

THE PROSPECTOR



Vol.2 No.9

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

May 9, 2013



Through the ranks

Marine climbs ladder:
from enlisted to officer

A passion for challenge

Base employee goes above
and beyond

Quality control

Largest test track in the
Marine Corps



Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Michelle Lawing, the civilian victim advocate on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and Angelica Mora, a military spouse, practice basic self-defense techniques, April 24, at the Desert View Community Center on base. Juan Rivera, the information technology officer on base and co-owner of a local mixed martial arts dojo, along with his brother Jose Rivera, held the self-defense class for spouses on base.

On The Cover:

Front cover:

Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Corporal Gilberto Navarrete, a K-9 handler with the MCLB Barstow Police Department, and his four-legged partner, Uff, perform training exercises on Sorensen Field, April 30. The K-9 unit was preparing for the Inland Empire K-9 Demonstration slated for June 22, at the University of Redlands.

Back cover:

Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Corporal Joseph Nino, a K-9 handler with the MCLB Barstow Police Department, poses with his partner Tina, prior to executing training exercises, April 30, at Sorensen Field on base.

THE PROSPECTOR

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Photo courtesy of AJ Jacobs

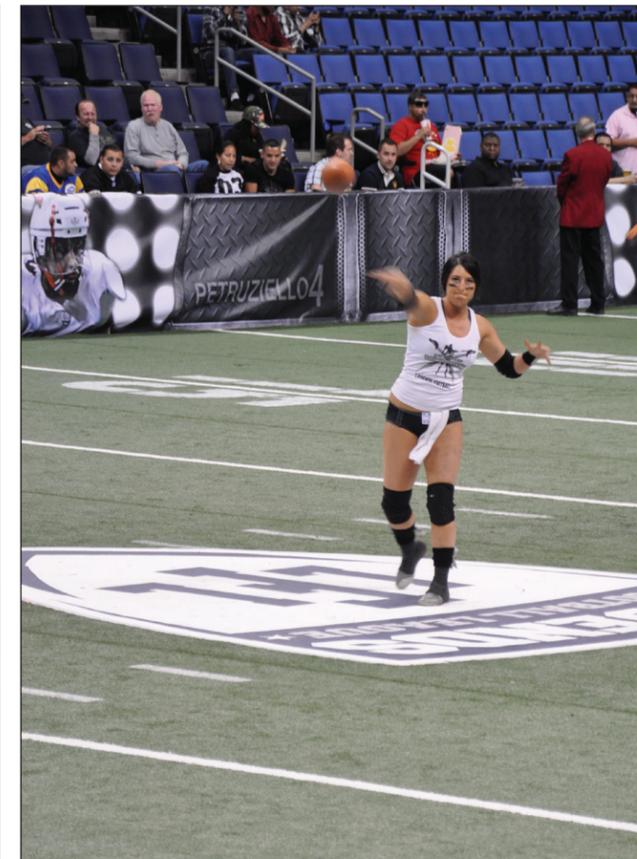


Photo by Pfc. Samuel Ranney

Single Marines on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., are afforded the opportunity to take many trips to build camaraderie throughout the year. (Left) Marines pose for a photo after a night of fun at K-1 Speed Racing in Ontario, Calif., April 19. (Right) A player from the Los Angeles Temptation throws a football prior to a Lingerie Football game the Single Marines attended in Ontario, Calif., May 4.

