

# THE PROSPECTOR



Vol. 14, No. 7

Serving the Corps since 1943  
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

April 11, 2024



**Spring**  
*into*  
**Action!**

**Pinwheels for Prevention**  
**Drunk Driving Awareness**  
**Dispatch Appreciation**



## ON THE COVER

Cover photo by: Kristyn Galvan

*Sergeant Major Miller Daceus, base sergeant major at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, puts a pinwheel in the ground as part of Pinwheels for Prevention at the Child Development Center on base, April 3, 2024. April is national **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, dedicated to raising awareness for this crime.*



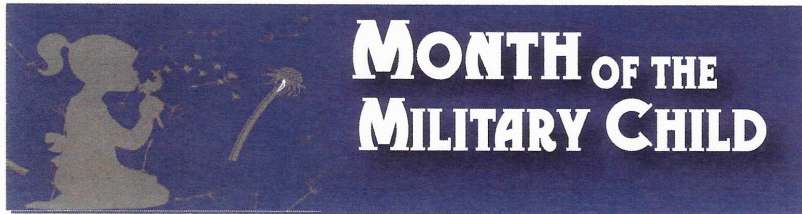
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Gregory B. Pace, commanding officer  
Sgt. Maj. Miller Daceus, base sergeant major

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**APRIL IS THE MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD**

**CDC ANNUAL EVENT WILL BE:**

**APRIL 17, 2024 @ 2:30-4:30**

**BLDG. 372 CDC PARKING LOT/ PARADE DECK**

**WE WILL TAKE OUR SUPPORT WALK WITH THE MARINE MOUNTED COLOR GUARD HORSES. THERE WILL BE SNOW CONES, POPCORN, COTTON CANDY, GAMES, PRIZES ALONG WITH A PETTING ZOO. THERE WILL BE RESOURCE TABLES WITH GREAT INFORMATION AT THIS EVENT.**



## APRIL SPECIAL EDITION PROSPECTOR

For the month of April, each edition of The Prospector will have a special "Spring into Action" theme, in order to connect everyone at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, bringing awareness and inspiring stepping forward to make a change. Highlighted events will include: **Child Abuse Prevention Month**, **Sexual Abuse Prevention and Response**, **National Volunteer Month**, **Semper Durus**, **Earth Day**, **Month of the Military Child** and more!







Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Marine Corps Community Services hosted a Drive, Chip & Putt event at Memorial Golf Course, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, April 6, 2024. The event was open to all junior boys and girls, ages 7-15, in honor of April being

*Month of the Military Child*. The event showcased different competitions at various skill levels for the children. Prizes, a bounce house, and food was available for participants to support the Marine Corps Ball Committee.

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**2024 Child Abuse Prevention Month  
MCLB Barstow, California**

**Proclamation  
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Child Abuse Prevention Month has been recognized during the month of April across the nation since 1983 in efforts to raise awareness of abuse and mobilize a community of support. This Year's 2024 Child Abuse Prevention Month's theme is:

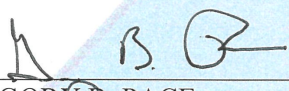
**"MilParents Rock: Rock-Solid Families Start Here"**

Parents may not always feel like they have everything under control, but the reality is that plenty of other parents feel the same way. We want to help parents build a solid foundation for well-being that will help them feel secure and be a rock for their children. By providing them with community and peer support, we are giving them the tools for their parenting journey. This gives the positive parenting angle vibrancy and sends the message, "You rock, parents!"

I call upon all members of the Marine Corps family to include military parents, military community members and military leaders. Let's all stand up against child abuse together by continuing to build our communities' awareness by connecting parents to information and resources, lending a hand to parents in need and recognizing that we all play a crucial part to our children's safety. Standing united in this battle against child abuse is the key to our readiness, together we can eradicate child abuse! I hereby proclaim the month of April as:

**CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow seeks to build awareness and increase the use of positive parenting resources to help military parents have adequate tools to help prevent child abuse and neglect at the installation by reaching parents earlier in the prevention spectrum. If you have concerns about your child's safety reach out to the Family Advocacy Program at 760-577-6533.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
GREGORY B. PACE  
Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commanding Officer  
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

20240215

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Child Abuse  
Prevention



# Child Abuse Prevention Month

Story by: Sgt. Anika Avila  
CommStrat Specialist

Child abuse happens to more than 600,000 children in the United States, meaning 1 in every 7 children are abused, the National Children's Alliance website reports. To help raise awareness for this form of abuse, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives declared June 6-12 National Child Abuse Prevention Week. A year later, April was proclaimed as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

The national theme for this year's observance is 'Building a Hopeful Future Together'. Michelle Adams, a Family Advocacy Program prevention and education specialist at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Behavioral Health explains the base's local theme for CAP month.

