

PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow



Semper



Fidelis



Vol. 1,
No. 1
January 19, 2012



bam.usmc.mil

U.S. MARINE CORPS SUPPLY CENTER

Semper



Fidelis



Photo By Cpl, Thomas A. Bricker

Comedian Richard Villa gets audience involvement from Col. Daniel P. Ermer, commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and receives a slew of laughter in response from the rest of the crowd at the second annual Comedy Night held at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center, Oct. 20, 2010. More than 80 service members, military dependants and civilian employees attended the event

On The Cover:

It has been known as many names through the past 50 years, whether it was the Prospector, or the MCLB today or even the Barstow Log, the purpose of the cover illustration is to show the many different changes that have been brought to this bases newspaper over the years. Each different flag shows a different period in history and how the base has kept up with the changing times.

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THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
 Colonel Daniel P. Ermer, Commanding Officer
 Sgt. Maj. Donovan White

The editorial content of this magazine is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: Public Affairs, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 204. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282. This magazine is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of **THE PROSPECTOR** are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the U.S. Marine Corps.



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Colonel Daniel P. Ermer (left), commanding officer of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and Sgt. Maj. Donovan G. White, sergeant major of MCLB Barstow, ride with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard in the 121st Annual Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif, Jan. 2. The MCMCG consists of Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Bate, Sgt. Daren M. Cole, Cpl. Eric Ryan and Sgt. Edgar A.

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On the web

Website:

<http://www.bam.usmc.mil>

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Thank You

I wish to extend my sincere heartfelt appreciation to my Marine brothers and sisters, friends, and colleagues, for their generous outpouring of thoughts, prayers and well wishes with the recent passing of my wife Constance Villeme. It has meant a lot to me and has helped me understand and realize that no man is truly an island and we are never alone. May God bless all of you and your families. Francis Villeme.

Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop aboard base is open weekly, Mondays and Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to noon. The shop is located in Warehouse #3 aboard Nebo. The Thrift Shop offers active duty and retired servicemembers, their families and Civilian Marines with DOD ID cards a place to purchase clothing, small household items, toys and books at nominal prices.

For more information, including information on volunteering, contact Mrs. Miriam White, chair of volunteers and manager of the Thrift Shop at 760-256-0444.

Aspiring Leadership Program

The Lejeune Leadership Institute (LLI) is soliciting Civilian Marine nominations for the Aspiring Leadership Program (ALP) 2012-1. Full time permanent status GS-4 through GS-6 grade level non-appropriated employees can prepare for positions of greater responsibility and career development.

The ALP is a two-month program structured around classroom learning and self-study assignments which allow participants to tailor the program to specifically fit their developmental needs.

Contact Chad Trusty, Employee Development Officer at 577-6298 or chad.trusty@usmc.mil for applications or any questions.

Tax Tip

If you are a member of the Armed Forces on active duty and you move because of a permanent change of station, you can deduct the reasonable unreimbursed expenses of moving you and members of your household. Military personnel serving aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow who need help preparing their tax returns can contact the Staff Judge Advocate's office at 577-6874.

Energy Tip

Replace and recycle your old refrigerator and purchase energy-efficient models according to the website pge.com. Units only 10 years old can use twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR® labeled model. This is another Green Energy Tip from your MCLB Energy Team.

Going Green

The folks with the National Institute of Environmental Health Services advise you to minimize waste in your house by buying goods with little or no packaging, or packaging that can be recycled. Go online at http://kids.niehs.nih.gov/explore/reduce/reduce_waste.htm for more information.

Today in U.S.M.C. history

Jan. 19, 1929: Brig. Gen. Smedley Butler's 3rd Marine Brigade was disbanded at Tientsin, China, after Chiang Kai-shek became president of China.

BARSTOW LOG replaced by return of **THE PROSPECTOR**

By Rob Jackson
Public Affairs Officer

After more than a 20-year hiatus, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's original newspaper, "The Prospector," has returned. Unlike the early years, when it was a four-page, metro format publication, the new Prospector is a 12-page, magazine format news publication.