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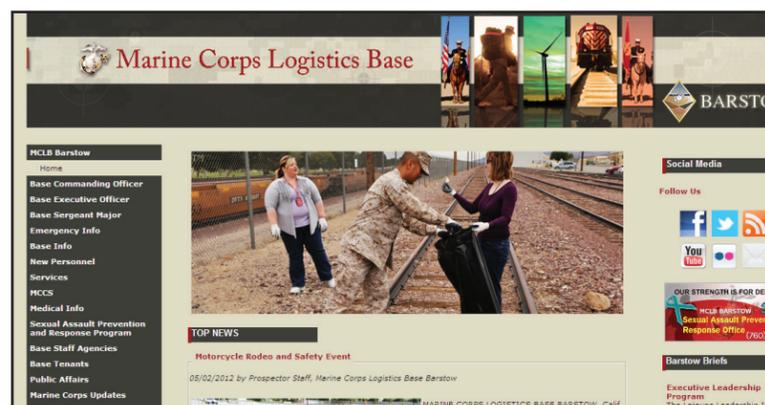
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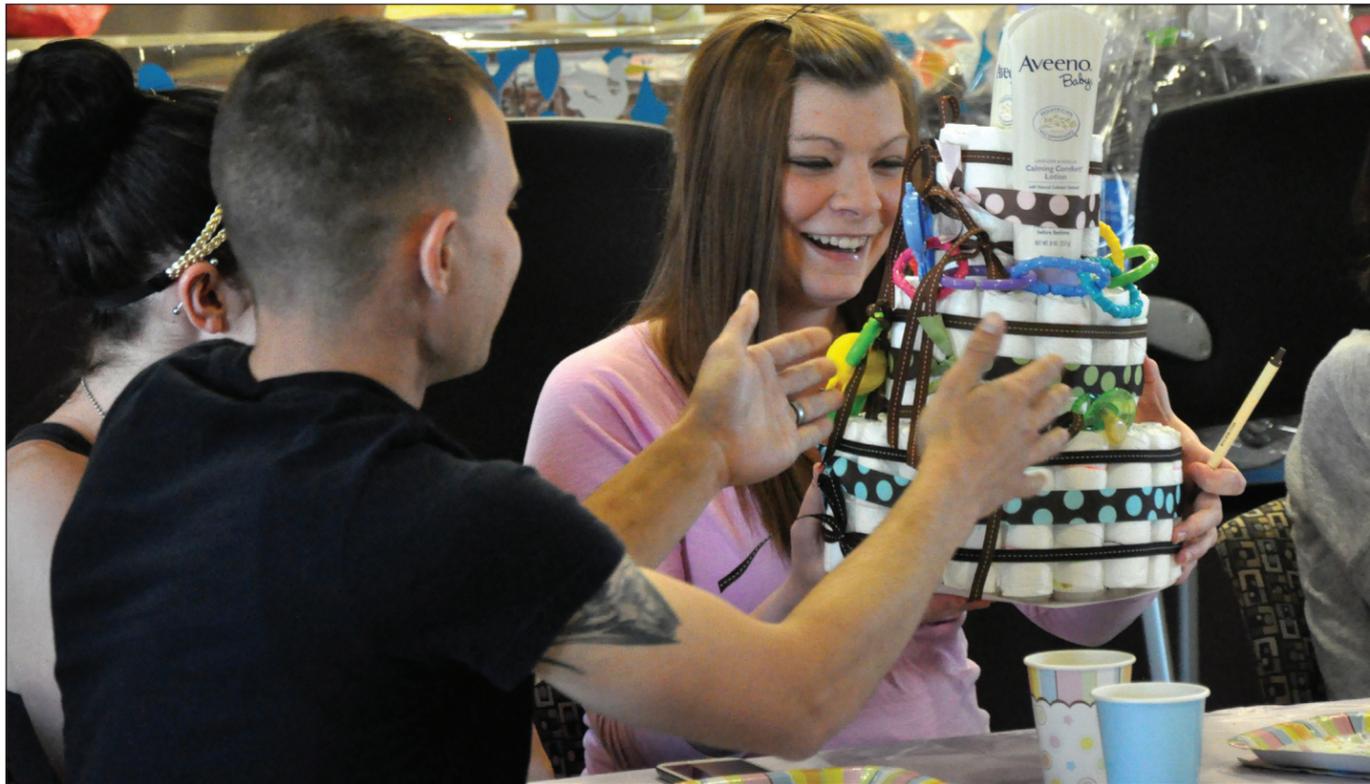


Photo by Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles

Sergeant Jonathan Yager, services noncommissioned officer for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Police Department, hands his wife the prize he won during the base baby shower at the Desert View Community Center on MCLB Barstow, April 25.

News Briefs

ALMAR 016/13

For more than 50 years, Americans have observed Armed Forces Day to express gratitude for the courage and selfless sacrifice of our men and women in uniform. Those who proudly serve in our nation's military forces accept a great responsibility.

On this Armed Forces Day, May 18, active duty and reserve service members remain vigilant in defense of freedom. Around the world, Marines, sailors, soldiers and airmen continue to combat terrorism, partner with allies, respond to crises, and provide humanitarian assistance.

As we honor the members of the greatest military in the world, take a moment to reflect on all who serve and have served, especially those who gave all in defense of freedom. To all Marines who have ever worn our cloth, thank you for your fidelity and service to country and Corps. Semper Fidelis! Gen. James F. Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps.

Blood Drive

Give the gift of life, June 13: from 11 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Building 375 and 4 Yermo: from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Employee Support Facility.

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, Requella Gonzales, Janiqua Green, Cindy Hernandez, 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 - 6915.

Mother's Day Events

Bring the little ones to the base library from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. to make a special Mother's Day gift, May 9. For more information call (760) 577-6395.

Treat that special someone to a Mother's Day Brunch at the Family Restaurant, May 12, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. For more information contact Food and Hospitality at (760) 577-6428.

Anticipated Vacancies

Installation & Logistics- Utility Systems Operator, WG-4742-09.

SES Department- Firefighter, GS-0081-04/05/07

SES Department- Firefighter (Paramedic), GS-0081-04/05/07/09

SES Department- Supervisory Firefighter (Paramedic), GS-0081-11

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

Energy Tip:

Hot water makes up around 30% of a household's energy bill. Switching from hot to cold water is a great way to save. At four loads of laundry a week, using cold water can save up to \$75 each year.

