

# THE PROSPECTOR



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

Vol.2 No.11

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## Summer Fun

Tips for your 101 Days of Summer

## Sandblast Shop

See how this shop saves the government thousands of dollars

## Bottle Farm

Take advantage of a famous folk art forest in the High Desert



Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Members of the walking color guard from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., present the colors during Excelsior Charter School's class of 2013 graduation, June 5. During the presentation, students from the school's glee club sang the national anthem, while others stood to show respect.

## On The Cover:

**Front cover:** Photo by Gunnery Sgt. Reina Barnett

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard lead the first wave of runners at the World Famous Camp Pendleton Mud Run, June 9. This year's race marked the 20th anniversary of the popular event, which takes place over three consecutive weekends.

**Back cover:** Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Robert Foss, lead instructor with Homeland Security Solutions Incorporated, teaches Marines how to properly handcuff suspects during an annual Security Augmentation Force requalification course on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., June 4. The SAF instructors requalify the Marines on base and give them new techniques to use when responding to possible threats to the base.

### THE PROSPECTOR

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Children from the class of 2026 graduate from preschool and receive their certificates of completion at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., June 7. The Child Development Center held the graduation for their new kindergarteners.

## On the web

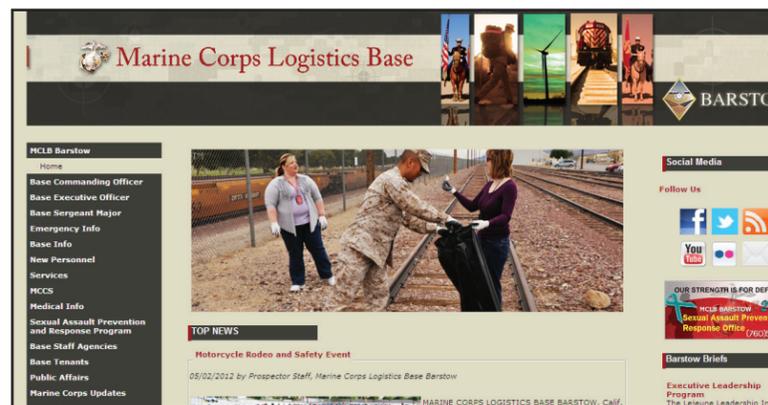
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## High Desert heat ... not to be taken lightly

### Wet-Bulb Globe Temperature Index and Heat Condition Flag Warning System

-  **Green Flag (WBG TI of 80 to 84.9 degrees F):** Heavy exercises, for unacclimatized personnel, will be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.
-  **Yellow Flag (WBG TI of 85 to 87.9 degrees F):** Strenuous exercises or physical labor will be curtailed for unacclimatized, newly assigned Marine and Civilian Marines in their first 3 weeks. Avoid outdoor classes or work in the sun.
-  **Red Flag (WBG TI of 88 to 89 degrees F):** All PT or very strenuous work will be curtailed for those not thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks. Personnel thoroughly acclimatized may carry on limited activity not to exceed 6 hours per day.
-  **Black Flag (WBG TI of 90 and above degrees F):** All strenuous outdoor physical activity that is nonessential to mission accomplishment (including organized and unorganized PT) shall be halted.

If you are new to the High Desert area, temperatures in the hundreds may be somewhat of a shock to you.

The high temperatures in the summer mean a greater risk for heat related illnesses such as heat exhaustion or heat stroke. That being said, it is important for everyone, whether they're familiar with the High Desert heat or not, to be prepared for this summer's heat.

Some simple tips to avoid these illnesses include: wearing light and loose fitting clothing, eating light and well-balanced meals, seeking shade, air-conditioning and fans whenever possible, making sure you're aware of the temperature when physically training outdoors, and never leaving young children unattended. Remember to **stay hydrated!**

Symptoms of heat stroke include: confusion, dizziness, fainting, fatigue, headaches, muscle cramps, pale skin, nausea and a rapid heartbeat. If you or a loved one display these symptoms, get out of the heat and into a cool area immediately, remove heavy clothing and drink plenty of fluids. If symptoms persist, see a doctor before it escalates into heat stroke.

