The sword detail, led by Capt. Mark Machado, Marine Corps Police Department chief of police, and Capt. Christian Lara, assistant Public Works officer, exits the Parade Deck after the cake cutting ceremony held in honor of the Marine Corps’ 245th birthday aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9. The annual event is a time honored tradition and honors Marines past and present for their sacrifices and service in “the world’s finest fighting Corps,” as guest speaker, Col. Fridrik Fridriksson deemed it during his speech, later in the ceremony.

On The Cover:

Cover photo by: Laurie Pearson

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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Sgt. Maj. Edward C. Kretschmer, base sergeant major

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On the web

Links in this publication are interactive in the online version

Website: http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil
http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow
Happy birthday Marines!

Lieutenant Colonel Micheal Graham, 1st Force Storage Battalion commander, slices the ceremonial birthday cake with a saber, during the commemoration ceremony of the 245th Marine Corps birthday, aboard the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, 10 Nov.

Image courtesy of The American Legion

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A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

If there were a watchword for 2020, the shortlist would certainly include ‘change,’ ‘uncertainty,’ and ‘adaptation.’ This new dynamic and uncertain environment has impacted how we recruit and train Marines, deploy aboard ship, and even how we honor our Corps’ hallowed traditions. But adapting to change and uncertainty is nothing new for Marines. It is what we have done for 245 years and what is expected of us as the Nation’s force-in-readiness. Where others see challenges, Marines see opportunities. We don’t take a knee. We will always be ready to answer the nation’s call, no matter the crisis.

In a world of seemingly relentless change and uncertainty, some things remain constant—our core values: Honor, Courage, and Commitment. These values are at the very heart of our ability to be, “most ready when the Nation is least ready.” It’s honor that gives us an uncompro misting sense of personal integrity and accountability; courage that allows us to face any circumstance with an ironclad resolve to do what’s right; and commitment that binds us together as a family and drives us toward excellence. And while our core values might never change, the way we give life to them requires constant vigilance. This year’s national conversations about race remind us that we must all do better to embody our service’s values.

Commemorating the 245th birthday of our Corps offers us a chance to reflect on our history. We who serve today stand upon the shoulders of giants. While this year’s many challenges are significant and unique, they are not unprecedented, and it is important to remember that our Nation and Corps have endured difficult times in our past. This year, for example, marks the 75th anniversary of brutal battles in the Pacific; when soldiers of the sea defined the term “uncommon valor” on the black sands of Iwo Jima; the 70th anniversary of bitter fighting at Inchon and Chosin Reservoir; 55 years since Marines landed at Da Nang; and a decade since our struggle with the Taliban in the Helmand River Valley. We remember the service and sacrifice of all Marines, and honor the legacy passed down through generations. Our continuing obligation is to honor their legacy by making meaningful contributions to what they started.

From the past, we draw strength, pride, and a responsibility to carry on the warfighting heritage our predecessors built. We must also recognize our tradition of continuous adaptation—one that should inspire our current force modernization and innovation efforts. As has been the case in the past, today’s threats require us to fight as a cohesive team, and our ability to succeed will depend on the Honor, Courage, and Commitment of each individual Marine. From recruiting individuals of great intelligence, strength, spirit, and diversity, to evolving how we train, educate, and mentor Marines throughout their careers, we remain dedicated to developing the world’s finest warfighters, guided by our core values.

In a year of significant change and uncertainty, I am reminded of the words of American novelist, John Dos Passos, “In times of change and danger when there is a quicksand of fear under men’s reasoning, a sense of continuity with generations gone before can stretch like a lifeline across the scary present…” Never forget, what you do today becomes the foundation for the generations of Marines that will follow. There is no challenge we cannot overcome, together, by holding fast to our core values. Happy 245th Birthday Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

DAVID H. BERGER
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps
On 10 November 2020, Marines around the world celebrate the birth of the best fighting force the world has ever seen. This day will always be a day of celebration for all Marines, young and old, active duty, retired, and all Marines who have served in the Corps. This day is more than a celebration. It is a day that all Marines look forward to. Since the birth of our Corps 245 years ago, we as Marines have taken time to reflect on the history and traditions that have paved the way for what we have today.

