

THE PROSPECTOR

Service Corps since 1947
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.



**A Day which
Lives in Infamy**

**MCLB Barstow's
Toys for Tots**

Holiday Safety Tips

Trees for Troops

BASE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 12, 2013 | 5-8 pm

Major General James L. Day
Conference Center

Live Music | Dinner

DJ, Christmas crafts, puppet
show and pictures with Santa in
Santa's Candyland
(Tennis Court Area).

Make sure your children are bundled up
(heaters outside).

Open to all Active duty, Retirees, MCLB Patrons their families and their sponsored guests.



For more information contact Marketing
at 577-6968 or visit MCCSBarstow.com

On The Cover:

Front Cover:

Photo illustration by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Major General Juan Ayala, commander
of Marine Corps Installations Com-
mand, is greeted by Master Sgt. Matt
Blais, operations chief on MCLB Bar-
stow to begin his base tour, Dec. 4.

Back Cover:

Photo by Lance Cpl. Samuel Ranney
Participants of the 2013 District 37 Ameri-
can Motorcycle Association's Los Angeles
– Barstow to Las Vegas Dual Sport Tour
pull into Barstow, Calif., Nov. 29. More than
500 riders participated in the event; each of
them made a donation to the Marine Corps
Reserves Toys for Tots Program.

THE PROSPECTOR

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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.

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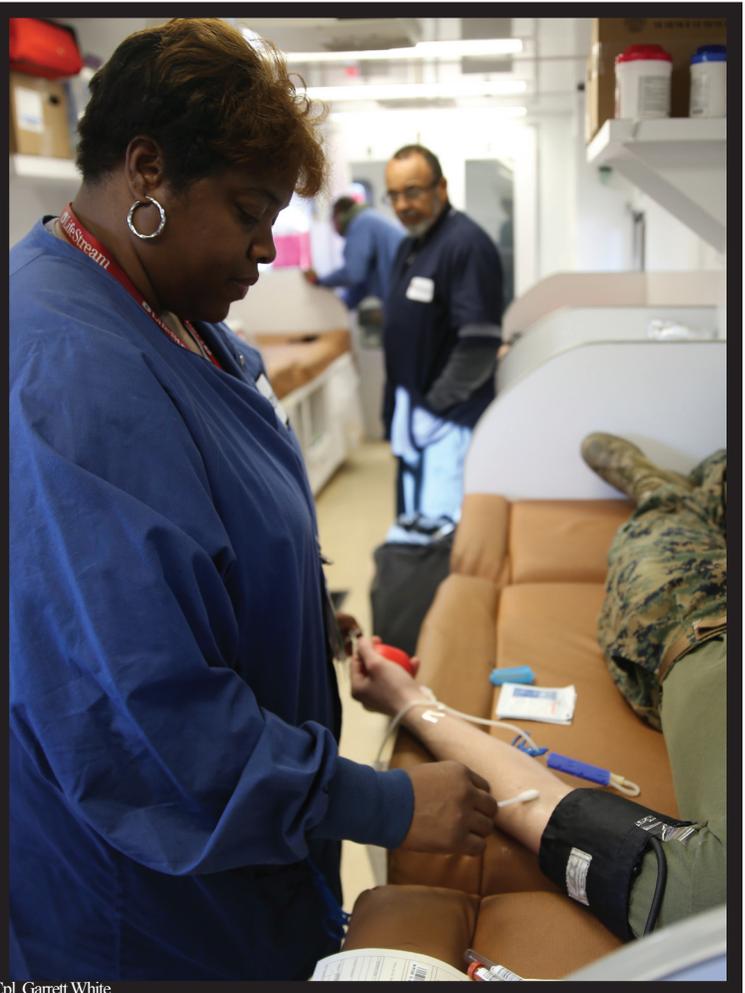
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Photos by Lance Cpl. Garrett White

Marines from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif, donate blood during a LifeStream blood draw, Dec. 5. Blood from these donations can help save the lives of accident victims, surgery patients, cancer patients and more.

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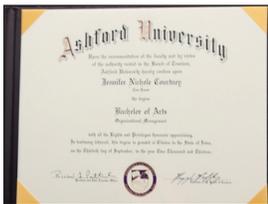
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Photo by Lance Cpl. Samuel Ranney

Victorville, Calif., natives put their hands over their hearts as the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., walks past, during Victorville's 'Santa's Heroes ... Past, Present and Future' Christmas parade, Dec. 7. The MCG led the parade bearing the Nation's and the Marine Corps' colors.