Based on our research "The Prospector" was first published in 1947, however the earliest edition Public Affairs currently has on file is April 1954. The first seven years worth of publications have long since disappeared. The newspaper got its name for what was associated with the environment at the time, as prospecting for gold was and still is a favorite pastime for enthusiasts.

What we also learned, for you history buffs, is that the first staff photographer for "The Prospector" was none other than Captain Mainerd Sorensen, for whom Sorensen Field is named after. Sorensen, although a supply officer by Military Occupational Specialty, provided photographs for the Prospector until reassigned to Korea; he was killed in action in 1950.

For many years "The Prospector" provided news and information about actions in Korea and, throughout the 1960s, provided coverage of Marine Corps actions during the Vietnam War. It was not the only type of news and information Marines and civilian employees read while stationed at the Marine Corps Depot of Supplies, as it was known during MCLB Barstow's infancy. Much like today, "The Prospector" was there covering major events aboard base like the groundbreaking ceremony for the maintenance repair facility on the Yermo Annex in 1958 and the grand opening of the facility in 1961.

It was there covering visits by a number of dignitaries to include congressional representatives, senators and a number of Marine Corps commandants such as Generals Cushman, Greene, Wallace, Krulak, and Jones, to name a few. Since there were about 2,500

Marines stationed here at one time "The Prospector" provided news and information about local events, feature articles about personnel and units, and current trends and changes around the Corps.

Intramural sports were a big deal here as well. The newspaper covered virtually every sporting activity that could be found on the facility such as full contact tackle football, basketball, soccer, softball, and golf. In fact, the football and softball teams regularly played some of the junior colleges in Southern California.

In mid-1989, "The Prospector" gave way to the *MCLB Today*, which began life as a metro format newspaper as well but in early 1990 changed to a newsletter format publication. It featured a Commander's Comments section, provided information about Operations Desert Storm/Desert Shield and how MCLB Barstow supported the warfighter through supply and logistics, and most importantly maintenance and repair of much-needed ground combat equipment. It may have been smaller, size-wise in nature, but the basic mission never changed. Whatever was happening aboard the installation, the *MCLB Today* crew was there to cover it.

During 1995, a new Public Affairs Officer had just checked aboard, looked at the *MCLB Today* for a time, studied the installation's overall mission and decided the name of the publication needed to change again. Since the basic mission of the base is supply and logistics, he opted to name the publication "The Barstow Log"; Barstow, the name of the base and the city, and Log for logistics. Again, the mission of the public affairs staff did not change – informing, educating, and entertaining our internal audience – just the name of the publication.

Now in 2012, we have come full circle and once again "The Prospector" is back to continue its mission of keeping the Marines, Civilian Marines, their families and our retired military community informed about weekly happenings aboard MCLB Barstow. Funny, in a weird sort of way, that for as many years as "The Prospector" has been dormant, there are still a number of people that remember the name and were still referring to *MCLB Today* and the Barstow Log as "The Pros-

TGIF! TGFY!

Every *Wednesday* in January is TGIF! TGFY! Thank Goodness It's Friday (on Wednesday) – Thank Goodness for You! The month of January is "A New Year- A New You" a four part series. The final chapter is Jan 25-Ways to control anger-there ARE ways, and Feb 1-Win-Win Relationships... Classes are held at Desert View Housing Community Center from 1 to 2 p.m. For more information, please call Betty Murphy, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, General Counseling, Marine and Family Services at 577-6533.

Story Time

Every Tuesday is story time from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come to the library, McTureous Hall Building 218 for our weekly story time. We will have crafts, puppets, and great stories. For more information, contact the Library at 577-6395 or email at LibraryBarstow@usmc-mccs.org. Visit our website www.mccsbarstow.com/library.

Stampin' Up workshop

Enjoy a fun filled day of stamping. Take home what you create. See all the stamping ideas, from card making and papercrafting to scrapbooking. There is a \$5 fee for materials

per person. Open to everyone on Saturday, January 14 at the Base Library (McTureous Hall Bldg. 218) stop by any time between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. For more information or to register with Marine Corps Family Team Building by January 11 call 577-6675/577-6408. Free respite care at the Child Development Center is available from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for active duty only. Call 577-6287 to reserve your space with the CDC.

