

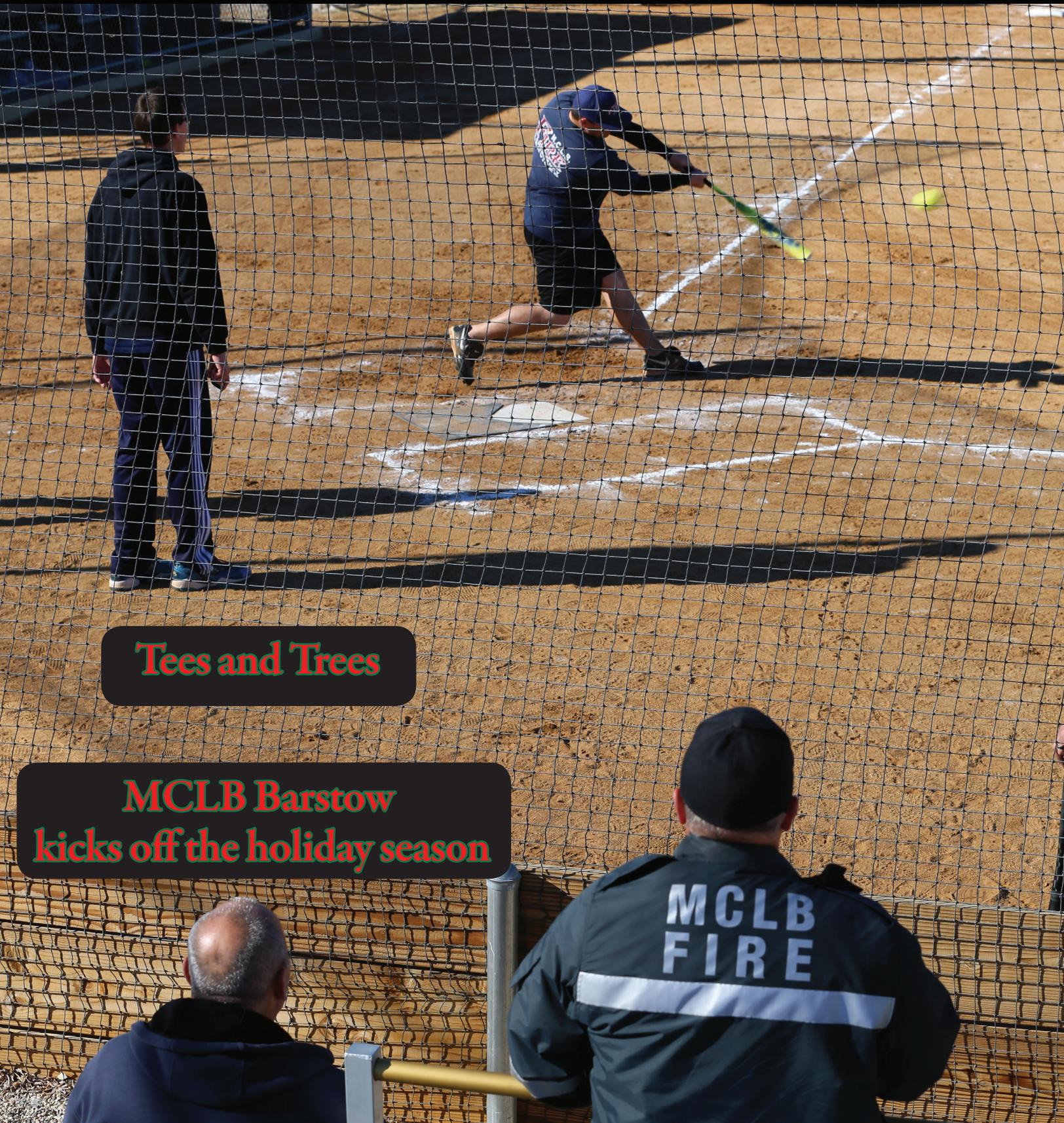


THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 2 No. 24

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

Dec. 19, 2013



Tees and Trees

**MCLB Barstow
kicks off the holiday season**



On The Cover:

Front Cover:

Photo by Sgt. Shannon Yount

Members of the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Fire Department cheer on their fellow firefighters, during the Toys for Tots Softball Tournament, held on base at Sorenson Field, Dec. 14. In total, more than 100 players participated in the event and more than 150 toys were collected for the foundation.

