

PROSPECTOR

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE



Vol. 1, No. 13

July 26, 2012

Voting

Just one vote can make a difference

Marines Take Over

Marines take over Big Bear during battalion hike

Plan My Move

Military Homefront offers assistance for moving

Back To School

Wednesday, August 1 -

Oro Grand School District and Riverside Prep

Wednesday, August 8 -

Apple Valley School District

Thursday, August 9 -

Silver Valley School District

Monday, August 13 -

Hesperia School District

Thursday, August 16 -

Snowline Joint Unified School

Monday, August 20 -

Victor Elementary District, Barstow School District and
Victor Valley Union Schools

Wednesday, August 22 -

Helendale School District

Monday, August 27 -

Lucerne Valley School District



On The Cover:

Photo by: Pfc. Norman Eckles

With packs on their backs, Marines and sailors with Headquarters Battalion hike the trails of Big Bear, Calif.

Hiking more than 10 miles, this is the unit's longest conditioning hike so far.

Public Affairs Staff

Public Affairs Officer: Rob L. Jackson

Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Reina Barnett

Press Chief: Sgt. Shannon E. Yount

Prospector Editor: Lance Cpl. Dominic A. Smarra

Combat Correspondent: Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker

Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Norman Eckles

Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Samuel Ranney



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Michael L. Scalise, Commanding Officer
Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, Base Sergeant Major

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On the web

Website:

<http://www.marines.mil/unit/mclbbarstow/pages/default.aspx>

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





Photo courtesy of Defense Media Activity

Colonel Michael L. Scalise, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, poses with, from left, Deputy Commandant for Installations and Logistics Lt. Gen. Frank Panter, Under Secretary of the Navy Robert Work, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Fleet Readiness and Logistics Vice Adm. Philip Collum and Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Safety, Paul Hanley, after being awarded one of 19 SECNAV Safety Excellence Awards. The ceremony was held July 11, 2012 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington.

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Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations. Brandi Dew, Lorenzo Duarte, Diane Evett, Michael Fritz, Leonard Hernandez and Kendra Huyck.

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. Please ensure completed forms are turned into HRO as well. For more information, please contact Michelle Eichler at 760-577-6915.

Trader's Market

For Sale:

- Whirlpool Refrigerator, top freezer. \$400.00 or best offer.
 - Americana 4 burner stove. \$400.00 or best offer.
 - 6 drawer dresser with shadow box and mirror. \$100.00
 - King size bed. \$150.00 or best offer.
- Call 1-760-964-9716 ask for Diane.

Marine & Family Programs—New Parent Support Program Presents Active Parenting Now Classes

Are you frustrated as a parent? Do you feel like a “dictator?” or maybe you’re tired of being a “doormat.” Maybe you just want time to share ideas with other parents. Join us on Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m. for Active Parenting Now. Classes are geared towards those who have children between the ages of 5 and 12. Classes cover July 30—Winning Cooperation, Aug. 6—Responsibility and Discipline,

Aug. 13—Understanding and Redirecting Misbehavior, Aug. 20 Building Courage, Character and Self-esteem, and Aug. 27—The Active Family Now. Pre-registration is required and 4 free child care is available for pre-

registered CDC children of active duty. Call the CDC to reserve your child’s spot today at 577-6287. For information on the program and location or to pre-register for the class, call Elizabeth Clawson or Christina Chavez at 577-6533.

The Library will now be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m..

Desert Lanes Bowling Center—HOURS CHANGE

Effective 27 June 12 the Desert Lanes Bowling Center will be open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesday-Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Contact Recreation with any questions at 577-6971/6543.

Today in U.S.M.C. history

July 26, 1779: Battle of Banks Island.

July 26, 1861: An Act of Congress increased the Marine Corps’ authorized strength of 93 officers and 3,074 enlisted men.

Desert Lanes Bowling Center—Ticket Sales CHANGE

Tickets will NOT be sold through the Desert Lanes Bowling Center from July 19 through Aug. 1. During this time tickets will be available for purchase through the ITT office Monday through Friday only from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

For further information or if you have questions, contact Erika Argomedo in the ITT office at 577-6541.

ITT Special—National Parks Pass—SUSPENDED

Currently, there are some issues regarding this program. Some parks are participating and some are not. When the program is back up and running we will let you know.

For those that have already been issued park passes, visit ITT in building 342 or for questions or more information, call the ITT office at 577-6541.

STAY IN THE LOOP!

Visit www.mccsbarstow.com or pick up a Quarterly Connection Magazine at any of your MCCS facilities.

Community Services Barstow

One vote can make a difference

By Pfc. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

Did you know as Americans we would be speaking German if it wasn't for one vote.

