

# THE PROSPECTOR



Vol. 5, No. 21

Serving the Corps since 1943  
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

November 9, 2016



**New Marine Corps Exchange**  
**MCLB Barstow Golf Tournament**  
**Railhead Operations**

## On The Cover:

### Front Cover: Rob Jackson

Colonel Sekou Karega, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, waits for the first piece of birthday cake during the High Desert Marine's 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Karega was the guest of honor and spoke about the brotherhood of Marines and traditions that have been passed on from generations of Marines.

### Back Cover : Carlos Guerra

Brigadier General Kevin Killea, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations West/ Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, sends a golf ball down range at the MCLB Barstow Golf Tournament, Nov. 2.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Sekou S. Karega, commanding officer  
Sgt. Maj. Sergio Martinezruiz, base sergeant major

#### Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Rob L. Jackson  
Public Affairs Specialist: Keith Hayes  
Public Affairs Specialist: Laurie Pearson  
Editorial Assistant: Julie Felix  
Combat Camera Chief: Carlos Guerra  
Multimedia Specialist: Cheri Magorno

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.

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# 241st Marine Corps Birthday Ball

December 3rd 2016



Please join us at the

*The Aquarius Resort and Casino in Laughlin, Nevada*

as we celebrate the 241st Birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

### Tickets are on sale now!

\$40.00 per person

Tickets can be purchased at HqBn, bldg 17D.  
(760)577-6700

### Sequence of Events

1700-1745

Cocktails

1800-1845

Ceremony

1845-1930

Dinner

1930-2400

Dancing

### Lodging

We have secured a block of rooms at the venue for the night of the event.

Reservations can be made by either calling the reservation line at

1-800-662-5825 and mention the group code **C-MIL16**.

If you experience any issues with booking your room, please contact  
SgtMaj Martinez at 760-577-6238.

**Childcare will be available at the venue! Price per child is \$35 for child 1 year and over; and \$45.00 for under 1 year for the duration of the event.**

Dinner will be provided for the children. For infants or children with special dietary needs, please provide for them. We recommend that you bring something for your child to sleep on as the event goes beyond normal bed times.

The Child Development Center is located at 1900 S. Casino Drive, Laughlin, Nevada.

If you have questions concerning childcare, please contact SgtMaj Martinez at (760) 577-6238 or [sergio.martinezruiz@usmc.mil](mailto:sergio.martinezruiz@usmc.mil) with the subject line of BALL CHILDCARE.

## 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>

[http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB\\_Barstow](http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow)



### Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

Barstow, California

**SOCIAL MEDIA**

**RESOURCE**

- » School L
- » EFMP
- » FOIA
- » Sexual A
- » Voting A

**COMMAND**



Photo by: Rob Jackson

Cheryle Magorno, imaging specialist, receives a Caught Working Safely scratch off card from Michelle Bledsoe, inspector with MCLB Barstow's Fire and Emergency Services Division. Magorno was reported when she was observed removing a potential trip

hazard in the hallway of building 204. For her safety conscious effort she was presented with a scratch off card that revealed a prize - a stainless steel VPP water bottle.

**Got news? Call us! (760) 577-6430**

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# News Briefs

## Leave Share Program

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

**Jacqueline Griffin**

**Yvette Costilla**

**Louis Trifos**

**Noah Glaza**

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

## Burn Your Own Steak Night Football Thursday Sugar Loaf Bar

**James L. Day Conf. Center**

**Thur. Nov. 17**

**4 - 9 p.m.**

Come to Burn Your Own Steak Night and wear your favorite football jersey! The \$13.50 per person fee includes 8 oz., ribeye steak, salad, corn on the cob and baked potato. The grill is open from 4-7 p.m. Happy hour drink specials from 4-6 p.m. Call 577-6264 for more information.

## Self Defense Class Semper Fit Gym

**Wed. Nov. 16**

**6 - 8 p.m.**

All ages and skill levels are welcome to attend this free class. Even if you don't want to participate you can watch and learn how to be your own personal safety advocate. For more information call 760-577-6533 or visit [www.mccsbarstow.com/prevention-education/](http://www.mccsbarstow.com/prevention-education/).

**FREE ADMISSION**

**USO Show Troupe**

**from New York City**

**James L. Day Conf. Center**

**Saturday Nov. 12**

**3 p.m.**

### Energy Tip

Print only necessary documents. This will not reduce paper waste, as well as, reduce electricity required to run the printer which in turn reduces your energy costs and extends your printer life. Print double-sided to save paper, as well.