Burn Your Own Steak and Family Dining Nights

Everyone is invited to "Burn Your Own Steak Night" and "Family Dining Night" at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center and Sugar Loaf Hill Bar. Burn Your Own Steak and Family Dining Nights start at 4:30 and run until 8 p.m. The Sugar Loaf Hill Bar will be open as well but only on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. Burn Your Own Steak Night on Tuesdays-Pricing: Active Duty \$10.95, Civilian \$12.95. Family Dining on Thursdays-Pricing: Military \$6.50, Children ages 5-12 \$6.50, Civilian \$7.25, (children under five are free). For questions or comments, call 577-6296.

Desert Lanes Bowling Center

Ninety... yes ninety days of bowling! January

1 through March 30, all youth bowlers 14 and younger get one free game per day/ per youth Wednesday-Friday. Customer appreciation day Friday and Saturday: 50/50 special 50 cent hotdogs, 50 cent soda, 50 cents game per person per game and 50 cent shoe rentals. Beat the clock Sundays: come in with your family or friends on Sunday before 1 p.m. and pay \$1 a game per person. Don't forget lunchtime specials every day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. bowl as many games as you can for only \$4. Crazy Wednesdays: come in and bowl 3 games all day long for \$5 (shoe rental included). Party packages are also available. For more information, call 577-6264.

Play mornings

Starting every other Friday, beginning January 13 from 9 to 11 a.m., bring your children to the Major General James L. Day Conference Center for play mornings. Enjoy time with friends and your children or make new friends. For more information, contact MCFTB at 577-6408.

STAY IN THE LOOP!

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

Panetta: King Renewed Promise of America's Dream

In anticipation of the nation's Martin Luther King Jr. Day observance Jan. 16, Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta has issued a message to members of the Defense Department outlining his personal view of the slain civil rights leader's impact on America.

Here is the text of the secretary's message:



"My career in public service began more than 40 years ago at the height of the civil rights movement. As a legislative assistant in the U.S. Senate, I worked on landmark civil rights legislation and as director of the U.S. Office for Civil Rights, I had the responsibility to enforce those laws.

"At that time, I saw how one man, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., could make a difference. He did so by challenging his fellow citizens to reflect on what it means to be American. Faced with opposition, he did not threaten violence, but rather gained strength from the truth of his convictions. His powerful ideas and lyrical words compelled our nation to live by its founding principle: that we are born with equal rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

"In the end, he changed not only the law of our land, but also struck a note for freedom

that still resonates in the hearts and minds of the American people and the entire world. That's a legacy worth celebrating.

"Dr. King renewed the promise of America's dream. His example inspired a movement for our country to reclaim its fundamental pledge – so that we might live as one nation, with liberty and justice for all. Every man and woman at the Department of Defense should strive to uphold these fundamental ideals.

"One of my proudest moments was the opportunity to meet Dr. King and years later, as a congressman, to cast my vote to set aside a day dedicated to Dr. King's memory. This weekend, I hope each of you will think about just how much this one man's life and accomplishments have meant to our country. The nation we work so hard to protect is a better place because of him. In fighting for equal justice, he was fighting for all of us."

2011 YEAR IN REVIEW



Official file Photo
The Central Repair Shop at the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow during its construction prior to the April 1961 opening of the Marine Corps' largest enclosed structure. The more than one million square foot facility cost \$7 million and took two years to build. This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of MCB.



Photo by Keith Hayes
Major Micheal Graham (left), commanding officer, Fleet Support Division, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, checks out the line of special use gloves at the ServMart Customer Appreciation Day event held in FSD Warehouse 406 aboard the Yermo Annex of MCLB Barstow Oct. 19.



Photo by Keith Hayes
Major General James Kessler, Commander, Marine Corps Logistics Command, speaks to workers at Maintenance Center Barstow aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow May 16. During his visit to MCB, Kessler discussed future operations and the future role MCB and it's employess will have as the war in Afghanistan continues.