The Marine Corps' largest test track

Story by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

Envision yourself in a combat environment. Hostility in the area is on the rise, and you're driving a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle when suddenly ... the motor burns out; you're stuck, and quite possibly dead.

Luckily for service members who depend on vehicles such as the MRAP, Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, has a test track that puts these life-saving vehicles through a crucible of similar terrain and obstacles it could encounter in a forward-deployed environment.

Built in 1999, the track is designed to enable employees of MDMC to check the per-

formance of every vehicle before it's put into use, explained Kenny Phillips, the branch head of quality control at PPB, MDMC. Every aspect of the vehicle, from its horsepower to its amphibious capabilities, goes through a battery of tests on the track.

"We test our vehicles on the track daily," said Phillips, who has been working with the Marine Corps for more than 25 years.

Anything in MDMC's stock that rolls or is on tracks gets tested, he added. Amphibious assault vehicles, light armored vehicles, Humvees, and a variety of trucks are just some of the vehicles included in the rigorous testing.

Many of the vehicles are returning from deployments or coming from other units, and it's up to quality control to ensure they're ready to perform again for future missions, Phillips said.



Photo by Curt Lambert

An amphibious assault vehicle plunges into the water portion of the Marine Corps' largest test track at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Vehicles are tested daily on the track to check their readiness.

Brothers' journey takes them from Italy, Nigeria to Southern California

Story by
Cpl. T. Allen Bricker
Combat Correspondent

The saying goes 'birds of a feather flock together,' meaning those with common interests or characteristics are more likely to keep each other's company, but what about family?

Two contractors on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow have flown across the globe together, experienced new countries and cultures, and now share a common destination each work week.

Seun and Seyi (pronounced Shawn and Shay) Dodo-Williams, web and database administrators on base, were both born in Italy. Before they came to the U.S., the brothers spent nearly 10 years in Africa.

"My family moved to Nigeria in 1990," said Seun, the elder brother of three years. "I remember my dad traveled between the two countries [Italy and Nigeria] when we were little," he added.

The two got their first glimpse of a military environment at a young age. Seun explained that the school he attended as a child had a lot of military structure to it. Students learned to stand in formations in assembly each morning and also marched as a class.

In 1999, the brothers and their family left the Eastern Hemisphere to settle in a new country, America.

"We moved to Southern California from Nigeria when I was 15 years old," explained Seun. "We had family who lived here so that's why we came," he added.

"The Marine Corps only has two test tracks," Phillips explained. "Albany (Production Plant Albany, MDMC) has one but ours is much larger."

The track here has slopes ranging in grade from 30 percent to 60, explained Doug Vandyke, the quality control inspector supervisor on base.

"Just picture a cement NASCAR track with the capabilities to test every aspect of a vehicle's performance," said Phillips as he described the track.

The track emulates what the vehicles might actually have to go through in a combat environment. That includes obstacles that simulate trench crossing and it also tests the vehicle's suspension, pivot points, turning capabilities, brakes, and horsepower.

"Every vehicle has specific standards it needs to uphold," explained Phillips. "If a vehicle does not meet those standards, it is worked on until it does."

The Marine Corps isn't the only service that benefits from the test track, added Gary Worland, the quality control inspection leader. The Army National Guard, Navy, reserve units, the base fire department and various law enforcement agencies have all used it.

If a Marine is in a combat zone, in one of MDMC's vehicles, employees here ensure that it will drive, swim or shoot when it needs to, said Phillips.

"Marines lives depend on the (effort) we put into the quality of the vehicles," Vandyke added. "We put that second to none."

As they each finished high school, Seun and Seyi attended college, majoring in computer information systems and chemical engineering respectively. Seyi later changed his major to business and contract administration.

Upon graduation from school, Seun worked as a freelance web designer for several months before coming to MCLB Barstow.

"I was looking through employment websites for a bit," Seun said. "One day, I got a call from a contracting agency about a job up here. It sounded good, so I took it," he added.

It wasn't long after Seun began his work on base that he would soon see a familiar face. Nearly a month later, Seyi began to work on the base as well.

Continued on page 10

Computer guru by day ... mixed martial artist by night

Story and photos by
Pfc. Samuel Ranney
Combat Correspondent

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is the second largest employer in the Barstow area; that being said, the vast amount of employees makes for hundreds of unexpected and interesting stories.

For example, who would have known that MCLB Barstow is home to a former beauty queen, an acclaimed artist, a humane society hero ... and now, a legally handicapped man who is also an elite mixed martial arts fighter?

MCLB Barstow personnel have more than likely seen him at the base gym or perhaps in the communications shop; his name is Juan Rivera and he is the information technology officer on base.

Rivera first came to MCLB Barstow as a military police officer with the Marine Corps in 1987,

finishing out his first enlistment.

"I spent the majority of my time in the Marine Corps overseas," said the New York City native.

