

# THE PROSPECTOR



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

Vol.2 No. 8

April 25, 2013



**Earth Day  
2013**

MCLB Barstow recognizes  
national Earth Day

**Mess Night**

Marines of all ranks participate in  
traditions and camaraderie

**Sailor  
aboard!**

One enlisted sailor becomes "one  
of the guys"





Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Amanda Smith, Monique Garcia and Monica Patterson-Sims, employees with the Contracting and Purchasing Department on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, contribute to a base-wide effort in keeping the base clean, April 24.

## On The Cover:

### Front cover:

Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Captain Stafford Buchanan, the commanding officer of Headquarters Battalion on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, takes his Marines for a five mile run, April 24. The Marines run as part of their physical training and to build camaraderie.

### Back cover:

Photo by Sgt. Shannon E. Yount

A Purple Heart Medal is displayed on the fallen comrades table honoring POWs and MIAs, during Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Mess Night, April 18.

## THE PROSPECTOR

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

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Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

The safety office on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and Col. Michael L. Scalise, base commanding officer, pose for a photo after their office was recognized for their achievements in the past year during MCLB Barstow's Quarterly Awards Breakfast, April 23 at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center. The safety office was presented the Gen. James L. Jones Unit Safety Award by Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Phillip L. Dunmire, the National President of the Navy League, during the Navy League Luncheon, April 10, in National Harbor, Md.

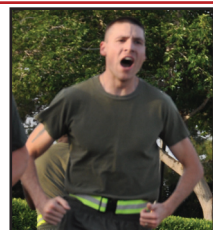
## Contents



Mess Night 5



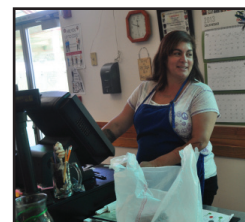
Earth Day 8



Sailor aboard MCLB 6



Man on the street 10



Super mom 7



Chaplain's Corner 11

## On the web

### Website:

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

### Follow us on:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Logistics-Base-MCLB-Barstow/116845431679314>

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

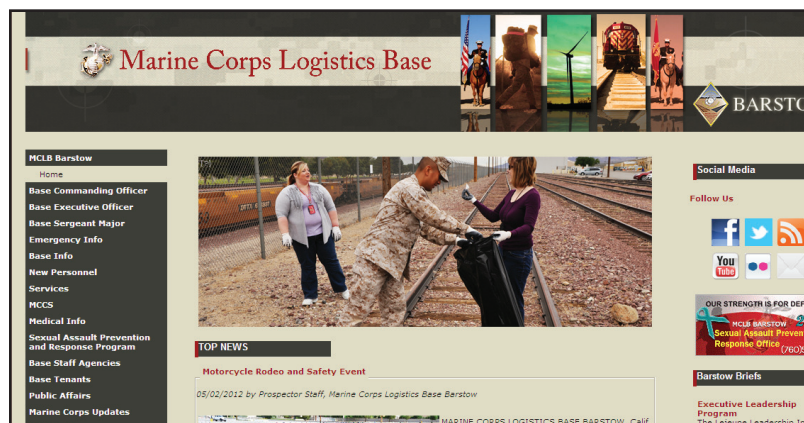






Photo by Cpl. T. Allen Bricker

Renee Borowski, a friend of the base, and Jen Kennedy, a military spouse on base, prepare fabric for a quilt during the Marine Corps Family Team Building's life skills class, April 22 at the base's multipurpose room. MCFTB conducts life skill classes for military spouses on base that include topics such as sewing and cooking.

## News Briefs

### Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations: **Johnny Davis Jr., Roger Dull, Eileen Garcia, Cindy Hernandez, Lisa Lucero, Tulu Niusulu, Requella Gonzales, and Lisa Wood.**

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 at 760 - 577 - 6915.

### Distracted Driving

The National Safety Council has declared April 2013 Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Thousands die needlessly each year because people continue to use their cell phones while driving, handheld or hands-free. Below is a link to a totally anonymous survey. Please take the time to answer the questions truthfully in order for the MCLB's Drive Safe Working Group to develop a campaign to fight distracted driving on base.

4 [http://www.research.net/s/distract\\_driver](http://www.research.net/s/distract_driver).

