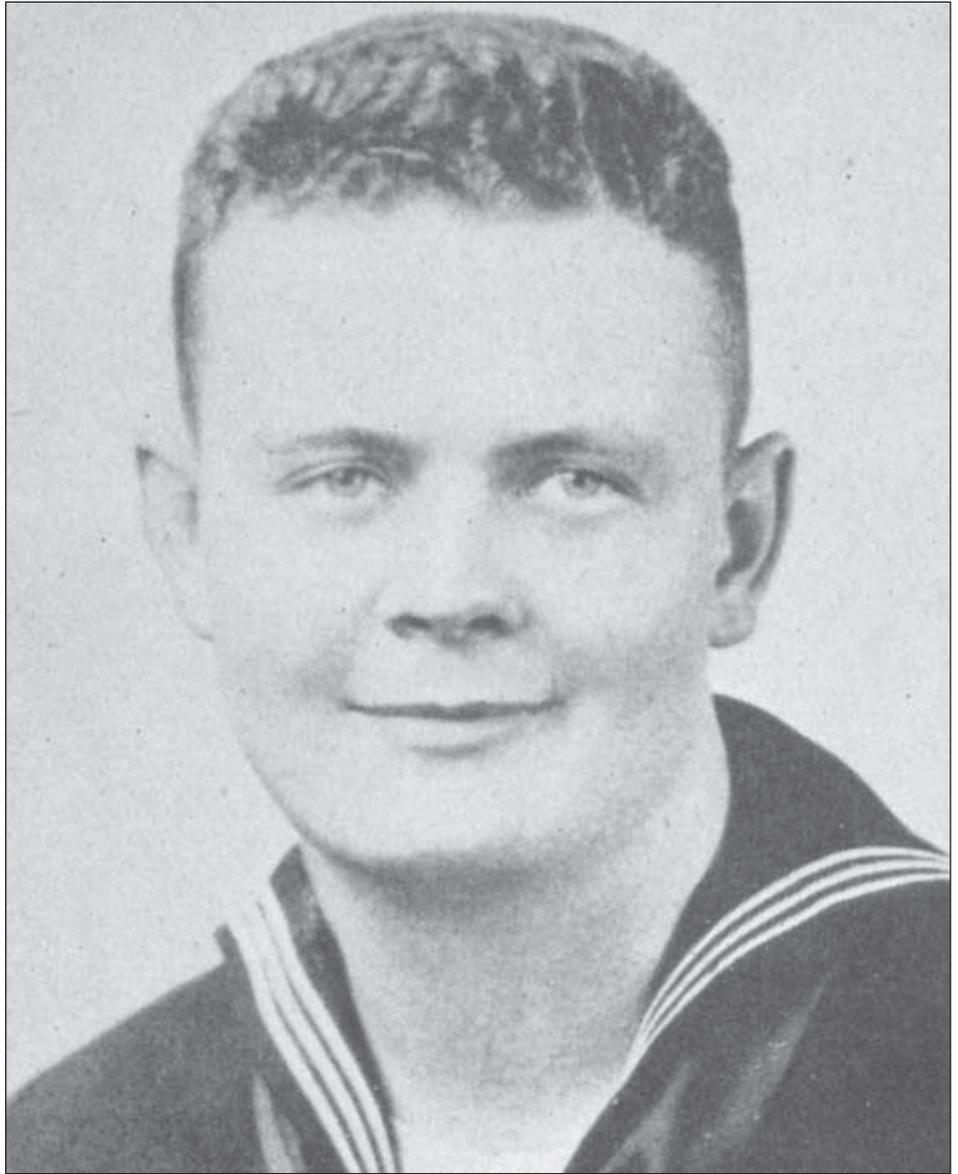
In March 1941, Willis was promoted to seaman second class and was briefly assigned to the Naval Hospital, Parris Island, S.C., and then transferred to Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla., in the late spring.

In 1941, Willis was promoted to hospital apprentice first class in August, and then promoted again in December to pharmacist's mate third class. After being promoted to pharmacist's mate second class in September 1942, Willis began serving with naval units organizing and training for overseas service.

In 1943 Willis was promoted to pharmacist's mate first class in July, then that November he joined the Training Detachment, Field Medical School Battalion, Fleet Marine Force Training Center at Camp Elliot, San Diego, Calif., to train for duty with Marine Corps units. After completing training, Willis was transferred to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 27th Marines, 5th Marine Division, stationed on Camp Pendleton, Calif.

It was his actions with this unit that would lead to him earning the Medal of Honor.

8 On February 28, 1945, the tenth day of fighting during the Battle of Iwo



A photo of John H. Willis

Jima, Willis' unit was attempting to take Hill 362.

The Japanese, having been preparing the islands defenses since March 1944, had the entire island heavily fortified. Despite being under heavy Japanese artillery, mortar and machine gun fire, Willis fearlessly administered first aid to the many wounded Marines near him until he himself was hit by shrapnel and ordered back to the aid station.

Unwilling to wait for official medical release, Willis returned to his company as quickly as he could. While under a fierce Japanese counterattack, Willis advanced to the extreme front lines while under enemy mortar and sniper fire to aid a wounded Marine. Without any heed to his own safety as the Japanese pressed their attack, Willis

continued to calmly administer blood plasma to his patient.

While still tending to his patient, Willis came under grenade assault. While he managed to throw back the first eight grenades that landed near his position, the ninth one exploded in his hand, killing him instantly.

In showing great personal valor in sacrificing his own life to save another, Willis' actions inspired his unit to mount a fiercely determined assault and repel a numerically superior enemy force. It was his heroic actions that day that earned Willis the Medal of Honor

Willis is buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in his hometown of Columbia, Tenn. The destroyer escort USS John Willis (DE-1027) was named in his honor.