Symptoms of heat stroke include: severe headaches, becoming disoriented, vomiting, red hot and dry skin, light-headedness, lack of sweating in heat, rapid and shallow breathing, a rapid heartbeat, and unconsciousness. If these symptoms are displayed, call 911 and get to the nearest hospital immediately, heat stroke can be fatal if not treated.

### News Briefs

#### Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations: **Wanetta Blackwell, Jeremy Cheshire, Johnny Davis Jr., Roger Dull, Eileen Garcia, Uriah Garcia, Lisa Lucero, Tulu Niusulu, and Lisa Wood.**

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Sharing Program may do so by obtaining a leave donor application form from the Human Resources Office. Ensure completed forms are turned into HRO as well. For more information, contact Josie Marquez at 760 - 577 - 6481.

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#### Anticipated Vacancies

Material Management Division- Mobile Equipment Metal Mechanic, WD-3809-06. Rigger, WG-5210-08.

Engineering Division- Industrial Equipment Repairer, WG-5352-08. IE Mechanic, WG-5352-10.

Trades Division- Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer, WG-5803-08. HME Mechanic, WG-5803-10.

SES- Supervisor Firefighter, GS-0081-11.

I&L- Environmental Compliance Manager, GS-1301/0819/0401-12

FSD- HMER Inspector, WG-5803-10.

S&M Branch- Tractor Operator Branch, WL-5705-08.

PEI Branch- Security Guard, GS-

0085-05

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

#### Energy Tip:

Did you know that if every household in the United States raised their air conditioning temperature by six degrees, we would save the equivalent of 190,000 barrels of oil every day?



Story and photo by  
**Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles**  
Combat Correspondent

As the heat rolls in to stay during the summer months, many High Desert residents head toward the water to beat the heat. For some, there is no better way to stay cool than to take a dip in a pool, at the beach or in a lake.

Though water can be fun for all ages, there are risks that come with enjoying aquatic activities.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), from 2005 to 2009, more than 3,500 people drowned in the U.S. In addition to those numbers, approximately 347 people died from drowning due to a boat-related accident.

People can suffer from different types of injuries; however, it depends on what kind of environment they are in, explained Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Hamilton, safety specialist on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. Concussions and broken bones are most common on lakes and rivers when people engage in motorized water sports. When alcohol is paired with swimming the chances of drowning increase because one's motor skills

become compromised. Lastly, people who are floating in lakes or rivers need to be aware of their surroundings and the presence of water vehicles.

Despite these risks, water can offer multiple activities for people to enjoy.

"Some water activities are swimming, boating, jet skiing, water skiing, wake boarding, wake surfing, and inner tubing," said Hamilton.

While performing these water activities participants should wear personal protective equipment (PPE).

According to the California Department of Boating and Waterways, proper PPE is a life jacket, which helps an individual stay afloat in case they are hurt and are unable to swim.

According to the CDC, in 2010, 88 percent of victims that drowned from boating accidents were not wearing a life jacket.

Even though an individual is wearing their life jacket, it doesn't necessarily protect them from other dangers in the water, explained Hamilton.

"You could be doing every-

thing right but there is always that one guy in the other boat," said Hamilton, "so you have to be aware of your surroundings and be vigilant. Always look for other boats."

There are risks at a community pool as well, expressed Souher Hanhan, a lifeguard on base.

There are hazards such as running around the pool, drinking and swimming, and people falling into the pool and not knowing how to swim.

"If you don't know how to swim, you should take swimming lessons, it's a life skill," said Hanhan. "And don't drink and swim. A lot of drowning happens because of alcohol."

According to Marine Corps Community Services on MCLB Barstow, there have been 10 active-duty Marine water related deaths in the Corps since Oct. 2010, two of which involved alcohol.

Drinking alcohol around water is dangerous; it is also dangerous to drink around young children while near the water. The leading cause of death in children ages one to four, according to CDC, is drowning.