(Left) Cpl. Adam Rivas, Armory Chief, coaches one of the 20 female participants during Jane Wayne Day, Sept. 14. The women spent their day aboard MCLB experiencing various training scenarios that Marines complete on a day-to-day basis. They also got an in-depth look into the daily life of the their spouses and what happens aboard MCLB on any given day.

(Right) The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard presents the American colors during the National Anthem at center field of the San Diego Padres, Petco Park, June 26. The Padres held a Marine Appreciation Day, with members of the Wounded Warrior Program as well as recruits from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego in attendance.



Photo by Pfc. Victoria Fairchild

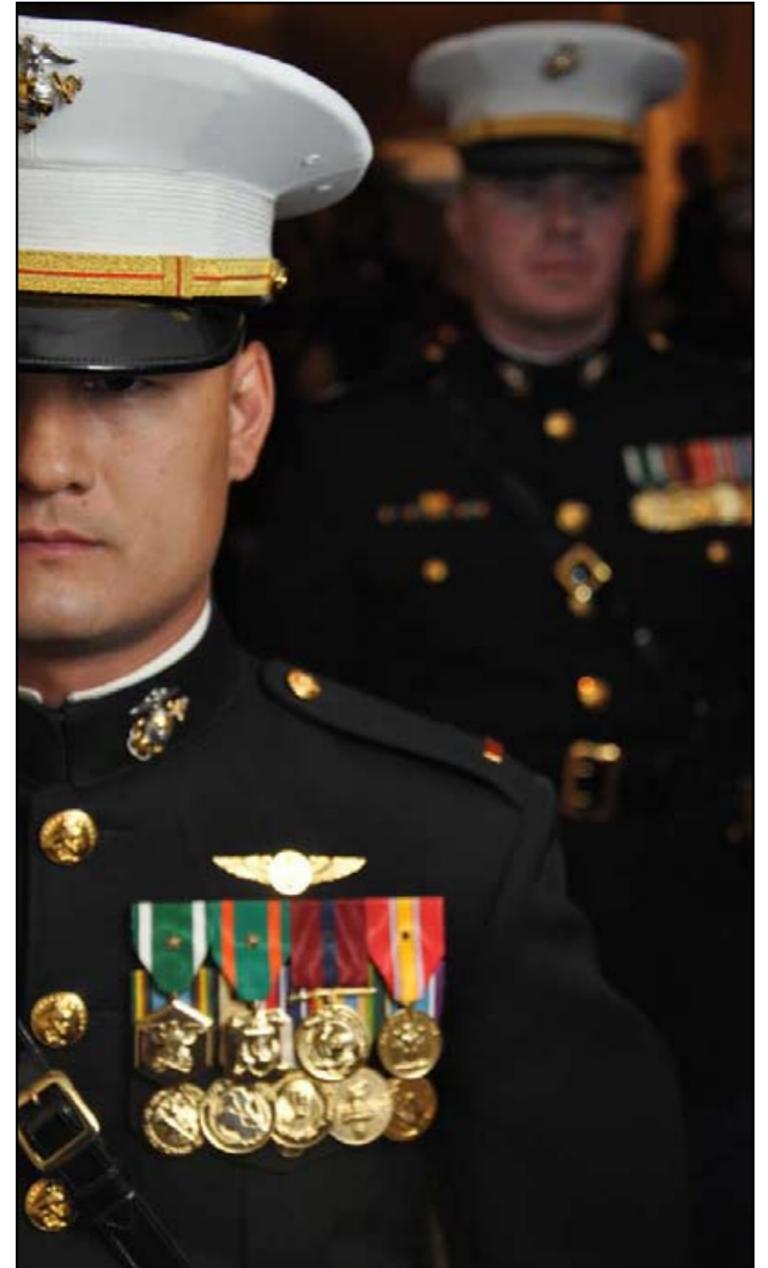


Photo by Cpl. Thomas A. Bricker
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Keoni Kim, executive officer of Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow stands at attention during the commemoration of the 236th Marine Corps Birthday Ball, in Las Vegas, Nov. 12.