Back Cover:

Photo by Gunnery Sgt. David J. Drafton

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, stationed on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., executes an eyes right during the city of Adelanto's Annual Christmas Parade in Adelanto, Calif., Dec. 14.

THE PROSPECTOR

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Garrett White

Colonel Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., serves Cpt. William Hemme, operations officer for Fleet Support Division on MCLB Barstow, at a local Barstow restaurant in support of the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, Dec. 10. The purpose of the event was to receive donations for the Toys for Tots program from patrons of the restaurant.

On the web

Website:

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

Follow us on:

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



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Barstow, California

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MCLB BARSTOW NEWS

Trees for Troops comes to MCLB Barstow for 9th time!



Photo by Lance Cpl. Samuel Ranney

Sergeant Elton Rogers, supply administrative chief on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., interacts with the community of Victorville, Calif., while collecting toys for the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Dec. 15. From 9 a.m. until 6 p.m., MCLB Barstow Marines collected myriad toys and cash donations in Victorville.

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good night** 5



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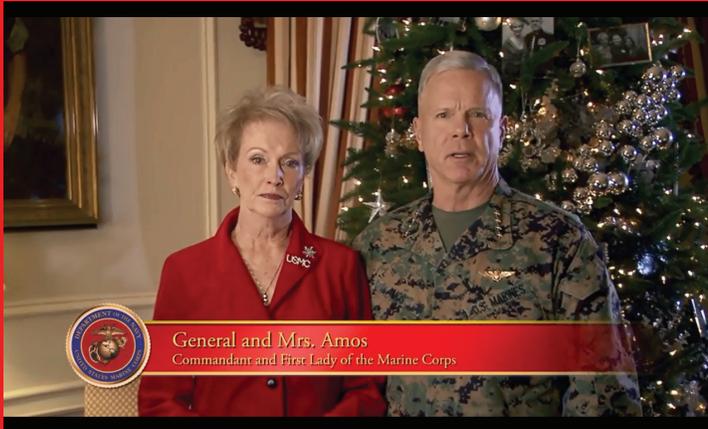
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A HOLIDAY MESSAGE ...

FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS AND HIS WIFE, BONNIE AMOS



General and Mrs. Amos
Commandant and First Lady of the Marine Corps

At this special time of year, Bonnie and I offer our entire Marine Corps family our warmest greetings. As we savor the familiar sights and sounds, when everything old is new again, we pause to give thanks. Thanks for our families, our friends, our freedoms and the fraternity we share to the magnificent men and women who serve our great nation. Whether you're stateside or deployed to distant lands, we honor your devotion to duty.

During this season of wonder and anticipation, we hold close to our hearts our deployed Marines, our sailors and our wonderful supportive families. Our thoughts are with you, the few and the proud, who are across our globe, in every clime and place, protecting our homeland. You are not alone. Alongside your fellow Marines, you are among family found by camaraderie and shared hardship. Please know how much your families miss you and wish you were home. We are so proud of your service to our Corps and for your faithfulness.

In that spirit with gratitude for all we've achieved together this past year, and with the enthusiasm and resolve to face the challenges that lie ahead, Bonnie and I wish you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Semper Fidelis

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.

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.

Gas Pumps

The gas pumps at the Marine Corps Exchange, Nebo Annex, may be down intermittently, from Dec. 16 - Dec. 20. The store will remain open. For more information, call 760-256-8974.

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.

Bowling Party

Party packages available at the base bowling alley. Package includes two hours of bowling and a free game coupon for the next visit.

Energy Tip

If every gas-heated home were properly caulked and weather-stripped, we'd save enough natural gas each year to heat about 4 million homes.

Merry Christmas, My Friend

Poem written by

Lance Cpl. James M. Schmidt

Marine stationed in Washington, D.C., in 1986

Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone,
In a one bedroom house made of plaster & stone.