"This year's theme is 'MilParents Rock: Rock solid families start here'," Adams said. "We want to help parents build a solid foundation for well-being that will help them feel secure and be a rock for their children. By providing them with community and peer support, we are giving them the tools to rock their parenting journey."

Adams said the most important thing people can do to prevent child abuse from happening is to receive education on the risk factors, signs, symptoms, and resources available. This knowledge enables people to not only have that knowledge for themselves but to have the ability to share valuable information with those in need. To help promote healthy families, Behavioral Health offers a variety of classes including Triple P Parenting, Grow parenting classes, New Parent Support Program, and anger and stress management classes.

In addition to equipping oneself with knowledge, it is important to report any known or suspected abuse. However, to do this, one must know what child abuse is and what forms it could take.

"Child abuse is the physical, sexual, emotional abuse, or neglect of a child by a parent, guardian, foster parent, or by a caregiver, whether the caregiver is interfamilial or extra-familial, under circumstances indicating the child's welfare is harmed or threatened," Adams explained.

She went on to say any child can be a victim of child abuse, as the abuse does not discriminate and can happen to anyone regardless of race, ethnicity, financial status, or education level. Primary abusers are usually parents, caregivers, extra-familial caregivers, or other family members. Rarely is this form of abuse committed by an unknown person.

Although there can be a variety of reasons that trigger child abuse, Adams explained some of the common reasons.

"There may be many things that provoke child abuse such as isolation, lack of support, financial pressures, history of being abused, et cetera," she said. "However, increasing protective factors such as enrolling in parenting classes can decrease the likelihood of abuse happening and give parents resources and tools to educate them on healthy parent and child relationships."

Adams continued to explain that child abuse can include unexplainable physical injuries or bruising or marks, injuries to parts of the body that normally are not hurt, or patterned marks on the child's body or both sides of their body. Abrupt behavior changes, stealing or begging for food and money, not having supervision, and being frequently absent can be other signs of child abuse.

This form of abuse can be physical, mental, and emotional and can lead to neglect.

"Physical abuse is the intentional



use of force that can result in physical injury," Adams said. "Sexual abuse involves pressuring or forcing a child to engage in sexual acts. Emotional abuse refers to behaviors that harm a child's self-worth or emotional well-being. Neglect is the failure to meet a child's basic physical and emotional needs."

All forms of abuse have short-term and long-term effects on the child. Short-term effects can encompass fear, depression, acting out in anger, and running away, among other things. Long-term effects can include suicide, low self-esteem, or alcohol and substance abuse. Adams said that unless there is intervention or treatment, a child who suffers from abuse is also more likely to repeat patterns of abuse themselves.

"Child abuse has also been known to be linked to long-term health problems such as malnutrition, vision problems, high blood pressure, brain damage, functional limitations, and more," said Adams.

If child abuse is occurring, it is crucial to inform someone of the abuse before it is too late so further harm can be mitigated. Known or suspected abuse can be reported to the MCLB Barstow 24/7 helpline at 760-577-6484 or by calling the National California Hotline at 800-422-4453.





# Every 15 Minutes

Story by: Sgt. Anika Avila  
CommStrat Specialist

On April 4th and 5th, servicemembers from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow attended a professional military education opportunity at Silver Valley High School in Yermo, California. The school simulated a drunk driving scenario as part of California Highway Patrol's Every 15 Minutes campaign. The California Office of Traffic Safety provides funding to the California Highway Patrol so small grants can be allotted annually to 100 high schools throughout the state to perform Every 15 Minutes.