According to www.usfca.edu, one vote has changed history on numerous occasions such as: Oliver Cromwell given control of England. It also saved President Andrew Jackson from impeachment. One vote gave Rutherford B. Hayes the presidency of the United States.

Contributing a single vote that could potentially change history will be an opportunity for American citizens, 18 or older, to register

and vote in their state.

If an individual is not sure how to register or isn't sure of the dates of voting in their state, information can be found on <http://www.fvap.gov>, a government website which helps service members vote.

"FVAP.gov is a great website for information on voting," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Keoni Kim, military personnel officer and the base voting assistance officer of Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Barstow. "It will walk you through the process of voting."

While finding out when the voting poles

open, this raises the question how someone will vote. There are three different ways to vote. There is the traditional way, where there is a walk-in booth and cast the votes in a cubical. Also, there is a written ballot. Where the vote can be written and turned into the booth. Lastly, there is the absentee ballot; this is a way to vote if an individual is out of state while the voting poles are open, according to Kim.

"The various ways you can vote are there



to make the voting process easier," said Kim.

Who or what you decide to vote for is a personal choice, explained Kim.

"A good way to decide who to vote for is simple," explained Kim. "Find out who the elected officials are and watch their campaign and what they are campaigning for."

The reason for listening and watching the elected official's campaign is important because that will be what they want to do for the state or the country. See what they are going to put on the table and what programs will benefit the state but, in the end it's all personal choice, explained Kim.

"If you want to have a say in the country's vision and what our elected officials are doing, then vote," Kim concluded.





With packs on their backs, Marines and sailors with Headquarters Battalion hike the trails of Big Bear, Calif. July 19. Hiking more than 10 miles, this is the unit's longest conditioning hike so far.



Marines take over Big Bear

Photos by Pfc. Norman Eckles



Do-it-yourself at Auto Skills Center

**Story and Photos by
Pfc. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent**

The staff at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Auto Skills Center firmly believes that anyone can maintain their automobile.

To put pedal to the metal, the skills center is planning many new and informative ways for anyone and everyone who wants to put their do-it-yourself mentality to the test.

Some of the new incentives include know your basic car care, tire safety and awareness, battery 101 and preparing an emergency kit.

Spending a day at the center not only promotes knowledge of maintaining a vehicle but it allows individuals the opportunity to save money.

Employees at the skills center are trained mechanics who are willing to teach individuals at any skill level, from someone who has never changed a tire to a veteran around the engine block.

The center is open Wednesday through Friday, 12 to 8 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. It is located on Nebo, bldg. 375.

For more information on pricing and future events call (760) 577-6441.



Basic car care, tire safety and awareness, battery know-how and preparing an emergency kit are some of the programs offered at the Auto Skills Center

A do-it-yourself facility, stop by and explore the many ways to save money on car care costs! Tool usage: standard and metric - at no cost!

Tune-up's... Oil Changes... Rotate Tires... Is your vehicle making a strange noise or sensation? Check it out by using one of the lifts at the Auto Skills Center!

-Stated in the MCCS Quarterly Connection



8 Employees at the skills center are trained mechanics who are willing to teach individuals at any skill level to maintain a vehicle.

The Auto Skills Center has virtually all of the tools and machines that are needed to do regular maintenance for any vehicle.

Planning for the future starts now

Submitted by Francis Villeme

Personal and Professional Development Manager

Marine: "I am getting out next month."

Counselor: "That's great, congratulations!"

Marine: "I found a great job opportunity."

Counselor: "Fantastic, not everyone finds employment so quickly."

Marine: "I need to get a Bachelors degree by next month."

Prior planning should start at your first duty station. If you wait for 12 or less months remaining till EAS or retirement, you most likely will miss your opportunity for, that "great job". Plan for it with P&PD Education Services, we will draw the map for you.

Pell Grant Cut for Distance Students Possible

A change to Pell Grants in a Senate appropriations bill for fiscal year 2013, if signed into law, could cut the need-based grants for students taking online classes. A provision in the Senate bill, which would increase the overall Pell Grant next year, would stop allowing students taking online classes to claim room and board expenses, as well as "miscellaneous personal expenses," as part of their cost of living when applying for Pell Grants. Currently, Pell Grants take all forms of expenses into account for all students, whether they're commuters, residential students or enrolled in online or distance learning programs. Students would still be able to use those expenses when applying for student loans or other forms of financial aid.