## Play Morning Community Center

**Friday Nov. 18**

**9 a.m.**

Come join in the fun! All active duty service members and their dependents with children are invited to come enjoy singing, stories, crafts and play-time. Make new friends and learn something new each week. For more information contact New Parent Support at 577-6533.

## Baby Boot Camp Desert Housing Community Center

**Wed. Nov. 16**

**10 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Join the New Parent Support Program for expecting moms and moms of children ages 0-18 months for fun and entertainment. Children are welcome! For more information call 577-6533.

**Screens and Strikes**

**Family Movie Night**

**Desert Lanes Bowling Center**

**Friday Nov. 18**

**5 - 7 p.m.**

We'll be watching the family friendly movie "The Angry Birds Movie." For more information contact Desert Lanes Bowling Center at 577-6264 or visit [www.mccsbarstow.com/bowling/](http://www.mccsbarstow.com/bowling/)

**DONCEAP**

**Free Benefits**

**Available 24/7**

Employees today face challenges juggling work and family. It is not uncommon to become overwhelmed or stressed by relationships, school, health, finances, work, family or other issues which could impact your quality of life. The Department of Navy values its civilian employees and their families. The Department of Navy Civilian Employee Assistance Program provides a comprehensive support package to include work and life benefits such as childcare, finances, eldercare, identity theft and legal services, substance abuse treatment and more, at no charge. These services are confidential, within the limits of the law. Call or visit us online, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Help is available whenever you need it at 1-844-DONCEAP/1-844-366-2327, TY: 1-888-262-7848/International: 1-866-829-0270 or via the internet at [www.DONCEAP.foh.hhs.gov](http://www.DONCEAP.foh.hhs.gov). For more information contact HRO at 577-6915.

# More shopping options at Production Plant Barstow

Story by: Keith Hayes  
Public Affairs Specialist

Employees at Production Plant Barstow now have a bit more convenience in their lives thanks to the opening of a new store.

Colonel Sekou Karega, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, cut the red ribbon to open the new Marine Corps Exchange at the Yermo Annex site of the old Lanzer's Lounge facility Nov. 1.

Karega was joined by officials from Production Plant Barstow as well as from Marine Corps Community Services from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and MCLBB during the ceremony.

This is the second MCX to operate aboard the Yermo Annex, the other located near the rear gate of the Annex serves mostly Army personnel who ship equipment in via rail from their home bases to attend training at the Army's National Training Center.

About 400 people, mostly from PPB, turned out to celebrate the new facility, each receiving a swag bag filled with products, drink and food. They also could enter to win a snowboard, a large computer monitor or an iPad Mini.

David Lewis, director of the retail division for MCCS at MCB Camp Pendleton, said the former cafeteria style eatery at the site was simply not meeting the needs of the employees.

"It was an operation that was not being used by the people," Lewis said. "They voted with their wallets to go elsewhere. So we asked them 'What are you looking for on site to keep you from going to lunch in



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

(Left) David Lewis, MCCS Camp Pendleton, Col. Sekou Karega, commanding officer, MCLBB, Trent Blalock, deputy commander, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, and Keith Varney, MCCS MCLBB, joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony to officially open the MCX on PPB grounds, Nov. 2.

town?"

Lewis pointed out that the foods available at the new MCX are kept hot with temperature-controlled cases at the facility.

"We have the warming ovens right in back. You have your grab-and-go foods, you've got your sandwiches, you've got chips and burritos, and water and soda," he said.

Karega expressed his pleasure with the new convenience store just before cutting the red ribbon to officially open the place.

"I think you will be very happy with this new facility. I'm extremely proud of it. I'm extremely proud of the collective efforts and everyone involved to improve the quality of life aboard this installation," he said.

Lawrence Marquez was one of those attending the opening ceremony. He is a heavy mobile equipment mechanic with almost 30 years at Production Plant Barstow.

"So far so good, I like what I see," Marquez said. "There seems to be a lot of selection. I did use the old Lanzer's Lounge facility and it was not good. It was overpriced and the food wasn't very good."

Maria Tetina has worked at PPB for 16 years as a rigger.

She echoed Marquez's reaction to the opening of the new MCX. "(Lanzer's Lounge) was bad and the food was not good," Tetina said. "I'm glad MCCS is here. I think a lot of people are going to be using it. It's a good thing for us."

