Native American Heritage Month
Giving thanks around MCLB Barstow
Employee of the Quarter
On The Cover:

Cover photo by: Jack Adamyk
Lieutenant General Charles Chiarotti, Installations and Logistics deputy commandant, speaks with Marines during a question and answer portion of his tour of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 19, 2020.

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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On the web
Links in this publication are interactive in the online version
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Our oath is to the Constitution of the United States

In 2018, a Gallup Poll of American confidence in societal institutions placed the military on top. As military personnel, we adhere to civilian control of the military, we bear in mind that we represent the people we serve, and we remain apolitical. Should we as a military ever deviate from these tenants or cease to be nonpartisan, the constitutional balance of power would be threatened as well as our democratic governance. Our elected officials depend on our military advice, which must be free from political bias.

As we swear our officer and enlisted oaths, our loyalty is not owed to a party or to an interest group but rather to our offices and the Constitution of the United States. At the birth of our nation, our founding fathers were concerned about standing armies eclipsing civilian control of our national defense and using force to stomp on individual freedoms. It is imperative that American citizens be able to continue having trust and confidence in us – their military.

A significant determinant of future military legitimacy depends upon our ability to remain apolitical. Although the military is an entity within the Executive Branch, its place within our Constitutional order requires special consideration and respect, in order to fulfill the vision of our nation’s forefathers. I hope everyone voted earlier this month; each state will certify their election on 14 December.

Now as always, we must remain focused and ready to support and defend the Constitution of the United States. Marines, Sailors, and Civilian Marines - thank you for remaining professional, and apolitical in the workplace!!

Two well deserved promotions this month: GySgt Martinez and LCpl Donovan – Congrats!

Welcome Aboard: Sgt Dyland Bickling (FSB), and Military Police LCpl Fesenmaier, LCpl Monsey and Cpl Newhouse – great to have you aboard!

Farewell to Cpl Ojeda (FSB) who just EAS’d; Congratulations to GySgt Denton (FSB) who reenlists on the 19th!

Finally, for all who participated or contributed to the Cake Cutting Ceremonies (MDMC – 6 Nov, Base - 9 Nov, 1st FSB - 10 Nov) – job extremely, extremely well done!!!

Happy 245th!!!

Semper fidelis V/r, CCC
The Toys for Tots drive-up donation campaign at the front gate of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, begins the first Tuesday after Thanksgiving, December 1.

“Because of the effects of COVID and people being laid off or furloughed, the requests for toys from families and charitable organizations has exploded,” said Gunnery Sgt. Ricardo Martinez, TFT coordinator.

“TFT works with charitable organizations to help distribute enough toys so that the children of every family applying for help gets at least a stocking stuffer and a main gift to put under the Christmas tree,” Martinez explained.

“The TFT organization covers the entire High Desert, from Crestline to Baker and even Needles,” he said. “In 2019, TFT from this base had enough donations for 16,045 toys which were distributed to 6,904 children.”

“TFT Tuesdays will take place on the first three Tuesdays in December, which fall on the 1st, 8th, and 15th this year. MCLB Barstow’s Fire Department and Marines will be accepting new unwrapped toys at its front gates on those dates from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m., so please spread the word so we can have a great turnout,” Martinez said.

“Toy collection boxes are also being set up in 30 locations across the High Desert in Barstow, Crestline, Baker, and San Bernardino and elsewhere within our area to accept toy donations,” Martinez said. “That includes boxes set up at the Marine Corps Exchange on both the Nebo and Yermo Annex sides.”

In 2019 the donations from base employees at the main gates of Nebo and the Yermo Annex included toys, books, stocking stuffers, and bicycles, as well as more than $2,300 in cash, Martinez said.

You don’t have to wait for Toys for Tots Tuesdays, your cell phone can make giving a year ‘round activity.

“New this year are virtual toy drives where a donor can buy a toy online that is then shipped to MCLB Barstow for us to distribute,” he said.

“We have a spouse of a Marine aboard this base who started their own online fundraiser with a goal of $5,000 in donations,” Martinez said. “That goal was exceeded within 5 days.”

Toys for Tots began in 1947 as the brain child of the wife of Marine Corps Reserve Major Bill Hendricks in Los Angeles. She had handcrafted some dolls and asked her husband to find a charity for children to distribute them.

When he told her he could not find such an organization, she instructed him to “start one!”

That year the major and the Marine Corps Reserve collected and distributed 5,000 toys.

After seeing the success of the venture, the Commandant of the Marine Corps directed all Marine Corps Reserve Units to implement a TFT campaign, transforming it into a national community action program in 1948.

Disneyland was just a dream when the artist Walt Disney designed the first TFT poster in 1948.