I had come down the chimney, with presents to give
and to see just who in this home did live

As I looked all about, a strange sight I did see,
no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by the fire, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With medals and badges, awards of all kind,
a sobering thought soon came to my mind.
For this house was different, unlike any I'd seen.
This was the home of a U.S. Marine.

I'd heard stories about them; I had to see more,
so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone,
Curled up on the floor in his one-bedroom home.

He seemed so gentle, his face so serene,
Not how I pictured a U.S. Marine.
Was this the hero, of whom I'd just read?
Curled up in his poncho, a floor for his bed?

His head was clean-shaven, his weathered face tan.
I soon understood, this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night,
owed their lives to these men, who were willing to fight.

Soon around the Nation, the children would play,
And grown-ups would celebrate on a bright Christmas day.

They all enjoyed freedom, each month and all year,
because of Marines like this one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home.
Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye.
I dropped to my knees and I started to cry.

He must have awoken, for I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is my God, my country, my Corps."

With that he rolled over, drifted off into sleep,
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.

I watched him for hours, so silent and still.
I noticed he shivered from the cold night's chill.
So I took off my jacket, the one made of red,
and covered this Marine from his toes to his head.
Then I put on his T-shirt of scarlet and gold,
with an eagle, globe and anchor emblazoned so bold.
And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride,
and for one shining moment, I was Marine Corps deep inside.

I didn't want to leave him so quiet in the night,
this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
But half asleep he rolled over, and in a voice clean and pure,
said "Carry on, Santa, it's Christmas Day, all secure."
One look at my watch and I knew he was right,
Merry Christmas my friend, Semper Fi and goodnight.



Happy Holidays

MCLB BARSTOW KICKS OFF

Photos compiled by the



On Dec. 16, the city of Victorville Calif., held the Polar Express, a holiday-themed train ride on an old-style locomotive decorated with Christmas cheer from engine to engine, inside and out. Numerous families from the High Desert area anxiously waited as the train pulled in.

Marines and soldiers stationed on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., were given the opportunity to enjoy the ride with their families for free. The locomotive traveled from Victorville to Barstow, Calif.

During the train ride, passengers on the train were greeted by clowns who made balloon animals and interacted with children, Christmas carolers, and Mr. and Mrs. Santa Clause. Children were each given a small toy to take home as a souvenir from the trip. They were also given snacks and drinks to enjoy during their ride.

FF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

e Public Affairs staff



Marines, soldiers, and base personnel on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., got together for a night of camaraderie and holiday spirit, during the Base Christmas Party, at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center, Dec. 12.

The event kicked-off with a full meal, a live jazz band, and desserts. Following the meal, the Marine Corps Fire Department here drove up in a fire truck, lights flashing, playing holiday music, to drop off Santa Clause; children of all ages lined up to meet with him. The tennis court, decorated as the North Pole, was filled with tables set up for crafts, games and other activities as families waited to get their picture taken with Santa. The night concluded with a holiday puppet show for children to enjoy with their parents.





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

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is located in the vast Mojave Desert . . . in the midst of all the sand and cacti, one may be surprised to come across a tree-filled, luscious nine-hole golf course.

The Tees and Trees Golf Course, located right outside of the base, is just that – a green, nine-hole course filled with military veterans but open to the public, year round from sunup until sundown, explained Kenneth Herris, league clerk at the course.



Sergeant Joel Richards, training noncommissioned officer on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., watches his golf ball roll toward the hole, at the Tees and Trees Golf Course outside of the base. The golf course is open year round and provides discounts to active duty service members.

Herris, who has worked at Tees and Trees for more than a decade, described the course as being challenging yet relaxing and good for beginners to work on their skills.

“A lot of us here golf and are more than happy to offer lessons,” he added. “It’s always good to get new talent out here.”

Most of their customers are former service members, but Herris encourages active duty Marines and soldiers to pick up a new sport and possibly learn a thing or two from the veterans.

The golf course also provides a local, affordable place for service members to pass their time in the High Desert.

Herris explained the first four active duty service members to come in each day, golf for free. After that, depending on rank, active duty service members get discounts.

