

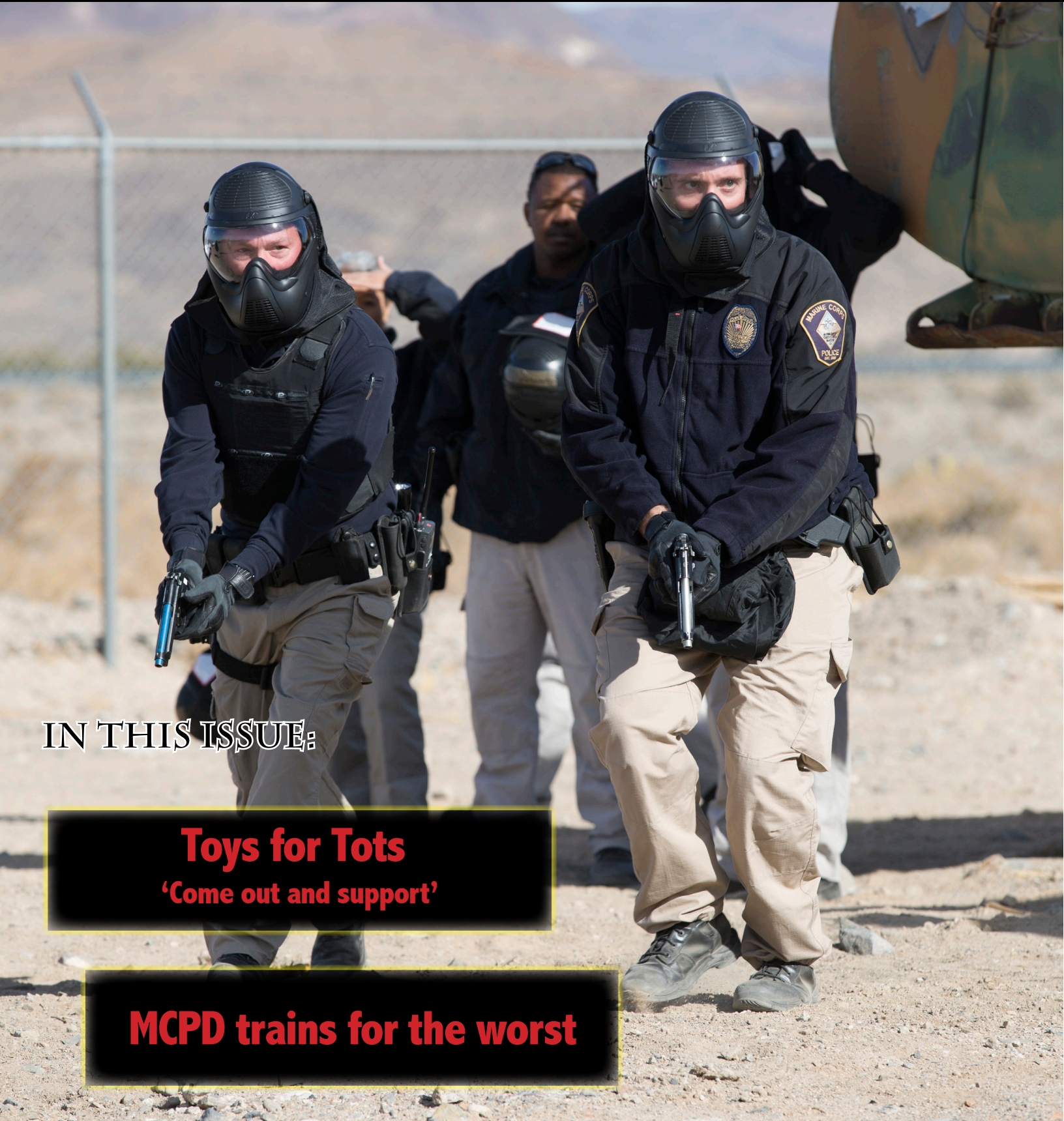


PRO THE SPECTOR

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

November 26, 2014



IN THIS ISSUE:

Toys for Tots
'Come out and support'

MCPD trains for the worst

On The Cover:

Front Cover:

Photo by: Carlos Guerra

Officers from the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. police department participate in an active shooter scenario at the Security and Emergency Services training facility here, Nov. 18. The exercise used simulated ammunition to allow participants to use their duty weapon while combating opposing force personnel.