During his time in the Corps, Rivera was stationed in Japan and spent time in Korea, the Philippines and Thailand; it was there, when he wasn't performing his duties as a Marine, that Rivera

"I woke up in the hospital bed relieved to see my arm re-attached."

- Juan Rivera

picked up a hobby ... that of training in the Japanese martial art of Aikido.

"I grew up during the martial arts craze," said Rivera. "Everyone wanted to be like Bruce Lee. I took up Aikido when I saw the

opportunity."

Rivera was immediately hooked on the art that balances combative and meditative aspects, and began training regularly.

After completing his tour overseas, Rivera returned to the States and completed his contract with the Corps in Barstow.

"I got out of the Marine Corps in 1988," said Rivera. "Two days later I started working as a civil service employee on base."

As a civil service employee, Rivera performed various labor intensive duties around the base.

It was during this time Rivera had an accident at the base laundry mat, he said. His hand got caught in an extractor machine, a separate basket-type machine that spun water out of clothes with a constant high-speed power source. It pulled him in.

"My co-worker at the time pulled me out of the machine. I raised my arms and wiggled my fingers to make sure I was okay," he explained. "I felt my fingers wiggling but when I looked, my arm wasn't there ... it was on the floor."

"I used my shirt as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding until the corpsman arrived," he added.

The corpsman was not used to treating severed limbs and when he arrived and saw the arm on the floor and blood everywhere, he panicked, recalled Rivera.

"I actually had to tell the corpsman to calm down while I was lying there looking at my arm on the floor," Rivera said, looking back and laughing. "I told him that I needed him to do what he was trained to do to save my arm ... and he did."

Soon Rivera was flown out to Barstow Community Hospital.

"I woke up in the hospital bed relieved to see my arm re-attached," he said.

Following the successful surgery, the doctor delivered mixed news to his patient. The good news was Rivera had his arm back on. The bad news: it was 70 percent infected and more than likely had to be amputated.

"You just put this thing back on," Rivera exclaimed! "You're not taking it back now."

Rivera spent several weeks in the hospital; but with a tenacious spirit and unparalleled stubbornness, he beat the infection and kept his arm.

With tissue from his thigh covering his inner elbow, doctors told Rivera he wouldn't be able to bend it more than 5 percent.

"They don't know me," he explained. "I told them, 'we'll see about that.'"

The doctors, unaware of Rivera's staunch determination and courageous resolve, had no idea who they were dealing with. While on workers' compensation, waiting to return to work, Rivera was eager to get back into the workforce and be productive.

He was then on workers' compensation while he waited to return to his job on base, he said.

"It didn't make sense to sit around and do nothing while I was recovering," he explained. "I decided to take some computer classes at the local community college."

After a while, the base called Rivera, offering him a secretarial position.

"I'm no secretary," he said. "I told them there must be something else and explained to them that I had been taking some computer courses."

When the base learned of Rivera's computer skills, he was offered a position as an office automation clerk. Rivera kept busy, fixing many computers and printers in various departments throughout the base.

"I started fixing the computers faster than (communications) could," Rivera explained.

As a result of his proficiency and aptitude for fixing computers, base personnel began calling him instead of the communications shop. When the communications department discovered he was fixing everyone's computer and a position became available in the hardware section, Rivera was interviewed and accepted the new

challenge. Soon, Rivera moved to the networking section, where he saved the base \$65,000 by employing wireless communication throughout the base, as opposed to running cable fiber optics for internet service.

The Fall of 2001 had just begun, and the horror of the September 11th attacks on the U.S. shook most everyone worldwide. It was no different for Rivera and the devastation that befell his hometown.

"September 11 hit me personally," he said. "I promised myself that I would do anything in my power to contribute to the effort in stopping terrorism. So, I engulfed myself in cybersecurity."

And engulfed he did.

Rivera now holds 14 certifications in the cybersecurity world. These include being a certified ethical hacker, a hacking forensic investigator, a certified computer examiner, and a certified information system security professional.

"I established cybersecurity for the Department of Homeland Security," explained Rivera. "I'm a plank owner (founding member of the organization)."

Coupled with work and school, Rivera continued his hobby with martial arts, and as his passion grew, trained in Judo and Brazilian Jiu Jitsu.

Because BJJ and Judo were so intense, Rivera said he needed something to mellow him out.

"I was constantly getting slammed and choked in Judo and Jiu Jitsu, so I started taking Aikido again like I did in Japan. Then I found out my Aikido instructor was also a Danzan Ryu Jujitsu instructor. So I took that too," he explained. "I was training in four different martial arts courses at the same time, and competing in two of them (BJJ and Judo)."

Although not being able to straighten his arm out all the way has made fighting difficult at times, it's only provided fuel for him to push himself to that next level.

"It's a challenge," Rivera said. "But I love challenges and it only motivates me to fight harder."