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:

Arvon Allen, John Alley Jr., Michael Bernal, David Buell, Johnny Davis Jr., Kerry Eaton, Eduardo Tintos Funcke, Christopher Gregory, Wilfred Tyrone Holt, Ernest Langford, Amy Loughridge, Lisa Lucero, Nicole Miller, Tulu Niusulu. 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 4 at 760 - 577 - 6481.

Softball Tournament

MCLB Barstow will be hosting a Toys for Tots Softball Tournament, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. DoD employees, public safety, and military personnel are all eligible to enter, the entry fee is a new unwrapped toy to be donated to the Toys for Tots Program. To register, contact Paul Purdy prior to Dec. 12 at (760) 577-6099 or (760) 985 1817.

Drunk, Drugged & Driving Prevention

December is national Drunk, Drugged and Driving Prevention month. In 2010, more than 10,000 people died in impaired driving collisions. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, impaired driving will affect one in every three Americans during their lifetimes.

Since 1982, the month has increased community support and promotes safer streets on a daily basis.

Christmas Bowl

Bowl three strikes in a row at the Desert Lanes Bowling Center and win two free games during your next visit. During normal, open bowling hours only. For more information, call 760-577-6264.

Energy Tip:

Open blinds and drapes on the south side of your house (or office) to let in sunlight during the day and close them tight each night. Even in the dead of winter, south-facing sunlight can warm your house an extra few degrees.

TREES FOR TROOPS COMES TO MCLB BARSTOW FOR A 9TH TIME

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

On Dec. 9, Marines and soldiers living on or stationed on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., received free Christmas trees for their homes through an event held by Marine Corps Community Services.

The event, known as Trees for Troops, has been held here for the past nine years, said Jennifer Silva, marketing director with MCCS on MCLB Barstow. The event also provided families with stocking stuffers, added Silva.

“This year, we had more than 125 trees donated to us (for the service members),” said Silva. “We also had more than 1,160 toys donated to us for (stocking

stuffers).”

It’s great when the community helps out the military in anyway, said Gunnery Sgt. Russell Garcia, communications chief with Headquarters Battalion on MCLB Barstow and volunteer at the event.

“I feel like it’s events like these that bring families together and bring the military (unit) closer together,” said Garcia. “Growing up, I never really had anything; when I come to events like this I (enjoy) the chance to volunteer and help out a family or warrior when they need it. The look of appreciation and relief is what I like the most.”

For the past nine years, Trees for Troops has thanked service members by providing them a free Christmas tree. If that service member is lucky enough to be home for the holidays, they will be sure to have a tree to enjoy and put presents under, concluded Silva.



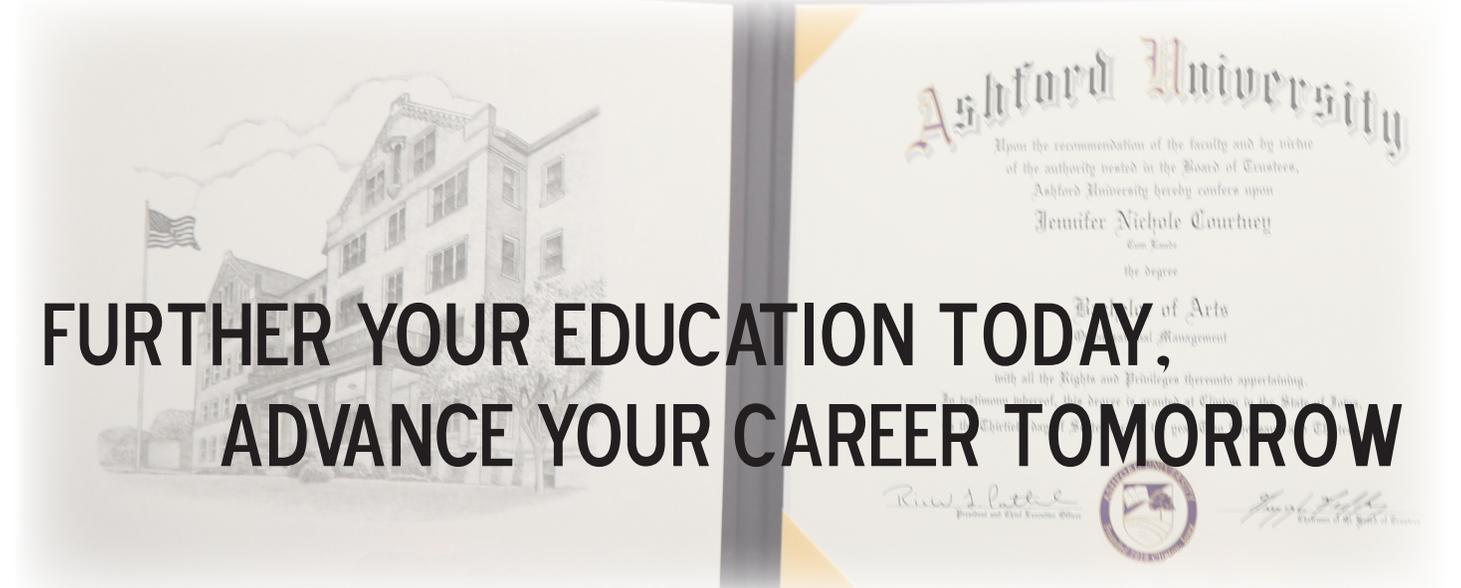
Lance Corporal Kevin Baquet, preserve specialist with Fleet Support Division on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., chooses toys during the Tree for Troops event at the community housing center on MCLB Barstow, Dec. 6. There were more than a 1,000 toys donated to the event.



