

THE 75TH PROSPECTOR

Vol. 7, No. 8

Serving the Corps for 75 Years
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow April 26, 2018



NMCRS kicks off Active Duty Fundraising Drive

VPP 10-year anniversary

MCLBB weapons range updates comms

On The Cover:

Front Cover: Keith Hayes

Colonel Sekou Karega, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., joins in the fun during the Month of the Military Child parade at the Child Development Center aboard base, April 18.

Back Cover: Jack Adamyk

Runners, joggers, walkers, and parents pushing their children in strollers joined together to "Walk the Talk" during the NO More 5K, which brings awareness to Sexual Assault Prevention and Response aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 20.



Photos by: Jack Adamyk

Private First Class Jessica Hernandez, Military Volunteer of the Year awardee, and Alma Martinez, Civilian Volunteer of the Year awardee, stand between Colonel Sekou Karega, base commander, and Sgt. Maj. Sergio MartinezRuis, base sergeant major, during the Volunteer Recognition Ceremony on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 19.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Sekou S. Karega, commanding officer
Sgt. Maj. Sergio Martinezruiz, base sergeant major

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On the web

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<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Logistics-Base-MCLB-Barstow/116845431679314>

http://www.twitter.com/#!/MCLB_Barstow



Communicator of the Month

Christopher "Kit" Neuppert, is a native of San Bernardino, Calif. He served in the US Navy just shy of 9 years.

After being honorably discharged, he worked for United States Joint Forces Command for two years where he quickly became the lead manager for the Communications Tier One helpdesk. Following USJFCOM he quickly transitioned to working as a lead helpdesk technician in Afghanistan on Camp Leatherneck prior to moving to Barstow, Calif.

Since arriving onboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Kit has taken the role of Information Technology asset manager to the next level. He has created and executed well over 650 Asset Transfers and has lead the Windows 10 migration of roughly 405 laptops. He is also careful to ensure that all users onboard base have the proper gear to perform their functions.

He has proven to be one of the top asset managers in the region with praise coming from outside the command, such as from many contractors and civilians alike.

Kit Neuppert is a shining example of the greatness S-6 brings to MCLB Barstow. For these reasons, this is Neuppert's second time being chosen as the communicator of the month.



Official USMC photo

Christopher Neuppert, Information Technology asset manager, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

Got news? Call us! (760) 577-6430

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News Briefs

Leave Share Program

Individuals currently affected by medical emergencies and in need of leave donations:

Bernal, Michael
Edwards, Anthony
Jones, Anna
Madero, Annette
Oppermann, William
Ulmer, Wayne

Anyone desiring to donate annual leave under the Leave Share Program should contact the Human Resources Office at 577-6915.

Sugar Loaf Hill Bar

Bldg. 38

Fri. April 27

4 - 9 p.m.

Come on down and have fun with your friends and co-workers at happy hour from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. Snacks such as mozzarella sticks, nachos, chicken tenders, fries and more are available for purchase. Enjoy a game of darts and pool.

Infant Massage Class

**Desert View Housing
Community Center**

Wed. May 2

9 - 10 a.m.

Each 5-week series teaches massage techniques and the benefits of infant massage therapy promoting attachment and bonding between the caregiver and child. Workshops are designed for parents of infants ages 0-1. Parents of toddlers and with multiples children are welcome. Registration is recommended but not required. To register or to get more information, call New Parent Support at 577-6533.

Spin Class

Semper Fit Gym

Tues. May 1

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Classes are taught by our qualified instructor to motivating music with a variety of standing and stationary positions. For more information call 577-6817.

Yoga

Semper Fit Gym

Wed. May 2

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Classes are taught by our qualified instructor to soft relaxing music, a variety of standing and stationary positions with comfortable stretches and poses. For more information call 577-6817.

Baby Boot Camp

Stroller Walk

Semper Fit Gym

Thurs. May 3

9 - 10 a.m.

Come on down to the gym for a hardcore, fun walk around the base. For more information call 577-6817.