(Left) The Barstow Boys and Girls Club Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Stampede was held at the Lt. Col. Robert A. Lindsley Base Stables which featured many crowd-pleasing rodeo events such as bareback riding, saddle bronc riding, tie-down roping, mutton bustin' and much more.

(Right) Defense Logistics Agency Distribution at Barstow has a new commanding officer following a change of command ceremony aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Sept. 7. Lieutenant Colonel Sam Hepburn assumed command of the organization from Lt. Col. Kenneth Kowis.



Photo by Curt Lambert

(Right) The inaugural Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Salute to the Vietnam-era Veterans kickoff ceremony drew more than 300 motorcyclists from California, Arizona and Nevada March 30. The riders were addressed by MCLB Barstow Commanding Officer Col. Daniel P. Ermer at the parade deck aboard base. Following the welcoming ceremony, the bikers were escorted 42 miles to Fort Irwin by California Highway Patrol vehicles for a luncheon and meeting with other veterans and active duty Army personnel.



Photo by Rob Jackson



Photo by Curt Lambert

Four Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow firefighters received the DoD Firefighter Heroism Award for 2010. Ryan Hanify, acting captain/firefighter, along with firefighters Joe Mashburn, Nathan Beber and Louis Santos, received the award for participating in a swift water rescue of a stranded motorist from the rain-swollen Mojave River in Yermo, Calif., Dec. 23, 2010.

DOD RECOGNIZES FIVE MCLB BARSTOW FIREFIGHTERS AS HEROES

Story and photo by Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

In mid-August, the Department of Defense recognized five members of the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Fire Department for giving outstanding service to their department and the public during 2010.

Four MCLB Barstow firefighters received the DoD Firefighter Heroism Award for 2010. Acting captain/firefighter Ryan Hanify, along with firefighters Joe Mashburn, Nathan Beber and Louis Santos received the award for participating in a swift water rescue of a stranded motorist from the rain-swollen Mojave River in Yermo, Calif., Dec. 23, 2010.

Chief Tommy Thompson, who submitted the four firefighters for the award, described the risk they faced while participating in the rescue.

“The usually dry river bed suddenly had five feet of water flowing in it at 15 to 20 mph, which was strong enough to sweep the rescuers off their feet. The victim was in 40 degree Fahrenheit water with an outside temperature of 28 degrees, and stood a very real chance of dying from hypothermia or drowning if not rescued quickly.”

Thompson said.

“I was just doing my job. It’s what I was trained for,” Barstow native Joey Mashburn said.

Louis Santos of Simi Valley, Calif., said the day began just like any other day on the job until he was called out.

“Being a firefighter is a great job, but it’s not for everybody. You have to enjoy what you do and be ready to do extraordinary things at times,” Santos said.

“Being a firefighter is a great job, but it’s not for everybody. You have to enjoy what you do and be ready to do extraordinary things at times”

—Louis Santos, Fire and Emergency Services

Nathan Beber of Monterey, Calif., who was also picked as the 2010 Firefighter of the Year by the Marines Corps, said the high desert in California and Arizona has some of the most intense swift water in the country during the rainy season.

“I go to a lot of training and just like the Marines who will get to use their training in war, I

am excited to use my swift water rescue training on the job,” Beber said.

Acting captain and firefighter Ryan Hanify, also from Barstow, who helped coordinate the rescue, said his 11 years as a firefighter have been rewarding.

“It’s a great career. If you want to help people, this is the job to do it,” Hanify said.

The DoD also recognized Assistant Fire Chief Paul Purdy as Fire Officer of the Year for 2010.

Chief among the many accomplishments of Purdy was guiding the MCLB Barstow Fire Department to becoming the first Marine Corps fire department to be accredited by the Commission of Fire Accreditation International.

“Accreditation means the MCLB Fire Department has met or exceeded levels of performance as an emergency services agency. Eventually that means the fire department will be able to get more money for training its personnel and provide an increasingly expert level of performance,” Thompson said.

Purdy is no stranger to receiving recognition in his occupation.

“I was picked as Firefighter of the Year for the Marine Corps in 2006,” he said.

Born at Weed Army Hospital, Fort Irwin, Calif., the assistant chief, with 21 years experience as a firefighter said his motivation is to go ‘above and beyond’ what’s asked of him.