Back Cover:

Courtesy Photo

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., is supporting Toys for Tots with myriad events around the High Desert. All proceeds go back to the community.



THE PROSPECTOR

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Photo by: Carlos Guerra

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's walking color guard marches during the fourth annual Kiwanis Club God and Country Celebration Breakfast, in Victorville, Calif. The Marines presented colors during the event.

On the web

Website:

<http://www.mclbbarstow.marines.mil>

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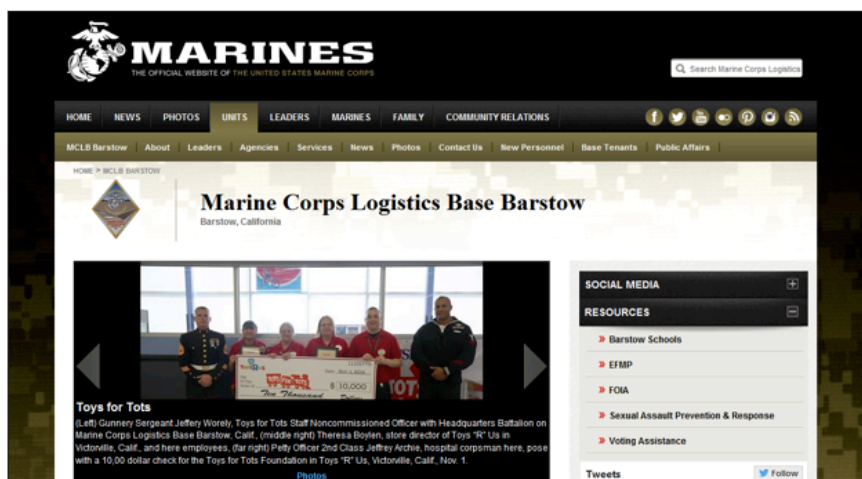




Photo by: Keith Hayes

(From left to right) Army Pvt. Ivan M. Fuentez, 20 years old, and Spc. Justin T. Roberts, 22, transport manager coordinators with the 171st Movement Control Company on MCLB Barstow's Yermo Annex, make their way through the obstacle course on MCLB Barstow, Nov. 14. The soldiers work to load and unload military equipment from rail cars.

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News Briefs

Leave Share Program

The following is a comprehensive list of individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and are in need of leave donations:

Christopher Garcia, Lisa Lucero, Amy Loughridge, Clarissa Mattig-Smith, Charmaine Runne, and Konrad Miles, Jason Depue

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 Michelle Cunningham at 760-577-6915.

Career Resource

If you are looking for employment, check out the weekly employment listing provided by the Career Resource Center at www.mccsbarstow.com/careerresource.html. For employment job search, or resume writing assistance, call the Career Resource Program at 760-577-6533.

Trees for Troops

Trees for Troops is an annual live Christmas tree distribution for active duty service members living aboard MCLB Barstow. Trees are given away on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 9 a.m. on Dec. 3, at the Desert View Housing Community Center.

Stork Club

This is a monthly new parent support program for moms-to-be and moms of children ages 0-18 months, held on Wednesday, Dec. 10, at 10 a.m. at the Desert View Housing Community Center. Each month will feature a different topic. This month will be 'baby bingo' with prizes. Participants may bring a snack to share with the group. Children are welcome. For more information, call New Parent Support Program at 760-577-6533.

ITT Special

Knott's Berry Farm will be having Military Tribute Days from now until Jan. 4. Admission is free for veterans and a guest. Valid proof of military service with photo ID is required.

Toys for Tots

On Tuesdays, from 5:45 a.m. to 7 a.m., there will be a Toys for Tots collection drive at the front gates of the Yermo Annex and Nebo Annex. On Nov. 29, there will be a Toys for Tots drive at the Toys "R" Us in Victorville.