Story Time & Craft

School Age Care Center

Bldg. 64

Tues. May 1

10 - 11 a.m.

Story time and Craft is geared towards babies and toddler age children. We read stories, sing songs and make crafts! We learn how to sit quietly, listen and share with our friends! For more information call Library Services at 577-6395.



Play Morning

**Desert View Housing
Community Center**

Fri. April 27

9 - 11 a.m.

Come join in the fun! Play morning is every Friday. All active duty service members and their dependents are invited to come enjoy singing, stories, crafts and have structured play time with toys and interactive time learning how to socialize babies and toddlers. Make new friends and learn something new each week. For more information contact New Parent Support at 577-6533.

Operation Tobacco Free Marine

Semper Fit Gym

Mon. May 7

11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The "Operation Tobacco Free Marine" Tobacco Cessation Program provides the tools and resources to help you become tobacco free. Individual and group classes are available to the entire Marine Corps community.

Energy Tip

95% of the water used daily is wasted. Even the smallest actions, such as reducing your shower by 1 minute, can save gallons of water.

MCLBB a VPP Star 10 years running

Story by: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Chief

April 19 marked the 10-year anniversary of when Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., received official notification that the base was approved as a Voluntary Protection Program Star Site.

“VPP Star status is the highest accomplishment that comes from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration,” said Sara Montez-Diaz, safety and occupational health specialist and alternate VPP coordinator. “To become a Star site it is showing the recognition for employers and employees who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards. It is based around the development, implementation and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.”

The notification that MCLB Barstow earned Star status came from OSHA, which operates the VPP program. The award came after a rigorous process of necessary change with regard to base safety.

“In 2002, the base was recognized as having one of the worst ‘lost production day rates’ and highest ‘injury rates’ throughout the Department of Defense,” said Ray Aguilar, Base Safety manager, and VPP lead agent. “The base command staff and leadership committed to making a change with this performance record and focused its attention on improving our safety efforts.”

From 2002 through 2005, the base made tremendous improvements in its safety efforts and reduced its injury rates from 9.21 to 3.2 per year, Aguilar explained.

“At this point, we began to struggle to reduce rates further,” Aguilar said. “I had experience with VPP at a previous job and convinced the leadership that VPP was the next step to assist us in reducing our injury rates even further.”

The process began with Aguilar attending a VPP conference, then receiving the base commanding officer’s approval, at that time. They then rallied base leadership’s commitment to move forward with the program in November 2005.

“We secured union commitment and established the VPP committees in Jan 2006,” Aguilar said.

The committee leaders conducted a formal VPP kick-off event with several VIP’s to include the Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment, the Hon. B.J. Penn, and the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations West, Maj. General Lehnert, in attendance in March 2006.”

Aguilar served as the first VPP Special Government Employee for the base. Now there are 13 SGEs: Ray

Aguilar, Ruby Adams, Reah Andrews, Danielle Heinze, Brian Korves, Sara Montez-Diaz, Dave Romero, Isaac Padilla, Michael Reyes, Ray Stockman, Danny Strand, Joann Williams, and Latham Woods.

“Since becoming a VPP Star Site, MCLB Barstow has trained and certified 20 SGEs, who have engaged in the following: conducted 48 VPP onsite assessments, three of which were overseas; provided 18 SGEs in support of DoD pre-audit assessments; conducted over 70 VPP assistance visits and mentoring sessions; hosted nine site visits from aspiring VPP sites; provided 11 VPP briefings to senior officials and VIPs,” Aguilar said.

The VPP program changes the safety culture of an organization and empowers all of its personnel to look out for the safety of themselves and their team members, explained Aguilar. It helps to make an organization more efficient and productive and increases employee morale by instilling a personal sense of ownership in safety and communications. Evidence of this is in the numbers. The current injury rate for the base is now down to just one per year.

“We use the Continued Process Improvement guidelines within our VPP methods,” Aguilar said. “In doing so, the future plan is the expansion of VPP across the DoD.”