In 2009, 30 percent of children who died from unintentional deaths were caused by drowning.

"Parents should be watchful of their children. They can fall in without flotation devices and possibly drown," said Hamilton. Even if they have a flotation device, it doesn't give you a free pass not to watch them. Not all flotation devices are made to hold children right side up in the water. The devices are designed to assist the child in floating above the water.

According to MCCS, pool owners should ensure the pool is gated so children cannot access the area by themselves. While at the pool, make sure there is a responsible adult that can supervise children and react to any situation in a timely manner.

Hamilton explained that parents should become CPR certified. In case of an emergency, there will be someone on scene to revive the victim until emergency personnel arrive.

Summer is the time to kick back and relax, but remember to be vigilant and know the risks that come with having fun in the sun. For more tips during the 101 Days of Summer, be on the lookout for the next part in The Inspector's summer safety series.

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# On the road again with the MCG

Story and photos by  
Gunnery Sgt. Reina Barnett  
Public Affairs Chief

While traveling to various cities across the nation, the Marines with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard from Barstow, Calif., begin their days in the pre-dawn hours preparing their palomino mustangs for the day ahead. The Marines of the color guard primp the horses and themselves before each performance. They are also responsible for warming up, exercising, and familiarizing their horses in the new environment.

Carrying colors in one hand and reins in the other, the riders remain steady as they march in unison with their horses. In addition to grooming the animals, their manes and tails, and cleaning their hooves, Marines also saddle the horses with polished leather bridles and harnesses.



# PPB moves toward ... a green future

Story by  
Sgt. Shannon Yount  
Press Chief

On Oct. 5, 2009, President Barack Obama signed an executive order requiring federal agencies to set goals and make improvements in environmental, energy and economic performance.

“As the largest consumer of energy in the U.S. economy, the federal government can and should lead by example when it comes to creating innovative ways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase energy efficiency, conserve water, reduce waste, and use environmentally-responsible products and technologies,” wrote Obama in Executive Order 13423.

Since then, the Department of Defense has been looking at new ways to solve our nation’s ever increasing energy crisis to become a sustainable, efficient and environmentally responsible force.

Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow has taken several steps to reduce energy consumption, eliminate wasteful water practices and implement new resources to recycle industrial waste.

“We are working with the base to make sure we reach their [energy efficiency] goal as well as saving money, and continue to meet the demands of production,” said John Peterson, electrical engineering technician



Photo by Carlos Guerra  
New light-emitting diode bulbs illuminate the crane way at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command. MDMC is working on replacing all of the lighting fixtures with new LED bulbs to save energy.

with facilities engineering, Production Plant Barstow.

As the Department of Defense moves toward a more sustainable future, the federal government has set utility regulations for each base to meet. Since then, MCLB has met and exceeded the goals for electricity, natural gas and water consumption.

According to the base’s Installation and Logistics energy brief, the cost of utilities for the base has decreased 21 percent since 2008.

Seventy-five percent of the base’s energy consumption comes from MDMC alone, and to reduce energy use, several projects were implemented, including:

replacing the high temperature hot water system, air conditioning and heating systems, and installing a solar photovoltaic and solar thermal preheat system.

As years pass, old equipment is replaced due to wear and tear. The new equipment is better for the environment, said Ben Santos, the division manager and branch head of production engineering at PPB.

The command looked for solutions to maximize utility savings when it came time to decommission the high temperature hot water system.

The hot water system consisted of five boilers running 24/7 and was manned by an employee at all times, explained Santos.

“It cost a lot to run those boilers all the time; now we are saving the plant resources and funds with the new improvements,” said Santos.

The previous heating system heated Building 573, the steam racks and dip tanks, said Peterson. Now, natural gas heats the building and electricity heats the dip tanks. The steam racks operate with two generators, which are also powered by natural gas.

Putting new energy-saving technologies into practice, PPB recently installed a 100 kilowatt-hour solar photovoltaic array system and solar thermal preheat for domestic hot water on the roof of the maintenance center.