(Right) Gunnery Sergeant Russell Garcia, communication chief with Headquarters Battalion on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., helps unload a truck full of trees for the families during the Trees for Troops event Dec. 6. There were more than 120 trees donated to families stationed or living on MCLB Barstow.



(Above) Sergeant Elton Rodgers, supply administrative chief with Headquarters Battalion on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., chooses a tree for his living room at the Trees for Troops event on MCLB Barstow, Dec. 6. Service members were given the opportunity to choose a tree for their Christmas this year.



FURTHER YOUR EDUCATION TODAY, ADVANCE YOUR CAREER TOMORROW

**Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Samuel Ranney
Press Chief**

On Nov. 26, a non-appropriated funds employee from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., earned a bachelor's degree using Department of Defense employee tuition reimbursement.

Jennifer Courtney, accounting technician here, earned her bachelor's degree in organizational management through Ashford University to further her career.

"I was able to receive assistance (with tuition) through the base twice at Ashford to earn my degree," Courtney said. "It helped me out a lot with the cost of school."

The Oceanside, Calif., native further explained she received multiple associate degrees at a community college before transferring to the university.

She added that the degrees allowed her to move to a higher position on base. Now with a bachelor's degree, she hopes to advance even further as positions become available.

Courtney believes many DoD employees are unaware of the benefits they have available to them.

"As DoD employees, we get benefits," explained Courtney. "They are there for a reason and they should be utilized; it's a shame for them to go to waste."

Francis Villeme, base education officer, also strongly encourages gov-

ernment employees to take advantage of their benefits.

"Many people just don't know what they have available to them," Villeme said. "It's open to all DoD employees ... anyone looking to advance their careers should take advantage (of the benefits)."

Villeme explained, the classes must be job related and the employee must pass the class before receiving any reimbursement. Although he will provide guidance and counseling to those who seek it, DoD employees must go through their respected human resource office to receive any reimbursement.

Theresa Odom, human resource technician on MCLB Barstow, explained non-appropriated funds employees must go through the NAF HRO and general schedule employees go through the GS HRO.

Employees must first enroll in classes related to their job field, come to the HRO to fill out a form, and then prove they completed and passed the course to receive reimbursement, Odom further explained.

Eric Panknin, also an HR technician here, added that the school must be accredited and funds are limited per fiscal year.

"It's a first come, first serve basis," he added.

Courtney said although she has an extremely busy personal life, she was able to complete her degree with the support of her family, school and the base. She plans to further her education and her career in the accounting field.

"Everyone should take advantage of an education and any benefits available to get one. It opens a wide variety of career opportunities and advantages," concluded Villeme.



Jennifer Courtney, accounting technician on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., holds her bachelor's degree she earned through Ashford University using Department of Defense employee tuition reimbursement, Nov. 26. Courtney furthered her education to advance in her career field.

The date that will live in infamy ...

Story by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

Seventy two years ago, the United States underwent one of the country's most devastating moments since it was founded ... Dec. 7, 1941, a date which would live in infamy, said Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd president of the United States, in a speech after the Pearl Harbor bombing.