CDC Winter Performance

On Dec. 12, from 9 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., children from the Child Development Center will participate in a winter performance at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center. Following the performance, children will join their parents for lunch.

Holiday Christmas Party

The base Christmas party at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center will be on Dec. 11, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Candyland begins at 6 p.m.

Softball Tournament

On Dec. 6, MCLB Barstow will be holding a softball tournament at Sorensen Field. The entry fee is a new and unwrapped toy with the value of \$10 from each player or \$10 cash. The rules of the game are, you start off with a one-and-one count, 15-run rule after three innings/ten-run rule after the fifth inning, and the tournament is restricted to DoD employees, public safety, and military personnel. Identification cards will be checked. To register for the tournament, contact Paul Purdy by phone at 760-577-6099 or 760-985-1817, or email paul.purdy@usmc.mil before Nov. 28.

Car Show

Marine Corp Logistics Base Barstow will hold a car show on Dec. 13, to benefit the Toys for Tots Foundation.

Energy Tip:

Wash and dry several loads at once. This way, your dryer isn't completely cooled down when it heats up for the next load. Also, wash full loads of clothes. When smaller loads are necessary, use less water.

Make a Donation

Active Duty Marines bring Toys for Tots to the High Desert

Story By:
Cpl. Samuel Ranney
Editor

“The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community in which the campaign is conducted,” as stated on ToysForTots.org.

However, there isn't a Marine Corps reserve unit here in the High Desert; so, active duty Marines from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., put in as much time and effort as possible on and off duty to make the program a success.

“I have never seen an (active duty) base this involved with Toys for Tots before,” said Gunnery Sgt. Jeffery Worley, base substance abuse control officer and Toys for Tots coordinator. “Last year, our goal was to raise between 4,000 and 6,000 toys ... we hit our mark.”

Worley explained the base collected 5,000 toys and raised \$15,000 in donations to go toward the program last year. This year, it is his goal to surpass last year's already impressive amount.

“With (local organizations) helping out and all the big events we have coming up, we will meet our goals easily,” Worley added.

The base as a whole is fully supportive of the program, added Worley. Marines from every work section have been volunteering time during on and off-duty hours to help collect toys. Different sections have also held fundraisers and sales to donate to the program.

“It wouldn't be possible without their support,” he explained.

Chad Hildebrandt, rail operations supervisor here and Toys for Tots assistant coordinator, has been working with the program for more than 13 years.

“I like giving back to the community,” said Hildebrandt, a former active duty gunnery sergeant. “Seeing the smiles on kids' faces makes all the extra work completely worth it at the end.”

Hildebrandt explained the importance of having this program in the High Desert.

“It helps us connect with the city,” he added. “We are not only here as a base, we are an active part of the local community.”

Worley and Hildebrandt have been working together to coordinate myriad Toys for Tots events over the past two years.

With more than 20 events, it has doubled since last year, said Worley.

“We have been getting more support from local organizations and adver-

tisement than ever before ... it's going to be a good year,” he added.

On December 19, the thousands of toys that have been collected over the winter months will be distributed to families in need at the Harvey House in Barstow.

During distributions parents are very appreciative, said Hildebrandt. Sometimes it can be hard for them because during hard economic times, parents cannot always provide the way they would like to; however, they are grateful and it feels great to be able to help.

Aside from the distribution at the Harvey House, the coordinators and other active duty Marines will be visiting local hospitals on Christmas Eve.

Both Hildebrandt and Worley expressed this is their favorite part about participating in the program.

“The kids aren't able to make it home for Christmas because they are stuck in the hospital,” said Worley. “So, we bring Christmas right to their beds.”

“It's a really great feeling to see the smiles on some of their faces,” Hildebrandt added.

Hildebrandt and Worley encourage the community to help out in any way they can.

“The more support we get the better,” explained Hildebrandt. “100 percent of our donations go back to the community. Come out and support us.”

If you would like to request a toy, more information, or donate to the Toys for Tots program, please visit www.ToysForTots.org. For the High Desert area, children must be between ages 0-12.

Also, if you would like to donate, MCLB Barstow Marines encourage you to come out to one of the

upcoming events.