Purdy said he does what he does to help his entire team and improve the service the firefighters provide to the public.

“Never sit still, never be stagnant, always improve, that’s what we’re trying to do,” Purdy said.

Chief Thompson said the firefighters may not like the publicity they received during the DoD awards ceremony in Atlanta, but they deserve the recognition.

“The four individuals who stood up in front of 2,000 screaming firefighters in Atlanta, you could see on their faces that even as modest as they are, they got to see just how proud their families were of them... and so am I.”



MCLB Police offer potential employment at JOB EXPO

Story and photo by Pfc. Victoria Fairchild
Combat Correspondent

In April, the Marine Corps Police Department aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow was among some of the potential employers featured at the Barstow Community College Career Technical Education and Job Expo.

The vocational training portion of the expo offered information about various classes at the school for those seeking to continue their education or to train for a new job.

“With the way the economy is, people of all ages are looking for different types of jobs,” said Sandi Thomas, career director of technical education at Barstow Community College. “They come here to learn about certain skills, like being a firefighter, or even to become a cook.”

Vocational classes are offered during the spring and fall semesters and on a limited basis during the summer.

Among the displays from the various employers was one from the MCPD. Marine Corps military policeman Cpl. Jose Cruz, Officer Lonnie Marny and Mykle Hoye, human resources contractor, handed out job application kits and answered questions about how to apply for the police jobs with the Department of the Navy’s Human Resource website at <http://jobsearch.usajobs.gov>.

“Considering today’s economy, people are very interested in what the MCPD has to offer,” Hoye said. “Ten to 15 people have come by to pick up information and two people dropped off their resumes and copies of their honorable discharge forms.”

This marked MCPD’s first visit to the career expo at Barstow Community College, but it won’t be the last, according to Hoye.

The community college welcomes anyone who is willing to put forth hard work and take on some pretty interesting classes, Thomas said.

For more information on any courses offered at Barstow Community College, or to register for classes, contact the administration office at (760) 252-2411, or visit the school’s website at www.barstow.edu.



Marine Corps military policeman Cpl. Jose Cruz, explains the different weapons used by the military police on the job and for training, at the college fair held at Barstow Community College, during a job expo.

New barracks named after two-time POW, Marine hero

Story and photo by Pfc. Victoria Fairchild
Combat Correspondent

The new Bachelor Enlisted Quarters aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow was named in honor of Marine Master Sgt. William R. Pettit, a World War II and Korean War prisoner of war, Feb. 28 at a ceremony held at building 175.

When it came to selecting an accomplished Marine to name the barracks after, Pettit was a wise choice. His long journey and the many hardships he survived in the span of two wars, made him stand out.

Pettit enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1939. He then went to school for combat intelligence in South Dakota and in 1941, the young Marine was sent to Shanghai, China. Shortly after arriving, World War II began and his unit was sent to Corregidor Island, where he was taken prisoner by the Imperial Japanese Army. He was held in captivity for 39 months until liberated by Russian

soldiers in August 1945.

Five years later, Pettit was deployed to Korea – at the start of the Korean War. Once more, Pettit was taken prisoner, this time, by the Chinese Army in 1951. He was freed 29 months later, on Sept. 5, 1953.

After recovering from injuries sustained during his imprisonment, Pettit was stationed aboard MCLB Barstow as a military policeman. He retired from active duty in 1958 but continued to serve in the Marine Corps Reserve until 1969. Master Sgt. William R. Pettit passed away in 2001 at the age of 82.

Attending the barracks dedication ceremony were Pettit’s wife, three step-sons, three granddaughters and one great granddaughter.

The new barracks now displays a plaque bearing his name and accomplishments, ensuring his legacy will live on and present and future Marines will never forget Marine leaders that came before.



Marie Pettit (left), widow of purple heart recipient retired Master Sgt. William R. Pettit, helps MCLB Barstow Base Commander Col. Daniel Ermer unveil the commemorative plaque in honor of her husband, Feb. 28 at Bldg. 175, now known as Pettit Hall.

