

THE PROSPECTOR



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

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'The Moto Tat'

**Water Jet
Machine**

Fourth of July

One way Marines show their dedication to the Corps

MCLB shop has remarkable capabilities

Celebrating our independence deployed, overseas

Past Heroes: Colonel John Ripley

Endurance is defined in the Marine Corps as having the mental and physical strength to endure pain, fatigue, stress and hardship. On Easter Sunday, 1972, Capt. John Ripley demonstrated the epitome of this Marine Corps leadership trait.

Ripley, who retired as a colonel, was an intelligent Marine in peak physical condition. He graduated from the Naval Academy after prior enlisted service. He led multiple infantry units through combat and trained with special forces teams including the Army Rangers. His most recognized accomplishment took place during the Vietnam War. At the time, he was acting as an American advisor for Maj. Le Ba Binh, the commanding officer of the 3rd Vietnamese Marine Battalion.

Third Battalion's mission on Easter Sunday was to stop the North Vietnamese Army from attacking the south by crossing the main route between the north and south: the bridge at Dong Ha.

The Battalion of 700 men, with the support of The Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) tank battalion, was greatly outnumbered, facing more than 30,000 soldiers with tanks and heavy artillery support. Ripley knew the only way to stop the army from crossing the bridge was to blow it up.

The bridge was built by U.S. Seabees to transport heavy artillery for Americans. Ripley, Nha, his radioman, and Maj. James Smock, the American advisor for the ARVN, set out by themselves to destroy the massive bridge.

Nha stayed undercover to update headquarters on his radio while Ripley and Smock ran for the bridge. Ripley, carrying two haversacks of satchel charges, first had to crawl over three coils of razor wire on the underside of the bridge. Smock held it down as much as possible but Ripley still bled profusely. He continued hand over hand another 90 feet to place the first satchel charges. Ripley crawled back to Smock for another load, this time dragging more than 180 pounds of two more haversacks and two boxes of TNT to where he placed the first satchel



charges. Ripley continued the trips for more than two hours with incoming rounds coming from the NVA. He was never hit. Ripley climbed back through the razor wire and collapsed on the ground from exhaustion ... knowing he had to go through again to set the detonators for the explosives. He made his way through the wire and back to the major once again. Smock then showed the exhausted captain electrical detonators he found but didn't think they were needed anymore. Ripley however, was trained to use backup charges if available -- so he made the voyage once more to rig them.

Ripley, Smock, and Nha regrouped with 3rd Battalion and moments before the enemy was about to cross the bridge and attack the south, the bridge blew up. Although the war continued, 3rd Battalion was successful; they prevented the north from crossing the bridge at Dong Ha.

The next time you are contemplating giving up, whether it be on an assignment, a run, a fitness test or anything for that matter, remember how much Captain Ripley had to endure ... and keep pushing.

For more information on Ripley's selfless accomplishments, read the Commandants Reading List book, *The Bridge at Dong Ha*, by John Grider Miller.

On The Cover:

Front/ Back cover:
Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Corporal Gilberto Navarrete, a dog handler with Marine Corps Police Department on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, searches a decoy while his dog Uff provides watch during the Annual Inland Empire Health Plan K-9 Benefit Show at Redlands University in Redlands, Calif., June 22. More than 20 police departments from the I.E. wowed the crowd with their dogs during different scenarios. The MCPD demonstrated their K-9's discipline and toughness during the exercises. The MCPD also wowed the crowd of 3,500 people during the toughest dog competition. The toughest dog competition was held to determine which dog can hit a suspect the hardest. The winner was selected by the crowd's reaction.

THE PROSPECTOR

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

Public Affairs Officer: Rob L. Jackson
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. Reina Barnett
Press Chief: Sgt. Shannon E. Yount
Combat Correspondent: Cpl. T. Allen Bricker
Combat Correspondent: Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent: Pfc. Samuel Ranney

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Photo by Sgt. Shannon Yount

Children from the School Aged Program read a book during the summer reading program kickoff party at McTureous Hall library on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, June 17. More than 75 people from the MCLB Barstow community attended the event and signed up for the free program. The purpose of the program is to keep the minds of children, teens and adults active during the summer months.