Every year Marines take time to continue our history and traditions by celebrating the birth of our Corps, regardless of where they are at in the world. Most Marines celebrate this day with a Marine Corps birthday ball. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, this will not happen this year. Those who are deployed, whether on a ship, or training for an upcoming deployment, will also take time to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday. These Marines will take time to read Gen. John A. Lejeune’s traditional birthday message along with honoring the youngest and oldest Marine present aboard the installation. While deployed or training, Marines will still cut cake, or, depending on what supplies are present during these times.

The tradition of celebrating the Marine Corps’ birthday is just one of the reasons why the Corps is special. We will never forget the Marines who have given their lives so we can continue to live with the comfort that we do today. We also celebrate the Marines on the front lines willing to make the ultimate sacrifice so we can continue to live in the freedom and safety that we cherish. This is a great time for all Marines, current or former, to get together to celebrate. We must continue to uphold the history and traditions of our Corps.

Happy 245th Birthday Marines! Thank you for what you do each and every day.

Semper Fi

SgtMaj Kretschmer
United States Marine Corps

Photos by COMMSTRAT

With raised and crossed M777 Howitzer barrels, a color guard and an escort for the 245th Marine Corps birthday cake, the oldest Marine aboard base, 67-year-old Leland Schnaufer and the youngest Marine, 21-year-old Cpl. Kyle Westover, stand ready to receive the first slice of the celebratory confection at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, aboard the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 6.

Colonel Fridrik Fridriksson, guest of honor, reminds the gathered Marines to be proud of being a Marine because they are truly Spartans. He made the remarks at the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, 245th birthday celebration of the Marine Corps on the parade deck, Nov. 9.

The official cake for the 245th Marine Corps, the Route 66 Eagle Globe and Anchor emblem aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9. Of the entire Route 66, the one mile section that runs through MCLB Barstow, is the only section iconic and unique.

Colonel Craig C. Clemans, commander, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and guest of honor, Col. Fridrik Fridriksson, salute the flag held by the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard at the start of the 245th Marine Corps birthday cake cutting ceremony on the parade deck of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9.

1st Lieutenant Adam Medford, adjutant, reads the traditional birthday message from Gen. John A. Lejeune during the Marine Corps 245th birthday ceremony held on the Parade Deck of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9.
245th Birthday cake cutting ceremony displays the Route 66 Eagle Globe and Anchor emblem aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9. Of the entire Route 66, the one mile section that runs through MCLB Barstow, is the only section that is not accessible to the public, making this section of Route 66 iconic and unique.

Colonel Craig C. Clemans, commander Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, ceremonially presents the first slice of Marine Corps Birthday Cake to the oldest Marine aboard the installation, retired Marine Chuck Wallin, also a member of the High Desert Marines, before offering the cake to the youngest Marine, 19-year-old PFC Emerson E. Oland, a policeman with the Marine Corps Police Department, on the Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9.

Guest of honor, Col. Fridrik Fridriksson, and Col. Craig Clemans, base commanding officer, exit the ceremony for the Marine Corps’ 245th birthday held on the Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9. Colonel Fridriksson, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group director, challenged Marines to take a moment to ponder their reasons for becoming a Marine, whether it be to make a difference, or because they preferred the uniform, and to then move forward in their Marine Corps careers with these reasons in the forefront of their minds. “You join other military branches, but you become a Marine,” he said. “Remember that, always.”

1st Lieutenant Adam Medford, adjutant, reads the traditional birthday message from Gen. John A. Lejeune during the Marine Corps 245th birthday ceremony held on the Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9.

Marines and civilians listen attentively as Col. Fridrik Fridriksson, Tactical Training Exercise Control Group director at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms speaks about the history of the Marine Corps and importance of remembering why Marines serve as they do, during the 245th Marine Corps birthday celebration held on the Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 9.
The iconic red poppies are back and being offered as a symbol of remembrance and commemoration of World War I, and all fallen military service members. A century ago, “the war to end all wars” raged throughout Europe. It was a war that racked up nearly 38 million casualties, including upwards of 8.5 million deaths. From 1914 to 1918, World War I took a greater human toll than any previous conflict. The Great War, as it was then known, also ravaged the landscape of Western Europe, where most of the fiercest fighting took place.

Across northern France and Flanders, in northern Belgium, the brutal clashes between Allied and Central Powers soldiers tore up fields and forests, tearing up trees and plants and wreaking havoc on the soil beneath.