### Anticipated Vacancies

Installation & Logistics- Utility Systems Operator, WG-4742-09.

Installation & Logistics- Mobile Equipment Servicer, WG-5806-06.

S-6 Communications- IT Specialist, GS-221012

SES Department- Firefighter, GS-0081-04/05/07

SES Department- Firefighter (Paramedic), GS-0081-05/07/09

SES Department- Supervisory Firefighter, GS-0081-11

Please look for announcements under the new link at <http://usajobs.gov>

### MARADMIN

203/13 the Marine Corps Tuition Assistance Program has been reinstated effective April 8. TA will not be approved for those who enrolled prior to April 8. For more information contact the base education center at 760 577 - 6118.

MARADMIN 207/13 identifies

MCO P1020.34G addressing the wearing of religious apparel items and grooming standards while in uniform. Marines may wear religious items which are not visible when worn with the uniform, unless attending religious services. Marines can wear neat and conservative religious items by submitting an administrative action form to their chain of command. Exceptions to grooming regulations also require the form.

### Energy Tip:

Did you know that the incandescent light is the most common lighting source in U.S. homes? It also wastes the most energy. Ninety percent of the energy consumed by an incandescent light is given off as heat rather than visible light.

# MCLB Barstow Mess Night



Photos compiled by the Public Affairs staff

Marines and sailors with MCLB enjoyed a night of traditions and camaraderie at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center, April 18. Mess Night is a tradition that dates back to the great Viking feasts in which Norsemen celebrated significant battles. The British Navy later modeled the custom similar to what takes place today.

From private first-class to colonel, and all ranks in between, Marines here were afforded the opportunity to enjoy the festivities and celebrate with their fellow Marines and sailors. The evening included a traditional Mess Night meal, time-honored toasts, and practical jokes. The revelry included the passing on of traditions and sharing knowledge between the ranks.





# Swimming in a sea of green

Story and Photo by  
Cpl. T. Allen Bricker  
Combat Correspondent

One would think joining the Navy would involve sailing on a ship at some point or being stationed near the sea.

Not only did one sailor miss out on these opportunities at his first duty station, he ended up in a polar opposite location: California's High Desert ... nowhere near the ocean.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Barry Menges, the religious program specialist on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., didn't quite get what he expected when he arrived here in August, 2012. Instead of being surrounded by water and wet sand with other sailors, the Auburn, Ind., native wound up by cacti and tumbleweed with a different breed of Navy personnel, the Marines.

Menges left for boot camp in late 2011 knowing exactly what he wanted from the Navy.

"I wanted to be a chaplain and talked to the recruiter," said Menges. "When I found out I couldn't be one at the time because of my degree, I thought I'd just work up to it," he explained.

When it was time for Menges to receive his orders, all was going according to plan. Menges

had his eye on orders to an aircraft carrier based in Washington state, but after last minute arrangements, he found himself on his way to the 'green side.'

"I was hoping to get stationed somewhere in the fleet," said Menges. "When I found out I was going to Barstow, I didn't know what to expect," he added.

'Green side' to the Navy is anything dealing with being on land or with the Marine Corps. Navy Personnel in the medical field, the Navy's construction battalion, and the religious program, often work closely with Marine Corps personnel. It counteracts the Navy's other end, 'blueside,' which deals with ocean-related work like ships and shoreline bases.

Initially, Menges was worried about adjusting to life with Marines in the desert. All of his training to that point prepared him for work with the Navy, explained Menges.

So, how has a religious program specialist looking for the ocean dealt with the desert?

"I didn't know how I was going to get used to being here in Barstow. When I first got here, I just kept to myself," said Menges. "I just watched and observed how Marines work: what their attitudes toward one another were, how they joked around with one another, and things like that," he added.

Over the next few months, the Marines on

base witnessed the transformation of Menges, from the soft-spoken sailor to being "one of the guys."

"After I got used to being around [the Marines], Barstow got a lot easier," explained Menges. "I even started the cigar committee up at base housing. A few Marines started coming over for that," he added.

Once a week, Marines would join the religious program specialist outside his garage and enjoy cigars while they caught up with one another on what's going on around the base.

The 'RP' finds working with Marines to be a proud job, and something that helps motivate him on a daily basis.