Chaplain of the Marine Corps pays visit to MCLB Barstow

Story and photo by Lance Cpl.
Dominic A. Smarra
Combat Correspondent

Rear Admiral Margaret Kibben, Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains and Chaplain of the Marine Corps, visited with Marines, sailors and civilian employees of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Feb. 14. The purpose of her visit was to gain a better understanding of the operations aboard MCLB Barstow and to discuss the role of the Religious Ministry Team at the remote duty station.

Kibben's goal during her trip was to visit with Marines, chaplains and religious program specialists throughout Marine Corps Installations West. She also visited the command group and discussed the work of the Religious Ministry Team.

"I've been in the Navy for 25 years," Kibben said. "Roughly half of my career has been with Marines. One of the things that I have learned is that it takes a remarkable

person to be stationed in Barstow," she explained.

Kibben went on to explain that though the mission in Barstow may not seem too exciting or critical to some of the Marines and civilians stationed here, that it most certainly is. She discussed how the things that are done on the base affect more than just the people at MCLB Barstow and the surrounding area.

"I see folks who seem a little disappointed," Kibben said. "They seem to be saying, 'I didn't ask for this,' 'this isn't what I expected,' or 'this is challenging'. You show me a Marine who isn't saying that same thing on the front lines."

Near the end of her discussion with personnel aboard the base, Kibben took some time to answer questions. She explained that she enjoys open-discussions and likes to give the Marines and civilians an opportunity to clarify or ask anything that was on their minds about her or any other topics.



Rear Adm. Margaret Kibben, Deputy Chief of Navy Chaplains and newly appointed Chaplain of the Marine Corps, spends time discussing the role of the Religious Ministry Team at the remote duty station of Barstow Feb. 14.

Kibben explained to those in attendance that being the first female chaplain of the Marine Corps was not a hurdle. She said that becoming a chaplain was her calling and something she takes great pleasure in doing.

"We want to make sure that somebody out there cares for you," Kibben explained. "That's out job, and it's not just a job – we enjoy doing that."

New MCI-West CG visits MCLB Barstow

By Lance Cpl. Dominic A. Smarra
Combat Correspondent

The commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, Brig. Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse and the sergeant major of MCI-West, Sgt. Maj. Derrick Christovale, visited Marines and civilian employees while touring Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Jan. 6.

Shortly assuming his current position, Coglianesse made it a point to visit the logistics base for



Photo by Curt Lambert

Colonel Daniel P. Ermer, commanding officer MCLB Barstow, accompanies new commanding general Maj. General Vincent A. Coglianesse through the hallway of Headquarters Building 15, Jan. 6. They reflect on the prior commanding officers of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

a better understanding of operations and to discuss his intentions while appointed the MCI-West commanding general.

The tour was provided by the commanding officer of MCLB Barstow, Col. Daniel P. Ermer, in which he demonstrated how the base provides operational readiness through infrastructure, logistics and services.

After the tour, Marines and civilian employees were given the opportunity to attend a luncheon with the commanding general and sergeant major at the Major General James L. Day Conference Center.

During the luncheon, Coglianesse explained the great role that MCLB Barstow plays in the war effort as well as many upcoming changes, such as the new transition assistance program.

"The Marine Corps has always been prepared for anything that could happen," explained Coglianesse. "No matter what, we must always be ready to protect this country, and MCLB Barstow is

a major part of the efforts to make that happen."

Coglianesse explained that being on a smaller base affords the opportunity for service members to pursue off duty education, which increases the work productivity on base.

"Focus on your training and education, it will help you not only get promoted now, but it can help you later on after the Marine Corps," he said.

Before concluding his discussion, Coglianesse emphasized that no matter what is going on in the world, especially during the current draw down of forces. That as Marines, we must ensure to do what we have been doing for the past 256 years.

"Every time I have come into contact with [MCLB Barstow] or tenants of it, I have had a great experience," said Coglianesse. "There is a great team of Marines and civilians with a lot of experience. Keep up the work and good job," he concluded.