It was from these devastated landscapes of the battlefields that something surprising and striking took place. Bright red blooms began to appear.

“They had been burying the bodies of military men, and a few women, as they came off the battlefield, as quickly as possible,” explained retired Marine Corps Master Sergeant William Ponder, president of Veterans of Foreign Wars post 12039, out of Victorville, California. “They were dying so fast, and they began burying them in a place called Flanders Hill. They called it ‘planting the bodies.’ They were buried with simple little crosses.”

Then in the warm early spring of 1915, the bright red poppies began peeking through the battle-scarred land: Papaver rhoeas, known variously as the Flanders poppy, corn poppy, red poppy and corn rose.

These poppies grow throughout the United States, Asia, Africa and Europe and is native to the Mediterranean region. Its seeds need light to grow, so when they’re buried in the earth, they can lay dormant for 80 years or even longer by some accounts, without blooming. Once soil is disturbed and the seeds come to light, poppies nobody knew existed can then bloom.

Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a noted Canadian physician before the war, served with Canada’s First Brigade Artillery as a surgeon at a field hospital in Belgium. He worked within sight of poppies blooming across old battlefields and fresh graves. McCrae tended to the wounded and got a firsthand look at the carnage of that clash, in which the Germans unleashed lethal chlorine gas for the first time in the war adding greatly to the number of deaths, to include a friend of McCrae’s, Lt. Alexis Helmer.

Struck by the sight of bright red blooms on broken ground, McCrae wrote a poem, “In Flanders Field,” in which he channeled the voice of the fallen soldiers buried under those bright red poppies. Published in Punch magazine in late 1915, the poem has been used at countless memorial ceremonies, and has become one of the most famous works of art to emerge from the Great War. Its fame had spread far and wide by the time McCrae himself died, from pneumonia and meningitis, in January 1918.

Across the Atlantic, a woman named Moina Michael read “In Flanders Field” in the pages of Ladies’ Home Journal that November, just two days before the armistice. She was a professor at the University of Georgia at the time the war broke out. Michael had taken a leave of absence to volunteer at the New York headquarters of the Young Women’s Christian Association, which trained and sponsored workers overseas. Inspired by McCrae’s verses, Michael wrote her own poem in response, which she called “We Shall Keep Faith.”

As a sign of this faith, and a remembrance of the sacrifices of Flanders Field, Michael vowed to always wear a red poppy; she found an initial batch of fabric blooms for herself and her colleagues at a department store. After the war ended, she returned to the university town of Athens, and came up with the idea of making and selling red silk poppies to raise money to support returning veterans.

Michael’s campaign to create a national symbol for remembrance—a poppy in the colors of the Allied nations’ flags entwined around a victory torch—didn’t get very far at first. In mid-1920, however, she managed to get Georgia’s branch of the American Legion, to adopt the poppy (minus the torch) as its symbol. Soon after that, the National American Legion voted to use the poppy as the official U.S. national emblem of remembrance when its members convened in Cleveland in September 1920.

A Frenchwoman named
WHAT IS A PROHIBITED PERSONNEL PRACTICE (PPP)?

Under 5 U.S.C. §§ 2302(b)(1)-(b)(14) a federal employee authorized to take, direct others to take, recommend or approve any personnel action may not:

- **Discriminate** (including discrimination based on marital status and political affiliation). EXAMPLE: Supervisor Joe refuses to promote Employee Jane because Jane is a registered Republican; or his refusal is because she is a single mother. (OSC will generally defer Title VII discrimination allegations to the EEO process, rather than duplicating already existing procedures.)

- **Solicit or consider employment recommendations based on factors other than personal knowledge or records of job-related abilities or characteristics.** EXAMPLE: Selecting Official Joe hires Applicant Jack based on Senator Smith’s recommendation that Jack be hired because Jack is a constituent; or fails to hire Applicant Jane because of Congressman Smith’s recommendation based on the Congressman’s friendship with Jane’s parents.

- **Coerce the political activity of any person, or take action against any employee as reprisal for refusing to engage in political activity.** EXAMPLE: Supervisor Jane takes away significant job duties of Employee Jack because Jack will not make a contribution to Jane’s favorite candidate.

