PPB ribbon cutting for new building
Will Beckley leaves PPB for PPA
Employee of the Quarter: Stephanie Keen
New weather instrument in use
On The Cover:

Cover photo by: Jack Adamyk

Civilian contractors begin to load test the 80,000 pound load capacity for one of two main cranes in P930 after the P930 ribbon cutting ceremony held at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Craig C. Clemans, commanding officer
Sgt. Maj. Edward C. Kretschmer, base sergeant major

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On the web

Links in this publication are interactive in the online version

Website: http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil
http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow

On the web
Ruth Clemans, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society lead volunteer, dusts a display with headboard and candle holders and decorative items for sale at the Thrift Store aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. The volunteers take meticulous care of the donated items so that the next owners can rest assured that the items they take home are cared for and in good condition.
FORT LEE, Va. – During September, National Preparedness Month highlights the significance of being ready for emergencies. This is a message the Defense Commissary Agency takes to heart as it helps its customers save on many of the items they should include in their survival kits.

“When an emergency occurs – bad weather, manmade event or pandemic – you’re either prepared or you’re not,” said Tracie Russ, DeCA’s director of sales. “We want our customers to know their commissary benefit is here for them so they can be prepared now.”

The theme for this year’s National Preparedness Month is “Disasters Don’t Wait. Make Your Plan Today.” The month is separated into four activities: Sept. 1-5 – make a plan; Sept. 6-12 – build a kit; Sept. 13-19 – prepare for disasters; and Sept. 20-26 – teach youth about preparedness.

From April through Oct. 31, DeCA’s severe weather promotional package helps customers prepare their survival kits with discounts on the following items: beef jerky and other assorted meat snacks, soup and chili mixes, canned goods, powdered milk, cereals, batteries, airtight bags, weather-ready flashlights, tape (all-weather, heavy-duty shipping and duct), first aid kits, lighters, matches, lanterns, candies, hand sanitizer and antibacterial wipes. Specific items may vary from store to store.

Whether it’s Mother Nature or a manmade crisis, emergency preparedness officials encourage prior planning with a disaster supply kit that includes the following items:

- COVID-19 protection – reusable or disposable face coverings, disposable gloves, hand sanitizers, disinfecting wipes, and soap
- Water – at least one gallon daily, per person (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Nonperishable foods – canned meats, fruits, vegetables, dried fruits, nuts, raisins, cereal, crackers, cookies, energy bars, granola, peanut butter, and foods for infants and the elderly (three-day supply for evacuation, two-week supply for home)
- Paper goods – writing paper, paper plates, paper towels and toilet paper
- Writing utensils – pens, pencils (manual pencil sharpeners), markers
- Cooking items – pots, pans, baking sheets, cooking utensils, charcoal, a grill and a manual can opener
- First-aid kit – including bandages, medicines and prescription medications
- Cleaning materials – bleach, sanitizing spray, hand and laundry soap
- Toiletries – personal hygiene items and moist wipes
- Pet care items – food, water, muzzle, leash, carrier, medications, medical records, and identification and immunization tags
- Lighting accessories – flashlights, batteries, candles and matches
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio (NOAA Weather Radio, if possible)
- Duct tape, scissors
- Multipurpose tool
- Copies of personal documents (medication list and pertinent medical information, proof of address, deed/lease to home, passports, birth certificates and insurance policies)
- Cell phone with chargers
- Family and emergency contact information
- Extra cash
- Emergency blanket
- Maps of the area
- Blankets or sleeping bags

“Even with COVID-19, we still want our customers to be prepared,” Russ said. “However, we recommend they buy what they need and avoid unnecessary hoarding to ensure products are available for others.”

For more on commissary produce and supply chain visit www.facebook.com/YourCommissary,

Submitted by: Kevin L. Robinson
DeCA public affairs specialist
Emergency responders adopt Lexipol

Story and photos by: Keith Hayes
COMMSTRAT Planner

A time consuming, oftentimes tedious, but absolutely vital task necessary to keep Marine Corps Fire and Emergency Services operating aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California is now being pushed into the computer age by a new type of knowledge management system specific to the emergency services community.

“Lexipol knowledge management system allows members of fire and police departments to stay on top of new state and federal legislation, case law and evolving best practices affecting their agencies,” said Ryan Tworek, deputy fire chief, MCLB Barstow Fire and Emergency Services.

Tworek spearheaded the drive to adopt the Lexipol policy and procedures program for the MCLBB Fire and Emergency Services, making it the only Marine Corps fire department using it.

Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Tworek uses the LedxiPol program on his government computer to update policies and procedures that keep the Marine Corps Fire Department aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, operating on a day to day basis, August 25. Tworek has been spearheading the drive to get the new Public Safety software up and running for his department, making it the only Marine Corps fire department to be using the innovative program.

One of the key features of the Lexipol program is our ability to access at any time by personnel who need to know what policy applies to a specific situation,” he said.

“The Lexipol team researches and recommends updates to policies, along with notes to explain what is changing about that policy and why. Updates are presented in mark-up form, just like a Word document,” Tworek explained. “The platform allows side-by-side comparison against our existing policy. We can then accept, reject or customize each update - it’s as easy as one click for each update.”

“The Lexipol program can also be used by provide MCLBB Fire and Emergency Services, and eventually the Police Department, with instantaneous adjustments in policy and procedures allowing it to adapt to court orders or other legal issues and in turn build a valuable record base to protect our agency and our personnel should issues arise,” he concluded.
Production Plant Barstow's new P930 facility ribbon cutting ceremony

Photos by: Jack Adamyk

Colonel Wilfred Rivera, commander of Marine Depot Maintenance Command, speaks to distinguished guests at the P930 ribbon cutting event held at Production Plant Barstow, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.

Robert "Chip" Schwartz, Production Plant Barstow Plant manager, speaks to military personnel, civilian employees and distinguished guests during the P930 ribbon cutting ceremony held at PPB, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.

Lieutenant Colonel John Bilas, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow’s executive officer, speaks to distinguished guests at the P930 ribbon cutting event held at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on the Yermo Annex aboard MCLB Barstow, California, Aug. 26.
Marine Corps civilian employee John Aunger, facilities director, views the digital scales on a crane that is being load tested after the P930 ribbon cutting ceremony held at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.

Marines, civilian employees, and distinguished guests stand behind the ribbon after the ribbon cutting event to commemorate the completion of P930 at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.

Lieutenant Colonel John Bilas (left), Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow’s executive officer, Col. Wilfred Rivera, Marine Depot Maintenance Command’s commander, and Robert “Chip” Schwartz, Production Plant Barstow’s Plant manager, cut the ribbon during the P930 ribbon cutting event held at PPB, MDMC, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Aug. 26.
Employee of the Quarter: Stephanie Keen

Story by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Chief

With her positive attitude, upbeat spirit and hard work, Stephanie Keen, Human Resources Assistant has earned Employee of the Quarter, GS-8 and below, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

“She has an outstanding work ethic,” said Rose Vickers, Human Resources supervisor. “She receives her tasks and accomplishes them correctly and most often in advance of her deadlines. She takes pride in her work and makes great efforts to ensure that her customers get the best advice and service possible.”

Her supervisor and coworkers agree that she is meticulous about her duties, too, often performing well above her pay grade.

“She works at a fast pace without impact to the quality of product and service she provides and consistently produces a work product that requires little to no corrections.”

“Honesty and helping others are the biggest values we preach at home,” Keen explained. “In many ways I carry that with me to my job, as well. Learning as much as I can is a value I go to a lot while at work.”

In the midst of COVID-19 protocols throughout much of her time on base, Keen teleworks, juggling her work, school work, and her two children while her husband is away for Warrant Officer training.

“My husband has been in the Army for 16 years and we love the Barstow and Fort Irwin area,” Keen said. “I have two young kids, a 5 year old and 4 year old, and they certainly keep me on my toes. Teleworking has been very helpful for my family. Even though things can be chaotic, being here while my husband is gone has made the balance of work and life easier. I do not feel like my job has changed much since I normally communicate with new hires and hiring managers through phone or email.”

Those with whom she works seem to agree that her positive attitude and her upbeat, can-do personality win over coworkers and those she helps in the performance of her duties.

“She has a positive attitude and is always willing to assist in whatever area she is needed. She goes the extra mile to help employees and supervisors alike,” Vickers said.

“She is encouraging!” said Summer Crank, Human Resources assistant. “Stephanie came onboard and hit the ground running. She learns at a super high speed and retains all the information, which means that she carries her workload and is able to step in and help the rest of us when needed. She is highly motivated, pays attention to details and yet still so down to earth. She is my right hand person and we work so well together!”

Part of what Keen loves about her position are her coworkers and the interactions she has with hiring managers.