Nov. 28 - District 37 American Motorcycle Association's LA, Barstow to Vegas ride. Riders will stop at the Ramada Inn in Barstow to donate toys.

Nov. 29, 30 and Dec. 14 - Toy drive at Toys R Us, located at 12450 Amargosa Rd, Victorville. Marines will be present from approximately 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Dec. 6 - Softball tournament on MCLB Barstow for base personnel. Opening remarks will begin at 9 a.m. Entry is \$10 or a new and unwrapped toy.

Dec. 6 - Toys for Tots booth at the Harvey House from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Dec. 13 - Toys for Tots Car Show on MCLB Barstow's Parade Deck. Cars will begin parking at 7:30 a.m.

From now until Dec. 16 - MCLB Barstow's Fire Department will be collecting toys and cash donations at the front gate of the Nebo and Yermo Annexes of the base, every Tuesday from 5:45 to 7 a.m.



Courtesy photo

LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINS FOR AN ACTIVE SHOOTER

Story by:
Laurie Pearson
Public Affairs Specialist



Officers from the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif. police department participate in an active shooter scenario at the MCLBB Security and Emergency Services training facility on November 18. The exercise used simulated ammunition in order to allow participants to use their duty weapon while combating opposing force personnel.



Not everyone must face down the business end of a pistol. For law enforcement officers, however, there is an ever-increasing possibility of facing this looming threat as active shooter situations increase across the United States.

In an unclassified study conducted by the FBI, entitled 'A Study of Active Shooter Incidents in the United States Between 2000 and 2013,' published in September of 2013, there were 160 active shooter incidents in the United States. Of those, an average of 6.5 incidents occurred annually between 2000 and 2007, increasing to an average of 16.4 incidents annually between 2007 and 2013. That is an increase of approximately 250 percent in active shooter incidents during a 13-year period.

This threat has caused a shift in training for law enforcement officers, to include those for the Marine Corps Police Department located on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow.

"The Columbine shooting in Colorado was one which gained national attention," said Tom Streeter, lead law enforcement instructor on MCLBB Barstow.

"Normal law enforcement response (prior to the Columbine shooting) was to wait for specialized teams to arrive. This took a long time so a lot of people bled out and died. Post Columbine, tactics changed, so that now first officers on scene immediately go inside to engage the active shooter," continued Streeter.

There have been other changes as well, such as including emergency medical technicians with the rescue teams so they can provide more immediate life-saving first-aid to people who might have otherwise died, explained Streeter.

As a part of active shooter training exercises held during October and November, officers with the MCPD on MCLBB Barstow were engaged by individuals who role-played as bad guys. The role players fired weapons, loaded with simulated ammunition, or 'simmunition,' at officers who then engaged the threat.

Officers and role players use their duty firearms retrofitted with barrels designed to accommodate the simmunition during the exercises.

"Simmunition is the same as a live bullet, but the bullet is constructed of plastic and has paint in it (rather than lead)," said Streeter. "The simmunition and active shooter scenarios add an element of realism to the training. It's as close as you can get to the real thing."

"The good part about simmunition training is someone else is shooting back at you," said Sgt. Robert Johnson. "You have to react to rounds coming back at you and it teaches you to appreciate and use cover and concealment more."

The simmunition can cause bruising and even open abrasions at close range, so precautions are taken to limit injuries, such as protective masks with eyewear and throat coverage, long sleeved shirts, pants, as well as gloves.

"The training forces officers to react under pressure similar to

WORST CASE SCENARIO:

OTER

real world situations,” said Streeter. “The simulation hurts and gets (the officers) amped up. It forces them to think, while in stressful training environments, about things like tactics and communication while still adhering to deadly force policy.”

One key aspect of the training is ensuring that, despite pain and adversity, officers dig deep and persist in their efforts to protect and serve.

“In a real world shooting, you can’t just give up and quit. You’ve got to find the heart and tenacity to do the job,” explained Streeter.

Another component of the training is to teach law enforcement officers to avoid losing peripheral vision which can limit their ability to respond effectively.