On the web

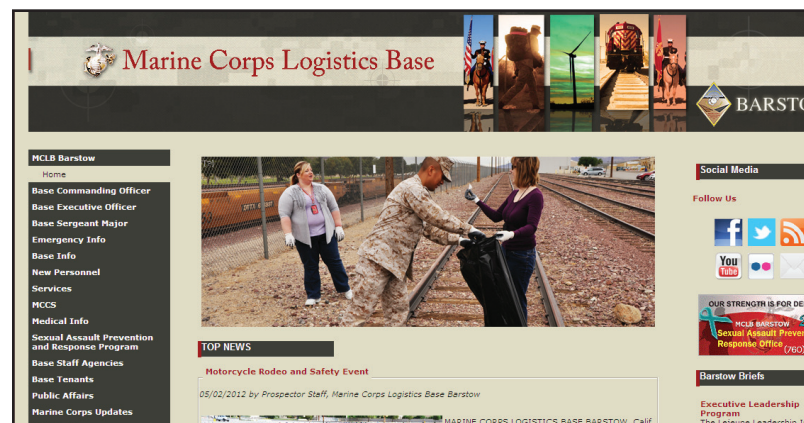
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YOUR DESTINATION AWAITS YOU: START READING

Story by
Sgt. Shannon Yount
Press Chief

Opportunities to travel the world are at everyone's fingertips, especially when it's as simple as opening a book.

To encourage children and adults to read throughout the summer, the library on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow kicked off its annual summer reading program, June 17.

Each year, more than 250 military libraries participate in the Department of Defense's summer reading program. This marks the fourth year the DOD has supported the program.

This year's theme revolves around traveling and is aptly titled, "Have Book – Will Travel."

More than 75 people from the MCLB Barstow community attended the event at the McTureous Hall

library and signed up for the free program.

The program, which runs from June 17 to the end of July, has been popular with the base's community for four years, said Reece Dillingham, library technician at the base. The purpose of the program is to keep the minds of children and adults active during the summer months, he added.

"There are a lot of benefits to the kids participating in the program," said Dillingham. Studies show that students who read recreationally do better in school than those who don't, he added.

The program also has added benefits for those who participate.

Patrons who accomplish milestones such as: reading for a thousand minutes, attending story time, and arts and craft sessions at the library as part of the summer reading program, will receive prizes during the award

ceremony on July 29, explained Dillingham.

"The more points you accumulate, the better the prize you receive in the end," he added.

During the five week campaign, the library will track the progress of children, teens and adults by having them fill out a handwritten or online logs. Participants are responsible to fill out the log sheet with the number of minutes they have read each session and how many books they have completed.

Individuals choose the books they want to read, said Dillingham.

"We want them to choose the book to be inspired and learn," he added.

Participants can still sign up for the program at the library, or online at www.mccsbarstow.com. For more information about this program and other library services, call (760) 577-6395.

ming skills. Scheduling, payments, and sign-ups are available at the pool. For more information, call Recreation services with Marine Corps Community Services, at 760-577-6971.

NMCRS Thrift Store

New hours! The MCLB Barstow NMCRS Thrift Store will be open the second Saturday of each month, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., starting July 13. The opening sale includes a \$5 bag sale. **Volunteers needed!** If interested, stop by or call the Thrift Store at 760-256-0444.

Energy Tip:

Did you know, an Energy Star dishwasher saves approximately 1200 gallons of water a year – six times the amount of water the average person drinks in a year?

ARMOR PIERCING WATER

Story and photos by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

Have you ever wondered how the remarkably tough armor used on military vehicles such as Humvees or mine-resistant ambush protected vehicles gets cut down to size? What could possibly be used to precisely pierce through the same metal that protects service members from bullets?

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., has the answer: water and garnet.

The process is actually quite simple, explained Doug Martin, a water jet operator on MCLB Barstow's Yermo Annex. The water is filtered, cooled, and then ran through hoses where it is mixed with grit, made up of finely ground garnet. Next, the water is sprayed at pressures up to 90,000 pounds per square inch (PSI)

onto whatever material needs to be cut.

"We have been using water to cut through metals here since the late 1990s," explained Martin. "It can literally cut through any solid material ... from a sheet of paper to stainless steel or even brass."