"At our ball for [the religious program specialists] on the USS Midway, I think 90 percent of the people there were blueside. So, when a speaker was talking to us and he concluded his speech, I thought it was funny that I was the only one yelling 'oorah' or 'rah' as applause," explained Menges.

Now, when you see a formation running in the morning on the base, don't be too confident it's 100 percent Marine. Menges has joined in on physical training sessions, is eager to qualify with Marines on the rifle range, and looks forward to sharing many other experiences with his Marine brothers.

# A Mother's love for her children

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles  
Combat Correspondent

Mother's Day is right around the corner; a day dedicated to recognizing the sacrifices and contributions made by mothers around the world. Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., has a woman on base who has gone above and beyond for her own children, and for the Marines on the installation.

MCLB Barstow is one of the few Marine Corps bases where Marines do not dine at a chow hall; instead they eat at the Family Restaurant. It is here, where people are greeted by an energetic and outgoing, Aurelia 'Mona' Garcia, a Newberry Springs, Calif., native who is a food service worker at the base restaurant, and a single mother of five children.

Garcia said ever since she was little she strived to do her best in school and stayed out of trouble. She woke up every day and went to school and then would come home and do her homework.

"I had really good grades when I was in school and I never got into trouble," said the Silver Valley High School graduate.

Before working on base, Garcia worked at Dairy Queen and Del Taco. She moved to Carson City, Nev., when she met the father of her children for a change of scenery.

She lived there for four years and they

were the most painful years of her life, explained Garcia.

"My ex-boyfriend was really abusive," she said. "He used to hit me in front of my children and made me feel like I couldn't do anything. One time he was cleaning his shotgun, and I was sitting across from him. I was looking at the dog, and I heard a loud bang and the dog went flying. I asked him if he hit the dog. He didn't say anything. Then I stood up and was instantly light headed. I looked down at my arm and realized what happened ... it was bleeding. He shot me in my left arm while I was six months pregnant."

Garcia was much more concerned with her expected son's health and safety than she was her own.

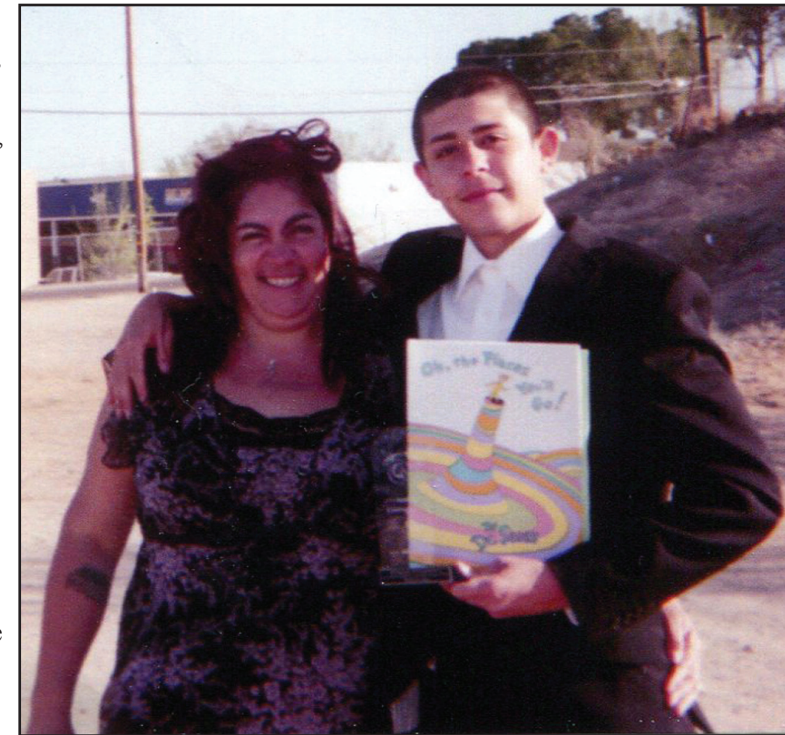
She further explained that her ex-boyfriend said it was an accident, so she stayed with him.

"I was young and wanted my children to know their father," said Garcia. "I thought one day he would change, but he never did. I went through 13 years of abuse before I realized he wasn't going to change. So, I told myself, 'I'm done'."

