



# PRO THE SPECTOR

Vol. 3 No. 14

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

July 24, 2014

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**Horse Marines  
The Few, The Proud!**

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**Apple Valley's ROMEO  
group tours MCLB**

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**War Dogs History**





Courtesy Photo: MCCS

Families are enjoying the Summer Reading Program, "Paws to Read" in Bldg. 17. There is a story time and craft every week at 10am that will conclude on August 6.

## On The Cover:

### Front Cover:

**Photo by Cpl. Samuel Ranney**

*Prestonn Biggs, heavy mobile equipment mechanic on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, drives an assault amphibious vehicle through the test pond at the test track here, July 21. All military vehicles are tested before they are sent out to be used in training or forward deployed environments.*

### Back Cover:

**Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles**

*The lifeguards on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., teach children how to swim during the afternoon pool hours, July 22. The lifeguards spend time with each child to ensure they understand and grasp the basic techniques.*

## THE PROSPECTOR

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## On the web

### Website:

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

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

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Photo by: Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Marines and base employees on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., were given a class on violence prevention by Lowell Rector and Steve Sullivan, class instructors, contracted with Headquarters Marine Corps, July 15. The class entailed instructors explaining different ways to tell if a person will cause bodily harm to him or herself, co-workers, or innocent bystanders. The three stages of anger, which is moderate, high, and extreme, were explained as well as indicators that can lead to someone becoming violent. The Violence Prevention Program was put into place to prevent violence in the workplace, from active shooters to verbal harassment.

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# 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:

**Amy Loughridge, Clarisa Matting-Smith, and 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.

## Stork Club

Join New Parent Support for their monthly 'Stork Club' for expectant moms and moms of children ages 0-18 months. On Thursday, August 14, at 6 p.m. in the Desert View Housing Community Center. Each month will feature a different topic. August is pre and post-natal yoga with guest instructor Michelle Schuff. Bring water and a yoga mat, and be sure to wear comfortable clothing. For more information contact the New Parent Support Program at 577-6533.

## Tutoring

Would you like to be a tutor? Do you need a tutor for your child? The School Liaison Program is offering a K-12 tutoring center in its new location, building 126. For more information, contact the School Liaison Program at 760 - 577 - 5854.

## USMC BALL 2014

### Limited Edition, Bottle Opener Coins For Sale

This year's USMC Ball committee is selling bottle opener coins to raise money for this year's Birthday Ball. Only 250 of these Coins have been made. 200 coins are left. The Ball Committee will not be making any more of these coins. Please get them while they last for ONLY \$10. The sale of these coins ultimately reduce the price of the Birthday Ball tickets. For more information contact Staff Sgt. Worley at 577-5821 or e-mail [Jeffery.j.worley@usmc.mil](mailto:Jeffery.j.worley@usmc.mil) or stop by the S3 section of Bldg. 15.

## Back To School Brigade

Join the School Liaison Program in starting the next school year off right with the Back to School Brigade on Monday, August 4th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Bldg. 126. Active Duty Only! Sign your children and yourself up today at <http://backtoschool2014.eventbrite.com>. For more information contact the School Liaison Program at 577-5854.

## ITT Specials

ITT has tons of great offers to make your summer sensational! These include: Knott's Soak City, Hurricane Harbor, Raging Waters and hotel discounts.

For more information about these and other great offers, please contact ITT at 577-6541.

## 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 Wednesday of the month, at 10 a.m. There will be a Story Time & Craft every week starting June 18 - July 30, plus a great Finale Party on August 6. For more information contact Library Services at 577-6395.

## Pool Opening

The Oasis Pool & Water Park is open! The hours for lap swim will be Tuesday - Friday from 11 a.m. - 1p.m. The hours for open swim will be Tuesday - Friday from 1 p.m. - 7 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Stay tuned for more information on Water Aerobics and Swim Lessons! For more information contact Semper Fit at 577-6898.

## SMP Gym Towels

Support your single Marines and purchase a navy blue or black gym towel for \$10. For more information, contact 760 - 577 - 5889.

## 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:

Shorten your showers. Each minute less you run the shower you could save up to 2.5 gallons, depending on the type of shower head you have.

# ROMEOS TOUR MCLB BARSTOW

**Story and photos By:**  
**Cpl. Samuel Ranney**  
Press Chief

After multiple decades of being in the workforce, many people look forward to retirement; however, retirement doesn't have to

consist of sitting at home all day.