The designs for the pieces of metal they need to cut are made using computer-aided designs, said Martin.

"We design the shape with the correct measurements and angles on the computer and the water jet machines do the rest," he added.

One tremendous advantage of cutting with water is the absence of heat in the process. Heat tends to warp metals and cause them to expand. Water, on the other hand, has no effect on the molecular structure of the materials, explained Martin.



One of three water jet machines on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, cuts through metal using high pressured water and garnet, June 17. The water comes out at pressures up to 90,000 pounds per square inch, causing sparks to fly when it hits the metal.

Another great thing about cutting metal using water jet machines is the ability the machines have to cut through more than six inches of material at a time. This gives the shop the ability to not only cut very thick pieces of metal, but to stack metals and cut the exact same design multiple times.

The shop has three machines, giving the operators the ability to cut three different pieces of material at once.

"Using our bigger machine, we are even able to design and cut the entire side of an LAV (light armored vehicle) at one time," explained Martin. "This saves a lot of time."

In that same cut, the machine also cuts out where the doors to the vehicle will go, he added.

"It's a much cheaper method than buying a laser powerful enough to make the same cuts," said Charlie Hargon, a water jet operator here.

"The speed and precision cannot be beat," explained Hargon. "They (the machines) are precise to six thousandths of an inch. We have the ability to make even the most detailed of cuts."

That being said, the shop has found useful ways to recycle the extra metal used to armor the vehicles. Armored washers are just one example. The washers are costly and can take up to eight weeks to receive when they are ordered from an outside



Doug Martin, a water jet operator on MCLB Barstow, shows a sailboat designed using excess bullet-proof glass, June 17. The boat was made in a creative way to test out the settings of the machine, and also to showcase the precision of the water jets.

Continued on page 11 5

News Briefs

Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations: **Johnny Davis Jr., Roger Dull, Eileen Garcia, 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.

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- Machinist, WG-3414-10. Welder, WG-3703-10. Heavy Mobile Equipment Repairer, 4 WG-5803-08. HME Mechanic,

WG-5803-10.

SES- Firefighter (paramedic), GS-0081-04.

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

FSD- PEI Branch- Security Guard, GS-0085-05. Supply Technician, GS-2005-07. Materials Handler, WG-6907-05.

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

All-American BBQ

Slated to be held on Thursday, July 4, enjoy a free barbecue at the Oasis Pool & Water Park, open to all MCLB Barstow patrons. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hamburgers, Hotdogs, potato salad, beans, corn and watermelon are on the menu. For more information, contact Food Hospitality at 760-577 - 6269.

Swimming Lessons

The Oasis Pool & Water Park will be offering swimming lessons this summer. Children will be placed in appropriate levels based on their swim-

Spiders, tortoises, scorpions ... oh my!

Story by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

Encountering different animals and creatures in the High Desert isn't uncommon, especially as the weather gets warmer, but knowing the difference between what will harm an individual and what will not ... could save a life.

According to californiadesert.gov, High Desert residents are encouraged to take the time to learn about the desert wildlife who share the environment in order to co-exist safely.

Some of the wildlife that call the Mojave Desert home are desert tortoises, roadrunners, scorpions, black widows, sidewinder rattlesnakes, and Mojave green rattlesnakes.

Out of the many unique creatures found in the High Desert habitat, one must be especially watchful for scorpions, venomous snakes and the black widow spider.

Most scorpion stings are not fatal to humans; their stingers are made simply to paralyze their prey. There is however one kind of scorpion, albeit rare, with venom potent enough to kill a human. This is the bark scorpion, the smallest and most venomous of its kind.

The scorpion is a nocturnal creature, so any exploring done at night, should be done cautiously.

During the day, snakes tend to linger in shaded areas. They can be found under rocks, brush and trees where people sometimes rest. They are also most active at sunrise and sunset because the sun isn't at its peak, said Dr. Mike Glassey, the post entomologist on National Training Center Fort Irwin.

"The animals to be worried about the most are rattlesnakes," said Glassey.

Glassey explained any snake can bite if disturbed or scared, but among the snakes in the High Desert the sidewinder and Mojave green rattlesnake are the most venomous.