Lewis concluded "Were happy to be at Yermo doing this. This production center does a lot of work ... and we're pleased to support them." 🍀



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

The 400 employees attending the opening of the MCX at Production Plant Barstow received bags filled with goods, foods, and drinks while sampling various products to introduce them to the new vendor on the block.

# Playing the links at Marine

Story by: Keith Hayes  
Public Affairs Specialist

Marines, Soldiers and Civilian Marines took to the links on a beautiful day to rededicate a golf course and participate in a tournament at a facility described as a jewel in the desert aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif, Nov. 2.

Brigadier General Kevin Killea, commanding general, Marine Corps Installations West/ Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, joined with Col. Sekou Karega, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, to cut the red ribbon on the newly renamed Marine Memorial Golf Course before teeing off for the MCLB Barstow Golf Tournament.

“When I first walked in the facility this morning the first word that came to mind was ‘transformation,’” said Killea, referring to how much the golf club house had been changed during the past few weeks.

He also revealed that MCLB Barstow’s golf course is one of very few courses in the Marine Corps that is open to the public.

“The importance of this facility to me is community. What I like to tell people is nothing we do on bases, stations and installations in this region or any region in the Marine Corps is possible without the support of the surrounding community,” he said.

Formerly known as the Tees and Trees Golf Course, the facility was renamed to reflect its long Marine Corps heritage dating back to its opening in 1949.

Lee Farmer, assistant chief of staff, Marine Corps Community Services at Camp Pendleton, also revealed

that each hole on the course is named for a historic battle the Marines participated in, and there is a designated plaque near each hole.

After the opening ceremony six teams of four players apiece took to the fairways to hack their way to the lowest score possible. When the grass settled, the first place team racked up a 65 stroke tally. The second place team came in at 66 while third place made it in at 68.

The nearly 100 guests then sat down to a catered lunch after which Killea handed out the first, second and third place team awards, the award for the longest drive, as well as the “closest to the pin” award.

While the tournament was going on, five spouses of MCLBB personnel toured Production Plant Barstow in the morning.

Elizabeth Braun, wife of Cpl. Burke Braun; Alma Martinez, married to Sgt.Maj. Sergio MartinezRuiz, MCLBB base sergeant major; Rozalyn Maynes, wife of CW3 Jose Maynes; Amanda Roselli, spouse of 1st Sgt. Neil Roselli, base first sergeant; and Jill Kovach, wife of Staff Sgt. Frank Kovach, walked the craneway in the Marine Corps’ largest free standing structure for the first part of their tour.

They then went to the Vehicle Test Area at Production Plant Barstow to take turns riding in a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected Al-Terrain Vehicle.

Following their morning excursion, the ladies went to the newly-rebranded Marine Memorial Golf Course to take a golf lesson from the facility’s professional golfer, each hitting a bucket of golf balls on the course’s driving range while their husbands participated in the MCLB Barstow Golf Tournament. 🇺🇸



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

(Left) Colonel Sekou Karega, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, joins Brig.Gen. Kevin Killea, commanding general, MCIWest/MCB Camp Pendleton, Iris Robbins-Anore, MCCA Camp Pendleton, and James Hayes,

Recreational Program manager, MCCA MCLBB, as the ribbon is cut to officially rename Tees and Trees Golf Course to Marine Memorial Golf Course aboard MCLB Barstow, Nov. 2.

# Corps Logistics Base Barstow



Photo by: Carlos Guerra:

Colonel Sekou Karega, commanding officer, MCLB Barstow, uses a sand wedge to battle his way out of a hazard during the golf tournament following the ribbon cutting renaming the former Tees and Trees Golf Course to Marine Memorial Golf Course, Nov. 2.



Photo by: Carlos Guerra

(Left) Brigadier General Kevin Killea, commanding general, MCI West/MCB Camp Pendleton, and Col. Karega at the start of the golf tournament following the opening of the Marine Memorial Golf Course aboard MCLB Barstow, Nov. 2.



Photo by: Keith Hayes

(Left) Amanda Roselli, spouse of 1st Sgt. Neil Roselli, MCLBB's first sergeant; Alma Martinez, married to Sgt.Maj. Sergio MartinezRuiz, base sergeant major; Julie Wilbanks, Marine Corps Community

Services liaison; Erica King, wife of Sgt. Kristopher King; and Elizabeth Braun, spouse of Cpl. Burke Braun, lined up and ready to swing away at the Marine Corps Memorial Golf Course. 7

# November 15th: America Recycles Day

Story by: Laurie Pearson

Public Affairs Specialist

To celebrate America Recycles Day, the Environmental Division is hosting a special E-Recycling event at building 225, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Nov. 15.