Rivera was right in proving the doctors wrong. Today he has 70 percent flexibility as opposed to



Juan Rivera, the information technology officer on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, poses for a photo at his desk, May 7. Rivera has 14 certifications in the cyber security world displayed in his office.

only five.

"I worked extremely hard to gain flexibility. I think it was my Marine Corps determination that pushed me through. Today I'm even able to golf with a modified stance and am pretty good at it. Also, my arm allows me to be great at darts and I can't lose at arm wrestling because my arm can't bend," Rivera said.

"I even beat big Gunny Jackson, (Rob Jackson, public affairs officer on MCLB Barstow, retired master sergeant and former Marine Corps body builder)" Rivera laughed, recalling his victory. "That guy had arms the size of tree trunks ... he couldn't figure out how a guy my size was able to win."

"People don't know I'm disabled because I don't act like I'm disabled, half the time I even forget that I am. I'm not going to let anything stop me," he added. "I am what I am."

Always looking for new challenges, the already adept professional accepted a new calling.

"I felt like I ran out of challenges until I discovered the base here

had no cybersecurity. So I became the base cybersecurity manager and was happy to be giving back to the Marine Corps after everything it gave to me," explained Rivera.

Once settled into his new position, Rivera started looking for places to fight, and continue training in mixed martial arts. He came across World Boxing Gym. With the help of his brother, Jose Rivera, a heavy equipment mobile mechanic on the Yermo Annex of the base, he turned the other half of the boxing gym into an MMA gym. Today, both men, own 'Kahli Fighter' in Barstow.

The brothers started the shop to promote self defense throughout Barstow, Rivera said. Classes were originally taught for adult males, but has now branched out to youth and women MMA classes.

Captain Robin Lee, communication deputy director for the base is one of Rivera's students. Lee, along with his 14-year-old brother in-law regularly attend the classes.

"He fights just like he works ... he's top notch."

Lee encourages other Marines

to attend and take their fighting ability to the next level.

Rivera explained he would also like to see more 'jar heads' in his classes.

"I would encourage Marines to pursue anything that keeps them fit, mentally sound and challenges them," Rivera said. People never know when a situation will arise and they will need these skills to protect themselves or their family, he said.

Rivera continues to advance in martial arts however, does not compete like he used to.

"When you start competing, it's not for medals and trophies. For me, it was to overcome the fear and the challenge of fighting. No matter how many wins anyone has, every time you fight you're challenging yourself. That's why I'm here now, the challenge," he said.

"You put in all your work to get to the level where you can teach ... it's not about competing anymore, I want to instruct."

"That's why I really do it ... for these kids," Rivera said.



Juan Rivera, the information technology officer on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, talks to two students enrolled in his mixed martial arts course, May 2. The students just finished sparring and Rivera declared them both champions.

Marine captain scales the ranks of both enlisted, warrant officer side

Story by
Cpl. T. Allen Bricker
Combat Correspondent

The rank ladder in the Marine Corps is normally a linear path. Every now and then, someone mixes it up and becomes warrant officer or receives a full commission after enlisting into the service.

For Capt. Justin Gibson, maintenance operations officer with Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, the rank system included all three paths, as he was promoted to his current rank from chief warrant officer two, March 1.

From the start, Gibson knew he wanted to climb to the top of the ranks.

"I enlisted in February 1999," said the Marlton, N.J., native. "I decided at the beginning I wanted to keep going up. I wanted to pick up more responsibility," he added.

After 14 years and

reaching the ranks of staff sergeant and chief warrant officer two, along with being selected for CWO3, Gibson took steps to become what is known as a limited duty officer. An LDO is an officer within the Navy or Marine Corps with extensive technical knowledge in his or her job fields and is limited to duties in that particular military occupational specialty. This means, an LDO will continue filling billets that directly support the missions of his or her specific job.

"Limited Duty Officers are like the technical experts in their fields. They don't just fall under one job anymore; their coverage is over a broader job field," explained Gibson. "Like when I was a chief warrant officer two,

I specialized in tank mechanics. Now as an LDO, I deal with the whole



Courtesy photo from Capt. Justin Gibson
(Right) Captain Justin Gibson, maintenance operations officer with Production Plant Barstow shakes hands with Sgt. Clarence Trainer after pinning on his new rank, March 21.

maintenance field," he added.

Gibson's decision to become commissioned was based on a combination of pursuing his goals for more responsibility, while looking toward his future.

"A lot of the time, Marines don't realize how much harder it actually is to get promoted the higher you get in rank," Gibson explained. "There are less spots available and sometimes, putting in a package for warrant officer or an LDO package is your best bet. You just need to make sure you're proficient in your job and you keep yourself competitive for promotion when you do it," he added.

Even with new rank insignia on his collar, the new captain wears the same uniform he did before.

"I'm still the same Marine I was when I first came in. I just have more responsibility now," Gibson said. "I look at it as being from both [enlisted and commissioned]

sides now. You can't come up to me and tell me 'you don't know what it's like' because most likely, I do," he added.