The photovoltaic system is connected to an electrical infrastructure that converts sunlight into electricity, said Peterson, which is then fed back into the grid and used on the installation. The solar thermal preheat is a separate source of renewable energy and minimizes



Photo by Sgt. Shannon Yount  
Bins filled with oil filters, glass, plastic, copper, and all types of scrap metal line the fence at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, where they will be relocated to a recycling facility and reused in the future.

electricity consumption for heating water.

Along with large projects of energy conservation, there are smaller plans in the works at MDMC to reduce utility consumption.

Currently, MDMC is working on replacing all of the lighting fixtures with light-emitting diode bulbs, said Peterson.

“At the moment we have about two-thirds completed,” he added.

According to PPB’s energy saving project brief, the steps the command has taken in reducing energy consumption has been estimated to save 970,981 kwh and 996,841 Therms (British Thermal Units) annually.

Not only is PPB continuing its “green” path to improve energy saving practices, but it’s striving to conserve the land and natural resources in its community as well.

The plant recycles motor oil, antifreeze, diesel fuel, oil filters, glass, rubber, plastic, copper, and all types of scrap metal, explained Lisa K. Morris, an environmental protection specialist with PPB. In the past, oil and antifreeze would be disposed of instead of recycled.

With recycling the materials instead of sending them to be disposed of at a landfill, we save money, and it keeps the waste out of the environment, explained Morris.

“We are currently working on recycling empty aerosol cans by crushing them and recycling them as scrap metal,” said Morris.

It’s an ongoing process to find better ways to save energy and maintain an environmentally-friendly plant, but PPB plans to stay the course and lead by example, said Santos.

# Sandblast Shop saves the Corps thousands of dollars

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles  
Combat Correspondent

When looking at a revamped product from Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, the outcome of a vehicle is flawless from the inside-out; however, have you ever wondered what the vehicle looked like before it was painted?

Employees who work in the Sandblast Shop, know exactly how they

“The process of sandblasting creates a white metal finish so the paint adheres to the metal,” said Christopher Ware, the sand blast leader.

The shop uses steel, garnet, acrylic or water to blast equipment, depending on the different types of metals, such as titanium, aluminum or steel, explained Ware.

Any big pieces of equipment such as mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles or amphibious assault vehicles take two shifts, 18 hours, to complete. Small pieces, like trailers can take 4 to

blasters experimented with different ways to sandblast each vehicle. They found sandblasting from the inside-out was the most effective way and the most cost efficient.

The sandblasters use two automated machines to strip the paint off their armory. The rotary blaster and the tumbler help reduce manual labor, and each machine can handle multiple pieces of equipment at a time, explained Ware.

“You can have a worker put multiple parts into the machines then (simul-



Daniel Jackson, a sandblaster on Product Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, sandblasts an amphibious assault vehicle to a white metal finish for the paint shop, May 24. The Sandblast Shop works on most of the equipment that is brought into PPB.

look. The men in the shop are responsible for preparing the equipment for the Paint Shop and have recently found cost-efficient, environmentally friendly ways to complete their much needed mission.

The sandblasting process is simple: the vehicles are brought into the bay area and blasted with tiny pieces of crushed rock, known as garnet, eliminating paint and corrosion, explained

Jason Depue, who's worked in the Sandblast Shop for eight years.

5 hours, Depue added.

“We utilize five bays which are used to sandblast the equipment,” said Depue. The north and south bays are only large enough for one worker, but, the east, west and a bay known as the dungeon are large enough for two people, thus reducing the time of sandblasting the equipment, which saves money.

“The process used to take 50 hours, now it only takes 18 hours,” explained Ware.

Ware further explained the sand-

taneously) walk over to the bays and blast an MRAP,” said Ware.

Ware explained the shop has improved its garnet and is saving the Marine Corps \$73,000 a year. The garnet PPB now uses takes off more paint than the old garnet and can be recycled three to four times before it needs to be replaced.

Recycling the garnet for further use is one method these men use while being good stewards of the environment.