Base Order 4160.1A signed in 2005 initiated a recycling program on base. Bins were placed around the base, including the Yermo Annex, and the program gained momentum. Since that time, hundreds of metric tons of recyclable materials have been collected and disposed of in a conscientious manner, bringing revenue to the Qualified Recycle Program and diverting solid waste from the landfill.

"The primary purpose of the QRP is to reduce landfill costs and other disposable costs," explained Scott Figueroa, QRP assistant. "We use the term Diversion Rate, which means (we) are diverting things away from the landfill and taking it to other places where it can be recycled. You're also generating cost back to the command."

The base is currently required to divert at least 50 percent from landfills.

"There's a new initiative out (in which the state of California) wants to increase that requirement to 75 percent by (the year) 2020. We are already above and beyond that at 87 (percent)," explained Arley Lessard, NEPA program manager.

"This base has maintained at least a 70 percent diversion rate over the past five years, averaging 78 percent," said Maj. Stacey Colon, deputy director of Environmental Division.

Recyclable materials are weighed at the landfill or recycling facility to determine how much waste the installation is diverting.

Not all of the recyclables generate money for the base, such as "co-mingled" recyclables, explained Kristal Ford, currently detailed as the QRP manager. "Cardboard (and scrap metal) we do get money for, and we do that two times per week."

As for the co-mingled recyclables, such as glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans and so forth, there isn't enough manpower on base to separate and submit the recyclables for money, explained Ford. Instead, they are turned in with other co-mingled material to Burrtec, where the base either pays a fee or, on a rare occasion, gets a check.

"This is why we came up with a plan to (partner) with Fort Irwin," said Figueroa. "They do have the manpower and they do have the facilities to do it. It would keep the money within the government."

If the merger is a success, then Fort Irwin would obtain and recycle the co-mingled recyclables. MCLB

Barstow would not gain proceeds from this method, but would at least avoid the fees and



Photo courtesy Environmental Division

Scrap metal is ready for recycling after clean-up projects at building 404 and Railway Operations.

contribute to the Diversion Rate.

Other initiatives on base recently were clean-up projects at building 404 and Railhead Operations on MCLBB's Yermo Annex. More than 37,200 pounds (18.6 tons) of recyclable material, such as steel, was diverted from building 404, earning \$1,844.42. The Railhead Operations clean-up project diverted 225,550 pounds (113 tons) of recyclable steel, earning \$4,418.83.

Marine Depot Maintenance Command, housed on MCLBB's Yermo annex also produces a large amount of recyclable material, from cardboard to batteries.

"Diesel fuel is drained from equipment before they work on it or store it," said Melvin Bracey, Hazardous Waste Program manager. "Same with oil."

Colon explained that this is even the case with used cooking oil from the Family Restaurant on base.

"That oil goes to a local pig farmer," Bracey said.

For the recyclables which do produce income, there is a board lead by Lt. Col. Kenneth Lee, the base executive officer, which meets and decides where those funds are to be used.

"(Some of) the funds pay for the QRP manager and it also pays right now for the laborer," said Ford.

Funds are also used to assist the Single Marine Program, as well as the Marine Corps Ball, to help enhance the lives of Marines and their families aboard base. SMP trips to San Francisco and Red Rock Canyon National Preserve are some of the recent activities partially funded by the QRP, and new tools for the Hobby Shop will be procured using QRP funds, as well.

America Recycles Day held on Nov.15, is a national initiative to keep America beautiful. To coincide with this, the QRP team is holding an E-Waste Day. Military personnel, their families and civilians on base are invited to turn in their e-waste, such as computers, electronics and old cellular phones at building 225, where it will be disposed of appropriately. This event will help reduce clutter and unwanted items for the individuals and families on base. 

# RailOps: A full service operation

Story by: Laurie Pearson  
Public Affairs Specialist



Photo courtesy MCLBB COMCAM

Master Sergeant Patrick Grabowski, Rail Operations chief and Donald Kalawaia, Rail Operations work leader, both with Railhead Operations Group located aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, traveled to Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C. to conduct rail operations training with Marines from several east coast units, Oct. 23.

Nearly 70 Marines, representing nine units, from both Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C. attended the training.

“The units were trained in all facets of Rail Operations to help with current and future missions,” said Chad Hildebrandt, supervisor of Railway Operations aboard MCLB Barstow. “The training consisted of one day of classroom instruction and three days of field training and it is just one of several courses offered by the Railhead Operations Group Training Course here at MCLB Barstow.”