“I love the fast-paced environment we work in at times, too,” she said. “Being able to help others with employment or reviewing position descriptions is rewarding. Human Resources and Personnel Operations are important functions to help hiring managers find the right fits for their departments. I try my best to communicate, collaborate, and ensure we are helping hiring managers and supervisors through the hiring process or promotions or changes. I like to make everyone smile. I also want to help in any way I can so many times my coworkers look to me to help get projects or other items done.”

Her ability to make other smile and laugh, even during trying times, is definitely something others highlight as part of what makes her shine.

“She keeps me laughing all day, even thorough this pandemic when she could be stressed out and down due to the fact that she has had to be by herself,” Crank said. “She never lets it keep her stressed out or lets it keep her from finding reasons to smile and laugh.”

If she is not working, then she’s studying for her Bachelors in Science in Social Media Marketing from SNHU.

“I will be continuing on to my Masters in Human Resource Management,” she said.

A good portion of her time is also spent helping her daughter in kindergarten, or else she’s knee deep in mom-life.

“I tend to keep busy as much as I can,” she said. “It is rare to see me sitting still! I also love to read all types of books! My family and I also love to be outside either riding bikes, hiking, just playing in the pool. One of the best perks about living here compared to the other six bases we’ve lived before is the weather.”

Originally from Washington state, outside of Seattle, she and her husband haven’t lived there in 10 years, but they do love being on the west coast. They have also lived in Germany, Kansas, Georgia, Texas, and now California.

“One of our favorite places to hike is Mt. Blackie or Tiefert here at Irwin,” she said.

“She is quickly going to advance in her career to an HR specialist,” Vickers said. “If she chooses to pursue a career as a supervisor, I have no doubt she will excel. She is hungry to learn and is always looking for ways to improve her skills.”
Protect yourself in high heat conditions

**Story and photos by: Keith Hayes**
COMMSTRAT Planner

With temperatures in the past two weeks ranging from 108 degrees to 115 degrees in the High Desert with a staggering 130 degrees recorded August 16 in Baker, California, just over an hour’s drive north of Barstow, California, outside working conditions in the High Desert have taken on a new overtone of real danger for those who don't heed the heat.

That is the main reason that the WetBulb Globe Temperature monitoring station exists at its permanent location in front of the Base Safety Office aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

"The WBGT takes into account all conditions that affect how hot, or how cool, it actually feels aboard base," Mark Reeves, Safety specialist, Base Safety Office, explained.

"A simple thermometer may show a reading of 100 degrees aboard base," he said "but the WBGT takes into account not only the temperature, but the humidity (moisture), the wind speed, and other factors which can make a 100 degree heat feel like 105 or 110 degrees, or conversely it may make it feel like a temperature lower than what a thermometer reads."

"Higher humidity makes it harder for the body to cool itself," Brian Korves, Safety specialist, said.

"Perspiration doesn’t evaporate as quickly, so the body remains hot and the body’s core temperature will rise. That’s not good," Korves said.

That information provided by the WBGT is critical because it determines what “heat flags” are posted at the front gate of MCLB Barstow and its Yermo Annex.

“For the first heat flag to be posted, which is green, temperatures must range from 80 degrees to 84 degrees," Reeves said. “Yellow flag conditions go from 85 degrees to just under 88 degrees.”

Both of those heat ranges require supervisors to plan outside activities for Marine or civilian personnel, especially those not acclimatized to conditions in the high desert.

Heat stress, heat stroke, and heat exhaustion is likely to occur at these temperatures if personnel doing outside work don't take precautions, such as staying well hydrated and taking frequent cooling breaks to lower the body’s temperature.

“Getting into the red flag zone, those temperatures range from 88 degrees to just under 90," Reeves said. As is expected, getting into the red zone on heat starts presenting possibly life-threatening conditions.

“Usually new personnel coming aboard base are given about two weeks to acclimate themselves to the often harsh conditions of the high desert before they’re given a lot of outside duties,” Reeves pointed out.

The black flag when posted at the front gate should be a real cause for concern for those considering doing outside activities.

“Black flag, which is temperatures 90 degrees and above, means the WBGT has determined the ‘feels like’ temperature is now in the life-threatening range, so any non-mission essential activities are put on hold,” Reeves said. “Heat stroke is also a real possibilities. This is the deadliest of the heat ailments.”

Those who must work outside, such as firefighters, police officers, railway operations personnel and others tasked with performing outdoors, should stay well hydrated, consuming 2 quarts of cool water an hour (per a Navy.mil website), rest in a shaded using the work to rest ratio of 25 percent work and 75 percent rest, such as work for 15 minutes then rest for 45 minutes.