This is the philosophy of the ROMEOS, Retired Old Men Eating Out, from the Sun City retirement community in Apple Valley, Calif. The group of men believe in maintaining an active and social lifestyle during their retirement years.

"We all get together once a month for lunch and a different activity," explained Armando Berriez, retired school consultant and one of the founders of the Apple Valley ROMEOS. "We have a very diverse group ... each month a different person chooses where we eat and what activity we do."

The entire group consists of about 40 men, Berriez added. Because of the diversity, and rotations of who chooses the activity, it's always very interesting. It can be anything, from playing pool or bocce ball to touring military installations.

On July 21, the group toured Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

"We didn't know what to expect ... but whenever there is a chance to go somewhere new we take it," he explained.

Louie Levario, Korean War veteran and member of the ROMEOS, helped come up with the idea of touring the base for this month's activity.

"I have lived in Barstow for many years and have known many people who worked here," Levario said. "However, I have never actually been on the base until today ... it was great."



*Sergeant Evan Schoenwald, from Fleet Support Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., shows the ROMEOS, Retired Old Men Eating Out, from the Sun City retirement community in Apple Valley, Calif., different military vehicles, July 21. The group chose to tour the base for their monthly activity.*

The base tour consisted of a briefing about the overall mission of MCLB Barstow, a tour of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard's stables, a static display of various military vehicles, a demonstration of an assault amphibious vehicle on the base's test track, and of course, lunch at the base's family restaurant.

"It was beyond expectation ... we never knew how much went on here," Berriez said. "It was a unique treat and we appreciated the time with the Marines."

Overall, the ROMEOS are a group of men who like to get out, have fun and talk about life, Berriez explained.

"As you retire, you need to be mindful with how you want to spend the rest of your life," he added. "We like to go out and do things together ... instead of staying home and watching T.V."



*The ROMEOS, Retired Old Men Eating Out, from the Sun City retirement community in Apple Valley, Calif., pose for a group picture in front of Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, July 21. The ROMEOS stay active and social during retirement by going out to eat each month and doing a different activity together.*

# A FOUR-LEGGED THE MARINE CORPS MOUNTED COLOR GUARD

Story By:

Sara W. Bock

Leatherneck staff writer

Riding four abreast atop their palomino mustangs, the Marines of the Mounted Color Guard proudly bear the

colors of their country and Corps.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is home to the only remaining Mounted Color Guard in the Marine Corps. This small and unique entity has the honor of representing the Corps in parades, rodeos and other events nationwide. With determination and enthusiasm, these Marines on horseback carry on a time-honored tradition that originated more than a century ago.

The “Horse Marines” was the nickname given to the mounted U.S. legation detachment in Peking, China, a guard unit established in 1900. While their purpose was to conduct patrols on horseback, they also participated in weekly parades during their 33-year presence in Peking.

Horses in the Corps haven’t solely been used for ceremonial purposes; with their strength and high endurance, they have assisted Marines in battle as well. Sergeant Reckless, perhaps the most beloved horse in Marine Corps history, accomplished a remarkable feat during the Korean War as she supported ammunition carriers—resupplying and transporting heavy rounds across long distances. After the war, she was retired with full military honors and is buried at Stepp Stables at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The days of relying on horses for conveyance may be long gone, but the legacy is continued by the modern-day “Horse Marines” at Barstow—a legacy that stems from pride in the Corps, a love for tradition, and an unquenchable esprit.

The Mounted Color Guard at MCLB Barstow was not the first of its kind. The first official Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard was established aboard Camp Pendleton in 1955.

Colonel A. C. “Ace” Bowen was brought back from retirement to institute a new water-use policy for Camp Pendleton. He not only accomplished this, but also instituted the Camp Pendleton rodeo and the Mounted Color Guard. Col Bowen was a horse lover who wanted to revive the equestrian traditions of Camp Pendleton, which dated back to the base’s establishment in 1942. In those early days, as World War II progressed, mounted Marines were charged with patrolling the beaches, out of concern that the Japanese might attack the base by way of the Pacific. After the Allied victory, those mounted patrols were discontinued.

Col Bowen’s color guard brought mounted Marines back to Camp Pendleton, with the primary goal of representing the Corps in a unique way. The tradition of Marines on horseback was reinvented with the establishment of the Mounted Color Guard; Col Bowen was so influential in the revival of the base’s Western heritage that the Camp Pendleton rodeo grounds were dedicated to his name in June 1982.