Presently, the Marine Corps Reserve TFT Program distributes an average of 18 million toys to 7 million less fortunate children annually.

“Think how you would have felt if you had no toys to open Christmas morning,” Martinez concluded. “Those whom are fortunate to stay employed during COVID can support their community by donating to Toys for Tots or similar charities.”

“Help us make sure every child gets a gift so they have something to open on Christmas day.”

“Since 1947, Marines have faithfully worked each year to accomplish the stated mission of the Toys for Tots program which is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. To be sure, Marines are not the heroes in this endeavor – the real heroes are each and every person who chooses to donate a toy or money for the less fortunate children. This year, Marines assigned to MCLB will again be collecting gifts as well as donating ourselves. Would you please consider joining us in donating? Every donation will directly support children right here in the High Desert. Thank you in advance! Semper fidelis,” Col. Craig C. Clemans.

Go online to the TFT virtual toy donation websites to give at:
https://yougivegoods.com/toysfortotshd

https://barstow-ca.toysfortots.org/donate/forms/simple/Default.aspx

Some information for this article was taken from:
https://www.toysfortots.org/about_toys_for_tots/toys_for_tots_program/timeline.aspx
National Native American Heritage Month

Compiled by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Chief

CIVIL WAR

Ely Samuel Parker (left) with General Ulysses S. Grant and Staff. Harvard educated Ely S. Parker (Seneca) was a Union Civil War Colonel who wrote the terms of surrender between the United States and the Confederate States. He was one of two Native Americans to reach the rank of Brigadier General during the Civil War. Later in his career, President Grant appointed him as Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the first Native American to hold that post. (Photo Credit: NPS)

In this Feb. 23, 1945, file photo, Marines with the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, flying the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. Corporal Ira Hayes (Pima) only 22 years old, is on the left. (AP Photo/Joe Rosenthal)

KOREA

In spite of being shot eight times, Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. (Ho-Chunk) ordered his men to tie him to a tree so he could keep fighting, action for which he received the Medal of Honor. Red Cloud was the third of four Native Americans to be awarded the Medal of Honor in Korea. (Photo Credit: Army.Mil)

Another Medal of Honor Recipient: Pfc. Charles George (Cherokee) unhesitatingly threw himself upon a grenade, saving the lives of his comrades who were embroiled in hand to hand combat. Shortly thereafter, he succumbed to his wounds. (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs)

WWII

The American Indians who served with Company E, 142nd Infantry, 36th Division, during World War I were some of the nation’s first “code-talkers.” (Photo Credit: National World War I Museum and Memorial)

Jake McNiece (Choctaw) applies ceremonial war paint to another paratrooper from the infamous Filthy 13, an elite demolition unit whose exploits inspired the novel and movie “The Dirty Dozen.” (Photo Credit: Websta)

WWII

Gregory “Pappy” Boyington (Sioux) was a highly decorated combat pilot and Marine Corps fighter ace who flew for the legendary “Flying Tigers.” He received both the Medal of Honor and the Navy Cross. (Photo Credit: California Indian Education)
National Native American Heritage Month: A glimpse at honored warrior culture

**Vietnam**

In this Feb. 23, 1945, file photo, Marines with the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. Corporal Ira Hayes (Pima) only 22 years old, is on the left. (AP Photo/Joe Rosenthal)

**Operation Enduring Freedom**

Prairie Band Potawatomi member Larry Mitchell (center) served with Delta Company. He authored the book, “Potawatomi Tracks: The Ballad of Vietnam and Other Stories,” about his experiences and struggling with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. (Photo Credit: University of Arkansas at Little Rock)

**Operation Iraqi Freedom**

Disabled American Veterans life member, Tyson Bahe (Navajo) served 5 years in the U.S. Army, deploying to Afghanistan twice as a cavalry scout. “The Native American culture is one of warriors. The elders pass down stories of warrior ancestors, and it is viewed as an honor to serve,” said Bahe. (Photo Credit: Army.Mil)

**WWII & Korean**

Pfc. Lori Piestewa (Hopi) waiting for deployment to Iraq. Just five weeks later she passed into history as the first Native American woman killed in combat. Piestewa was a member of the Army’s 507th Maintenance Company, which was ambushed in Nasiriyah. Three soldiers were killed, five taken prisoner, including Piestewa who died in captivity. (Photo Credit: Army.Mil)

**Korea**

Corporal Ira Hayes, Marines with the 28th Regiment, 5th Division, raise the American flag atop Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, Japan. Corporal Ira Hayes, only 22 years old, is on the left.