“We really enjoyed being back there and working with the Marines,” said Kalawaia.

“Yes,” agreed Grabowski. “They were eager to learn!”

This team of Subject Matter Experts provides this training locally or on location.

“Our training that we do here is OJT all the time, so what we learn we pass forward,” Kalawaia said.

“The rules are constantly changing with the American Association of

Railroads also, and we ensure we know those changes are coming and implement those changes right away.”

“Other bases don’t necessarily have the infrastructure to provide the kind of full training we can provide here,” Grabowski said. “The on-location training is still a great start.”

The training included instruction on safely loading and offloading equipment and vehicles to and from railcars; preparing them for secure transportation; and coordinating incoming and outgoing rotations.

In addition to this training, next week Hildebrandt, Grabowski, Kalawaia and Gunnery Sgt. Antonio Flores, Rail Operations course instructor, will be conducting a Town Hall meeting of sorts at Camp Pendleton.

“This will be our opportunity to detail to I MEF, and other attending units on the capabilities of MCLB Barstow Rail Operations,” said Hildebrandt. “Areas that will be covered will be the Railhead Operations Group Training Course, Railhead Operations Playbook, Unit Movement and Planning Support, Camp Pendleton Railhead Operations and Maintenance Support, and the Rail Impact Test Capabilities of MCLB Barstow.”

“We’ll work on getting their infrastructure to the point where they’re using their rail to its fullest capacity,” Grabowski said.

One of the many things that make MCLB Barstow’s Railhead Operations a success is communication and coordination with units training in or transporting equipment through the region.

“With (MCI-West G-3/5) coordinating training conducted in the area, MCLB Barstow Rail Operations was asked to recon several different potential rail sites near this area to be utilized for movement of equipment from Camp Pendleton,” explained Hildebrandt. “Three different sites were identified which will offer the

MEF the capability to ship large quantities of equipment that can advance to the training area either through tactical or non-tactical means.”

“In December we have rotational units going back home to Fort Bliss, Texas,” Kalawaia said. “Then Alaska units coming down by ship through Tacoma, Wash. then railing from Tacoma to here where we will unload (the equipment).”

In addition to units rotating through the base for training or attending Railhead Operations training at MCLB Barstow, the Railhead Operations Training Group will continue to travel to locations in the near future to

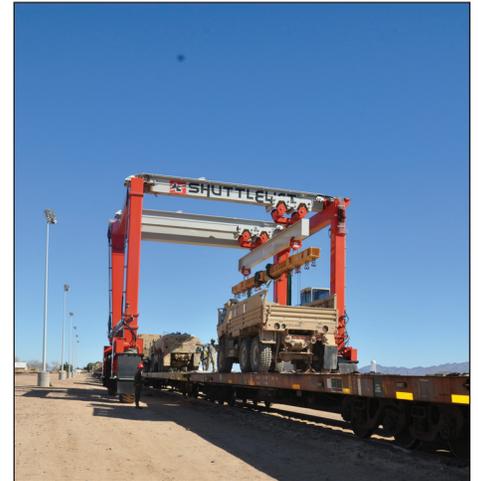


Photo by: Laurie Pearson

A crane is used to lift heavy equipment onto railcars during a rotation at Railway Operations aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

conduct on-site training, such as Fort Bliss, Texas in February, 2017. As with any position, theirs comes with “other duties as assigned.”

“We are working with MARCORSSCOM (Marine Corps Systems Command), providing guidance and support in the development of new Marine Corps equipment and vehicles,” Hildebrandt said, explaining that the equipment will be designed with the capability to be transported via railcar. 🦁

# Marines past and present celebrate Marine Corps 241st birthday

Photos by: Keith Hayes  
Public Affairs Specialist



(Left) Sergeant Moises Machuca, Cpl. Kristina Zamora, Lt. Col. Timothy Silkowski, director, Fleet Support Division, stand ready as 63-year-old retired Gunnery Sgt. Leland Snouffer, security, Production Plant Barstow, representing the oldest Marine at PPB, accepts the piece of ceremonial birthday cake and prepares

to pass it on to the youngest Marine present, 20 year old Pfc. Jacob Sotto, FSD, as corporals John Teale and Victor Manriquez stand at attention during the celebration of the 241st birthday of the founding of the Marine Corps, Nov. 7.



