MCLB Barstow: Safety award
FOCUS: Helping military families
RailOps mobile team offers aid
The editorial content of this magazine is prepared, edited and provided by the Communication Strategy and Operations Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: CommStrat Office, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The CommStrat is located in Building 204. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

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On the Cover:

Jesus Torres, a contractor with Technica who specializes in Material Handling Equipment, supervises as an M1A1 “Abrams” tank is transferred from the trailer it arrived on from 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, California and is loaded on a rail car aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, July 7. Tanks such as this one, and other equipment, are being transferred from Marine Forces Reserve, Logistics Command, and Exercise Support Division to the Sierra Army Depot, Herlog, California as part of the Commandant of the Marine Corps’ Tank Divestiture Program.

Front cover: Jack Adamyk

Communications Strategy and Operations Office
CommStrat Officer: Rob L. Jackson
CommStrat Planner: Keith Hayes
CommStrat Chief: Laurie Pearson
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On the web

Links in this publication are interactive in the online version

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

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

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In the brush

Lance Corporal Felix Vera, a rifleman with 3rd Marine Division, observes targets downrange during live-fire maneuver drills on Camp Schwab, Okinawa, Japan. The range allows Marines to refine their squad- and platoon-level skills.

[Image: Photo by: Cpl. Josue Marquez]

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Contents

Climate survey information  5  FOCUS on helping families  8

RailOps at CampPen  6  1st FSB Birthday  10

Base earns another safety award  7  MCCS modifications  12
FORT LEE, Va. – Though the 2019-2020 school year was disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Scholarships for Military Children program came through for 500 students from military families who were each awarded a $2,000 scholarship grant for the upcoming 2020-2021 school year.

The program, created in 2001, recognizes the contributions of military families to the readiness of the fighting force and celebrates the commissaries’ role in enhancing the military’s quality of life. It’s administered by the Fisher House Foundation, a nonprofit organization that helps service members and their families.

The Foundation’s recent efforts to modernize the entry process contributed to the successful outcome in the face of social distancing and other restrictions in place this year. “This was the second year that the entire application process was done online,” said Jim Weiskopf, Fisher House Foundation vice president. “We experienced a server problem on the final day for submissions that prevented applicants from submitting their completed applications, but since we had their email addresses, we were able to communicate with the entire applicant pool and extend the submission deadline by two days, so no one was penalized for something not their fault.”

The stores where ceremonies would normally be held to honor scholarship awardees had to adapt to COVID-19 restrictions as well. “While we would normally hold a ceremony at the commissary, during these uncertain times with social distancing, ceremonies could not be held this year,” said Marye Dobson, the Defense Commissary Agency’s scholarships program liaison. Instead, scholarship winners were notified by mail.

Scholarship applicants submit their official transcript indicating a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale for high school applicants, or indicating a cumulative minimum GPA of 2.5 or above on a 4.0 scale for students already enrolled in college; and an essay of 500 words or less, no longer than two pages.

“In this, the 20th anniversary year of the scholarship program, we were pleased once again with the overall quality of the applicants,” said Weiskopf. “We received a total of 4,851 applications from 225 commissaries.”

Eligibility is determined using the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database. Applicants must ensure that they, as well as their sponsor, are enrolled in the DEERS database and have a current military dependent ID card. The applicant must also be planning to attend or already be attending an accredited college or university, full time, in the fall of 2020 or be enrolled in a program of studies designed to transfer directly into a four-year program.

Applicants who are awarded a full scholarship to attend a college or university or receive an appointment to one of the military academies or affiliated preparatory schools are not eligible to receive funds from this program. A full scholarship is usually defined as one that provides for payment of tuition, books, lab fees and other expenses.

All rules and requirements for the program, as well as links to questions are available at the Scholarships for Military Children website, as is the full list of this year’s winners.

Fisher House also recently added a custom scholarship search engine to the site, tailored to military families, called “Scholarships for Service.” It’s free, easy to use, and available on mobile devices or computers at militaryscholar.org.

“The window to apply for the 2021-2022 Fisher House Scholarships for Military Children should open in December and close in February, but the exact dates have not been determined yet,” said Dobson. “Be sure to check the scholarship page in mid-December for the opening of the program.”