The sidewinder can be identified by its horn-like scales above its eyes. Also, it is very hard to spot in sand if a person is running by because of its light tan scales and dark patches. The Mojave

green rattlesnake has a green tint to its scales and can grow more than three feet in length and is very aggressive.

Even though snakes are known for biting people, they are just as scared of humans as humans are of them, said Glassey.

However, snakes are not the only critters people have to worry about, Glassey added. There are small critters that live inside houses that people have to be aware of, as well.

"Black widows are a real problem for domestic places," Glassey said. "They like to hide in dark, cool places such as sheds, closets, and sometimes in children's toys."

The best way to prevent an injury from a black widow is to observe entrances and inspect toys before they are used, said Glassey.

"Medical treatment for someone who has been bitten by a critter out in the desert is crucial," said Eric Henderson, a firefighter and paramedic with Marine Corps Emergency Services on Marine Corps

Logistics Base Barstow. "It could be life or death for them."

Using the buddy system when exploring the High Desert is paramount, added Henderson.

The chances of someone surviving a potentially fatal injury or bite increases with the use of the buddy system and proper planning.

People should also do some route reconnaissance before traveling, explained Henderson. That way if something were to happen, familiarization with the route and terrain would help emergency services personnel find the exact location.

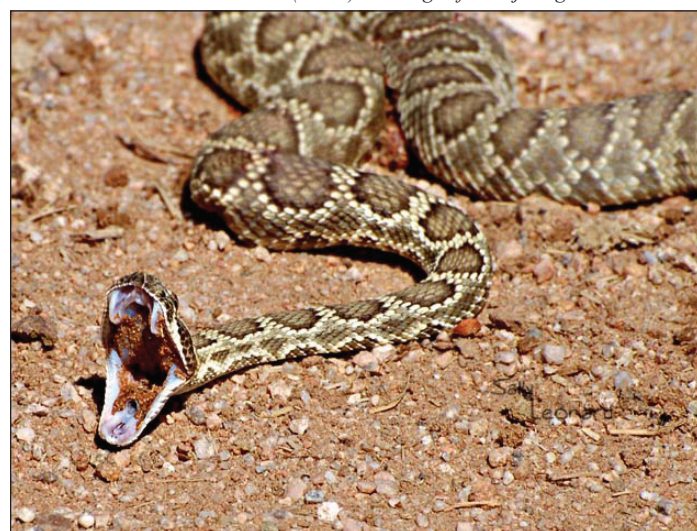
High Desert critters are everywhere in the Mojave, expressed Glassey. So the chances of coming across one aren't unheard of; however, preparing for a potential encounter will decrease the chance of being seriously injured.

Now, not all of the critters that inhabit the desert are fatal, most have unique characteristics that help them survive in the Mojave.

One of the creatures indigenous to the High Desert is the desert tortoise.



(above) An image of a sidewinder rattlesnake
(below) An image of a Mojave green rattlesnake



The desert tortoise can live in temperatures that exceed 140 degrees F, because of its innate ability to dig underground and escape the blazing heat.

The federal government lists the desert tortoise as an endangered species, mostly due to humans interfering with their habitat. According to www.desertusa.com/deserttortoise, it is unlawful to touch, harm, harass or collect a wild desert tortoise.

Like the tortoise, the population of roadrunners is diminishing due to development in the High Desert.

Roadrunners normally build nests with large sticks in the trees found in the desert. However, more recently, they have been nesting in the eaves and garages of man-made structures as stated on the californiadesert.gov website.

Visitors and residents of the High Desert are encouraged to avoid contact with any animals to prevent the change in animal instincts or habits.

For more summer safety tips, look for the next part in The Prospector's 101 Days of Summer safety series.

Immortalizing memories: the Marine 'moto tat'



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

One way Marines display their caliber of dedication to their Corps lasts a bit longer than a t-shirt or a bumper sticker. It can't be lost in a move to a new duty station and it certainly can't be broken by knocking it off a table.

The 'moto tat,' or motivational tattoo, has been around much longer than the Marines who serve today. For some, it's a reminder of their glory days. To others, it's a tribute to a fallen brother or sister. Regardless of reason, military tattoos often hold deep meaning to their owner.