“You should be working with a ‘buddy’ or in a group so you can keep an eye on each other” Reeves concluded.

“Watch out for symptoms of heat-related ailments such as dizziness, fainting, fever, headaches, muscle cramps, and nausea. Not sweating in high heat conditions is just under 88 degrees.”


Mark Reeves, Safety Specialist, Base Safety Office, MCLB Barstow, displays the computer heart of the WBGT heat monitoring station at the Base Safety office. The WBGT takes all atmospheric conditions into account, such as humidity and wind, to determine what heat flags are posted at the front gates of the Nebo and Yermo sides of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Aug. 24.

WBGT cont. on page 11
Will Beckley to be PPA's new plant manager

Story by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Chief

From heavy mobile equipment mechanic to trades division manager, Will Beckley is ready for the next big challenge in his career with Marine Depot Maintenance Command, becoming the new plant manager for Production Plant Albany this September.

Beckley has 26 years of service with the federal government to include 10 years in the U.S. Army, then 16 years with MDMC.

"I started as a heavy mobile equipment mechanic, promoted to HMEM work leader, Production Shop planner, planner and estimator, program manager, Trades Branch head, Material Management Branch head, Trades Division manager," Beckley said.

Most of his 16 years with MDMC have been here at Production Plant Barstow, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

"I have spent 14 of those years at PPB, and I worked at Production Plant Albany from 2013 to 2015 and returned to Barstow in January 2016 for my current job as Trades Division manager," he said.

"I love serving the Marine Corps. I spent 10 years in the Army driving junk equipment and it's satisfying to be able to provide refurbished equipment to young Marines to keep them safe both at peace and in war. We give more than equipment to them, we help train them and provide support in many ways to include TMDÉ calibration support, forward maintenance and corrosion repair at the Marine Expeditionary Forces."

Within MDMC, both Production Plant Barstow and Production Plant Albany rebuild all the ground combat equipment for the Marine Corps and have a full understanding of the needs of the units.

"We have the flexibility to change requirements mid-stream to meet urgent needs, we can fabricate and design new equipment as needed and we work closely with many units to fulfill their needs which can't be done by other services or contractors," Beckley explained. "Our total mission is to support our warfighters."

In his new position, he will be the new Plant manager, replacing Darren Jones who is retiring and he is looking forward to making a difference at PPA just as he has at PPB.

"Will is one of the most exceptional people I've had the pleasure to work with over a long federal career," said Robert "Chip" Schwartz, Plant manager, PPB. "He has a unique combination of drive, energy and intelligence that has greatly benefitted Production Pant Barstow. I look forward to working with him in his new role as Plant Manager for Production Plant Albany."

In his new role, he will continue to utilize his degree in Management earned from Park University. This self-proclaimed military brat was born at Fort Ord, California, but was raised in Lincoln, New Mexico, and is no stranger to picking up and moving across country. In addition to Georgia, California and New Mexico, the Army had him stationed at Camp Casey, Korea; Fort Knox, Kentucky; and Aberdeen Proving Ground, Maryland.

This move will be made with his wife, Milisa and their youngest of three children, Zachory who is 19. The two oldest children are off being adults.

"He is looking to go to school out there to study engineering," Beckley said. "My two oldest are Nicholas who is 30 and Alex who is 28. I also have a grandson Michael who is 10."

The three begin their travels on September 11, which he says is a spooky day to travel given what happened on 9/11 2001. Regardless, he is looking forward to fresh faces and new challenges and good old fashioned Georgia barbeque!

"I'm looking for a new challenge with a fresh group of people," he said. "Although I worked there before, many people have changed positions and the dynamics are a little different. I look forward to building new relationships and teams with the people I work with."

His official start date is September 27, at which point he will take the helm at Production Plant Albany.

"I'm probably a little crazy for making multiple moves across country," Beckley said. "But I love what I do and it doesn't matter where the work is, I will go."

Photo courtesy of Will Beckley
Don’t let COVID-19 Prevent Your Child’s Annual Doctor Visit

Submitted by: Dr. Donna O’Shea
Chief Medical Officer of Population Health Management, United Healthcare

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the way of life in California, our country and across the world. In recent months, stay-at-home orders, mask wearing and social distancing measures have created a “new normal,” and all of us have put activities on hold to reduce the spread of the virus. But one activity that you should not put on hold is a child’s annual doctor visit.