Fisher House Foundation is ranked a Four Star Charity by Charity Navigator. No government funds are used to support the Scholarships for Military Children Program. Commissary vendors, manufacturers, brokers, suppliers and the general public donate money to fund the program.
Ground Climate Assessment Survey

Compiled by: Rob Jackson
COMMSTRAT Officer

It’s that time again. Time to let the command know how it’s doing with regard to ground safety and equal employment opportunity by participating in the annual climate surveys.

In 2003, the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) established a goal of reducing preventable accidents by 50 percent. SECDEF increased this goal to 75 percent in 2006. In support of this effort, the Marine Corps has been aggressively implementing safety programs and tools.

The Ground Climate Assessment Survey System (GCASS) is one part of CMC Safety Division’s overall safety assessment program. GCASS is a proactive mishap prevention process that aids commanders and senior leadership in risk assessment and intervention strategy development. GCASS focuses on operations, maintenance, and other areas directly related to safety. The GCASS process involves collection of data from organizations by means of on-line survey measurement tools that quantify respondents’ safety perceptions.

Two ways to access the GCASS Survey:
1. You may take the survey by linking directly to it:
   • https://www.semperfisurveys.org/SurveyResp.aspx?surveyID=7442831
2. You may complete the survey by mobile device by printing and posting the QR Code(s) available at this URL: (NOTE: this link is NOT for distribution)
   • https://www.semperfisurveys.org/siteadmin/QRCodes.aspx?reqNum=31687760

Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute’s Organizational Climate Survey is a commander’s management tool that allows them to proactively assess critical organizational climate dimensions that can have an impact on effectiveness within the organization. Respondents answer questions that affect a unit’s readiness and formal and informal policies, practices, and procedures that occur or are likely within the organization.

The questionnaire has three focus areas:
1. Military Equal Opportunity (EO)
2. Civilian Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO)
3. Organizational Effectiveness (OE)

The survey can be found at URL:
• https://www.deocs.net/user4.1/login/login.cfm
• Survey Start Date: 06-Jul-2020
• Survey Estimate End Date: 31-Jul-2020
• Survey Access Code: 2005705skHH6V

You Can Make A Difference
Command Climate Assessment And Improvement

Provide leadership with your feedback and recommendations to improve your organization

THE CLIMATE SURVEY WILL BE CONDUCTED
FROM 6 July 2020 TO 31 July 2020
The Railhead Operations Group sent a mobile repair team from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton for two weeks to get their rail operations up and running again.

“The Camp Pendleton railhead was out of service for approximately 18 months,” said Chad Hildebrandt, RHOG supervisor. “My team repaired multiple switches, joint bars, bolts, and most significantly replaced approximately 200 railroad ties, plates, and spikes that were needed in order to bring the railhead back into compliance.”

Without a rail operations track maintenance crew of their own, the Camp Pendleton staff were left with the options of either contracting the work out, or bringing the MCLB Barstow crew down to complete the work.

“If Camp Pendleton was to contract this work out to a contracted support agency, the costs would have been extremely expensive,” Hildebrandt explained. “We are all Marine Corps. I have the team in place capable of completing these repairs. So, we offered our services to Camp Pendleton to support and keep repair costs at a minimum.”

“Mr. Hildebrandt’s team’s efforts were significant in that they facilitated the ability of the Camp Pendleton Distribution Management Office to support I (Marine Expeditionary Forces) by providing one of the more economical options for freight shipments and mobilization,” said Mr. Stacey Henderson, Distribution Management Office director, MCIWEST-MCB CAMPEN G4 Logistics.

The work took place from June 1 through June 12, leaving the weekend free for the crew members to go home to their families.

The mobile RailOps track maintenance crew consisted of James Mitchell, locomotive engineer, Antonio Flores, blocker/bracer, Cristobal Garcia, railroad repairman, and Cpl. Jacob Iversen, infantryman. That essentially split the MCLB Barstow RailOps team nearly in half to complete work on their home base.

“I only have eight civilians and two Marines that currently work for me,” said Hildebrandt. “I have not backfilled the vacant locomotive engineer work leader as of yet, nor the vacant railroad repairer position. We do have the recruitments in the Human Resources pipeline, as well as two additional positions for another locomotive engineer and mechanic in the pipeline. We hope to fill those relatively soon. Current conditions going on in the world have slowed that progress a bit.”