This base is recognized as a VPP leader within DoD and the goal is to make the VPP program even greater over the next 10 years.

“We are proud of our VPP program,” Diaz said. “We’re even more proud that we can that say our employees own this and will continue to make progress in order to maintain VPP Star status for the next 10, 15, 20 years!” 🏆



Guest speakers address child abuse

Story by: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Chief

The base's Behavioral Health division hosted guest speakers Dawn Herring, a licensed marriage and family therapist, and Dr. Nikki Rotert, a licensed psychologist, to speak to military personnel and civilians about child abuse prevention at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 11.

The women have a combined 50 years of service in the field of family relationships to include child abuse awareness and prevention, as well as child mental health. Both women echoed the same concern for the statistics regarding child abuse.

"In 2016, 1,750 children were lost to maltreatment," said Herring. "Of those deaths, 80 percent resulted at the hand of a parent."

These numbers do not account for accidents. Physical abuse is the non-accidental harm of a child. Often, physical abuse begins after an escalation process through neglect, humiliation and exploitation, explained Herring.

"Exploitation is generally about power and control," said Herring. "Humiliation is about isolation and may include belittling. Neglect can be general or severe. Child endangerment may be something such as witnessing a domestic violence incident."

As part of the presentation, Herring played a video clip from a Ted Talk presentation highlighting Nadine Burke Harris, a pediatrician and child welfare advocate serving the San Francisco area. In the video, she addresses a study conducted by Dr. Vince Felitti and associates called Adverse Childhood Experiences. The purpose of the study was to assess the correlation between ACEs, including abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction, to the risk of not just mental health issues as an adult, but on physical health issues. The study uses

a questionnaire, and then a basic scoring system. The study results indicate that the higher the ACEs score, the higher the likelihood that the individual will experience higher rates of depression and even suicide. The results also indicate a higher risk of physical health issues to include asthma, lung cancer, heart disease and more.

Harris quoted Dr. Robert Block, former president of the American Academy of Pediatrics as saying that "adverse childhood experiences are the single most damaging threat to kids." She pointed out that childhood trauma can cause the brains of developing children to get locked into fight or flight mode, reprogramming the hypothalamic-pituitary portion of the brain.

Some of this trauma can come from simple misunderstandings in communications between children and adults, explained Dr. Rotert. One example she gave was regarding "the message of the green beans."

"When I was a child, I didn't like green beans," Rotert said. "My parents were a part of the 'clean plate club.'"

She went on to describe an ongoing battle between her and her parents as she continued to refuse to eat green beans until they finally force fed them to her by grabbing her face and forcing them down her throat. What the adults understood was that these incidents were a struggle for power and control. What her child-brain learned was the adults think green beans are a big deal; green beans were evil, and she could sit for a very long time at the kitchen table. She, as a child, had no concept of what the adults were trying to teach her.

"This is such a common issue between parents and their children," Rotert said. To understand what lessons a child is learning, the parents must step back and calmly think as their child would.



Photo by: Jack Adamyk

Dawn Herring, who currently works at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton as a clinical supervisor in the Community Counseling Center, speaks to civilian employees and Marines in the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center memorial building aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 11.

"We all generally crave the same things in a relationship," Herring said. "I call it TESHED. We want to be Touched. We want Eye-contact. We want to be Seen and Heard. We want to be Delighted in."

She gave an example of an infant being loved on by a parent.

"We ooh and ahh at them. We look at them, smile at them, and play with them," Herring said. "We are delighting in them and they know it! They respond in kind and with joy. Just like they also know if they're not being delighted in... perhaps they're being ignored because the parent is stuck looking at Facebook."

In adult relationships, the needs are no different. Partners want eye contact rather than talking at someone who has their eyes glued to their phones. Other examples she cited include being responsive to phone calls or text messages; hugging and intimacy; doing the things people say they will do.

Another acronym Herring used for recognizing healthy relationships was ARP.