**Continued on page 10**

# WHEN LIBERTY CALLS: LOCAL BOTTLE TREE RANCH MAKES FOR GOOD SIGHTSEEING AND PHOTOS

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

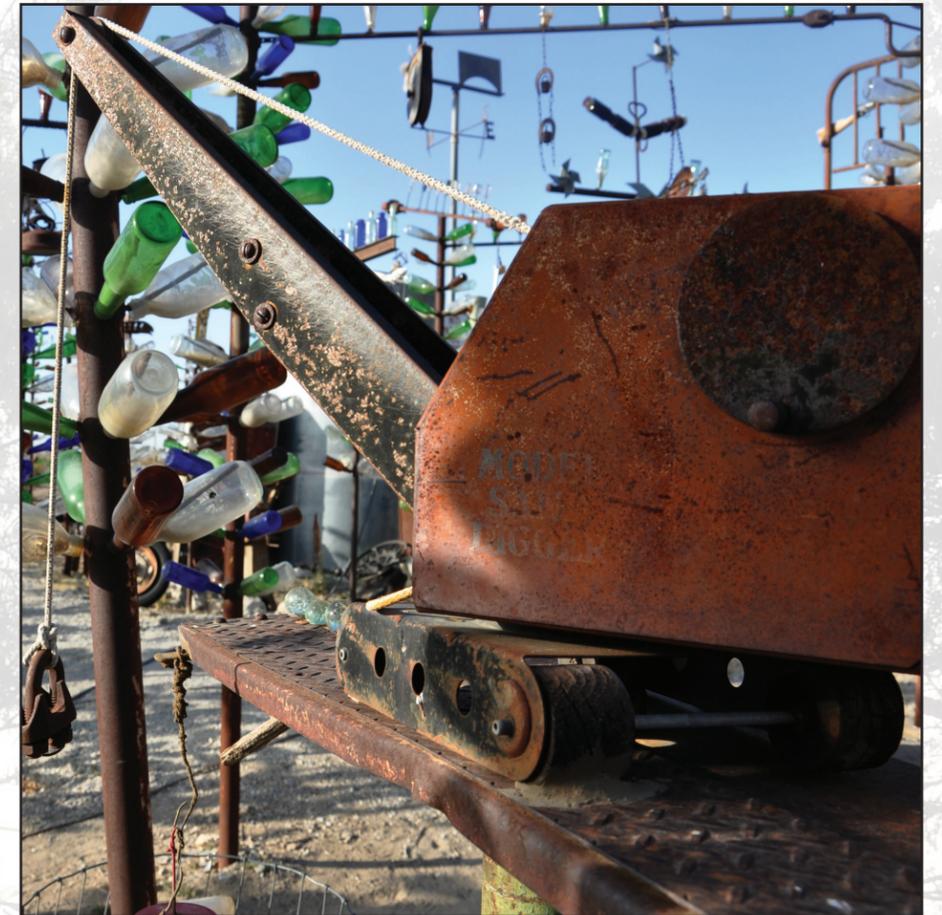
California's High Desert may seem like an oversized, vacant lot to some, but to the watchful eye, it holds much more.

Route 66 is one of the oldest paved highways in America and has a number of famous attractions including right here in the High Desert. Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch in Oro Grande, Calif., offers a sight to behold for all who pass it.

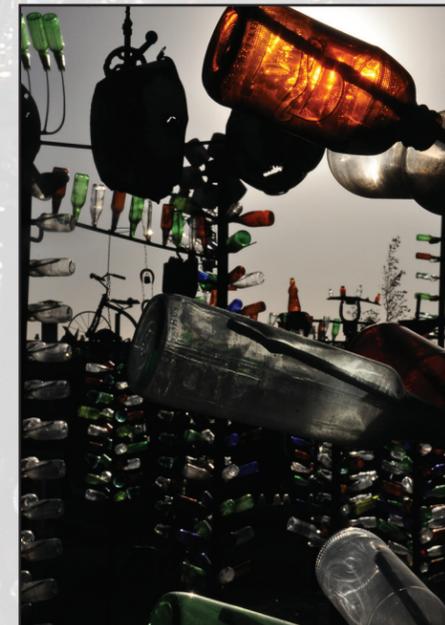
For more than a decade, Long has slowly collected and then displayed, brightly colored bottles slipped over pipes welded together resembling trees placed across his property along the Mother Road.