Believed to be the most decorated Native American soldier of the War, Billy Walkabout (Cherokee) received the Distinguished Service Cross, five Silver Stars, five Bronze Stars, and the Purple Heart. (Photo Credit: Best Teenagers Ever)

Glen Douglas (Lakes-Okanogan) served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. (Photo Credit: Standing Rock Indian Preservation)
I was in a car accident and almost killed. I am so thankful I am alive. I am thankful for my family and thankful I am able to still be here for them. I was in Apple Valley and the car coming the opposite direction was going way too fast. When he came around the curve he went into my lane and hit me head-on. I swerved so our vehicles side swiped each other. The car caught fire but the residents saw the accident and put the fire out. I was trapped in the car and my leg was pinned and broken. It could have been a lot worse. I am thankful to be alive,” said Darrell Hill, welder with Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 19.

“I am thankful to have a job and that my Mom and Dad are healthy,” said Tony Aguayo, Heavy Mobile Equipment mechanic with Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 19.

“I am really grateful for the success of the thrift store and how much it has benefited the base community! It has also given us a sense of purpose during this pandemic and allowed us to develop friendships in the process,” said Ruth Clemans, Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store lead aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 19.

“I’m thankful for the continuous love and support I receive from family and friends to pursue great opportunities. Thankful for each day and the challenges life brings to allow me to learn, grow and become a better person,” said Jessica Sriuthaivatana, XXX with Supply aboard MCLB Barstow, California, Nov. 20.

“I am thankful for the opportunities I have aboard MCLB Barstow. I am also thankful for my friends and family, the people who motivate me every day to come to work and do my best,” said Jontavius Richardson, supply clerk-fuels, S-4 Supply aboard MCLB Barstow, California, Nov. 20.

“During these challenging times, I’m grateful for my health, my family, and my job! I’m looking forward to a better 2021 for all!” said Michelle Bledsoe, Fire Prevention officer with Fire and Emergency Services aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 19.
COVID-19 spikes: What to know, what to do

With the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting a sharp increase in Coronavirus-19 cases across the United States, there are a few things to keep in mind this Thanksgiving, whether you will be traveling for the holiday, or remaining aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

“Fortunately, with vaccines in production, there is light at the end of the pandemic ‘tunnel,’” said Col. Craig C. Clemans, MCLB Barstow’s commanding officer. “Unfortunately, the cases nationwide and in Barstow are spiking.”

According to the CDC’s COVID Data Tracker here are the latest numbers for the U.S. and California:

### United States:
- **Total cases:** 12.3 million
- **Total deaths:** 250k

### California:
- **Total cases:** 1.12 million
- **Deaths:** 18,726

The CDC also reports that the hospitalization rates for COVID-19 have been steadily increasing since the end of September and mirror the increase in U.S. cases of COVID-19.

The CDC’s “U.S. Virological Surveillance” indicates the following:
- Nationally, of the more than 3.1 million people tested in week 45 of the pandemic, nearly 11 percent tested positive.
- This is an increase compared to week 44 when slightly more than 8 percent tested positive.
- The percentages of people testing positive increased among all age groups.
- “COVID-19 symptoms range from mild to severe, and may appear any time from 2 to 14 days after exposure to the virus,” said Dr. Ernest C. Lee, medical doctor with Occupational Health Detachment Barstow, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton.

Symptoms include: Fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea.

“If you have a fever, cough or other symptoms described earlier, or if you think you may have been exposed to COVID-19, you should contact your private healthcare provider,” Dr. Lee said.

He also offers these suggestions for what you can do if you are feeling ill:
- Stay home, unless you have severe symptoms as described. Most people with COVID-19 experience mild symptoms and can recover at home without medical care.
- Take over-the-counter medicines, such as acetaminophen, to help you feel better.
- Stay in touch with your doctor. Call before you go in for medical care. Be sure to get care if you have trouble breathing, or have any other emergency warning signs, or if you think it is an emergency.
- Avoid public transportation, ride-sharing, or taxis.
- Separate yourself from other people as much as possible. If you must go outside, wear a mask.
- Tell your close contacts that they may have been exposed to COVID-19. An infected person can spread COVID-19 starting 48 hours (or 2 days) before the person shows any symptoms or tests positive.

If someone is having trouble breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, new confusion, inability to wake or stay awake, or bluish lips or face, Lee said they should seek emergency medical care immediately.

“COVID-19 spreads easily from person to person through inhalation of respiratory droplets,” he explained. “People whom are infected but do not show symptoms can also spread the virus to others.”