"Are they Available?" Herring asked. "I mean available in every way. Are they Reliable? Do they do the things they say they will do? Can you depend on them? Are

Guest speaker continued page 7

Horse Marine named NCO of the Quarter

Story and photo by: Keith Hayes
CommStrat Planner

A stableman is the Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., for the first quarter of 2018.

Sergeant Emily C. Rowe, a member of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, was picked as NCO of the Quarter even though she had been at MCLB Barstow only since January.

"I'd like to think I was chosen for the recognition because I have good command presence and I try to be a role model for the younger Marines," Rowe said. "I was loud and proud standing before the board and I answered all of their questions confidently."

Staff Sgt. Esteban Jauregui, MCG, said Rowe has leadership qualities that make her a good choice for Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter.

"Sergeant Rowe has only been here a short time but has amply demonstrated the ability to step in and take charge when needed," Jauregui said.

"She has assumed duties and responsibilities above her rank and title and has presented herself as someone the younger Marines can aspire to be like."

As with all women enlisting in the Marine Corps, Rowe went through recruit training at Parris Island, S.C.

"I chose to join the Marines because they're the best," Rowe said. "My father and uncles had been in the Army and Air Force, but I wanted the Marine Corps."

Rowe said she was born in the heart of horse country, also known as "Big Sky Country," Billings, Mont., and later moved to Great Falls.


That makes her an exception to the usual Marine assigned to the MCG, whom typically has no prior horse experience.

During her first posting at Joint Base McGuire—Dix—Lakehurst, N.J., where she worked as a flight equipment technician, Rowe heard about the MCG and MCLB Barstow.

Being the horseperson that she is, she immediately applied to be assigned to MCLBB, and didn't stop until she got the orders.

"I love being on MCLB Barstow because at the joint base where I spent my first full enlistment, it didn't really have facilities that catered to Marines. Even at the dining facility, I had to pay cash instead of swiping my card because if you weren't Air Force, Navy or Army you weren't supposed to be eating there."

Despite its small size, Rowe said MCLB Barstow is the real deal as far as she is concerned.

"I like being on a real Marine Corps base," Rowe said. "It's a nice change." 



Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Sgt. Emily C. Rowe, exercises her horse, John, at the Lt. Col. Robert Lindsley Stables aboard the Yermo Annex of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., April 16. The native of Billings, Mt., is a rarity among the Marines assigned to the Mounted Color Guard, as she has extensive experience with horses.

Guest speaker continued

you a Priority?"

While both women spoke of the importance of intervention for the welfare of children, Rotert cautioned members of the audience to temper the tendency to criticize parents dealing with a difficult child.

"The next time you see a child throwing a temper tantrum in the middle of a store, temper the urge to criticize them and instead try a different tactic," Rotert said. "I like to say something off the wall like 'isn't it amazing that all toddlers have the same choreographer? They all know that for a good tantrum

they have to yell, then throw themselves on the floor, then kick their feet, then hit the floor with their fists.'"

She said that, more often than not, the embarrassed parent will be relieved and their building temper will diffuse rather than escalate.

While ACEs do give a score and a path to understanding the effects of childhood on the physical and mental well-being of an adult as a result of their past, it does not end there. Once someone has done their evaluation, they are encouraged to then give that number to their primary care physician as well as a behavioral health professional so that people can embark on their

journey of healing.

"Healing doesn't mean that the damage never happened," Rotert said. "It means that it no longer controls you."

With proper health care and proper therapy such as cognitive-behavioral intervention, people can change the course of their physical and mental well-being.

To take the ACEs assessment, or for more information about child abuse awareness, prevention, and treatment, contact representatives of Behavioral Health at 577-6533.



MCLBB Supply passes major inspection

Story and photos by: Keith Hayes
CommStrat Planner

The personnel with the S-4 Logistics Department aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., are not resting on their laurels after passing major scrutiny from a Headquarters Marine Corps team.

A Supply Maintenance Analysis Team subjected S-4 Logistics Department to an in-depth inspection lasting two weeks in March 2018.