According to tattooarchive.com, service members getting tattoos to remember their time in the military date back to at least the 1800s. Sailors, for example, would get different tattoos annotating professional achievements they had reached such as crossing the equator or sailing across the Atlantic Ocean.

Today, the principles of remembering your service with a tattoo still exist, but have since spread to other services. In the Marine Corps, it's not uncommon to see bulldogs or the words 'Semper Paratus' branded across someone's skin.

"I got my first Marine tattoo right after boot camp," said Gunnery Sgt. Dustin Hamilton, a safety specialist on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. "I got the traditional Marine Corps emblem. It's a matching tattoo I have with my brother and dad," added Hamilton, whose family comes from a long line of Marines. The amount of pride Marines have for their service is astonishing, enough to compel them to show that pride for life ... on skin. "Everyone has their own reasons for getting a tattoo, whether it's for pride, to represent adversity, or something else," explained Gunnery Sgt. Chad Webb, the administrative chief on the base. "Mine was simple; the Marine Corps is a brotherhood. It's something to be proud of. Why not get a tattoo for that," Webb said in reference to the dog tags he has tattooed on his lower leg.

Although pride and motivation is a driving

factor for some of these tattoos, a more serious and heartfelt rationale is the reason behind others. Many Marines immortalize someone they served with. one who paid with the ultimate sacrifice in combat.

"I have a pair of boots with a rifle for a mutual friend of my brother and I," explained Hamilton. "My brother's unit and mine were both in Iraq in 2005 and 2006. His unit lost 10 Marines in one week, including a friend of ours from home," he added.

After Hamilton returned to the states from deployment, he got the traditional boots and rifle to pay homage to his late friend, he explained.

The tattoo recipients aren't the only ones affected by the tattoos paying tribute to someone. Tattoo artists see many different kinds of ink tributes and often hear the stories behind them.

"I've been tattooing for about three years now and I've done at least 50 military tattoos," said Dallin Hubler, a tattoo artist from Victorville, Calif. "I've seen a lot of different types, from the eagle, globe and anchor, to the Army star. What I like most about [the tattoos] though is hearing the stories behind them," he added.

Hubler explained how fascinating he thought it was for service members to get tattoos to remember their time spent in the military. The stories told to Hubler are so important to the owners, they want to have something of permanence.

Even after their service has concluded, a motivational tattoo remains, allowing passersby to see the pride Marines have.

Tattoo continued page 8



An image of a black widow

Deployed on Independence Day

Story by

Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

For most Americans, the Fourth of July is spent with family and friends enjoying a variety of festivities, from barbecues and socializing, games, and swimming - - then finally capped off by a display of fireworks in the night sky.

In 1775, men and women began fighting for our independence in the Revolutionary War. Many gave their lives to secure our freedoms, and more than 238 years later, men and women who today wear the nation's cloth not only uphold that independence but also fight for the independence of other countries.

Service members often serve on the front lines of combat, spend days on patrol, and months away from home.

"I was deployed to Afghanistan twice," said Sgt. Julio Tovar, a network technician with Headquarters Battalion on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Both times, it was over the holiday.

Tovar served as the data chief for 1st Marine Division while deployed and although at times he didn't feel like he was doing much, he soon realized his job brought more to the fight than what he originally thought.

"My job is important out there," said Tovar. If communication wasn't up, then patrols didn't happen and injured service members wouldn't be medically evacuated.

Since his deployments, Tovar's pride in the uniform he wears, the flag he salutes and the country he serves, has increased exponentially.

"When I was over there it felt good that we were helping them get their own independence, freedoms, and rights,"

said Tovar. "Also, the locals would thank us as we walked by for all we had done for them."

While supporting the mission at Al Asad Airbase, Iraq, Staff Sgt. Nicholas Beberniss, the base operations chief, found new meaning for the holiday.

"On the fourth, I was prepping my gear for the next mission," he recalled. "When I thought about the Fourth of July, it made me think of my junior Marines, because they had just checked in two weeks before we left. It made me and the rest of the unit come together."

When men and women are deployed overseas, they often get firsthand experience on what it's like fighting for independence, explained Beberniss.

"You have a whole country depending on you to fight against the enemies that are trying to take it [freedom] away from the people," explained Beberniss.