Pearl Harbor was attacked by Imperial Japanese forces in 1941. The attack destroyed more than 20 American ships, which were moored in the harbor. This in return sparked America's involvement in World War II.

"I was 16 when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor," said Jack Dedrick, a WWII veteran, who currently resides at the Veterans Home of California Barstow. "I remember it being a typical Sunday. Everyone over there was just relaxing, going to worship their religions, and getting ready for the week."

He further explained the attack was a big surprise on the U.S. and no one expected it to happen. Just the thought of the attack leaves him speechless even up to this day.

"I remember watching the television in my living room and seeing ships being blown up, men on those ships fighting for their lives and people dying," said Dedrick. "That gave me the drive to join and that's why I wanted to fight for the country."

Marguerite Arendsen, a WWII Coast Guard veteran who also lives at the Veterans Home of California Barstow, also recalls the attack.

"I was about to turn 21 when they attacked," said Arendsen. "I remember the sadness that it brought upon my community. I also remember blue stars turn to gold

stars. Friends I went to high school with weren't coming home."

The stars were placed in the front windows of families who had a loved one serving overseas. Changing the star from blue to gold signified they lost their life fighting for the country, said Arendsen.

"When I joined, I felt like it was the right thing to do at the time. That's where (I felt) I was supposed to be," said Arendsen.

Every year since the attack, veteran homes, churches, military installations, and communities remember this day and give those men and women who died for their country recognition for what they went through, said Dedrick.

"We have a ceremony at the veterans home (every year)," said Dedrick. "I always go to remember those men and I say a prayer for them and thank them for their service."

He wishes that the younger generation would take a moment on this day to remember those who fought and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

However, not everybody pays respects to Pearl Harbor in the same fashion, said Dedrick.

Arendsen has gone to the USS Arizona memorial in Honolulu, twice in her life.

"I have gone to that memorial twice in my life," said the Kentucky native. "Both times I have gone, there were large groups of people. The room with all of the names on the walls was so quiet that you could hear a pin drop. That's how much it moves people."

Every time Dec. 7 comes around, she becomes sad ... she remembers the lives lost on that fateful day, she added.

December 7, 1941 was a tragic and significant event in the country's history; it will always be remembered by Americans across the U.S., concluded Arendsen.



courtesy photo from scolastic.com



courtesy photo from the U.S. Navy

MCLB Toys for Tots

Photos compiled by the Public Affairs staff

Although not a reserve unit, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., has been supporting the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program this year since October. Marines and base employees here have been volunteering their time, scheduling toy drives and donating myriad toys to the program. Base personnel are encouraged to participate in the toy drives set up by the MCLB Barstow fire and police department at the front gates. Also, DoD Employees, public safety, and military personnel are encouraged to participate in the Toys for Tots softball tournament, Dec. 14. Registration is a new and unwrapped toy to be donated to the program.



Winter Holiday Safety

Submitted by Adam Clapp
Fire Prevention Officer
MCLB Fire Prevention

There is a long-standing tradition during the holiday season of decorating homes and businesses but unfortunately, the decorations may also increase your chances of a fire. Following a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles, and Christmas trees from creating a holiday tragedy. Christmas trees account for hundreds of fires annually. If you are planning on a natural tree during the holidays, follow some of these tips to safely care for and decorate your tree.

- When selecting a tree, the needles should be green and hard to pull back from the branches.
- The needles should not break if the tree has been freshly cut.
- The branch should be sticky to the touch.
- Bounce the tree trunk on the ground to see if the needles fall, if they do, the tree is too dry.
- Do not place your tree near heat sources, the heat will dry out the tree.
- ALWAYS KEEP YOUR TREE WATERED.

When disposing of your tree, do not place tree branches or needles in a fireplace or wood-burning stove. Instead, discard it by taking it to a recycling center or having it hauled away by a community pick-up service. Inspect your holiday lights for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Do not link more than three light strands together unless specified by the manufacturer and check them to make sure they are not warm to the touch. **DO NOT LEAVE HOLIDAY LIGHTS UNATTENDED.**

When using holiday decorations, use those that are nonflammable or flame-retardant and do not place them near heat vents or other heat sources. Ensure that all trees and other decorations do not block any exit paths. Do not place wrapping paper in the fireplace because it can result in a larger fire that will throw off dangerous sparks and embers that may result in a chimney fire. Also, some gift wrap contains toxins in the ink; when burned, these toxins will become airborne and you risk inhaling them.