As we start preparing for fall, there is no better time than now to schedule a well-child visit and make sure your child’s immunization records are up to date. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), “stay-at-home and shelter-in-place orders have resulted in declines in outpatient pediatric visits and fewer vaccine doses being administered, leaving children at risk for vaccine-preventable diseases.”

Well-child visits are essential for tracking growth and developmental milestones, examining social behaviors, and getting scheduled immunizations to prevent illnesses like measles, polio and whooping cough. Just last year, the U.S. had more than 1,250 cases of measles — the greatest number of cases reported in the U.S. since 1992, which is all the more striking when we consider that 20 years ago, measles was declared eliminated from the U.S. because of our success in immunity through vaccination.

And don’t forget about getting a flu shot, recommended annually by the CDC for all children 6 months of age and older. Every year, flu causes serious illness and death. This is especially important this year since it’s still unknown if being sick with COVID-19 and the flu at the same time will result in a more severe illness.

Here are some important questions and topics families can discuss with their child’s doctor:

- Ask what vaccines are appropriate for your child’s age and how to make up any that have been missed.
- Learn more about vaccines, including what infectious diseases they prevent, the effectiveness of vaccines, and how they are developed and tested.
- Discuss the common side effects of childhood vaccines, which are typically very mild, such as pain or swelling at the injection site, and can include low-grade fever or rash.
- Find out what extra steps your clinic is taking to see children safely during COVID-19, such as dedicated or specific hours just for children, the use of masks, and maintaining secure and properly cleaned waiting areas.
- Be sure to bring home a copy of the immunization record so you can keep track of your child’s tests and shots, and also request a copy for school.

Remember, regular appointments with your pediatrician or family physician can be essential to help maintain your child’s health. To learn more about recommended preventive care for your child, visit CDC and UHC.com.

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Author’s note: Some information for this article was taken from:


WBGT cont. from page 9

also a sign that your body is trying to shut down because of the high heat. Get those people to a shady area, indoors is even better, loosen their clothing and call for medical help immediately.”

“Longtime desert residents are often the victims of heat illnesses because they think they’re acclimated and know how to deal with the heat. Don’t be ‘that guy’ who ignores what his body is trying to tell him and what officials have posted as dangerous heat,” he said. “Whatever you think is vital to be done outside in most cases can wait. It’s not worth your life to over-extend yourself in dangerous heat conditions.”

Author’s note: Some information for this article was taken from:


Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

To preserve the health and welfare of base employees and to help limit the spread of COVID-19, the following are changes to base activities and areas of function.

**Postponed or Closed**
- Self-Defense Classes
- Spin Classes
- Wellness Series
- Pass & ID Nebo 101, Yermo

**MFP Virtual Events**
For a list of MFP virtual events, dates, times and links contact Beth Simpson, MFP coordinator, 760-577-6675, or visit https://www.facebook.com/MCFTBBarstow/

**Modified Hours and Services**

**Leatherneck Lanes Bowling Alley open w/modifications (kitchen closed):**
- Call for details and hours which vary by the day - 760-577-6264

**Marine Memorial Golf Course open w/modifications:** Call for details - 760-577-6431

**Semper Fit Gym:**
- Unmanned hours for AD and their dependents on base, fire and police 7 p.m. Sun to 5 a.m. Sat.
- Combat room CLOSED.

**SMP/Rec Center:**
- Single Marines only, no guests
- Mon - Fri 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

**Oasis Pool:**
- Tues - Fri 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Lap swim/Unit PT; 1 p.m. - 7 p.m. Recreational swim
- Sat & Sun 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. Recreational swim

**Route 66 Cafe:** Open for dine-in service. Can also orders in ahead at 760-577-6428.

**Entrance Gates:**
- Gate guards will not handle your CAC when entering base, but should still scan it

**Pass & ID 236:** Appointment only - 760-577-6969

**Commissary:**
- Open every Tues 9 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. for active duty and spouses only
- Open Tues - Fri 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sat 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. NOTE: IDs will be verified.

**Base Library:**
- Open Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.

**Personal & Professional Development**
- Open Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Behavioral Health**
- Open Mon - Fri 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- To set an appointment call 760-577-6533.

**Auto Skills**
- Open every other weekend, Sat 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Aug 8 & 9, 22 & 23; Sept 5 & 6, 19 & 20.
- Call Bruce for further information: 760-577-6260, or cell at 760-267-1075

For additional information about the base go to: https://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil
For a complete list of MCCS hours and services impacted go to: http://mccsbarstow.com/Impact/