The Senate bill would increase the maximum Pell Grant by \$85, to \$5,635, an inflationary

increase built in during the switch to direct student lending two years ago. The bill would also spend \$40 million on an initiative proposed by the Obama administration to encourage innovation at colleges, known as First in the World and administered through the Fund for Improvement of Postsecondary Education. The budget would create a new agency, known as ARPA-ED, intended for research and development in education at the elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

Certificate, Certification, and Degrees, Oh my!

Certificates are usually earned through seat time in a classroom, with more than half taking less than a year to complete. Industry-based certifications, which are often confused with certificates, are typically awarded based on examinations. Public institutions award 51 percent of certificates, with almost all coming from two-year community colleges. For-profit colleges issue 45 percent of certificates, while private colleges issue 4 percent.

The certificate is the odd man out in the debate over college completion. But the certificate is the fastest-growing form of college credential in education, and a key component of work force development and the "completion."

A certificate is the highest form of education held by about 1 in 10 American workers, according to the Department of Labor. Certificate holders earn 20 percent more than workers who hold only a high school diploma. Did you know that fully one-third of certificate holders also have an associate, bachelor's or graduate degree. Such a large percentage suggests that workers are getting certificates to bolster skills or learn new ones in a tight job market.

Military Homefront offer assistance for moving

By Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker

Combat Correspondent

Permanent changes in station during a service member's career can be stressful to Marines and their families. Planning, financing, and the logistics of a PCS can add enough stress to make anyone dread it.

The Department of Defense and Marine Corps Community Services offer several resources to service members and their families preparing to make a journey from one chapter of a military career to another.

Military Homefront, the official website of the DoD's transition and relocation assistance, acts as a directory to resources service members, their families, and DoD employees to find information for their move.

"Homefront is a website that can help employees of the DoD if they're planning a move," said Alma Rodriguez, the relocation assistance program manager aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. "It has information that covers almost all sides of relocation in the military."

The website offers information on different aspects of a move including how to finance a relocation, how to properly plan, and provide's checklists of things to do from start to finish.

"Think of it as a directory to point you to whatever you need to do for your

10 move," explained Ro-

driguez. "It covers every part of PCSing. I think it's the best tool our Marines and sailors can use when moving," she added.

The resources found on Military Homefront aren't just utilized by the service members of the armed forces. DoD employees often PCS from one base to another as well. Information found on the website can assist DoD employees in relocating just the same as service members.

"I was really impressed with how much Homefront helped me when I started planning a move," said Gabriel Murillo, a firefighter with Fire and Emergency Services aboard MCLB Barstow. "Everything I found on the website was useful information I could use".

MCLB Barstow sets up briefs for those transitioning to another base or leaving the ranks of the Marine Corps.

"I advertise around base on a monthly basis for the briefs I have," said Rodriguez. "Since we have a smaller base, it allows me to make the briefs more personalized for the people attending. That way, I can answer any and all questions they may have about their move."

Rodriguez explained that many people make the move without utilizing Military Homefront. Although it's possible, she recommends people to see what the program has to offer.

"I can't stress enough about how helpful Homefront can be to people moving," she

said. "It's easy to use and can direct its users toward agencies who can help make their relocation go smoothly."

As a first time user, Murillo, a native of Ridgecrest, Calif., said the website made planning for his move a lot easier than he thought it was going to be. It explained things he would have never considered thinking about when moving to another country, he added.

"I'm planning a move to Naples, Italy, and I came down to Ms. Rodriguez to start setting stuff up," Murillo explained. "She showed me the website and after I was done looking through it for the first time, I felt 100% more equip for this move with the information that I found. I didn't know there was so much I needed to know about

moving to another country," he added.

The relocation assistance program is open to everyone on base looking to move to another base or leave active duty to return home and the classes held monthly are encouraged.

"It's important you find out as much information as you can before you make your move," explained Rodriguez. "I invite everyone who are interested in my briefs to attend so they have the proper tools necessary to plan and coordinate their relocation properly," she concluded.

For more information on transition or relocation, contact Alma Rodriguez, the base's program manager at (760) 577-6533.

The screenshot shows the Military Homefront website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with tabs for "Troops & Families", "Leadership", and "Service Providers". Below this is a sidebar with various resource links like "Moving and Relocation Home", "24/7 Resource for Military Members, Spouses & Families", and "Social Media Hub". The main content area features a "Get Started!" section with a form for "Installation and State Information". The form includes fields for "Enter an installation", "Enter a state", and "When do you plan to depart?". There are also radio buttons for "Is this your first move?" and "Do you have a family member with special needs?".