Camp Pendleton’s railhead is identified as part of the Strategic Rail Corridor Network.

“Camp Pendleton needs the railhead to support mobilization contingencies and training exercises,” Mitchell Black, Freight Supervisor, Distribution Management Office, MCB Camp Pendleton.

The STRACNET importance lies in ensuring this strategic railhead is maintained so that it offers an alternate means of rapid deployment and distribution of equipment and materials for the Marine Corps in the event of a national emergency, he explained.

“One of the primary uses for the rail head is to support movement of oversized/outsized cargo (e.g., military tanks), Henderson explained. “This helps in the reduction of wear and tear on tactical and commercial vehicles that are normally utilized to transport the heaviest military equipment via a convoy or commercially-procured movement. In summary, rail movements contribute to I MEF’s ability to mobilize logistical supplies & tactical vehicles ISO Military operations / Joint Military operations or mobilizations.”

“Camp Pendleton has the ability, if desired, to transport equipment, materials, and if necessary, personnel, from their railheads,” Hildebrandt said. “In times of crisis, this capability is crucial. I’m happy to send my team down to make their railhead fully operational again.”
MCLB Barstow awarded for safety

Story by: Keith Hayes
COMMSTRAT Planner

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California's culture of safety has earned it the Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award for 2019.

“We were informed by Headquarters Marine Corps on June 24 that we were chosen to receive the annual award,” Ray Aguilar, Base Safety Office director said. “This is the seventh time in 14 years that MCLB Barstow has been chosen for this recognition.”

Sara Montez-Diaz, safety specialist, prepared the package MCLB Barstow submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps for consideration.

“One of the elements taken into account is how many accident reports we file in a year for a base or civilian industry our size,” she explained. “Our Total Case Incident Rate, TCIR, is 83 percent below the national average rate for other Marine Corps installations or civilian industries our size.”

Even more impressive is the extremely low number of days off lost to work related accidents or mishaps aboard base.

“Our Days Away Restricted Time (DART) rate was 92 percent below the national average,” Montez-Diaz said. “That has resulted in a savings of more than $10,400,000 in lost time and medical costs for the Department of Defense.”

The base is no stranger to being recognized for its safety protocols and practices.

“In 2008 we became the first Marine Corps installation to receive the (Voluntary Protection Program) Safety Star recognition and the only one to be recertified twice for the VPP Star, as well,” Montez-Diaz said.

That award from the U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Health and Safety Administration plus other awards from the Department of Defense and the Department of the Navy, has resulted in a huge amount of recognition for the base’s safety culture.

“Since 2006 when we actively began our efforts to achieve VPP Star status, we have earned a total of 30 awards for safety,” Aguilar said.

“We also mentor other organizations, military and civilian, on how to get their own VPP Star,” he said. “We send Special Government Employees to their locations to conduct training, and all five of the Marine Corps installations we’ve mentored have achieved Star status.”

Winning the Marine Corps Achievement in Safety Award automatically puts MCLB Barstow in the running for the Department of the Navy Safety Excellence Award, Aguilar noted. MCLB Barstow has won that particular award six times since 2006.

“The Achievement in Safety award is not being given to the Safety Office, but to the entire base,” Aguilar said. “Teamwork is critical in building the culture of safety aboard base that makes it second nature to active duty Marines and civilian personnel to think safety first, last, and always. This recognition is one that everyone aboard MCLB Barstow can be proud of and take part in.”

“To be sure, this is an ‘all hands’ award and one in which the entire Base should all take great pride,” agreed Col. Craig C. Clemans, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

“Ensuring everyone accomplishes their mission each day and goes home unharmed to their friends and family each night is priority number one. There is no compromise or short cut for ensuring the safety of ourselves and those around us.

“Every Base employee is a Safety Officer,” the CO concluded. “This award is a reflection of the tireless care and concern both the civilian and active duty Marines’ show for each other at MCLB.”
FOCUSing on helping military families

Story and photo by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Chief

In addition to myriad stressors in the world currently, military service members and their families face unique challenges that Families OverComing Under Stress are eager to assist with aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. “Military life comes with a very unique set of challenges,” said LaNell Mayberry, who holds a Master of Arts in Psychology, is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist, as well as the FOCUS Family Resilience Trainer. “Military families also have a strong set of skills already in place including resourcefulness and resilience. Resilience training helps families to build on their existing strengths. This program provides a skill-building service that is evidence-based and family-centered for military families and couples.”