The bottle tree ranch's genesis took place in 2000 when Long neared the end of his 31-year career at a local cement factory. He decided to take up a new line of work to pass the time.

“When I retired in 2002, I had already begun working on the bottle trees,” Long said.



An antique toy crane is displayed at Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch in Oro Grande, Calif., along U.S. Route 66. Long's famous attraction gets hundreds of visitors a year who stop to take photos and strike up conversation with Long while on their way up and down 'America's Highway.'



Hundreds of antique bottles on metal rods are displayed at Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch in Oro Grande, Calif., along U.S. Route 66. Since 2000, Long's forest of bottle trees has grown from several wooden posts with his father's bottles, to metal rods holding a plethora of glass bottles.

He explained his inspiration came from another local resident who had a few trees on his property. After building a few tree structures out of wood, Long began using spare metal he had collected throughout the years. Along with his collection of bottles and antiques, Long created his own unique world forged of steel and glass.

After years of collecting glass bottles with his father, Long found an artistic use for them by beautifully displaying a folk art forest filled with wind chimes made of glass and trinkets of the past.

Long said he and his father would go camping in the High Desert and would find unique treasures left for trash.

“We'd find a lot of stuff in old, abandon shacks prospectors used

back in the day,” he said.

The proverbial ‘one man's trash is another man's treasure’ came to light in 2000 when Long displayed his first metal sculpture and soon after, his creation began catching the attention of passersby.

“I had been working on my first ones [trees] and it was only 20 minutes before people stopped to see what was going on,” Long explained.

Over the past decade, thousands of people traveling down Route 66 have made an impromptu stop to view what was going on within the fence line of Elmer Long's Bottle Tree Ranch.

“I've seen a lot of different bottle trees but I think the antique toppers

**Continued on page 11**



Phil Vargas, a sandblaster on Product Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, shuts the door of the rotary blaster, May 24. The rotary blaster is an automated machine that is used to blast multiple parts at one time without supervision.

The garnet travels through multiple air filters and then blows into an air wash where the sand is blasted back down into the main hopper, holding

the sand until its reused, explained Depue.

In addition to recycling their garnet, the Sandblast Shop has become a

### Sandblast continued from page 8

model for and environmentally friendly operation.

“When we leave our bays or we’re not using equipment, we turn everything off,” said Depue. “We used to turn on all the bays and machines when we first came into work. Now we wait until the equipment gets to our bay or machine to fire up our equipment.”

The employees at the Sandblast Shop work on 90 percent of the equipment that cycles through MDMC. Revamping their systems has enabled the Sandblasting Shop to continue their mission in a timely and cost efficient manner.

The job of a sand blaster is just one part of many needed to refurbish the thousands of military vehicles coming through MCLB Barstow. The next time you find yourself admiring one of the seemingly flawless vehicles, keep in mind the countless hours of hard work the employees here put in.

## Chaplain’s Corner

By Lt. Benjamin Warner  
Base Chaplain

### The value of rest

directions. Part of learning

Over the past few weeks I’ve been on a bit of an information overload. I’ve been trying to read three or four different books—all of which are “necessary” for some reason or another. Various trainings are clamoring for my attention, I have an upcoming move for my family, we’ve had to work out our summer details for the kids, and the myriad other requirements that are a week in the life of a pastor, staff officer, husband, friend, and father of three. I’m sure many of you can understand that reality—you’ve got work, family, hobbies, work, friends, church, and probably more work. Then there’s all the media that clamors for your attention. In case you didn’t know, there’s an NBA Finals going on, an MLB season, and it’s almost time to draft your fantasy football team.