So what does this mean for your holiday week? If you plan to travel, do it safely. Use precautions, and good hygiene. Do your part to slow the spread by following these guidelines:

**Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after you have been in a public place, after blowing your nose, before eating or preparing food, and before touching your face

**Use a hand sanitizer** containing at least 60 percent alcohol.

**Maintain at least a 6 foot distance from others**, both inside your home and when out in public.

**Wear a mask when around others** even if you do not feel sick.
- DO NOT use a mask on children under age 2, anyone with breathing difficulties, or is unconscious, incapacitated or otherwise unable to remove the mask without assistance.
- DO NOT use a mask meant for a medical professionals. N95 respirators are critical supplies that should be reserved for healthcare workers and first responders.

**Clean and disinfect frequently**
- Including tables, doorknobs, light switches, countertops, handles, desks, phones, keyboards, toilets, faucets, and sinks.
- Use detergent or
John E. Hutton, Facilities Maintenance Branch of S-F, is the Employee of the Quarter for GS-9 and Below for the 4th quarter of 2020, for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

Prior to working at FMB, Hutton was a contractor electrician working at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, and in the same capacity at Edwards Air Force Base prior to being hired on as a Wage Grade 10 employee at MCLB Barstow. He was also an instructor in electrical work prior to working for the government.

“I’ve worked for FMB for nearly two years, but I’ve been a journeyman electrician since 2002,” Hutton said. “Back in the real world I’ve built banks, skyscrapers, aircraft hangers, and schools,” he said.

“John is a real professional and a hard worker,” said Peter Barela, supervisor, S-F Facilities Maintenance Branch. “He’s the kind of worker you call in to figure out how to fix something when others can’t. I can’t think of anyone else more deserving Employee of the Quarter recognition than him.”

“John is an outstanding employee,” echoed Jacob Taney, Hutton’s supervisor and the man whom put him up for Employee of the Quarter consideration.

“He has extensive knowledge in his field. He has flawless completion rate for his jobs, and he volunteers to help out others in the FMB to complete their jobs,” he continued.

“His knowledge of personal protective equipment used in electrical work is extensive, and we all have benefited from his experience,” Taney said.

Hutton lives in Pinion Hills and faces a 70 mile trip to work every day, but the time seems to fly by for him.

“I love working for the government. It’s easy, if you know what you’re doing and if you have people you work with whom know what they’re doing,” Hutton concluded. “I love working as an electrician. I love figuring out what went wrong and how to fix it. I try and make a difference in my job by doing it well every time.”

Hutton has never encountered a job that he couldn’t do, but some have presented challenges.

“Sometimes you find a job where some systems are tied into other systems, and you have to figure out what the other person was thinking when they did the previous work,” he said. “It’s a challenge, but it’s fun, too.”

When he was an apprentice electrician, one rule was emphasized that he has lived by and used as a philosophy for his work ethic since becoming a journeyman electrician.

“You don’t do your job for you, you do it for the next person whom may have to work on the same project if something goes wrong,” he said. “Hopefully with this thought in mind, when you have to repair something on a job done by another electrician, the job will go smooth because they ensured you could easily follow their previous work so you could get your job done.”

The wastewater treatment plant aboard base is another frequent customer of his skills.

“Everybody can smell when the pumps working to keep the smell at bay break down, so that’s a job for me that requires not only a good electrician’s knowledge, but speed, too,” Hutton said.

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soap and water prior to disinfection, then use a household disinfectant.

A virtual Thanksgiving meal can be hosted for friends and family whom do not live with you. Schedule a time to share recipes and show off the turkey, dressing, and other dishes.

Over-the-counter vitamins and supplements can help.

“One study found that people taking vitamin D supplements, particularly those with low vitamin D levels, were less likely to develop acute respiratory tract infections than those who didn’t,” Lee said.

Flu vaccinations are more important than ever this year.

“The flu vaccine protects yourself, your family and your community from flu,” he said. “A flu vaccine this season can also help reduce the burden on our healthcare system and first responders dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. It can save medical resources for care of COVID-19 patients.

“For all of us, ‘COVID fatigue’ is setting in,” Col. Clemans said. “Agree or disagree with the Governor’s mandates, aboard MCLB, we exercise mitigating measures to protect the elderly and those with compromised immune systems. We exercise mitigating measures because each positive test result triggers reporting requirements, contact tracing, disinfectant efforts, additional quarantine of others who were in contact, and ultimately, a loss of productivity. As always, our collective mission at MCLB is to support those personnel forward deployed, and to always be most prepared to support the next fight. I appreciate and respect everyone’s unrelenting ‘mission first’ mentality, and sustained exercise of the self-discipline required to remain healthy and productive!” 

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
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 Center 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: CLOSED FOR THE SEASON

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. and Thurs. 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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

Thrift Store:
• Open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month 1 - 4 p.m.
• Closed November 24 and 26 for Thanksgiving holiday.

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