- **Deceive or willfully obstruct any person from competing for employment.** EXAMPLE: Supervisor Joe, located in Headquarters, orders that no vacancy announcements be posted in the field office where Employee Jack works because he does not want Jack to get a new job; or falsely states that there will be extensive travel in the position when he knows that there is no travel.

- **Engage in nepotism.** EXAMPLE: Second-level Supervisor Jane asks First-level Supervisor Joe to hire her son; or to promote her daughter.

- **Take a personnel action against an employee because of whistleblowing.** EXAMPLE: Supervisor Joe directs the geographic reassignment of Employee Jack because Jack reported safety violations to the agency’s Inspector General; or because employee Jill reported a gross waste of funds to the Office of Internal Affairs.

- **Take a personnel action against any employee because of the exercise of an appeal, complaint, or grievance right.** EXAMPLE: Supervisor Jane places Employee Jack on an undesirable detail because Employee Jack filed an administrative grievance about his performance rating.

- **Discriminate against an employee on the basis of conduct, which does not adversely affect the performance of the employee, including discrimination based on sexual orientation.** EXAMPLE: Jack’s employment is terminated because he attended a "Gay Pride" march; or he attended a "Pro-Life" event; or he attended an animal rights rally; or he attended a gun-owners’ rights meeting.

- **Take or fail to take a personnel action, if such action would violate a veterans’ preference requirement.** Example: Supervisor Jane hired Employee Jack, without considering Veteran Jennifer, who was included on the list of eligible employees. (OSC’s jurisdiction is for disciplinary actions only: the Dept. of Labor has jurisdiction to investigate for corrective actions.).

- **Influence any person to withdraw from competition for a position to improve or injure the employment prospects of any other person.** EXAMPLE: Supervisor Jane, in an effort to hire Employee Joe, tells Employee Jack that he should not apply for a position because he is not qualified and will never be selected. Employee Jack is qualified.
November brings events acknowledging veterans and military families, and sales promotions helping commissary customers save money as they purchase products for their Thanksgiving meals.

“There’s a lot going on in November with Veterans Day, Military Family Month and the Marine Corps birthday,” said Sgt. Maj. Michael R. Saucedo, senior enlisted advisor to the DeCA director. “For Thanksgiving, I want to remind our customers they can use their benefit to save their hard-earned money on all the fixings that go with any Thanksgiving meal.”

Throughout the month, commissary customers can expect to see special savings on frozen turkeys and other typical Thanksgiving items including rolls, pie fillings, pies, cooking oil, snack and cooking nuts, mixers, appetizers, vegetables and stuffing.

Patrons are reminded to check the ends of aisles in their store for themed items with extra low pricing. Overseas stores may have substitute events for certain promotional programs. Customers should check with their store for details or visit their store page on commissaries.com to verify what’s available. They can also check the website for ways to maximize their benefit in the Rewards & Saving and Shopping sections.

A few commissary savings

Exclusive savings on select turkeys
- Commissaries worldwide will offer limited weekly quantities of frozen turkeys at 39¢ per pound. Available quantities of frozen turkeys are expected to increase closer to Thanksgiving. Check your commissary for brand availability. Promotion runs through Dec. 31 – while supplies last.

Thanksgiving Soda Sale

Stock Up and Get Rewarded
- Commissary customers can earn a $10 Virtual Visa from Fandango Now with the purchase of any 10 participating items Nov. 14 to Dec.

15. To participate, customers must take a photo of their entire receipt showing the qualifying items, go to www.activaterewards.com/Military, enter their information and submit photo of the receipt. Check for participating products.

General Mills “Celebrate The Holidays”
- Throughout the holidays, commissary customers will see holiday displays, high-value coupons and premium in-store giveaways of General Mills brands. Promotions run through Dec. 31.

Kellogg’s Holiday Savings
- Kellogg’s is partnering with the Military Star Program to award $500 each to 50 families’ accounts to help them pay down their Military Star Card balance. This program will feature promotional savings on top-selling brands. Promotion runs Nov. 23 – Dec. 6.

Colgate’s Operation Gratitude
- Operation Gratitude is a non-profit organization that assembles and ships care packages to service members deployed overseas and veterans. Colgate will provide shelf coupons exclusive to the military community that read, “Buy 2, Save $0.50, Colgate Gives 1.” For every coupon that scans through the register between Nov. 1 and Dec. 15, Colgate will donate one matching product to Operation Gratitude. Colgate employees and their families will also include hand-written letters that are sent to service men and women along with the donated product. Promotion ends Nov. 22.