With the motivation to give her children the best life possible, she endured years of hardships to make a home for herself and her children.

"I didn't want my kids to grow up thinking it was okay to hit women," said Garcia. "So, I took my children out of that environment and moved back to Newberry Springs. If you are in an abusive relationship, the only thing I can say is get out of it as soon as you can."

As a single parent, Garcia wakes up every morning and gets her children ready for school, as one gets ready for high school, the youngest gets ready for preschool. After a full day of work, she goes home to her children and cares for



Courtesy photo provided by Aurelia Garcia  
Aurelia Garcia, aka Mona, a food service worker at the Family Restaurant on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., poses with her son, Esiquio Hernandez, after completing a class. Garcia supports her children through their struggles and guides them down the right path.

them and prepares for the next day.

While Garcia is at work, she gives 100 percent in everything she does and works well with the customers, said Diane Yslas, service supervisor at the Family Restaurant on MCLB Barstow.

"She comes in to work with a smile on her face every day," said Yslas. "She greets the customers as they come in, as well as prepares food for the rest of the day."

She plans on continuing her career in food service; it's how she started and she loves doing it. Garcia further explained, she enjoys talking to customers, working with fellow employees and caring for Marines.

"We have never had a problem with Mona," said Yslas. "She loves what she does."

Her motivation is her children. Every day at work, she tries her best for them, she further explained.

"I'm all my children have and that's why I work so hard," said Garcia. "I do what I do to take care of my kids. They are my motivation because I have to provide for them. Being a single mother with five children isn't easy but it's worth more than you can imagine."

Garcia said when she is home with  
**Continued on page 11**



Petty Officer 3rd Class Barry Menges, the religious program specialist on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow stands surrounded by Marines as he talks to them after a physical training session, April 24. Menges, the only enlisted sailor on base, has become a part of the Marine family over the past few months.



Aurelia Garcia, aka Mona, a food service worker at the Family Restaurant on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., minces green bell peppers for the salad bar, April 23. The Newberry Springs native works each day to provide for her children.



# Earth Day 2013 on MCLB

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Norman  
Eckles  
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., hosted its 4th annual Earth Day event at McTureous Hall, April 11.

At the event, children and adults learned about the environment and what they can do to protect the High Desert habitat.

“All the departments on the installation helped make the event happen. It was not just an environmental division event; it was a joint effort,” said Raul Garcia, environmental specialist on the base.

Garcia said the purpose of the event was to inspire people to be more environmentally friendly and proactive about saving the Earth’s natural resources.

Dr. Mike Glassey, the post entomologist on National Training Center Fort Irwin, said the event gave adults

and children a chance to learn about the steps taken to sustain the environment. From time to time, the environment isn’t taken care of but this event gave people the tools to better take care of their habitat and surroundings.

Steps that people can take to make the environment cleaner are: throwing cans, bottles, cardboard, paper, and plastics into recycling receptacles and using more eco-friendly items, such as hybrid vehicles and biodegradable water bottles.

“When you go to throw your bottle away, do not throw it away with the rest of your trash; throw it in the recycle bin,” said Glassey. “The goal is to get people thinking about what they can do to improve their daily behavior. All of us get into habits, and not all of our habits are good, so we need to break (them).”

If people start doing little things to help save the environment and it catches on, it can become a big thing, added



Art Basulto, an employee of the Bureau of Land Management, shows curious children animals indigenous to the High Desert at the base’s Earth Day event held at McTureous Hall, April 11. Basulto travels to schools in the High Desert educating students about the dangers of pollution in the Mojave.

Glassey.

The Marines and employees on the base that save water, gas, and energy, can use these earth-friendly measures at home as well.

It is important that the base shows the community that the Marine Corps is making efforts in promoting environmental awareness, conserving natural resources and being a sustainable base, explained Garcia.

MCLB Barstow is sustainable because the base does not abuse the natural resources it has and it also preserves them. The base installed a wind turbine and a solar farm, and is home to several buildings throughout the Nebo and Yermo sides with solar panels. The base also uses eco-friendly chemicals that are better for the environment and the workers.

The commanding officer of MCLB Barstow, Col. Michael L. Scalise, along with the base executive officer, Lt. Col. Kenneth Lee and Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, attended the event and all thought it had a great turn out.