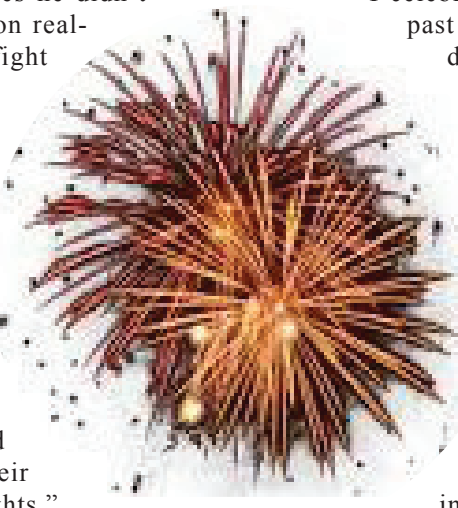
It makes a person look at the holiday differently, said Beberniss.

"I celebrate the day completely different from the past because I have a better outlook on what the day symbolizes," said Beberniss.

Though Beberniss celebrates the holiday with his family, he remembers that day and what he learned.

"I learned what patriotism means," said Beberniss, "to me patriotism sometimes means you sacrifice your body to defend the country, like I have done."

"The Founding Fathers and the men who died in battle during the Revolutionary War fought to get independence," said Beberniss. "Now we, as military members, have to uphold that independence."



Tattoo continued

"It's definitely a pride thing, said Ramon Mejia, a field training officer with the Marine Corps Police Department on base, when talking about a bulldog tattoo on his shoulder he got when he served. "It's a symbol of what you've accomplished," the retired Marine staff sergeant added.

More than 20 years later, Mejia

added how he hasn't regretted his decision to get his tattoo once.

"You can't regret pride or escape what you've done," Mejia said. "I like telling the world who I am. It's like a Picasso painting; the painting's already there, you just need to add the color. With Marines, we're all here. It just needs to be brought out in all of us," he added.

Years later, when a Marine has hung up his or her uniform and wants to reflect on their time serving with their fellow brothers and sisters, reminiscing can be found no more than arm's reach away. All he or she has to do is look at their skin and remember the reason the tattoo was put there in the first place.

MY CORPS, YOUR CORPS

Story by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's work force is made up of more than U.S. Marines - - there are hundreds if not thousands of civilians working side by side; and they can be found using anything from military time and the rank structure, to an 'oorah!' as they greet one another passing by.

This is because they are Civilian Marines. Although some may have never worn the uniform, they have been working with the Marine Corps for decades and are quite familiar with the military lifestyle.

Kenny Phillips, the branch head of quality control at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, is a prime example. He has

been working with, training, and ensuring the mission readiness of Marines longer than most have served in the Corps.

"I'm going on 28 years with the Marine Corps," Phillips said.

The Southern California native started as a steam cleaner and worked his way up to where he is today. The Marine Corps has taken Phillips all over the country, including Alaska and Hawaii.

While Phillips was an inspector with Fleet Support Division, he traveled with the West Coast technical assistance team to every unit west of the Mississippi River. He was the only civilian among the team of Marines, he said. They inspected every unit together, from New Orleans to Alaska.

It was a great experience to be the only civilian among the Marines, Phillips stated. "I got to work side by side with this nation's most loyal warriors."

Their mission was to keep every unit combat ready and mission capable, he added. Phillips and his team inspected everything from vehicles and weapons systems to reconnaissance units' scuba diving gear.

Not only did he and the troops work together, they spent countless off-

duty hours during their voyages building camaraderie and memories.

"The most memorable trips were the ones to (reconnaissance) units in Alaska," he said. "They have an amazing amount of assault gear to inspect for mission readiness, and on the off hours we would fish for salmon and halibut."

Working with the Marines firsthand, Phillips realized how critical mission readiness was. He also realized how critical his own role was ... ensuring the quality of gear used to save Marines' lives.

"I stayed with the Marine Corps because of patriotism and a sense of pride in knowing the Marine Corps is our nation's fighting force and the first to fight," he said. "There are countless families that have someone in their lives who will depend on the gear we put out; I continued to strive for more control and authority on the quality of products that come out of here to keep them safe."

"Being a Civilian Marine is more than the regular 9-to-5," Phillips explained. "What makes this job special is that what we do here could save lives; it's personal."