Prices for a nine-hole game are as follows:

- E1-E5 - \$5
- E6-O2 - \$7
- O3-O10 - \$8
- Civilian - \$9
- 18 years-old and under - \$3

Sergeant Joel Richards, training noncommissioned officer on MCLB Barstow, is one active duty Marine here who takes full advantage of what the course has to offer.

“I come out here to golf as often as possible . . . usually about four times a week,” said Richards.

Richards, who has been golfing for more than 12 years, explained it’s a great course to sharpen up one’s skills.

The Westin, WV native, further explained Tees and Trees, and golfing in general, is a great way for Marines to relax.

“It helps me deal with stress,” explained Richards, who has been on multiple combat deployments. “I have a lot of anxiety and it helps calm me down.”

Like Herris, Richards also encourages other Marines to try out the golf course.

“The majority of the guys out there are veterans . . . they all understand what it’s like to be in the military,” said Richards. “It’s a great place for any Marine to golf, relax and share stories with veterans.”

For more information about lessons, club rentals, or leagues, call the Tees and Trees Golf Course at 760 – 577 – 6431.

ATHOC: SENDING A MESSAGE ... IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE

**Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent**

Last August, Barstow, Calif., experienced a sudden storm, causing a flash flood that temporarily shut down the main gate to Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Nebo Annex.

At the time, the base's public announcement system was the only way to inform base personnel that the gate was closed before they physically arrived. As of last month, MCLB Barstow implemented a program to simplify communication problems.

The solution is AtHoc, a web-based mass notification system. Base personnel in the system will receive text messages, e-mails, or pop-up notifications on their work computers, informing them of a gate closure or other important base updates, said Michael Woods, physical security specialist here. Woods

Pedro Ruiz, services officer here. Integrated with the base's already in place PA system, AtHoc gives operators on MCLB Barstow a more efficient way to distribute important information to base personnel.

The program allows operators to track how information is disseminated, the time the information is received, and whether the message is received or not, explained Ruiz. It can also target specific sections on the base, individual buildings or even specific groups of people.

The types of notifications are very customizable, added Woods. Operators of AtHoc can build any amount of scenarios with pre-made messages; the only limitation is the amount of time the operator can devote to setting up scenarios.

The way the program works on the users end is rather simple, added Ruiz. If there was some type of

emergency or hazardous condition, AtHoc notifies base personnel of the situation and asks users to respond with either number 1: they received the message and are not affected by the event, or number 2: they received the message and are affected by the event. Anyone responding with a '2' gives base emergency services an idea of the number of people in need of assistance and allows AtHoc operators to specifically target individuals effected by the event to keep them informed of the situation as it unfolds.

"The sky is the limit with possible applications (of AtHoc)," Ruiz said. "We (AtHoc operators) can inform people on shelter, location conditions, hazardous leaks, and chemical spills ... (and all other) hazardous conditions. It can not only send you notifications of the hazard, but send users routes to get around (and avoid) them. It can also notify people



A thirty-minute deluge causes flash floods and closes the main gate to Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Nebo Annex, Aug. 29. Using AtHoc, MCLB Barstow's emergency services can notify base personnel of any emergency situations occurring on base.

A screenshot of AtHoc's self-registration page. Michael Woods, physical security specialist for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Calif., encourages all base personnel to register with AtHoc so they may be better informed should an emergency occur.

further explained base employees have the option of updating their information on the system to receive these notifications on their personal cell phones or e-mail.

The program works as an interactive alert system for base personnel, said

if it is safe to return to the base or their work place."

Registration with AtHoc is simple, added Woods. For workstations using the Windows 7 operating system, users can access the self-service registration by right clicking on the purple globe icon in the system tray, and selecting the 'Access Self-Service.' Once on the web page, just follow the directions. For users whose workstation still runs Windows XP, go to the website <https://alerts1.mcidsus.mcids.usmc.mil/Self-Service/Entry.aspx?pid=2060372> to register.

Base personnel are all automatically registered to receive notifications at work. However, base employees are strongly encouraged, for their convenience and safety, to update their information and stay updated via their personal phones and e-mail addresses, Woods concluded.