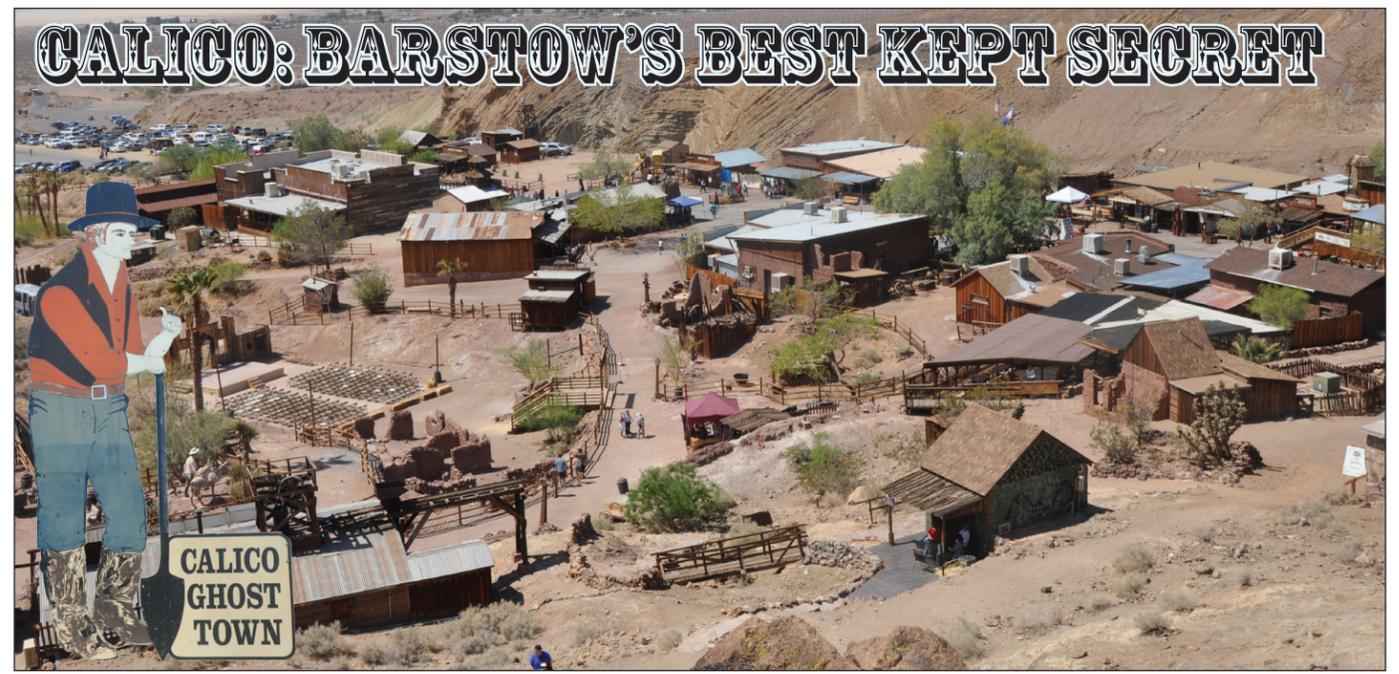
Marines who work with Gibson can attest to his attitude toward his new rank and added responsibility to the Corps.

"There isn't really much of a difference from before and after he was promoted," said Master Sgt. Dale Cobin, the senior enlisted advisor at Fleet Support Division on base, who shares an office with Gibson. "He's still in the same capacity he was before. We have a respect for each other's rank. It's just ... now he's a captain."

As his time on MCLB Barstow comes to an end, Gibson's career will soon take him to Marine Detachment Fort Lee, Va., where Marines learn their trade in tactical vehicle maintenance and he'll put his knowledge of his job field to the test and help teach one of the newest generations in the Corps.



Courtesy photo from Capt. Gibson
Jennyrose Gibson, wife of Capt. Justin Gibson, maintenance operations officer with Production Plant Barstow on MCLB Barstow, pins on his new rank during his promotion ceremony, March 21.



Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Norman Eckles
Combat Correspondent

When Marines and sailors with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are dismissed for liberty, some are unaware of the treasures, adventures, and history that lie between the High Desert Mountains making them a novel and unexpected treat.

Calico, now known as Calico Ghost Town Regional Park, was a thriving mining town in 1881, due primarily to the largest silver strike in California. Since then, the town has



Volunteers at Calico Ghost Town reenact a shoot out in the Old West, April 27. Calico offers many attractions with volunteers who give off a throwback feel of the Wild West.

become a historical park where people can experience firsthand how miners and cowboys lived in the rugged west.

"If you like learning about the past, then this is the place to be," said Larry King, a tour guide for the Mystery Shack, an attraction in Calico.

The Mystery Shack defies the laws of gravity, with water that runs uphill, and straw brooms that stand with no support.