FOCUS training provides opportunities for families to learn key resilience skills including:

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Goal setting
- Emotional regulation
- Coping with stress and deployment

“These skills can be applied to help families and couples address current challenges as well as help to prepare them for future transitions,” Mayberry said. “Families seek FOCUS services for a variety of reasons such as a desire to improve communication, preparing for an upcoming deployment or reintegration, learning how to problem solve as a family unit, or how to better cope with stress, to name just a few examples of what might bring a family to FOCUS. The great thing about FOCUS is that nothing has to be wrong in order to benefit from participating in the program. It can be implemented as a preventative service!”

FOCUS is a family-resilience training program that teaches skills to help identify and utilize a family’s strengths, while learning new skills that help families overcome specific challenges. The program provides six to eight individual sessions where couples and families can work toward their goals.

“The FOCUS program is a free service for active duty military families and couples that is fun, interactive, and personalized to the couple or family that is being served,” Mayberry said. “We also offer family-friendly hours to provide flexible appointment times for busy military families.”

Some of the services provided by FOCUS include the following:

- Family consultations
- Couple or family-level training
- Small group training
- Workshops

“FOCUS Resilience Training is designed to strengthen couples and families in readiness for tomorrow,” Mayberry explained. “The program provides personalized training in the context of each family’s story and individual goals. It teaches families practical skills to help them meet the challenges of military life such as deployments, stress, injury, and other transitions.”

Given current social distancing protocols for the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person sessions are available on an appointment only basis two days per week, but the services remain fully available through a video teleconferencing format using TeleFOCUS services. The consultations offer education to community providers and partners, as well as to parents and couples. These services provide guidance and professional expertise on a specific topic surrounding the impact of military life on the family.

“The Skill Building Groups provide an introduction to the key skills taught in FOCUS resilience training,” Mayberry said. “These interactive groups are generally 90 minutes in length. The target audience can be flexible from military member participation, to parents, families, or children in specific age groups.”

Educational workshops generally cover a specific topic, such as individual or Unit-level stress management or developmental reactions to transitions. Briefs typically include an overview of FOCUS, education about the impact of military life on couples and families and the types of resilience training strategies that can be helpful.

Continued on page 11, FOCUS
Admin clerk earns Marine of the Quarter

Lance Cpl. Elena AlvillarCamarillo is the Marine of the Quarter for the third quarter at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

“I think I was chosen because of my volunteer work,” AlvillarCamarillo said. “Any time the sergeant major asks for volunteers, I’m the first one to put my hand up.”

“I volunteer for a lot of things,” the administrative clerk for S-1 continued. “We recently got a new Marine in S-1 so I volunteered to go on runs with him and to keep him motivated so that he can be put up for Marine of the Quarter as well.”

“I’ve worked with the Single Marine Program aboard base. I worked with a group to help feed the homeless, too, but now because of COVID we had to stop that program,” AlvillarCamarillo said.

The lance corporal said she had been in the Marine ROTC in high school and intended to join the service in 2016, but her mother’s health issues compelled her to stay home and help out.

After contributing to the care of her mother, AlvillarCamarillo said she reevaluated her future and decided she was ready for her next adventure, so she joined the Marine Corps on January 14, 2019.

“The Marine Corps seems to be more of a family than the other services,” she said.

AlvillarCamarillo is a native of Phoenix, so when she first arrived at the base, she was not impressed with the scenery. “It’s nothing but desert where I come from, so my initial reaction to MCLB Barstow was ‘This is not my cup of tea.’”

Now that she has been aboard base since September 2019, she understands the reason Marine Corps Community Services motto is “We’re not in the middle of nowhere, we’re in the middle of everywhere.”

“Vegas is two hours away, Los Angeles about the same,” AlvillarCamarillo said. “I’ve actually been to those places since I’ve been here. I’ve been to Big Bear, too, but not during the winter. That’s my next goal is to get there when the skiing areas are open. I’ve traveled quite a bit since I arrived at MCLB Barstow. It’s been fun.”

The travel restrictions have also left her feeling nostalgic for Phoenix and her family.

“It’s been hard being away from my loved ones, but I know that it’s for our own good, so I wouldn’t have it any other way if it keeps them safe,” she said.