“It teaches you to concentrate when adrenalin is up,” said officer Lyonel Vilfort. “It makes you more aware so you don’t get tunnel vision.”

The training included using angles to shoot around barriers while maintaining cover and utilizing tactical maneuvering around obstacles. Officers are also trained using firearms with their non-dominant hand to ensure that they can continue to engage a threat should their dominant hand be injured.

“The training reinforces drills we do on the range,” said officer Terri Albaugh.

The training builds muscle memory, intended to assist officers in responding effectively and efficiently in high-stress situations.

“When situations occur, officers don’t have to think (about a response) because it is automatic, with less hesitation and with increased technical skill in the response,” said Cpl. Roy Turnwall.

In addition, the training assists in streamlining cooperation between key participants in emergency responses.

“The emergency operations center, to include police officers, fire fighters, public works, and adjacent agencies, all learn to work together which will minimize communications and coordination issues,” stated Streeter.

With increased active shooter incidents, simulations and scenario based trainings will likely remain a key component of law enforcement training.



HISTORIC HOWITZER AT BARSTOW DESTINED FOR NATIONAL MUSEUM

Story and photo by:
Cindy McIntyre
Editorial Assistant

The weapon that fired the first documented shot of the ground engagement during the 1991 Persian Gulf War is being refurbished at Production Plant Barstow (PPB), Marine Depot Maintenance Command.

The M-198 howitzer, destined for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va., had undergone several modifications before it was tracked down by museum staff.

The howitzer was identified as historic, said Stefan Rohal, museum registrar. However, it was still needed for combat situations.

“(The howitzer eventually) found a permanent home at the museum,” he added.

The medium artillery piece was operated by Battery F, 2nd Battalion, 12th Marines during the Battle of Al Khafi that began as part of Operation Desert Storm. Nicknamed “Damn Yankee,” the howitzer was documented by field historians during the war as the weapon that fired the opening shot in support of Marine and coalition forces near the border of Saudi Arabia.

Doug Van Dyke, artillery repair supervisor at PPB, has overseen the restoration since the weapon’s arrival in February 2014. During a visit to the repair facility, he pointed out the various modifications that corrected one problem or another over the years. Those changes are being undone to return the howitzer to its original state. Pointing to the trails (the tow bar legs), he showed where shields had been welded over parts that were often sheared off during transport over rough terrain. That modification was removed and the trail sanded.

Although final assembly should take two days, waiting for the parts is another matter. Once completed, the howitzer will be sent to the paint shop to change its current green color to the tan markings used during the Gulf War. Then it will be shipped to the Quantico museum and put on display.

There was no archived manual showing the original “one-niner-eight” composition. Nor were there photographs showing it being used during Desert Storm. So how did the restoration team know what belonged and what didn’t?

“We had to find people who experienced the gun in its original form,” said Van Dyke. “We also had some of the modification instructions so we knew which widget needed to come off.”

David Jones, a former Marine who now works in the Trades Division on PPB as turret shop supervisor, manned an M-198 during his time in service. Although a nine-man crew is recommended, Jones said they often made do with fewer Marines.

Rohal said he tried to find the crew members who manned the howitzer on Jan. 21, 1991, but historical records were not that detailed. He said the museum requested the howitzer following its use in Desert Storm, but it remained active.

“In 2009, I knew the M-198s were coming out of service,” he said.

Using the serial number, he tracked it to the Ordnance Maintenance Company, 4th Maintenance Battalion, 4th Marine Logistics Group, Marine Forces Reserve in Waco, Texas.

Built at the Rock Island Arsenal in Illinois in 1984, the howitzer was overhauled at MCLB Barstow in October 1994. The M-198 can fire 155mm conventional ammunition up to 14 miles. It has since been replaced by the lighter-weight M-777 howitzer.



(From left to right) Peter Garcia and Barton Brown, heavy-mobile equipment mechanics with Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., work on the M-198 howitzer, Nov. 14. The howitzer fired the first documented shot of the ground engagement during the 1991 Persian Gulf War and is being refurbished here for the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Va.