Nothing feels like the holiday without a great tasting turkey. While cooking a turkey can be done many different ways, one popular cooking style is to fry it. Many frying units can be easily tipped over, spilling the contents and hot oil and possibly starting a fire. If the fryer is over filled with oil, it could spill

out when the turkey is added allowing for the oil to ignite. If you must use a turkey fryer, follow these safety tips:

- Use turkey fryers outside and away from buildings.
- Make sure they are used on a flat surface and never let children or pets near the fryer.
- Use well-insulated pot holders or gloves when touching handles and lids.
- Thaw turkey for 24 hours for every 5 pounds.
- Keep a multipurpose Fire Extinguisher nearby.
- NEVER LEAVE THE FRYER UNATTENDED.



KEEP FIRE SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

A LEADER IN THE SKIES: CLAUDE A. LARKIN

Story by
Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent

“December 7, 1941, a date which will live in infamy, the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan,” said President Franklin D. Roosevelt when addressing congress after the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

After that fateful day, the United States was thrust into one of the bloodiest wars mankind had ever seen to that day.

But what of the heroic actions of the Marines and sailors in response to this surprise attack?

Claude A. Larkin, is one Marine that distinguished himself during the attacks.

Born June 21, 1891 in Garfield, Washington, Larkin spent most of his childhood working on farms. In his young adult life he attended the University of Washington for a short time, before going back to life on the range in Chicago in 1915. With War having broken out in Europe, Larkin enlisted in the Marine Corps, December 21 that same year.

His first duty station as a Marine during World War I was aboard the USS Oklahoma. After almost two years of being an enlisted man, Larkin was selected for the Candidates Class for Commission in Washington D.C. On July 1917, Larkin was commissioned a second lieutenant and returned to duty in Cuba with the famous Horse Marines.

Between WWI and WWII, Larkin saw many different duty stations, to include Haiti, China and the Virgin Islands. It was also during this time he was transferred to aviation, and after training at the Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Florida, he became a Naval Aviator.

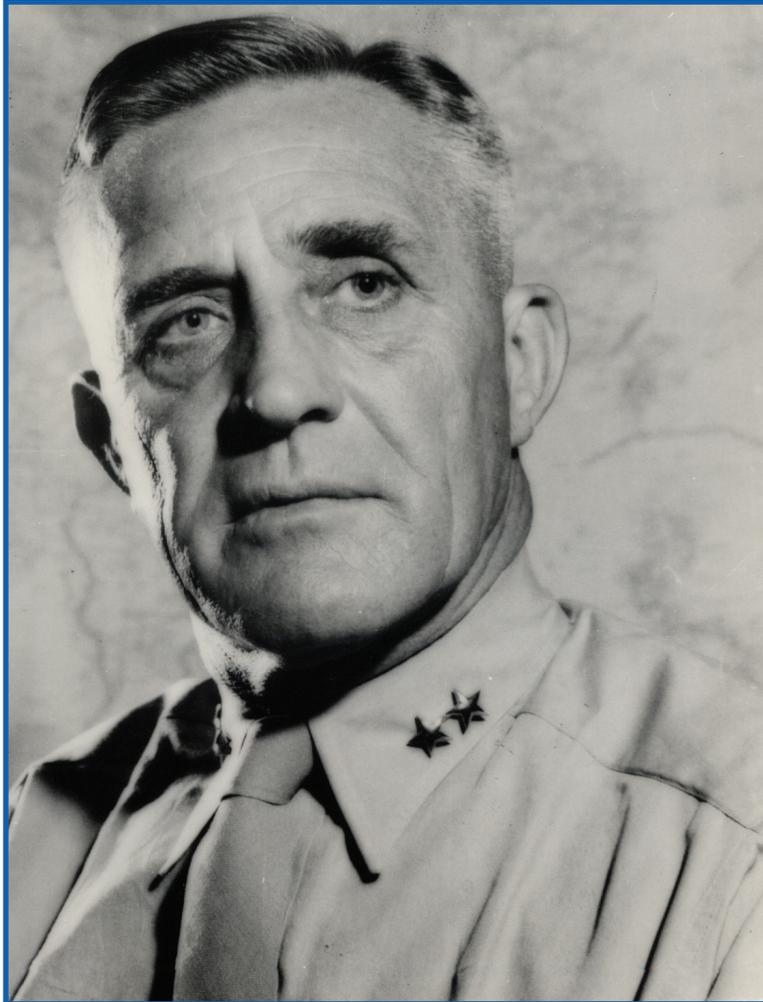
On December 7, 1941, Larkin commander of Marine Aircraft Group 21, stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Ewa, on Oahu, Hawaii. At the onset of the attack, Larkin was en route to Ewa from Honolulu. Twice on his way to the air station he was strafed by Japanese Mitsubishi Zero aircraft. Once he arrived he immediately began to organize the defense of the station, which had already lost all of its aircraft. A third attack by a Zero left Larkin with gunshot injuries to the hand, leg and foot, he refused immediate medical attention and continued to direct the defense.