Marines are the most disciplined, hardest working and focused men and women in the world, Phillips said. Their safety is second to none.

Not only do the responsibilities of a Civilian Marine exceed those of the average job, the opportunities do too.



Aside from the traveling, Phillips explained he has received thousands of hours of specialized training in a variety of fields.

"I've been trained in everything from management and inspection training to specialized weapons systems training, things the average 9-to-5 job would have never offered me," he said.

Phillips then passed down the training the Marine Corps provided him to train Marines under his command.

"I've trained numerous Marines on inspection techniques, engineering techniques, gear, technical manuals and other aspects," he explained.

Phillips knows the work he does day-in and day-out, with the military assets entrusted to him, reaches far beyond the vast Mojave Desert.

"While watching the Military Channel, I would sometimes see my (initials written in) chalk marks as the inspector on the vehicles shown on TV," he said. "It was an amazing feeling to see the vehicles I approved out there protecting the nation and the lives of Marines."

Phillips has seen his approved vehicles on television in Somalia, Iraq, and in Afghanistan. He's also seen his chalk marks on vehicles



Photo courtesy of Kenny Phillips
(Left to right) Kenny Phillips, the branch head of quality control on PPB, MDMC, poses with retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Mark Stoddard, a Marine formerly on the West Coast technical assistance team with Phillips, after catching a salmon in Alaska during their off-duty hours. Phillips was the only civilian on the team; they inspected the quality of gear for every unit west of the Mississippi River during their voyage.

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Civilian Marine

returning to the U.S. after being damaged overseas in combat. He's seen the entire cycle of some vehicles -- approving a vehicle to be sent out to protect Marines, then receiving the same vehicle, damaged, after it had served its purpose, overseeing the rebuilding of it, re-inspecting it, and re-approving it to be sent out once again.

Phillips' advancements as a Civilian Marine and his increasing responsibilities, are comparable to those of an active duty Marine climbing the rank ladder.

"I started out at the lowest level, much like a (private first class)," he explained.

Since then, Phillips has worked in multiple shops at PPB. Following that, he

worked his way up from being a mechanic, inspector, an inspector supervisor, a site

manager for 3rd Marine Expeditionary Force, ran major production lines, became a

production branch head and is now the quality division head at Barstow. Today, he has a lot more responsibilities and a lot more people, civilians and Marines, working under his charge, much like an officer, he added.

"I've come this far in my career using experience, dedication, pride and drive to advance," Phillips said proudly. "Every job and challenge I've had while working with the Marine Corps has meant something and been important to me."

Although not a Marine, Phillips and others like him have devoted their careers and many years of their lives to the Marine Corps and to the well-being of Marines in forward deployed environments and those in garrison, earning the title: *Civilian Marine*.



Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Kenny Phillips, (top) the branch head of quality control on PPB, MDMC, meticulously inspects the work that Adolpho Madero, (bottom left) and Chris Mendez, (right) heavy equipment mobile mechanics on MCLB Barstow, have done on a light armored vehicle, June 25. Phillips inspects a variety of military vehicles and gear to ensure their quality.

MAN ON THE STREET

The MCLB Barstow public affairs office gets firsthand opinions from base personnel

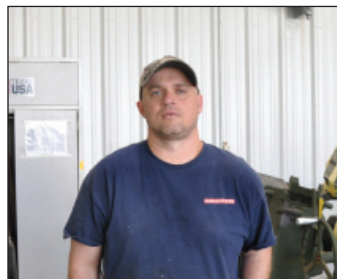
WHAT'S YOUR MOST MEMORABLE 4TH OF JULY?



Mary Bradley, a welder at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Corps Maintenance Command.

"My most memorable Fourth of July was when I was in the sixth grade. In Graden Grove, we had a big block party. Everyone in the neighborhood got together and barbecued. Then we watched the fireworks at night.

10 Everyone was really patriotic."



Alan Polk, a fitter with BAE systems on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Yermo Annex.

"My most memorable Fourth of July was at Capineta Lake. The whole family was together. We were having a really good time in the water and barbecuing. We went fishing, canoeing and we camped out in tents. Then we watched the fireworks at night. For me, that was the best way to celebrate the fourth."