S-4 passed with 85 percent, an improvement by three points over the SMAT a year ago.

Gunnery Sgt. Joel Berberena, S-4 property chief, explained that the SMAT inspection is a tune-up for the Field Supply and Maintenance Analysis Office inspection, which takes place every two years.

Even though 85 percent is a good score, the gunny is not satisfied with just good.

"We improved. Am I happy? No, I'm not happy at all," Berberena said. "We should do better. Ninety-plus is where we want to be."

"I can tell you where my stuff is, that's never going to be an issue,"

he continued. "The attention to detail is where we need to improve on. We have to make sure things are endorsed properly within the required time frame. (All paperwork) is now stored for ten years."

"These inspections are extremely important," agreed Richard Green, S-4 deputy director. "They make sure that we have our internal controls in place. They make sure we're complying with Marine Corps policy and regulations."

Green pointed out the job of Supply aboard any Marine base has grown in scope and size in recent years. It is all-encompassing, not just the gear issued to incoming Marines, but all property from base supply, base property, garrison retail supply, hazmat, bulk fuel, and armory and ammunition.

"We buy the toilet paper that goes in the barracks. We house all of the supplies for Serve Mart," Berberena said. "Riding boots for the Mounted Color Guard, equipment for the horses at the stables, you name it."

"We account for CD drives and hard drives, the little things," he continued. "Things you used to buy and just hand out, now they have

to be in a database and make sure we're keeping track."

"Over one thousand (supply) transactions involving computers were conducted during the base-wide changeover to (the Windows 10 computer platform)."

With twelve Marines assigned to it, Logistics has one of the largest contingents of uniformed personnel of any other organization aboard base, but Civilian Marines also play an active role in keeping the vital department running.

"If you do day to day operations how you're supposed to, by the book, then an inspection is just another day," Reah Andrews, supervisor, Hazardous Materials and bulk fuel handler, said.

"It takes a team," agreed Lisa Almanza, lead supply technician. "Everyone in our department works very hard and I think that's what makes us function well."

"Supply and money, logistics and finances, you need those to run a business," Berberena said. "You need those to run a command."



Private First Class Paola Verdugo, supply technician, examines a noncommissioned officer ceremonial sword stored in Warehouse 8, April 6. This is just one of thousands of pieces of equipment S-4 Logistics keeps track of aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.



Lance Cpl. Austin Sorrenson, warehouse NCO, and Pfc Paola Verdugo, property clerk, S-4 Logistics, inventory a container of equipment in Warehouse 8 aboard MCLB Barstow April 6. Every three months every department aboard base has to count and report what supplies and equipment they have on hand.

MCLBB weapons range upgrades comm

Story and photo by: Keith Hayes
CommStrat Planner

The new state-of-the-art Low Altitude Range Communications System currently being installed at the weapons range will increase safety during live-fire training aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

The new LARCS will also give range personnel a capability they have never had before.

“The system will be able to communicate with ground troops as well as low flying military aircraft to ensure the safety of personnel and equipment while training is occurring,” said Dane Lesch, Marine Corps Installations West G-6 Radio Services manager.

“The LARCS will also allow for the recording of all communications between training units as well as aircraft,” said Staff Sgt. Nicholas Hensley, MCLBB range control officer.

Civilian personnel and contractors from MCIWest began installing the new LARCS the week of April 9 to bring the range up to the requirements of the MCIWest-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton Range and Training Area Standard Operating Procedures manual which mandates that each range have two different forms of communications, Lesch explained.

Currently, MCLBB has an Enterprise Land Mobile Radio system installed allowing communications between training units using handheld radios.

“The LARCS will also be tied into MCIWest G-6 Radio Services at MCB Camp Pendleton for monitoring, management, and maintenance purposes,” he added.

While MCIWest communications personnel are doing the installation, S-6 Communications aboard MCLBB is providing vital assistance as well.

“They are coordinating with various base entities; installing all base fiber cable requirements, premises wiring at the Range Control Facility, as well as assisting with some repair and update services,” Lesch said.