After Pearl Harbor, Larkin continued overseeing air activities as the senior naval aviator present (SNAP) for Marines in the Pacific for the first eight months of World War II. In November 1943, Larkin was awarded the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service during Pearl Harbor, Wake island, and in the battles of Midway and the Solomon Islands.

Throughout World War II, Larkin filled several different billets, including commanding general of the Third Marine Air Wing, from December 1943 to April 1944. In September 1944, Larkin took charge of air operations in the Northern Solomons as deputy commander and later acting commander of aircraft. From May

21, 1944 to June 14, 1944, Larkin was commanding general of Marine Aircraft, South Pacific. From August to December of 1944, Larkin served as commanding officer of the Thrid Marine Aircraft Wing in the Pacific. Finally, now a Lieutenant General, Larkin served as commanding general of Marine Fleet Air, West Coast, until he retired from active duty, March 1, 1946.

On November 2, 1969, Larkin passed away at the Air Force Base Hospital, Riverside, Calif., with 31 years of honorable service in the United States Marine Corps.



Major General Claude A. Larkin, a Marine Corps Pilot during World War I and II. Larking ended his career in the Marine Corps as a Lieutenant General.

Chaplain's Corner:

Fighting off the stress of the holidays

By Chaplain Charlie Owens
MCIWEST

Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton

The comedian Lily Tomlin once said that, "Reality is the leading cause of stress among those in touch with it." It is funny but true that some of life's most celebrated times can also be overwhelmingly stressful. Whether it is the hectic pace of the season or unmet expectations, the holiday season can be quite stressful. The following suggestions are a few of the things that I do in an attempt to preserve the real joy of the holiday season and not become consumed by stress and business.

First, it is important to be realistic about your expectations. The holidays don't have to be perfect or even similar to last year. As families change and grow, traditions and rituals often change as well. Choose a few to hold on to, and be open to creating new ones. For example, if your adult children can't come to your house, find new ways to celebrate together, such as sharing pictures, emails or videos. In my family, it became impossible for everyone to be together on Christmas day, so we changed our family event to New Year's Day. Make sure that you are making decisions that are based on your unique situation and not your perception of someone else's expectations for you.

Next, learn to say no. Saying yes, when it would be much better for you to say no, will most likely leave you feeling resentful and overwhelmed. Your family and friends should understand if you can't participate in every event. If it's not possible to say no when you

Giving people room to be human creates breathing room in your own mind and heart. People who are easily offended by others often miss the bigger picture and do not experience the joy that accompanies walking in God's grace.

Next, make a budget and stick to it. Before you go shopping for food or gifts, decide how much money you can afford to spend, and then stick to your budget. There are several alternatives to extravagant

gift-giving that you can try; give homemade gifts, donate to a charity in someone's name, have a family

gift exchange where you and everyone picks one name, set a spending cap for presents, or replace gift-giving with a game night.

Additionally, you can plan ahead. Set aside specific days for shopping, baking, visiting friends and other activities. Take an inventory of your cabinets, plan your menus, and then make your shopping list. This should prevent the need for last-minute shopping trips to buy forgotten ingredients. Be sure to enlist help for party preparation and cleanup, there is no shame in asking for help.

Finally, reach out to others. If you feel lonely or isolated, seek out community, religious or other social events, they can offer the encouragement and social interaction you need. A great way to beat the holiday blues is to volunteer your time to help others, it is guaranteed to lift your spirits and broaden your friendships.

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are scheduled to work overtime or your child has a school function, try to remove something else from your agenda to create some breathing room in your calendar.

Thirdly, look for opportunities to be gracious to others. Consciously resolve in your heart to accept other people as they are, even when they don't meet all of your expectations. Prioritize what needs to be "fixed" and what you can simply let go.