Scalise said the event

turned out great as the children walked through the Mobile Sensory Safari Van and got their faces painted. Many children also enjoyed Glassey’s display of different desert animals and learned the importance of keeping the environment healthy. They also enjoyed multiple interactive activities.

Pricilla Baca, a child who was enjoying the festivities, said her favorite part of the event was seeing all the animals in Glassey’s exhibit. She also enjoyed the mobile safari because she was able to walk through and see the animals up close and personal.

The event was centered around teaching the children, explained Garcia.

“If the children learn about the environment early in life ... the more likely they are to help sustain the environment,” said Garcia.

The event gave children and adults alike, a better understanding about how the environment works and how the smallest things can help save it. The environment is fragile and putting information out there for people to learn is important, concluded Garcia.

# If you SEE something SAY something

Story by  
Gunnery Sgt. Reina  
Barnett  
Public Affairs Chief

As employees and residents of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, we each have varying responsibilities ... almost no two are alike; however, one responsibility we all have in common is that of protecting our installation and the surrounding community.

The tragedy that occurred in Boston last week is a stark reminder that as a community, as a nation, we move swiftly and are prepared to respond to tragedy, but we also have a duty to try and prevent such horrors from taking place as well. It’s events like these that keep the threat of terrorism and domestic unwarranted violence in the minds of everyone.

Since 2006, Eagle Eyes, an MCLB Barstow initiative, has enlisted the eyes and ears of uniformed members, civilian employees, and families and friends, to keep an eye out for suspicious activity, in an effort to thwart threats or attacks against installations, personnel, and the surrounding community.

“Simply put, Eagle Eyes is a reporting tool for the community,” said James Jones, the anti-terrorism officer with the Mission Assurance Division on the base.

In fact, one of the pillars of readiness is to prevent incidents from happening, said Jones.

Looking back at the tragic events in Boston, someone had to have seen another person putting a backpack down and walking away from it – leaving it unattended.

“Why would somebody just leave their backpack?” asked Jones. “We must be willing to ask ourselves those types of questions ... that is being aware.”

The community watch program asks people to report suspicious activity by calling 1-877-356-3937



or by going online and filling out some basic information such as location, and description of activity and persons involved. The website is: [www.usmceagleeyes.org](http://www.usmceagleeyes.org). Submitting information on the smart phone friendly site isn’t time consuming, it takes approximately five minutes to complete the form. “Mission Assurance needs to be aware of incidents. We review information and attempt to fit it together like pieces of a puzzle,” said Jones.

With the aggregate of information, Mission Assurance begins processing and assessing the facts and other data in an effort to improve security on the base.

“It provides us a full picture of what could potentially happen,” said Jones, highlighting various agencies’ role in frequent scenerio-based discussions.

“Communications has a part be-

cause of cyber-attacks, I&L has input because they are responsible for the infrastructures on base,” said Jones.

Protecting our community and being vigilant isn’t just for people with a security background.

“People have an extreme sense of comfort and safety in this country,” said Jones. “After 9/11, our sense of awareness was heightened. We recognize turmoil in the Middle East, but it wasn’t until it (terrorism), touched us domestically, that our perspective changed.”

Jones urges the use of Eagle Eyes when something seems unsettling or out of place.

“If you see a package unattended, someone loitering around the installation or anything that makes you think ‘hmmm...’ call the number or visit the website.”

“People who mean to do harm, research their targets. They ‘case

the place’. They are looking to exploit the vulnerabilities within an organization,” said Jones. “If something seems out of place, report it.”

If 99 percent of calls turn out to be nothing, that 1 percent could save a life. Both detecting and reporting suspicious activities are important, and with a well-informed community, terrorist or criminal acts can be deterred, detected, or defeated.

“If you saw someone loitering around your curb or driveway at home, you would call someone to check it out, or check it out yourself ... you wouldn’t ignore it,” said Jones. “That same attitude needs to be instituted and fostered on the base.”

Remember, report suspicious activity by calling 1-877-356-3937 or by going online at: [www.usmceagleeyes.org](http://www.usmceagleeyes.org).