The members of the Camp Pendleton Mounted Color Guard, all of whom were noncommissioned officers (NCOs), “were always greeted with exuberance and great joy when they came riding down the street, or [when]

the horses kicked up dust during the many rodeos and festivals to which they were asked,” said Autumn Day Tufts, whose husband, Marine veteran George Tufts, served as a member of the Mounted Color Guard from 1965 to 1969.

By 1968, they had been seen by about 7 million people at more than 600 public events. Adorned with scarlet and gold saddle blankets and silver-painted hooves, the horses—Tinker Tom, Muffit, Dale and El Noche—were just as lauded by the audience as the Marines astride them.

For the members of the Camp Pendleton Mounted Color Guard, involvement was strictly volunteer-based. Each member was given one afternoon each week from his regular duties to ride and rehearse, but otherwise his evenings, weekends and holidays were spent riding in ceremonies and functions across Southern California and beyond. They participated in the color guard for no additional pay and sacrificed their liberty time to represent the Corps. During the weekdays, Marines and their dependents rode the horses for leisure, which made it a little more difficult for the members of the Mounted Color Guard to prepare for weekend events.

A competitive application process was involved: NCOs vying for a position were required to be experienced horsemen with recommendations from their commanding officer. Although there was a good deal of pomp and circumstance involved in their appearances, they were required to put forth a great deal of work and preparation—polishing saddles, cleaning and painting hooves were just a few of the tasks involved prior to each event. Each member was required to provide and maintain his own dress blue uniform.

The Camp Pendleton Mounted Color Guard “had a sterling reputation, six horses, a huge horse trailer, and were bonded to their horses and to each other,” said Tufts. They traveled throughout the southwestern United States and made an effort to appear at every event to which they were invited.

The senior Marine in the color guard would present the Stars and Stripes while the next in rank would bear the Marine Corps standard. The flanking guards carried NCO swords.

In 1962, Gunnery Sergeant Lawrence S. Petri, then-non-commissioned officer in charge of the Camp Pendleton Mounted Color Guard, told Leatherneck, “If the time should come when the uniformed Marine rides in the last parade and dismounts for the final time, I hope I’m not around, because part of my Marine Corps and I will go with him.”

Although the Mounted Color Guard at Camp Pendleton disbanded in the 1990s, another such unit is still operational. The MCLB Barstow Mounted Color Guard was founded in 1967 by Lieutenant Colonel Robert A. Lindsley and designated by Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps as an official Mounted Color Guard in 1968.

After returning to Barstow from Vietnam in 1966, Lt. Col.

# GED LEGACY

## UNITED COLOR GUARD

Photos By: Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles  
Combat Correspondent



unique side of the Marine Corps with countless young people.

An extremely demanding schedule of appearances means that when the Marines of the Mounted Color Guard are at home in Barstow, they are working long hours and pushing themselves and their horses to be performance-ready. According to GySgt Garcia, a typical day begins around 0500 with group physical training. They return to the stables around 0700 to feed the horses and muck their stalls. They inspect the horses before the training day begins at 0900—a training day which includes time both in the classroom and astride their mounts.

Between ceremonial rehearsals, obstacle courses and other drills—and then the unsaddling, feeding, grooming and debriefing—the days are long, but they are fulfilling and go by quickly.

While the horses may be alike in breed—wild mustangs of palomino color—they are vastly different in personality. When GySgt Garcia arrived at MCLB Barstow, he says the mentality was “one rider, one horse, and that’s it.” He quickly realized that the same horses were getting burned out over and over again, so he decided to swap out horses and insisted that each rider get to know each horse—its mannerisms, quirks, strengths and weaknesses. The results of this new system have been nothing but positive.

“It’s a bond; you can see it when you walk into their stalls in the barn and they come up to you and sniff you, nibble at you and rub up on you,” Garcia said. “You can tell if they [the horses] need a day off, and we just say, ‘We’ll come back to you tomorrow.’”

The intelligent palominos, with their beautiful golden coats, are “honestly just like one of us,” said Garcia. “They have good days and they have bad days.” Adopted from the Bureau of Land Management’s Adopt-a-Horse and burro program, the equines serve as ambassadors of the Corps across the nation, alongside the Marines who gentle them, train them and care for them.

Despite recent threats due to sequestration and budget cuts, the Barstow Mounted Color Guard is still riding proudly—and will be for years to come if its members have anything to do with it.

“We hopefully will solidify the tradition,” said GySgt Garcia. “Everyone who comes here—they want to pass the tradition on, they don’t want it to die. We want to see the Mounted Color Guard going on for years and years. This is a part of history that is honestly slowing down.”