SPOTLIGHT: MDMC HYDRAULIC SHOP

Compiled by:
Cpl. Norman Eckles
Mass Communications Specialist



Cesar Meneses, a contractor with the hydraulic shop on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., Yermo Annex, tests a brake booster for a light armored vehicle, Nov. 24.



John Alley, a hydraulics systems mechanic with the hydraulic shop on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., assembles a 17-pound fire bottle for the light armored vehicle, Nov. 24.



Luke Wirick, a hydraulics systems mechanic with the hydraulic shop on Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., charges a light armored vehicle's fire bottle, Nov. 24.

AROUND THE CORPS

A look at the Marine Corps outside of Barstow



Photo By: Sgt. Jamean Berry

CAMP PENDLETON, CALIFORNIA - U.S. Marines with India Battery, Battalion Landing Team 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, fire an M777A2 lightweight howitzer during MEU Exercise 14 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 18, 2014. The purpose of MEUEX is to train the different elements of the 15th MEU to work together to complete a wide variety of missions.



Photo By: Lance Cpl. John Baker

MARINE CORPS BASE TWENTYNINE PALMS, California - A CH-53E Sea Stallion Helicopter flies in for a simulated medical evacuation during the Tank Mechanized Assault Course aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Nov. 3, 2014. Even with a driver down, Company A, 1st Tank Battalion, was still able to successfully complete the mission.



Photo By: Sgt. Jamean Berry

CAMP HANSEN, Okinawa, Japan - Marines cheer on their teammates during a pugil stick bout Nov. 14 on Camp Hansen's Parade Field during a 3rd Intelligence Battalion field meet. The pugil stick competition served as the main event of the field meet, which drew a lot of excitement from a loud crowd. The Marines are with 3rd Intel. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:

AND THE DEBATE GOES ON?

Submitted By:
Chaplain Wayne MacRae
Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton

In just a matter of weeks Americans will be deep into the holiday rush. True to the American way our modern culture will again take up the debate of what the holiday should mean. Should we greet one another with 'Merry Christmas' or 'Happy Holidays'? Is this a season of religious significance or is it secular? Is it proper to recognize the seasonal significance for all faiths and traditions or none at all? Or is there some ground in between that we can agree on? Certainly in an increasingly diverse society the questions seem to become only more difficult to answer.

But if you would, allow me to suggest that this could all become much easier if we entertain one simple thought. "It is not about me!" If each of us could entertain that thought regarding our own self – we might just spare ourselves a certain degree of angst.

And when I say "it is not about me," I don't simply mean it is about others. Most emotionally and morally mature people understand the importance and value in looking out for the needs and interests of others. But I mean it is not about us – collectively -- we Americans! Unless you want it simply to be secular! If so, then find a way of connecting with others, express good cheer and wish each other a 'Happy Holiday.' But the centuries of background to the historic Christian tradition of Christmas is that it is about God. Don't get hung up on peripheral artifacts that have attached themselves to the Christmas

tradition over the years. Christmas trees, Yule logs, reindeer and Santa have nothing to do with the original observance. They are not necessarily wrong, but they are just clutter "we" have added.

And if it is not about us, then maybe we could entertain the notion that it is about God. Now I know that will not play well with the kids, but that is what the original story of Christmas states – it is not about me, it is not about you,

it is not about us. It is about God! The angels that first night did not say "Glory to Man," they proclaimed "Glory to God."

Christmas is about God's character, the very essence of His being that propels Him to care for the object of His love. And that my friends, the Scriptures state, is me, you – us! It starts with the character and quality of God. The peace that we wish for during the holidays is the result of God's goodness and character.

If you reject this notion of God and His goodness can you still experience joy and happiness in the season? Of course you can, as long as you can

find constancy and consistency in a relationship that brings that! This

again is the meaning and significance of Christmas as presented in Scripture for those

who choose to accept it. That the God who presents Himself to us as unchanging and all-loving reached out to us beyond all reason to give us a joy that surpasses all understanding. That, my friend, is the true meaning of the season when "it is not about me!" Merry Christmas!



TOYS FOR TOTS



U.S. MARINE CORPS RESERVE

For more information visit www.toysfortots.org