HISTORY OF THE BRONZE STAR MEDAL

Compiled by MCLB Barstow's
Public Affairs Office

President Roosevelt received a memorandum from General George C. Marshall, dated 3 February 1944, stating that: "The fact that the ground troops, Infantry in particular, lead miserable lives of extreme discomfort and are the ones who must close in personal combat with the enemy, makes the maintenance of their morale of great importance. The award of the Air Medal have had an adverse reaction on the ground troops, particularly the Infantry Riflemen who are now suffering the heaviest losses, air or ground, in the Army, and enduring the greatest hardships." Two years earlier, the Air Medal had been created to raise the morals of airmen.

In an announcement in the War Department Bulletin No. 3, dated 10 February 1944, President Roosevelt gave by Executive Order 9419 dated 4 February 1944, retroactive to 7 December 1941, the authorization for the Bronze Star Medal. President Kennedy, per Executive Order 11046 dated 24 August 1962, amended the Executive Order to also include individuals serving with friendly military forces.

Per a study done in 1947, the guideline was put into action that gave the retroactive award of the Bronze Star Medal to those who had been awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge or the Combat Medical Badge during World War II. The decision for this action was based on the fact that the badges were awarded only to soldiers that had suffered the hardships which had produced the support of the Bronze Star Medal by General Marshall. Both of these badges required approval by the commander and a citation in orders.

Criteria

Any person whom while serving in any way in or with the United States military after 6 December 1941, that distinguished himself or herself apart from his or her comrades by brave or praiseworthy achievement or service, that did not include participation in aerial flight. The act justifying award of the medal must be performed while fighting an enemy of the United States, or while involved in conflict with an opposing/foreign force. It can also be awarded for heroism while serving with friendly forces engaged in combat against an opposing military in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

Heroism carried out under acts as described, which are of a lesser degree than those awarded of the Silver Star, will justify the award of the Bronze Star Medal.

While of a lesser degree than the award of the Legion of Merit, the act justifying the awarding of the Bronze Star Medal must have been praiseworthy and accomplished with merit. It can be awarded for a single act of value or meritorious service.



AROUND THE CORPS

A look at the Marine Corps outside of MCLB Barstow



Photo by Lance Cpl. Cedric Haller

(Above) POHANG, Republic of Korea - U.S. Marines navigate a rope bridge under the supervision of Republic of Korea Marine Instructors March 19 during the Mountain Warfare Training Course at the Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pohang, Republic of Korea. The U.S. Marines participating in the course are with III Marine Expeditionary Force and are in the ROK in support of the Marine Expeditionary Force Exercise 2014. The U.S. Marine Corps team are committed to the ROK and U.S. Alliance and regularly exercise to ensure interoperability and maintain strong working relationships.



Photo by Cpl. Jonathan R. Waldman

Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif. - Marines with Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (BLT 2/1), prepare to load a simulated casualty into a UH-1Y from VMM-163 (REIN) for evacuation as part of a consulate reinforcement scenario during Realistic Urban Training Marine Expeditionary Unit Exercise 14-1, Fort Hunter Liggett, Calif., March 21, 2014. RUTMEUEX will prepare the 11th MEU Marines for their upcoming deployment, enhancing Marines' combat skills in environments similar to those they may find in future missions.



Photo by Cpl. Sarah Wolff-Diaz

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Brig. Gen. John W. Bullard presents Sgt. David Douglas with the Male Athlete of the Year Award for his success in his power-lifting competitions March 20, in the Commanding General's conference room.

Douglas has eight state records, five American records and is currently ranked as the number one 308 lbs power lifter in the country.



Photo By: Cpl. Henry Antenor

IE SHIMA, Okinawa, Japan - Marines and sailors with Company G, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, attack hostile forces during a night raid at Ie Shima airfield, Mar. 17. MV-22 Osprey and CH-53E Super Stallion helicopters with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, transported the BLT from the ship to an objective area on the island. The assault force hiked a mile from the landing zone to conduct a raid against the enemy insurgents role-played by other Marines. Using infantry tactics and overwhelming firepower, the BLT seized the airfield for future operations as part of a training scenario. The 31st MEU is currently conducting its Certification Exercise alongside Amphibious Squadron 11 while deployed for its regularly scheduled Spring Patrol.

Chaplain's Corner: Cultural Diversity

Article submitted by:
U.S. Navy Chaplain Cmdr. Ray A. Bailey

Hello Barstow,

A couple weeks ago I wrote concerning God's refreshing work in our daily lives. He refreshes us in so many ways and each way helps us keep going even through the bad times of life.

As I write this article I'm thinking of March 20, the first day of Spring. Here at Camp Pendleton this is the only time of the year we see bright colors in the surrounding landscape. We received some rain early in March therefore we are seeing green grass, leaves, and bushes on the mountains. There are also a few beautiful flowers that grow wild and add vibrant color to the landscape. Nature is coming alive!

As a Christian I see in nature the handiwork of our Heavenly Father. He is the Creator of the universe. We read in Colossians 1:16-17 "For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible...All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is

before all things, and in Him all things consist." (NKJV). God is the creator and owner of the universe and did He such a wonderful job!

I am reminded of the words of a great hymn How Great Thou Art. This is the second verse, "When through the woods and forest glades I wander, And here the birds sing sweetly in the trees, When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur, And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze." Wow!

Nature is so grand and our Heavenly Father is the one who created it all out of nothing.

Brothers and sisters find strength, joy, and peace in the grandeur of our creator God! He is able to take care of all of us without breaking a sweat!
Blessings,
Chaplain Williford