While walking through the historic town, spectators have the opportunity to interact with employees, some who dress in attire and take on personas from the Old West.

"People tend to underestimate what Calico has to offer," said Regina Oxley, who has been a shop owner in Calico for 43 years. "Calico is a great place for children and adults alike."

Visitors can explore Maggie's mine, which leads explorers down an authentic mine, 1000 feet into the mountain, and shows the mining conditions of the 1890s.

The Lane House Museum provides an excellent opportunity for history buffs to examine artifacts and devices engineered for miners who worked 10-hour days in 100 degree weather and housewives, who prepared supper, cleaned the laundry and completed other chores.

Potential passengers can board a train named Railroad Odessa, and experience firsthand how miners brought silver into the town for currency used in buying goods.

Calico was the main resource of silver in the late 1800s, said King. "This town generated 10 million dollars during the silver boom."

Along with its history and attractions, visitors can shop in the same buildings that were used more than a hundred years ago. Buildings such as Lane's General Store, the Park Office, Zenda's Mining Company and Lil's Saloon, have withstood the test of time and weather.

"This place is relaxing for people," said Sandi Brown, a seamstress at the Calico quilt shop. "I think it is because of the environment and the hospitality of the employees. We treat everyone here with respect."

The environment is indeed welcoming to visitors. With the throwback feel of being in the Old West, Calico is a slow-paced town that gives visitors time to enjoy every inch of the intimate climate.

During the day, the town thrives and is awash in visitors bustling about, explained Charlotte Landon, a cashier at the Rock Shop in Calico. However, the fun doesn't end when the sun goes down. The town offers ghost tours every Saturday night of Maggie's Mine and on Main Street. The town received the name, 'Calico Ghost Town' because of all the ghosts that have been seen throughout the years. As legend has it, the ghost of Lucy Lane still lurks between The Lane House Museum and Lane's General Store, her residence and place of business.

For Mother's Day, the small town will host a festival, May 11 and 12, including music, arts and crafts and 'cowboy poetry.' So grab your friends and family, and check out the attractions, activities, and stores Calico has to offer. For more information on Calico Ghost Town and upcoming events, visit: calicotown.com.

Brothers' continued from page 5

"The same guy that talked to Seun [about the contract on base] mentioned another job dealing with databases," explained Seyi. "Seun told him I worked with them on a regular basis and I applied for that job," he added.

Seyi later explained he was a bit skeptical to apply for a job on the same military installation that employed his brother. Having never dealt with any military work be-

fore, he was unsure if rules prohibited it due to conflicts of interest.

This wasn't the only thing in which the brothers were in the dark. Before coming to work on MCLB Barstow, the only information they had on how the Marine Corps worked was relayed to them through television.

"I actually expected to see Marines jumping out of helicopters and doing drills all over the place when I first came here," Seun said with a laugh. "I didn't know what to expect."

"The only thing we had to gauge it on was the movie 'Full Metal Jacket,'" added Seyi. "We knew it was going to be different but we didn't know how different," he chuckled.

Since coming to MCLB Barstow

in late 2011, the Dodo-Williams brothers have come to understand the military lifestyle a lot better. Each one works with Marines on a daily basis and has been able to immerse themselves in a new kind of life.

"It took me a while to adjust, but I've caught on to a lot of things. I've noticed how important the rank system is to Marines and how professional they are in their work environment," explained Seyi. "It's great working with them. They're great people: funny, courteous, and down to earth," he added.

Working on the same base with the same schedule has worked out for Seun and Seyi. The two brothers carpool everyday to save on gas.

When not at work, the two can be found indulging in their hobbies, some of which they share as well. While Seun works in photography and plays soccer in his free time, Seyi reads works of nonfiction and



Seyi Dodo-Williams, database administrator with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow enjoys free time when he is not working.

surfs the internet. Both are fans of music and video games and active in their church.

The brothers plan to stay with MCLB Barstow as long as they can and continue their work. When Seun first came to Barstow for work, he was reminded of his time in Nigerian primary school, but he's gotten used to the way the base



Seun Dodo-Williams, web administrator with MCLB Barstow works on the base's website.

MAN ON THE STREET

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

WHAT DOES MOTHER'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?



Lance Cpl. Suzie Lockwood, an administrative clerk on base and a new parent.

"I think Mother's Day is a day to appreciate what mothers sacrifice for their children. However, we shouldn't only appreciate what mothers do just for one day. Some mothers work more than one job to support their children. I would do anything for my child because I love him and he needs me."

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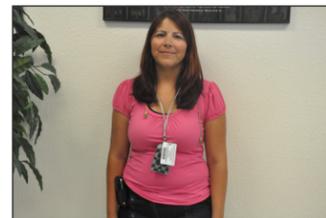
Diane Yslas, service supervisor at the Family Restaurant on base and mother of seven children.

"Being a mother, I think mothers deserve a day to relax and be pampered by their children. More importantly is just being able to spend quality time with your children and family. I use to work two 40 hour jobs to support them and to have a day dedicated to my hard work is a great feeling."