As the nature of war changes, and as technology evolves to assuage those changes, Marines seem to always find a way to preserve tradition while adapting to the demands of the modern-day battlefield. The legacy of the Horse Marines, kept alive today by merely three infantrymen, is a sure testament to that.

Lindsley envisioned a mounted color guard that would bring back the history of the Horse Marines. He gathered a group of Marines who volunteered their time, effort and even money to get the color guard up and running. With virtually zero funds or support, they built the stables by hand and purchased hay from the city of Barstow at a discounted price. Their first horses were a gift from Preston Hafen, a sheriff from Utah. They even acquired a 5-ton truck and cattle car and secretly altered it into a six-horse carrier, keeping it hidden from the base commanding officer by storing it off base in the city of Barstow.

Despite the initial challenges he and his Marines faced, LtCol Lindsley’s efforts proved successful; nearly 50 years later, the history is still alive at the stables where it began.

A few things have changed throughout the years. The members of today’s Mounted Color Guard are sent to MCLB Barstow on orders specifically to be stablemen. Most are infantrymen by trade, and generally speaking, their equestrian experience upon reporting to Barstow is little to none. GySgt Daniel A. Garcia, staff NCOIC of the Barstow Mounted Color Guard, is an 0369, infantry unit leader, who had no idea the Mounted Color Guard existed before he received his orders.

Presently, there are only three Marines who are full-time members—GySgt Garcia, Sgt Edgar A. Torrealba and Sgt Moises Machuca—all infantrymen. The fourth rider for parade ceremonies and other events is typically one of a few Marines stationed at Barstow who train with the Mounted Color Guard as needed.

Unlike the color guard Marines of earlier days, GySgt Garcia, Sgt Torrealba and Sgt Machuca handle the horses as their primary job. For now, these infantrymen have traded their rifles for reins. Rather than guiding a platoon, they now guide horses through drills and ceremonial rehearsals. While it may be a significant change for them, it is evident that they thoroughly enjoy their new roles.

Whether the mission is working with a platoon in combat or training a horse for a ceremony, the Marines of the Mounted Color Guard give 100 percent and, in return, receive a great deal of personal satisfaction and pride in the Corps.

“I can’t put it into words, the feeling; it’s electric, honestly it is,” said GySgt Garcia. “It’s a great honor and a privilege to get out and intermingle with the local populace, who say, ‘We never knew that Marines ride horses.’ Everywhere we go we get great responses—they want to see more of us.

“It feels great to be a face of the Marine Corps,” he added.

They certainly are a prominent face of the Corps, riding in the Rose Parade each year in Pasadena, Calif.; the New Orleans Mardi Gras Parade; as well as numerous other parades, rodeos, livestock shows, stampedes and festivals. Additionally, they make a large number of appearances at public schools when they are “on the road,” sharing a

# SPOTLIGHT: MARINE CORPS' LARGEST TEST TRACK

Compiled by the Prospector Staff

The test track on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, puts life-saving military vehicles through a crucible of terrain and obstacles it could encounter in a forward-deployed environment. Built in 1999, the track is designed to enable employees of MDMC to check the performance of every vehicle before it's put into use. Every aspect of the track, from its horsepower to its amphibious capabilities, goes through a battery of tests on the track.



# DEVIL DOGS

Story By:  
**Krista Cacace**  
Correspondent

Throughout history dogs have been our constant faithful companions and protectors. As far back as the Civil War, stories have been written of heroic dogs that have served alongside our service members in our nation's history. Dogs have played vital roles as mascots, guards, trackers and even mine detectors - saving thousands of human lives.

Dogs were originally enlisted by the Quartermaster Corps, and a diversity of breeds were accepted, but were viewed as equipment. German Shepherds and Doberman pinschers became the choice breed selected for the work. These dogs are commonly referred to as war dogs; however, the correct term is military working dogs. Military working dogs have been used by the U.S. Military since World War I, the Marine Corps was the last branch to implement a war dog program during the Vietnam War, and they are still used today.

During the Vietnam War, approximately 4,000 U.S.



dogs served in the conflict. The First Marine Dog Platoon consisted of 48 enlisted men working in pairs as handlers for the 21 Dobermans and three Shepherds. On Nov. 1, 1943, the 24 canine members were sent ashore just one hour after the first wave of Marines hit the beach on Bougainville.

The fighting Marines met the dogs with mixed reactions, since the use of dogs in combat was in a trial run. But these dogs proved to be invaluable in combat.