The LARCS does come with tunable radios which could also allow them to communicate with low flying commercial and private aircraft should it become necessary, Lesch pointed out.

“Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, MCB Camp Pendleton and Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms have LARCS installed while MCAS Miramar and Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport have rudimentary systems in need of updates,” he said.

Security to keep hackers from either physically or digitally breaking into the system is much more intense.

“Physically LARCS is installed in a new, more secured communications shelter with entry alarms,” Lesch said. “The system itself utilizes two factor authentication for access to the network and the trunked system is encrypted.”

In the end there is one overriding purpose to the LARCS; keeping people safe.

“As the mission of ranges aboard MCLB Barstow grows and the potential for additional maneuvers expands,” Lesch said, “there is a requirement to ensure the safety of personnel on the ground and to communicate with aircraft passing over live fire,” he said.



Gary Mossa, Marine Corps Installations West G-6 Radio Services, discusses the new communications system being installed at the weapons range aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow with Lance Cpl. Brendan T. McDowell, wire chief, Communications Department, April 10.



Reah Andrews nails two awards

Story by: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Chief

Reah Andrews, Hazardous Materials supervisor and Fuels Management officer for Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif., has been awarded not one, but two, highly coveted awards this month.

The first award is a local Supervisor of the Quarter award which she received at the Quarterly Awards Breakfast ceremony held at the Maj. Gen. James L. Day Conference Center on base, April 17.

"During 2017, Mrs. Andrews' unwavering initiative contributed greatly to the quality support provided to our customers," stated Colonel Sekou S. Karega, commanding officer aboard MCLB Barstow. "This was evident during numerous anonymous Interactive Customer Evaluation system comments, complimenting Mrs. Andrews for her unwavering customer support, 'go to' attitude and support to mission."

Andrews supervises six employees in addition to her other areas of operation.

"Reah is an outstanding leader and employee who understands the commander's intent," said Maj. Alfredo Romero, S-4 director. "You give her a task and she will execute it flawlessly. She is a great people person and what we provide in the S-4 is customer support. I expect her to go places and make bigger impacts in the near future."

When tasked with another duty as assigned, she has a reputation of completing the task while keeping a people-first attitude.

"Constantly switching hats between programs with so many moving parts, keeps me on my toes," Andrews said. "Luckily I have a highly functional team at the hazardous materials warehouse. They allow for

impeccable day to day operations of receiving, labeling, transferring and delivery of hazmat materials."

Her strength as a leader comes from individual characteristic traits such as her constant sense of gratitude, and her ability to persuade others. Getting involved with these programs has allowed her to interact with myriad professionals and she uses these opportunities and connections for personal growth.

"Mrs. Andrews is an intelligent, strong, persuasive and knowledgeable leader who has a clear sense of direction and purpose," said Richard Green, S-4 Logistics deputy director. "Her unbridled leadership comes to the forefront in her support for her employees. She is very professional and always on target for mission accomplishment."

In addition to SOQ, Andrews was nominated and awarded Marine Corps Fuel Civilian of the Year. Her chain-of-command submitted her nomination to the director of Naval Supply Systems Command's Energy Office. Notification came back of her award, with details on date, time and location of ceremony yet to be determined.

"As part of Mrs. Andrews' daily responsibilities, she is directly involved in the following: Supervise all integrated fuel operations aboard MCLB Barstow; perform liaison with fuel service customers, activity departments, and government agencies; perform operational maintenance of bulk fuel facilities and equipment; oversee fuel storage and transfer operations with tankers, refuelers, convoys, and heavy equipment; oversee the receipt and issue of six grades of capitalized fuel; plan and initiate military construction, repair, and improvement fuel projects aboard MCLB Barstow," Romero said.