“This has been a challenging year for us all, but we at the Defense Commissary Agency are thankful for the opportunity to support our nation’s military,” Saucedo said. “We are proud to provide their commissary benefit.”
Anna Guérin was a champion of the red poppy symbology and as such was invited to the American Legion convention to speak about her idea for an “Inter-Allied Poppy Day.” Madame Guérin helped convince the Legion members to adopt the poppy as their symbol, and to join her by celebrating National Poppy Day in the United States the following May.

Nations, a century after World War I ended, millions of people in the United Kingdom, Canada, France, Belgium, Australia and New Zealand don the red flowers every November 11, known as Remembrance Day or Armistice Day, to commemorate the anniversary of the 1918 Armistice.

In the United States, the tradition has developed a little differently. Americans don’t typically wear poppies on November 11, Veterans Day, which honors all living veterans. Instead, they typically wear the symbolic red flower on Memorial Day, the last Monday in May, to commemorate the sacrifice of so many men and women who have given their lives fighting for their country. Protocols do allow, though, for the red poppies to be worn at any time, in somber reverence for those lost in war.

Regardless of the time of year, or holiday celebrated, the red poppies are an ongoing visual representation of respect and appreciation for those who have served.

“My wife and I have 14 family members who have served in every war and conflict from WW1 (The Great War) to present day,” said Martin Mills, Range Operations officer aboard MCLB Barstow. “Our family has severed in all four branches of the military: Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines (and the Coast Guard). I feel remembrance is important in a few ways such as honoring those who have served and remembering those who have died so that our great nation can keep the freedoms we cherish. May we never forget.”

Much of the information in this article was found within the following links:
https://www.theworldwar.org
https://www.smithsonianmag.com
https://www.poetryfoundation.org

As they weather cools, outdoor cats and other animals often find warmth under cars.

Please:
• Bang on the hood
• Honk the horn
• Check under the vehicle

In Flanders Fields
BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.

If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.
MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE BARSTOW

To preserve the health and welfare of base employees
and to help limit the spread of COVID-19
the following are changes to base activities and areas of

**Postponed or closed**
- Self defense
- Spin
- Pass & ID Nebo 101
- Pass & ID Yermo 406
- Swim lessons
- Play mornings
- Wellness series

**MFP Virtual Events**
For a list of MFP virtual events, dates, times and links, contact Beth Simpson, MFP coordinator, 760-577+6675, or visit
https://www.facebook.com/MCFTBBarstow/

**Modified hours and services**

**Leatherneck Lanes Bowling Alley open w/modifications (kitchen open):**
- Call for details and hours, which vary by the day 760-577-6264

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

**Semper Fit Gym:**
- Unmanned hours for all permanently assigned DOD employees on base begin Sept. 16. Call 760-677-6812 to make an appointment to register your CAC ahead of time.
- Combat room CLOSED.

**SMP/Rec. Center:**
- Single Marines only, no guests - Mon. - Fri. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
- Closed Thursday nights, as well as Sat. & Sun. during COVID restrictions.

**Oasis Pool and Water Park:**
- Open Tues. - Sun. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Route 66 Cafe:**
- Open for dine-in and take out. Can also call orders in ahead at 760-577-6428.

**Commissary:**
- Open every Tues. 9 - 9:30 a.m. for active duty and spouses only.
- Open Tues. - Fri. 9:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sat. 8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
- NOTE: IDs are mandatory and will be verified.

**Base Library:**
- Open Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Personal & Professional Development:**
- Open Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Behavioral Health:**
- Open Mon. - Fri. 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
- To set an appointment, call 760-577-6533

**Auto Skills Shop:**
- Open every other weekend, Sat. 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. and Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Call Bruce for further information, 760-577-6260, 760-267-1075

**ITT:**
- Open Mon. - Thurs. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

**Pass & ID 236:**
- Appointment only, 760-577-6969

For additional information about the base, go to https://mclbbarstow.marines.mil
For a complete list of MCCS hours and services impacted by COVID-19, go to http://mccsbarstow.com/impact/