Lieutenant Benjamin Warner, the base chaplain.

"Mother's Day is a day that gives me a chance to show my wife that I appreciate all of the hard work she does in sculpting our son to be a good person. It also gives me the chance to thank my mom and all of the mom figures in my life who have sculpted me; but if you're going to get a gift don't just get flowers."



Angelina Rivera, production analyst branch head at Production Plant Barstow.

"It's a day to single out mothers for all they do for their children. When Mother's Day comes around, I feel like it's my chance to shower my mother in flowers, treat her like a queen and take her out to lunch. Also, my children do the same for me. Every Mother's Day they make me something crafty like cards or pictures."

Chaplain's Corner The Mother's Day Problem

By Lt. Benjamin Warner
Base Chaplain

Around this time last year, I encountered two examples of everything that is wrong with Mother's Day—and really holidays in general. Whilst buying ingredients to make a smoothie for my wife, I heard a mom say to her daughter, "You're ruining my day, I hope you know that." The second event was much lighter; it was comedian Jim Gaffigan's tweet: "Just a heads up: At midnight we can return to under-appreciating mothers for another year." That's pretty funny stuff, but it makes me uncomfortable. I'm worried about the 24-hour nature of how we treat our moms. One of the important parts of my faith contains the instruction: Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you (Exodus 20:12). So, it's safe to say that I approve of the idea of celebrating mothers. Mothers often do the most thankless job for no pay and no promotion. It's not like being a better parent can get you a new job with better kids and more money! Sick children, school projects, alongside the many other "little" tasks throughout the week can make for a difficult life. We need to celebrate the work moms do – but I think it's highly likely that the way we celebrate Mother's Day really does set us

up for failure and ingratitude the rest of the year.

It gives me cause to wonder if this is how we as a culture have decided things ought to be – rather than put in the hard work of honor and celebration in relationships, we'd rather just set aside one day to try and be nice to each other. That one day is then meant to make up for 364 days of mistreatment. No wonder that poor mom in the store was having her day ruined; she only expected one good day! In all honesty, how many of you (the readers) give yourselves permission to act irresponsible because it's your birthday? How many of you imagine that because the calendar happens to be marked "Christmas" it is somehow a more significant time which requires better behavior on your part? You might say, but isn't the word "holiday" a combination of "holy" and "day," so why shouldn't we treat those days as special? You're never going to hear me arguing against treating certain days as special – I've written before in this space about the need in my own life to observe extraordinary times throughout the year. But how we act during more "ordinary" time matters.

Absolutely make a big deal out of your mom on Mother's Day. Take her out for lunch, make her cards, and buy her flowers. Do all of those things that we have come to associate with a



special day for moms everywhere. Celebrate the women in your life who have contributed to your upbringing, as well. The tragedy comes on Monday – moms everywhere go back to a thankless job, hoping that in 364 days maybe there will be some recognition. The tragedy comes on December 26, when the boxes are empty and we decide to that having a gift card in our hand entitles us to elbow a kid out of the way to grab the gift we didn't get! The tragedy comes in the holiday being the only special day. In Colossians 2:17, the apostle Paul would write that special seasons and holidays were a mere shadow of things to come – that the intent is important, but the reality of special days was far greater. The reality of what honoring your mother means is far greater than a nice Sunday in May – is where we encounter the promise of God. So let it mean more than just a few hours of niceties, let it change your life.

Web-Based Application for Transportation Incentive Program

The Office of Financial Operations is currently piloting a new web-based transit subsidy application called the Transportation Incentive Program System (TIPS). TIPS is designed to improve the end-to-end process of applying for and receiving transit benefits. The new tool will allow participants to apply for benefits online, make changes to their application and withdraw from the program when they no longer need transit benefits.

The system will eliminate the need for completing paper applications, walking them from one building to another to get the appropriate signatures, and scanning/faxing them to Washington. The new online tool

will provide a seamless process from participant to supervisor to the reviewing official to the Department of Transportation. Participants will be able to see the status of their application, and the tool will provide helpful reminders to ensure that applications do not get bottlenecked at any point in the approval process. The tool will also improve the accuracy and reliability of the participant's information on file. This will help prevent unintended withdrawals from the program and minimize delays in benefits as the result of inaccurate data.

The current manual processes involve collecting, transmitting and storing personally identifiable information (PII).

This information is necessary to verify eligibility and to properly fund the transit benefit, however these processes expose the program to PII exposure and risk. TIPS will greatly reduce the need to collect, transmit and store PII outside of the system reducing the risk of this information being used improperly.

Current participants will be requested to re-certify benefits at a future date and new participants can enroll using the new automated system.

Questions can be directed to the TIP Coordinators, Monica Moorman (760) 577-6559, Daisy Morales (760) 577-6436, or Gordon Hill (760) 577-7895.

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