Otto, a thin Doberman pinscher, described as a very intelligent, well-trained, and good point dog hit the beach with his two handlers, Pvt. Martin R. Troup and Pfc. Henry L. Demault. Working ahead of the point in a reconnaissance patrol on Nov. 2, Otto's keen sense of smell and hearing allowed him to alert the position of a machine gun nest at least 100 yards away. This allowed the Marines time to disperse and take cover before the machine gun opened fire, resulting in zero casualties. Otto would go on to alert his handlers of Japanese snipers and more gun positions, but the stress and heavy combat conditions proved to be too much for him. Otto developed a nervous condition as a result of shellfire, and had to be put down on July 20, 1944. Unfortunately, after the conflict the majority of the working dogs had to be euthanized.

Labradors eventually replaced the Doberman due to the nature of the work that had to be accomplished, but the German Shepherd remains the most frequently used dog. Military working dogs continue to be of service today, but upon retirement, suitable veteran war dogs are allowed to be adopted into loving homes. The heroic actions of these 'DEVIL DOGS' should not be forgotten; they have saved countless lives and prevented casualties throughout their military service.



# AROUND THE CORPS

*A look at the Marine Corps outside of Barstow*



*Photo By: Cpl. Matthew Callahan*

*KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, Hawaii - KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, Hawaii - Indonesian marines move through the jungle on a reconnaissance patrol searching for opposing forces. The Indonesians, from various units of the Korps Marinir, trained with U.S. Marines assigned to India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014, July 13. RIMPAC, the largest maritime exercise in the Pacific region, fosters military-to-military bonds by strengthening lines of communication and interoperability among participating forces.*



*Photo By: Cpl. Tyler Viglione*

*San Diego, California - Drill instructors watch over recruits of India Company, 3rd Recruit Training Battalion, as the Confidence Chamber fills with CS gas. The recruits are required to conduct exercises in the chamber at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., - July 14. CS gas is a non-lethal tear gas and a riot control agent.*



*Photo by Cpl. Jose D. Lujano*

*MARINE CORPS AIR FACILITY QUANTICO, Virginia, United States - Sgt. Mario A. Ramirez, an air frames mechanic with Marine Corps Helicopter Squadron One, Headquarters Marine Corps, performs the last preflight check on a CH-46E Sea Knight on Marine Corps Air Facility Quantico July 16, 2014. Shortly after Ramirez completed his check the last four Sea Knights departed the squadron for the last time.*



*Photo by Sgt. Sarah Dietz*

*KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, Hawaii - KAHUKU TRAINING AREA, Hawaii - Sgt. Robert Nishnic, a Marine with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, and platoon sergeant for second platoon within Company Landing Team One, prepares to assault an objective in the forest of Kahuku Training Area during Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014, July 13. Twenty-two nations, more than 40 ships and submarines, about 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in RIMPAC from June 26 to Aug. 1 in and around the Hawaiian Islands and Southern California. The world's largest international maritime exercise, RIMPAC provides a unique training opportunity that helps participants foster and sustain the cooperative relationships that are critical to ensuring the safety of sea lanes and security on the world's oceans. RIMPAC 2014 is the 24th exercise in the series that began in 1971.*

# CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

## Knowing Who to Blame

**Submitted By:**  
**Cmdr. Samuel E. Ravelo**  
CREDO Chaplain

A couple of years ago I attended a chaplain's conference on the campus of the seminary where I graduated 15 years earlier. I was surprised to find out that not much had changed. I even saw two students who were still there after all these years.

After walking around campus for a couple of hours, I was approached by a campus policeman. He said his office had received a complaint that someone fitting my description was suspiciously walking around campus. He asked me if I was a student, and I explained to him the reason I was there. I proceeded to show him my military ID. After verifying it, he wrote my name in his notebook and informed other units looking for me that the "suspect" has been found. I felt a sharp pain in my heart and verbalized my disappointment to the policeman.

It felt like I had gone home to visit my mom and my siblings had called the police on me. I made it clear to the campus police that I did not blame the president of the school, the students, or even him for thinking of me as a potential criminal. I knew this action was the doing of one individual who called in with concerns; I could not blame the institution for the behavior of one person.

The same principle applies to each military member. The military is



an institution made out of individuals with different personalities and leadership styles. When someone has done us wrong, we should not blame the whole institution for that person's action.

I know many individuals who have left the military because of the actions and behavior of one person and unfortunately they miss the opportunity to see the strength, power and the endless opportunities that the military offers. Never forget, the world is made up of individuals, but we have to be careful not to confuse one person with the world at large.