Partners in law enforcement prepare to become family

By Keith Hayes
Public Affairs Specialist

A former K-9 handler with the Marine Corps Police Department aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow has made two of her dreams come true by becoming a United States Marine Corps officer and adopting her former partner in to her family.

Former MCPD Officer Terri Piekosz had worked for 4 years alongside her German shepherd dog Fredi, as they patrolled MCLB Barstow, developing a strong emotional as well as working relationship with the 125-pound animal.

For much longer than that though, Piekosz has had a dream to join the Marine Corps, but said time and circumstance forced her right out of high school to put that idea on hold for a while so she could attend college on an athletic scholarship.

Even after going to work for the MCPD aboard MCLB Barstow in 2007, Piekosz did not give up on becoming a Marine officer. Her perseverance paid off Aug. 5, 2011, when she was told she was accepted to attend Officer Candidate School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va.

She graduated from OCS in mid-December and resigned her position with the MCPD Dec. 16, in order to be sworn in as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps.

"I'm looking at my (Military Occupational Specialty) as artillery, (intelligence) or military police," Piekosz said.

"I'll probably get an assignment in mid-May," she explained. "I'm hoping to go to Afghanistan."

Meanwhile, her close working relationship with her dog Fredi prompted her to request, and be granted, the privilege of adopting the 9-year-old shepherd.

"Fredi is being retired from his job and is going to live with my family," Piekosz said.

"He's ready to live the life. He's done. He's a family dog now."



Photo by Keith Hayes

Fredi, the now retired K-9 from Marine Corps Police Department, MCLB Barstow, plays with his cloth monkey held by his former human partner Terri Piekosz, a Chicago native. Piekosz was recently sworn in as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps after completing OCS in Quantico, Va. She "adopted" Fredi after resigning her position as a police officer Dec. 16, 2011.

Chaplain's Corner Pushing the limits and finding meaning

By Lt. Benjamin
Warner
Base Chaplain



A few months ago I came across an article about a rock climber who was attempting to navigate a previously unconquered route up El Capitan. After recounting his ordeal, failure, and raw fingers, the article related the climber's post on the internet about why this is not his first or last attempt: "A journey such as this is something I do because of a mysterious deep-rooted curiosity. A want to explore not only what we see, but who we are. I have chosen to immerse myself in things grander than me. To stretch my imagination in a [sic] effort to learn what I can dig out of the depths of my being. It would [sic] empty without the allure of success. But it doesn't always end that way. At least for now." Something this mountain climber says resonates with me. The compulsion to seek out something deeper in the events of my life inspires me.

The Biblical writers often spoke of this in their own lives. Be it in the stars (Psalm 50:6; 97:6), the creation of human life (Psalm 139:13-14), or the magnificence of nature (Amos 4:13), they saw something grander than themselves (namely God). Granted, none of you reading this are probably professional rock climbers, but I want to ask—do you see something deeper in your life and your achievements? Do you stretch yourself to find out what is in the depth of your being and what is "out there" in the world? You may think that your job or situation in life is too mundane to encounter anything truly magnificent. But, maybe you're just not looking hard enough. Most of my moments of amazement in life have come during "routine" days and events. I would venture to say that the only reason we miss amazing things in ourselves or in our world is because we have conditioned ourselves not to look for them. Stretching for the amazing in life may result in failure, as the rock climber noted, but it is a worthwhile endeavor that allows us to transcend some of our self-imposed limits.

Now, I'm the first to admit that, most days, sorting through my e-mail inbox involves very little that would inspire anyone. The Biblical writers also allowed that there will be days where inspiration is elusive: *O LORD, my heart is not lifted up; my eyes are not raised too high; I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvelous for me* (Psalm 131:1). I do not intend to present a picture of life where it's a non-stop discovery of new and mystical revelations brought about by pondering the universe. I tend to worry about the sanity of people who live such lives. We've all got bills to pay and commutes to make in which we (probably) will never come to any great realizations about ourselves or the world around us. Yet, I would suggest that if we never do the "pondering," the self-examination that wonders what our limits are and how we can discover ways to surpass them, then we live an un-reflected upon life. The unreflective life is not bad or evil in any way. But it will also never stretch you, to find out who you are.

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