The base’s small size has also turned out to be a real plus for AlvillarCamarillo.

“I like the fact that it’s a small base and you can grow a family here. A big base like (MCAGCC) 29 Palms doesn’t have the communication with other Marines like what we have here,” she said.

Her career plans include studying medicine.

“I would ultimately want to be a doctor who specializes in sonography to do ultrasounds for pregnant women,” AlvillarCamarillo said. “I was inspired by my sister when I went to see her ultrasound and I thought ‘That’s cool. I want to do that type of medical work.’”

Major Terry Herzog, S-1 Director, said the lance corporal is well-deserving of the recognition.

“Lance Corporal AlvillarCamarillo has a strong, professional work ethic which sets the example within the S-1 shop for others to follow. Furthermore, LCpl Alvillar is constantly looking to improve herself through her volunteer work which also inspires the Marines around her to do better.”

During her remaining time at MCLB Barstow AlvillarCamarillo plans to continue volunteering and work toward developing as a Marine.

“The way I see it is if you want something then you are going to push yourself toward that goal,” she said. “I’ve managed to push myself in ways that I never imagined I could before I joined the Corps. I want to keep motivating myself so that I can be someone whom others look up to, not just other Marines, but my nieces and nephew, as well. I use them as an inspiration to keep me going after what I want in life.”
1st Force Storage Battalion celebrated its first birthday with a decorative cake, during a celebration of the unit’s first year of operation on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 26.
Continued from page 8, FOCUS

Adapted for military families by a team from the University of California Los Angeles and the Harvard Medical School, FOCUS services are confidential, within the limits of the law.

Mayberry comes into the FOCUS program all too familiar with the challenges facing military families.

“I am the spouse of an Air Force veteran, a mother of three, and an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist,” she explained. “Before I pursued marriage and family therapy, I was a preschool teacher with the Department of Defense Child Development Centers for 15 years. During that tenure as a DOD preschool teacher, I worked overseas in England and Okinawa with the Air Force, followed by 11 years here at Barstow working with Marine families. Prior to joining the FOCUS team, I worked for a local non-profit behavior health facility providing counseling services for active duty and veterans. I have a strong connection to military families and love the fact that I have the opportunity to serve them.”

She currently works in the FOCUS office, located in building 126, behind the Chapel on base, services at this location are temporarily limited to two days a week for in-person family resilience training sessions out of consideration for health and safety of all participants.

“Services are available to military families with children over the age of three, military couples, and Wounded Warrior families,” she said. “In-person sessions are by appointment only right now in accordance with base health and safety regulations. Appointment times are flexible to meet the needs of the families enrolled. Families can also schedule TeleFOCUS appointments to participate in training through our video teleconferencing platform.”

“I encourage families to reach out to us if they are interested in learning more about the program and to see if it might be a good fit for them,” Mayberry said. There are several ways that families can reach us. They can go to our website at www.focusproject.org, find us on Facebook, reach us by email at Barstow@focusproject.org, or they can call my office at 760-577-5882.”

Marines with 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, breach a door with explosives during Integrated Training Exercise 5-20 on Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, California. ITX is the most comprehensive training conducted at MCAGCC and focuses on the tactical application of combined-arms maneuver and offensive and defensive operations during combat.

A CH-53E Super Stallion with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 463 transports an M777 Howitzer during a hoist lift exercise alongside Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 3 and 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment on Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The training helped increase the Marines’ battlefield proficiency and combat readiness.
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
- Swim Lessons
- Spin Classes
- LINKS Coffee Chats
- Wellness Series
- Play Mornings
- ITT
- Pass & ID Nebo 101, Yermo 406

**Modified Hours and Services**

**Leatherneck Lanes Bowling Alley open w/modifications:** Call for details - 760-577-6264

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

**Semper Fit Gym:**
- Open to AD personnel, their dependents & permanent base employees, 5 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Combat room open 24/7 for AD, police and fire only.

**SMP/Rec Center:**
- Single Marines only, no guests
- M-F 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Sat & Sun 11 a.m. - 5 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 Tuesday 9 a.m. -9:30 a.m. for active duty and spouses only
- Open Tues - Sat 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. for everyone else eligible. 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 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- To set an appointment call 760-577-6533.

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/