Riddick and Kyongjon Fischetto enjoy petting a Barn Owl at the Earth Day event at McTureous Hall on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 11. Dr. Mike Glassey, the post entomologist on National Training Center Fort Irwin, displayed numerous snakes along with owls and millipedes.



## Just drive, stay alive

Article submitted by **Brian Korves**  
Base Safety Specialist

Missing a phone call while driving won't kill you, but answering the cell phone may or someone else.

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month. Cell phone use while driving has become a serious public health threat. A few states have passed legislation making it illegal to use a handheld cell phone while driving. These laws give the false impression that using a hands-free phone is safe. Distracted driving is the leading cause of motor vehicle crashes, and 35 percent of those crashes are caused by the use of cell phones, accounting for 1.4 million crashes and 650,000 injuries annually.

In January 2004, at 4:00 p.m., in

Grand Rapids, Michigan, a 20-year-old woman ran a red light while talking on a cell phone. The driver's vehicle slammed into another vehicle crossing with the green light directly in front of her. The vehicle she hit was not the first car through the intersection, it was the third or fourth. The police investigation determined the driver never touched her brakes and was traveling 48 mph when she hit the other vehicle. The crash cost a 12-year-old boy his life. Witnesses told investigators that the driver was not looking down, not dialing the phone, or texting. She was observed looking straight out the windshield talking on her cell phone as she sped past four cars and a school bus.

Researchers have called this crash a classic case of inattention blindness caused by the cognitive distraction of a cell phone conversa-

tion.

Vision is the most important sense we use for safe driving. It's the source of the majority of information when driving. Yet, drivers using hands-free and handheld cell phones have a tendency to "look at" but not "see" objects; hence, "inattention blindness". Cognitive distraction contributes to a withdrawal of attention from the visual scene, where all the information the driver sees is not processed. This may be due to how our brains compensate for receiving too much information by not sending some visual information to the working memory. When this happens, drivers are not aware of the filtered information and cannot act on it.

The danger of inattention blindness is that when a driver fails to notice events while driving, either at all or too late, it's impossible to

execute a safe response such as a steering maneuver or braking to avoid a crash.

A University of Utah driving simulator study found drivers using cell phones had slower reaction times than drivers impaired by alcohol at a .08 blood alcohol concentration, the legal intoxication limit. Braking time was also delayed for drivers talking on hands-free and handheld phones.

Hands-free phone use led to an increase in reaction time to braking vehicles in front of drivers, and reaction time increased more. Studies have also shown crashes to be more likely as the traffic density increased.

There is a shared responsibility among all drivers operating motor vehicles on roadways. JUST DRIVE and avoid calling, texting, and talking while driving.

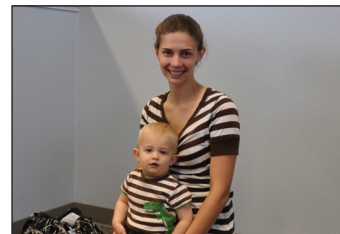
## MAN ON THE STREET

The MCLB Barstow public affairs office gets first-hand opinions from base personnel

### MILITARY CHILD APPRECIATION MONTH



Sergeant Jacey Marks, head of S-3 and S-4, on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, sits with his children.



Cami and James Ogden, dependents of an Army pilot living on MCLB Barstow.



Lance Corporal Kristopher Ezell, a wireman on MCLB Barstow, stands with his father, retired Gunnery Sgt. Tommie Ezell.



Melanie Morales, administrative assistant with Marine Corps Family Team Building on base.

"I have three children and have been on five deployments. I look at it as a positive experience; it made me appreciate what I have. Some people don't realize what they have until it's gone; I had the opportunity to know what it's like to miss my children and still come back to them."

"Our son James is 14 months old; there are positive and negative sides of raising him in the military. His dad's busy work and training schedule make it hard and James often asks, 'where is daddy?' However, it provides security for our family and many social gatherings on base make it fun."

"Moving around a lot and missing my father while he was deployed was tough for my brother and I, but overall, I enjoyed it. I got to live the military lifestyle without being in the military. I saw their camaraderie and the uniform every day; it influenced me to join the Marine Corps."

"My husband has been in the military for 19 years; we have raised three children. Military children have a unique life style. Deployments are tough and they move around so much they lack stability. However, my kids looked at it as a new adventure every time we moved. Service members are important and so are their children, it's good to slow down and recognize the sacrifices the children make."

## Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Benjamin Warner  
Base Chaplain

### Responding to justice

It was just about two years ago that Osama Bin Laden was killed by a team of Navy SEALs. After that happened, I reflected in this space about how we should respond to the just killing of an evil man. This week, I have once again reflected on these ideas after the Boston Marathon bombing and the apprehension of one suspect (and death of the other). I'd like to repeat my words from that week in May 2011 here, but go ahead and do some personal updating as we consider what it means as a nation to once again face down the specter of terror.

"By now we've all seen various images from the death of Osama Bin Laden. In fact, I'm holding onto this article for a few extra days this week — we live in a world where news happens fast and I don't want to write from a misinformed place. That's part of what makes this whole situation difficult — we see fans at a baseball game reacting to the news of Bin Laden's death, we hear from the President, we see interviews with 9/11 family members. All of this bombards us within moments of finding out that the man responsible for thousands of deaths has himself been brought to justice. There has been a multiplicity of reactions so far: joy, fear of reprisal, grief finally allowed. If you are like me, many of your Facebook friends took to the net within minutes with varying degrees of emotional response. How are we supposed to respond to that news? The joy, the grief, the anger; all of those make one type of sense or another. For me, I

see different responses within myself. As a citizen of this great nation I feel like a burden has been lifted — justice has been done. As a follower of Jesus I believe that peace is the goal, but that peace can only happen in the midst of a just society. Yet, this is still unsettling.

The story of David is something I turn to when I ask myself how I want to respond to the death of someone who is, for lack of a better term, my enemy. In the Bible, in the book of 1 Samuel, we see Saul made king. Saul turns his back on God, so David is anointed king. Problem is, Saul still holds the office. So, Saul turns on David and keeps trying to have him killed. Eventually, Saul is killed by Israel's enemies, the Philistines. The Philistines celebrate this victory, as we would expect them to. But David does not because he also lost his best friend, Saul's son Jonathan, in the process. As I look at this story, I do some imagining. Hear me out, because Scripture does not tell us this directly, but I think if you asked David, he would rather have both Saul and Jonathan alive rather than only celebrate his just reception of his kingdom.

As I think about the loss of life from 9/11, not to mention the other terrorist actions carried out by Osama Bin Laden, I think about the families affected. Mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, children: so many of these people suffering loss all because their loved ones happened to work in a particular building. I think I'd rather have all those people alive—even if it mean



Osama Bin Laden wasn't killed. However, I am not so naive as to believe war and terrorism will go away if we all learn to hold hands and be nice. Jesus Himself said in Matthew 24 that war would be part of being human until He comes again — war in and of itself can be used for good purposes or evil purposes. I believe it was good to bring a known terrorist to justice. And, I believe celebration is one appropriate part of the response to this justice. But it is not the end of our response.

In the middle of all the responses I read Sunday night, one stood out to me. A fellow Navy chaplain wrote, 'When all the weapons are turned into gardening tools, I'll celebrate.' He's referring to Isaiah's great promise for God's justice: And they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war (Isaiah 2:4, Micah 4:3). Again, I realize that war happens. I believe with all of my heart that justice has been done and is necessary. But I still look forward to a day when it doesn't have to happen like this."

### Mother's Day continued from page 7

her children, they tell her she is mommy and daddy and appreciate everything she does for them.

"My mom does a lot for us," said Esiquio Hernandez, Garcia's oldest son. "Sometimes it seems like she is jumping through hoops for us."

She instills morals into her children, so they can make the right choices in life.

My mom taught me a lot of morals such as; don't do drugs, be a good person and have a good heart.

However, most importantly she has taught me not to hit women, said Hernandez.

She is a wonderful, caring mother expressed Hernandez.

When her children need her the most, she doesn't miss a beat and is right there to guide them in the right direction, he added.

"She is everything a person can want in a mom," said Hernandez. "She is a strong person and a good person to talk to."

Garcia expressed that her children are her first priority and she will do what she has to do as a mother to take care of them.

Women like Garcia, who have strong hearts and the willpower to keep pushing through trials and tribulations for their children, make Mother's Day a holiday worth celebrating.