Official USMC photo

During 2017, Andrews also single-handedly accomplished the successful end of month and end of year closeouts with six grades of fuel. She passed all underground and above-ground storage tank inspections. Because of her proactive work ethic, she maintained the Mojave Desert Air Quality District permits, explained Romero. She also issued and inventoried over 480 Fuel Keys, processed 10,702 sales transactions, and posted over 2,190 physical inventories.

"For fuel construction projects, Mrs. Andrews participated in the planning, development, and final approval of over 2 million dollars' worth of modernization aboard the Yermo Annex and 1.2 million dollars' worth of modernization aboard the Nebo main with DLA Energy, U.S. Naval Supply Systems Command, Army Corps of Engineers and local advisors," Romero said. "She also oversaw the completion of over \$208K in maintenance service requests and her bulk fuel support helped MCLB Barstow rail operations move over 356 tons of cargo and over 24,350 pieces of U.S. Army and Marine

Andrews continued page 11

NMCRS kicks off annual fundraising

Story by: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Chief

Navy Marine Corps Relief Society kicked off its annual active duty fundraising efforts this month aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

Gunnery Sergeant Justin Kratzer, radio maintenance chief and the NMCRS representative for the base, hosted an event on base, April 9, to present information about the organization to Marines in an effort to raise awareness and interest in participation. There are several ways to get involved, such as donating money or time for the cause.

"The easiest way people can get involved is by volunteering at the thrift store," Kratzer said. "Since volunteers are constantly coming and going due to Permanent Change of Station orders and life experiences, more volunteers are always welcome."

People can also donate items to the thrift store, such as unused or gently used furniture, clothing, home décor, movies and more. The donations can even benefit those doing the donating. All items donated are then sorted, tagged and sold by the volunteers and the money goes to NMCRS in order to help military personnel and their families.

"Speak to a volunteer inside the store and they will provide those donating with a slip that can be filled out and later used as a tax deduction," Kratzer explained.

Monetary donations are always welcome, as well. The Active Duty Fundraising Drive allows for four options to donate money:

- Automatic allotment (Active Duty Marines and Sailors only)
- Cash
- Check
- Credit Card

"The purpose of NMCRS is to provide emergency and relief services to active duty and retired Marines and Sailors in a time of crisis or other need," Kratzer said. "Founded in 1904, the NMCRS is a private, non-profit charitable organization whose purpose is to assist Navy and Marine Corps personnel and their families in time of need. The Society's principal activity is the disbursement of emergency interest-free loans and grants."

In addition, they offer the following types of services and more:

- Visiting nurse services
- Infant layettes
- Food lockers
- Financial assistance
- Financial counseling
- Quick assistance loans (not inclusive to Barstow)
- Education assistance, scholarships and loans
- Health education
- Post-combat support
- Budget for baby
- Emergency travel
- Disaster relief
- Thrift store

"Since I have been here, I have helped four clients using NMCRS," Kratzer explained. "Throughout all of the ADFD Events I have conducted, over \$7,500 has been raised, while providing \$8,439 in assistance. Each installation is provided a 30-day window for the ADFD annually. MCLB Barstow started our event on April 9 and it will conclude on May 4."

If you would like to donate, or volunteer your time, contact Gunnery Sgt. Kratzer at (760) 577-6194, or via email at Justin.kratzer@usmc.mil.



Andrews continued

Corps operational equipment."

Her duties don't stop there, though. Andrews volunteered to become a Special Government Employee with the Voluntary Protection Program, a safety program which falls under the purview of Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

"As an SGE, Andrews was requested to assist in the Audit of the Phillips 66 Santa Maria, Calif., refinery," Romero said. "She was selected and has completed the New Leader Program through

Graduate School USA and she is now nearing completion of her Bachelors of Science degree in Social Psychology."

Being active and multi-tasking runs in her family. One of her hobbies is keeping up with a lively teenage daughter. Between softball, flag, and cheerleading she keeps Andrews busy.

"I also have an incredibly supportive husband that supports me as I continue my journey to higher education," Andrews said. "In May I'll conclude my undergraduate degree. In the summer I'll apply for graduate

school. My desire to learn is never quenched."





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