Tim Eason, an IT specialist at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Corps Depot Maintenance Command.

"My most memorable Fourth of July was at Silver Lakes. We watched the fireworks over the water. I've never seen that before that day and the reflection of the fireworks (off the water) was really nice to see. We also had the whole family out. It was a fun evening."



David Madrid, the housing manager on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

"My most memorable Fourth of July was last year. We had a barbecue with everyone from our church and watched the fireworks go into the sky. My family was also there having fun. I thoroughly enjoyed myself."

Chaplain's Corner

By Lt. Benjamin Warner
Base Chaplain

In my role (having been a student minister, pastor, hospital chaplain and now military chaplain), I have been asked for advice: advice about dating, marriage, investing, business, charitable giving, car buying, medical treatment(s) and many other issues that we're all going to have to deal with at one point or another. I've always tried to give good advice. Or more to the point: I've always tried to be faithful to the person asking for advice. If one of my students was asking for advice on how to get a car loan, I didn't always tell them how to get a car loan. Faithfulness dictates that I tell a 16-year old making seven bucks an hour that a Mustang is probably out of their price range. But I'm also pretty sure that I've given my share of bad advice. Not intentionally, but there's got to be a reverse principle to the old saying; even a broken clock is right twice a day. Well, even a good advice giver with good intentions is going to mess up (hopefully not twice a day).

I mention this because I recently remembered one of my favorite Proverbs from the Bible The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him (Proverbs 18:17). You might think that proverb has nothing to do with advice, and you're right, it doesn't.

Water Jet

source, said Hargon.

"Instead of ordering the washers, we make our own by cutting them out of excess material using the water jets," Hargon added. "It's faster, cheaper and lets us know exactly what they're made out of."

Because of the shops efficiency, other shops look to them for extra parts, explained the water jet operators. They have various parts that need cutting coming in at a constant rate, and they go through approxi-

Getting advice

Instead, the wisdom from this saying shows me that seeking the wisdom of someone else has its own limits. One only needs to read the book of Job in the Bible to know this. One solution to my problem today may seem very appealing to me, particularly if the solution doesn't cost me anything in the way of personal sacrifice, pain, or inconvenience. That doesn't mean it's the right solution, though.

Let me offer you some advice—and this time I know it's good. Whenever I've wanted to gain wisdom, or more to the point, when life has become difficult enough that I need to ask the advice of someone else, I've learned to ask the right source. Of course, I point to Scripture as my ultimate source, but my faith also says that there is tremendous value in the other people around me. What I mean by asking the right source is that my first step is to establish what it is I need advice about. Maybe I need marriage advice. Maybe it's related to money or major purchases. Maybe I need professional advice. I could ask the same person or people about each of these, and sometimes I do, but before I even ask for help I look at the source. If I'm going to ask another chaplain about some professional



question or another, the first thing I'm going to do is look at the results of this guy's work: Does he or she accomplish as a chaplain what I want to do in my own ministry? The same is true for marriage or relationships: Does that person's relationship with their spouse/son/daughter/friend look like what I want mine to look like?

This requires that I actually know the source well enough to get past any sort of front they may put up—everyone wants their personal and professional life to look better from the outside! But, I've learned that I don't have the time to get what the proverb says—I don't have time for all of the competing opinions about the "best" way to go about my life. What I do have time for is to make sure the support I get is the kind of support that will result in the person I want to be. If you have to ask for advice—ask yourself first who it is you want to be, and find someone who embodies that—they're your best bet.

mately 400 to 500 pounds of grit every day.

"We support the other shops and help them out whenever we can," Martin said. "We often cut parts for the machine shop because of how fast we can do it using the water jets."

The machine is amazing, it doesn't need gas, lasers, or blades that require replacing; it cuts through anything simply using pressurized water and grit, concluded Hargon.

As efficient as the Cost Work Center 243, Water Jet Area is, the opera-

tors are constantly looking for ways to improve. From seeking advanced training to practicing and perfecting their measurements, these employees do whatever they can to get much needed parts out quickly, keeping the Marine Corps mission capable at all times.

Water and grit may not be the first thing that comes to mind when talking about armor piercing capabilities; however, it's exactly what is used to cut through the very same armor that shields service members from rounds coming down range.