Just writing that paragraph made my blood pressure jump a few points. How are we supposed to live at this pace? I find it more and more difficult to believe it’s normal to keep up with all the noise competing for our attention—not just noise coming from the TV or computer screen, either. Demands pull on each of us from numerous

to deal with those demands is learning which ones feed us and which ones take away from us. One demand on my life is being a leader in my son’s Cub Scout Pack—that feeds me. Another demand in my life is keeping up with the dishes—that does not feed me, more like “punches me in the stomach.” However, the great hope for me as I face the daily challenge of keeping up with the world around me, be it information or tasks, is that my exhaustion finds me in good company.

It’s possible that no one had more demands made on his life than Jesus. We see numerous incidents in the Gospels where people are pressing around him just to get a piece of his time. In one story, some guys peel off the roof of a house just to get their friend near Jesus. Another time, crowds press in around him so much that he’s not even sure who it was who bumped him. I can choose not to watch television or read news on the Internet, but Jesus was always in need, always had people clamoring for his attention. Yet he also made time to withdraw and be fed. Just as we see numerous accounts of



people pressing in for needs, we also see numerous accounts of Jesus withdrawing—not because he was selfish, or didn’t love people—but because we each need to be replenished if we want to have more to give. That’s true about our attention, our skills, and our effort. If we want to have more to give, we don’t just generate it out of thin air, we need to be fed.

Some of us are naturally introverts, some are naturally extroverts...I’ve even heard the term “professional extrovert” for someone whose job requires them to be around people. But in the midst of who we are—who God made us to be—we have to become comfortable. We have to learn how the demands of the world around us are going to affect us and adjust. Maybe it means ignoring the information flow, maybe it means scheduling time to refuel. But no one runs on empty for more than a few miles.

## MAN ON THE STREET

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

### FATHERS, WHAT IS YOUR IDEAL FATHER’S DAY?



Sergeant Elton Rogers, father of six and supply administration chief on MCLB Barstow, poses with his family.

“My ideal Father’s Day would be going back home to Dallas to spend time with my family. I would want breakfast at the Waffle House, then go shooting, ride four-wheelers, have lunch, then go fishing and bowling.”

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Manny Llanura, father of two and substance abuse counselor on MCLB Barstow, stands with his kids.

“My ideal Father’s Day would be spending the entire day with my two kids and my wife. We would go to church, go out for a big lunch and then go out to the movies. Just having everyone together and spending time would be nice.”



Lance Corporal Diomar Guano, postal clerk on MCLB Barstow, sits with his daughter and Santa Claus.

“My ideal Father’s Day would be flying home to Chicago with my wife and my daughter to spend time with my own father. Simply relaxing, spending time together and going out to our favorite barbecue restaurant would be a great day.”



A.J. Jacobs, a father of three and the Single Marine Program coordinator on MCLB Barstow, sits with his three sons.

“My ideal Father’s Day would be going to a Las Angeles Galaxy soccer game with my three boys. I would also like to spend the day fishing with them at the lake.”

### Liberty Calls from page 9

are what set mine apart,” Long said. “I’ve got plenty of things on them, from moonshine drums to antique wheels,” he added.

Building the ranch has brought many visitors to Long’s doorstep and has allowed him to share his passion and stories with others, including the finer details.

“I love every part of building it: doing the concrete, welding the poles, finding the stuff to put on

them, and now, talking to people who come by to see it,” Long explained.

While the 66-year old can’t pinpoint which part of building the ranch he enjoyed most, he can attest to which pieces are his favorites. Long explained the bottles displayed in horizontal lines above the trees belonged to his father and those are the ones he likes the most.

When Long is out looking for more treasures to add to the ranch,

he sometimes comes across ones that remind him of the time he spent with his father and it brings back memories.

“It’s almost like he’s there again with me, this time in spirit,” Long added.

So whether it’s your next trip down the Main Street of America or you’re looking to do some sightseeing, be sure to explore what Elmer Long’s Bottle Ranch has to offer. 11