Chaplain's Corner

The long road of "growing up"

By Lt. Benjamin Warner
Base Chaplain



I have a confession to make. "Tommy Boy" is one of my favorite movies of all time. If you're not familiar with the movie, let me tell you that it's basically the height of juvenile comedy. Tommy (Chris Farley) and Richard (David Spade) have to make a cross-country sales trip and hilarity ensues. It was written for 15 year-olds to laugh at—and that's how old I was when I first saw "Tommy Boy." Despite the juvenile humor throughout, there is one line from the movie that stuck with me as a principle that applies to everyday life. Tommy's father owns an automotive plant and makes the comment about his business, "You're either growing, or you're dying. There is no third direction." For a long time, I embraced this as a hard and fast rule of life—particularly spiritual life. As a youth minister, I would often tell my kids that in their own spiritual growth there was growing and dying, there was no third direction. In practice, I expected their growth charts to look like a steadily climbing graph—the kind of red arrow every business wants to see heading up at a constant 45-degree angle.

The apostle Peter explains spiritual growth as a succession of character traits. *"For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge*

with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love." (2 Peter 1:5-7) I don't think that Peter would have us believe that one trait must be perfected before the next is added on—it doesn't necessarily square with our experience when we may see each of these traits present to greater and lesser degrees in our own lives. But does Peter present this growth as the steadily climbing graph, the arrow pointing ever upward, never leveling off? Are growing and dying really the only options?

In some ways, yes—I still believe that there is no third direction. But in other ways I have come to readjust what I think that looks like. I think personal growth—be it spiritual growth or just the road to maturity—looks very much like the physical growth we all encounter in life. We do most of our growing in the first quarter of our life, after that it's very different (including that process of growing backwards—shrinking). Personal growth may still come in big jumps—after all, we may discover something new that we want to change about ourselves. To use the character traits from above, we may want to embrace more self-control in our lives. It's likely we'll see a jump in growth at first, and then growth will slow down.

We need to embrace growth, too. I remember

reading recently that sociologists believe Americans aren't "growing up" until they're in their mid-thirties. My inner reactionary hates this idea, he says "Come on?! Thirties? If we all had to chop wood every day and fend off the winter we would grow up a lot faster." My inner dialogue aside, growth is an essential for life. So why is growth so difficult for us? In my own experience, growth has become harder when it levels off. What I mean is that it's easy to celebrate growth when it's significantly noticeable. Compare it to our physical growth again. When we learn to walk, everyone notices, it's a big milestone and everyone claps for us. When we hit our teenage growth spurt, everyone notices. In the same way, when we have large leaps of spiritual or personal growth, people take notice. It's very easy for me to stop caring, though, when the growth goes unseen by others. Or even when the growth is slow enough that I'm not sure where it's headed. I like to have something to measure, a metaphorical wall against which to measure my height. But growth doesn't always cooperate with us. Sometimes it's a long and winding road. That doesn't make it any less rewarding. Growing doesn't mean you have to stop watching "Tommy Boy" either.

FY13 Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program

In a way to cut expenses, the Marine Corps has released a revised early out program for fiscal 2013, allowing Marines to leave the Corps up to a year before their contracts expire.

The Voluntary Enlisted Early Release Program, better known as VEERP, is an active program for the current fiscal year and Marine Administrative Message 371/12 explains that it will continue through fiscal year 2013. It outlines eligibility and requirements for Marines who plan to get out early.

Those who plan to volunteer for an early out need to understand that the VEERP is a cost saving program for the Marine Corps. When a Marine leaves the Corps under the program, they will stop receiving a paycheck and they will not qualify for financial incentives offered to other related voluntary release programs.

Beyond getting out early, Marines who volunteer are still obligated to complete time in the Individual Ready Reserve. Marines under the VEERP will observe the same status as Marines who completed their active service and will complete their eight-year service obligation.

Marines, who plan to apply for the VEERP, are required to

submit a request through their chain of command as soon as possible. At a minimum, Marines need to submit at least 45 days prior to requesting an early release date.

Though every Marine is eligible for the VEERP, there are some conditions that will hinder a Marine from getting out earlier than the current contract date. Marines scheduled for a deployment must have at least 14-15 months left on their enlistment to accommodate the six-months of training prior to deployment, the deployment itself and at least three-months post deployment assessment.

Marines are required to attend mandated pre-separation counseling and Transition Assistance Management Program. They also will have to be medically qualified to separate the Marine Corps. Marines, who are currently serving in anticipation of gaining citizenship in the United States, must have served a minimum of three years active service at the time of early release.

There is a lot of criteria for Marines to meet in order to fulfill requirements for eligibility. For more information, contact your unit career planner, or view the MARADMIN at <http://www.marines.mil/news/messages/pages/MARADMIN371-12.aspx>