Maintaining good riding habits on MCLB Barstow

**Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Garrett White
Combat Correspondent**

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Motorcycle Mentorship Program (MMP) rode to Boron, Calif., to visit the 20 Mule Team Museum for its quarterly group ride, Dec. 13.

Marine Corps Order 5100.19f requires all Marine commands to establish a MMP or similar motorcycle organization, said Sgt. William Koepp, MMP president here.

"The purpose of the motorcycle club is to identify and mentor inexperienced riders, foster respectful riding practices, and ensure continuing education opportunities are available for all Marine Corps club members throughout their riding careers," explained Koepp.

During their monthly group meetings members discuss anything motorcycle related, added Koepp. Topics include sharing riding experiences, discussing good riding technique, and planning out future group rides.

"The quarterly group rides are a way for the more experienced riders to identify and correct poor riding habits the less experienced riders might have developed when riding alone," Koepp said.

Brian Korves, safety and occupational health specialist here added, "It's important to catch bad riding habits early."

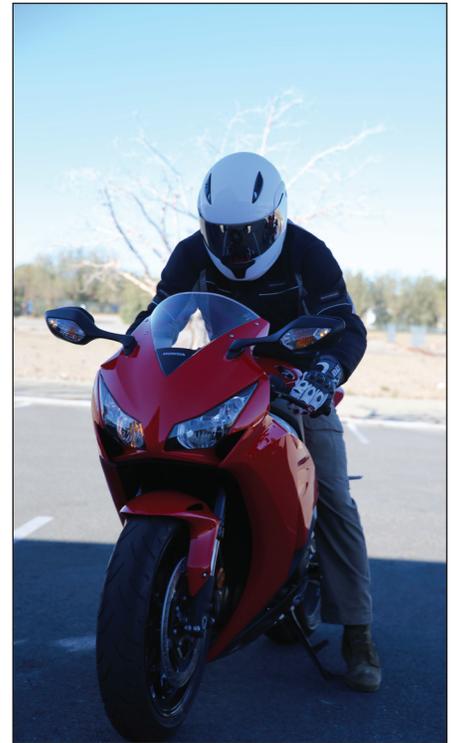
Experienced riders aren't exempt from this, Korves said. Riders of all levels can form bad habits, so it's important to get refresher training to alleviate any bad habits that could cause unsafe riding.

Last year, the Marine Corps had a total of 24 personally operated vehicle fatalities, 14 of which were motorcyclists, added Korves.

A person is 30 times more likely to be killed in an accident when operating a motorcycle than when operating a car.

The most important thing a rider can do is remember the basic fundamentals of riding, Korves added. A rider should never ride above his or her own skill level or in a way that is unsafe for the conditions of the road.

At the end of the day, the MMP is a way for Marines to learn and maintain safe riding habits while still enjoying themselves, said Koepp. Group rides encourage Marines to learn from their peers and better educate themselves on proper riding form and fundamentals.



Captain Robin Lee, deputy director of S-6, prepares to depart for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Motorcycle Mentorship Program's quarterly group ride, Dec. 13. The program's goal is to allow Marines to share riding experiences and knowledge, and foster good riding habits between riders of all skill levels.



Sergeant William Koepp (front), Capt. Robin Lee (left), and Sgt. Julio Tovar (right), members of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Motorcycle Mentorship Program, ride down Highway 58 during the programs quarterly group ride, Dec. 13. The purpose of the group rides is so the more experienced riders can identify and correct poor riding habits the less experienced riders might have.



Give a little, help a lot!

Gunnery Sgt. David J. Drafton Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's 2013 Combined
Public Affairs Chief Federal Campaign started Oct. 30 and will continue through
Jan. 7.

CFC is the world's largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign, with more than 150 concurrent CFC campaigns throughout the country and overseas raising millions of dollars each year, according to the CFC SoCal website.

The primary mission of CFC is to allow federal civilian employees and service members to support approved charities with the added benefit of convenience and confidence.

Donors have three options of contributing this year to the charity of their choosing; a one-time cash donation, check or by going online via MyPay to set up an allotment.

Pledges can be made by contacting your local keyworker or installation CFC coordinator.

For more information, visit www.socalcfc.org.

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