(Left) Guy Dean Smith, 96 years old, and a retired Marine who saw action on Guadal Canal during WWII, as well as service in the Air Force after the war, shares a piece of Marine Corps birthday cake with 20-year-old Pfc. Jacob Brown, the youngest Marine stationed at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow as Capt.

Kendall Ignatz, commanding officer, headquarters battalion, stands by. The two took part in the celebration of the 241st anniversary of the founding of the United States Marine Corps at the California Veterans Home Barstow, Nov. 4.

# Chaplain's Corner: God provides courage

Submitted by: Lt. Heath E. Taylor  
Chaplain, Marine Corps Base Camp  
Pendleton

Recently, I had the opportunity to complete an 80-mile section of the Jon Muir Trail in the Sequoia National Forest on a hiking trip with a fellow Chaplain. I am compelled to tell you that we did it in five and a half days because even a Marine who's spent time with the grunts can admit that we kept a respectable pace for a couple of Sailors. I also mention it because for a man in his mid-forties that barely resembles the young, cut Marine he used to be; it was quite a challenge!

When family and friends ask me how it went, I tell them that God used this adventure to teach me a few things I'd either forgotten or hadn't yet discovered. The best way to describe the variety of emotions and physical sensations we encountered along the way is to make the experience analogous with life.

My life revolves around God, my marriage, my kids, my ministry and my military service pretty much in that order. In each of those categories, I have experienced incredible joy and happiness as well as great hardship and pain. I have failed in each of them to various degrees but God has been faithful and continues to provide grace to continue on and recover along the way.

As we hiked the trail, we came upon some pretty incredible and breathtaking scenes of God's creative beauty. We came upon lakes, streams, trees, rocks and wildlife that you can only see in the Sequoias and it was refreshing to be 'unplugged' for a few days from the smartphones and electronics that can sometimes clutter our lives.

However, there were moments when our legs were sore, our backs ached from the weight of our packs and the mountains and moving tree line seemed out of our reach. Each time I got to the point I didn't think I would make it I would sit down, drop the pack, get rehydrated and

find the will to get up and climb for another 20 minutes.

It was in those moments when I wanted to quit that I had to will myself to get back up and keep going and find that after hours of exhaustion, I was rewarded with a beautiful view from the top and finally a downhill journey. Had I quit when I was tired, I would have robbed myself of the joy of completing the task and enjoying the view I set out to attain.

In my journeys of faith, family, ministry and military service there have been points along the way that I have felt tired, discouraged, weary and unable to continue. However, with each of these experiences, just as on the trailhead, I've been able to find the ability to take a short rest and continue for another hour, evening, day or week. This perseverance and discipline to crash through the quitting points enables me to continue to enjoy and pursue the things I love in life. Keep going and stay encouraged; you can do it one step at a time! 🏆

## VPP Corner: Importance of HAZCOM plan

Story by: Keith Hayes  
Public Affairs Specialist

A Hazard Communication Plan provides vital information to employees and first responders aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow to help care for someone accidentally exposed to chemicals they use to do their job.

Latham Woods, a safety specialist and the HAZCOM program manager with the Base Safety Office aboard MCLB Barstow, said every department that uses chemicals has to have a Hazard Communication Plan on file.

"A HAZCOM plan contains information on how to identify hazardous materials, provides product warning labels for those products and includes Safety Data Sheets," he said.

"The HAZCOM plan also outlines what kind of training an employee must go through to be knowledgeable about the proper use of those chemicals and what to do if a person is accidentally exposed," Woods said.

"The SDS documents contain all of the information about a chemical that people in the office, first responders and medical personnel need to treat a person who was accidentally exposed to that chemical," he explained.

Woods pointed to a recent spill of hydrazine at a warehouse on the Nebo side to explain why the SDS is important.

"The hydrazine spilled, so someone called 9-1-1. The fire department arrived and the first thing they did was look at the SDS to find out if they needed to respond to the spill in full protective equipment. They suited up and contained the spill."

Woods said the SDS replaces the old Material Safety Data Sheets as part of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals.

"If anyone has the old MSDS binders they need to get them changed out with the new yellow SDS binders, which are available at the Base Safety Office," he said.

Woods said January 2017 is very important to MCLB Barstow because the base comes up for the recertification of its Voluntary Protection Program Star status originally awarded in 2008.

Part of what the recertification crew will be checking is the maintenance of the SDS folders.

"Employees have the right to know what they could be exposed to at work. So the purpose of the HAZCOM plan is not just to comply with base and Marine Corps orders, but to provide employees with important information about how to deal with those chemicals," Woods said. 🏆