During the first day of the program, servicemembers and high school students were able to watch a simulated car crash. In the scenario, four high school students were racing two vehicles while driving under the influence and crashed. Local law enforcement, the MCLB Barstow fire department, and emergency medical responders simulated real-life responses to the crash. Two of the teenagers involved in the crash survived, one was fatally wounded on site, and the fourth

teenager was medically evacuated via helicopter before succumbing to his extensive injuries.

On the second day of the program, a funeral was reenacted for the two teenagers who were killed, showing the audience the widespread impact drunk driving has on people.

The Every 15 Minutes program is designed to challenge high school juniors and seniors to think about drinking, driving, personal safety, the responsibility of making mature decisions, and the impact their decisions have on family, friends, their community, and many others, the California Highway Patrol website states.



Photo by: Sgt. Anika Avila

During the simulation, firefighters from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow fire department carry a "wounded" teenager on a stretcher to a helicopter to be medically evacuated at Silver Valley High School in Yermo, California, April 4, 2024. The evacuation showed servicemembers from MCLB Barstow and high school students the negative impact getting behind the wheel while intoxicated.

driving is always a choice, and one bad decision can negatively impact so many lives.

Although Every 15 Minutes is tailored specifically to teenagers, its lesson applies to everyone. In 2021, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reported that 13,384 people were killed in the United States due to drunk-driving crashes. All deaths could have been prevented.

To safely operate a vehicle, drivers must have full function of the brain and the ability to think, reason, and have normal muscle coordination. Because alcohol is a substance that limits all these functions, safety is significantly jeopardized when driving under the influence, NHTSA describes.

The NHTSA explained that as alcohol levels rise in a person's system, the negative effects on the central nervous system increase. The substance is absorbed through the walls of the small intestine and stomach before moving into the bloodstream and accumulating until it is metabolized by the liver.

A person's alcohol level is measured by the weight of the



Photo by: Sgt. Anika Avila

Firefighters from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow fire department use the Jaws of Life in response to a simulated 911 call for a drunk-driving crash at Silver Valley High School in Yermo, California, April 4, 2024. The drunk driving scenario was reenacted as part of California Highway Patrol's Every 15 Minutes campaign, a program targeted to make high school students consider the consequences of drinking and driving.

During the program at Silver Valley High School, school staff and speakers reiterated that there is no such thing as a drunk-driving accident, only crashes. Every 15 Minutes showed that drunk



# s: Drunk Driving



Photo by: Sgt. Anika Avila

*Silver Valley High School put on a performance of Every 15 Minutes at Silver Valley High School in Yermo, California, April 4 and 5, 2024. On the second day of the program, a simulated funeral was held where testimonies were given by parents of the deceased, showing attendees the significant impact drunk driving has on so many people.*

alcohol in a certain volume of blood, also known as Blood Alcohol Concentration or BAC, NHTSA states. A BAC of .08 grams of alcohol per deciliter of blood immensely increases the risk of crashing. Driving with a BAC of .08 or more is illegal in all states, although crashes still occur with a lower BAC.

The University of Texas at Austin University Health Services says that numerous things impact a person's BAC, but alcohol tolerance is not one of them. A person's BAC will rise in response to the number of drinks and how quickly the drinks were consumed. A person's size, body composition, gender, additional drug usage, and food consumption can also play a role in how quickly someone's BAC will rise.

Although a person may feel fine after drinking, it is critical to know what counts as one drink, and how much alcohol each drink contains. The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism states that one drink is approximately 14 grams of pure alcohol. This equates to a 12-ounce beer with 5% alcohol, five ounces of wine at 12% alcohol, or 1.5 ounces of distilled spirits

comprised of approximately 40% alcohol.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans 2020-2025, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Agriculture clarifies that adults of legal drinking age should only drink in moderation. This means limiting intake to two drinks

or less a day for men, and one drink or less in a day for women.

The consequences of driving while under the influence or intoxication are severe and the decision to get behind the wheel should not be taken lightly. As was portrayed in the Every 15 Minutes reenactment, drunk driving can result in fatalities and injuries. The Department of Motor Vehicles California also outlines that driving while under the influence can result in imprisonment, fines,

vehicle impoundment, civil lawsuits, criminal records, and having driving privileges suspended.

With the consequences of drunk driving so great, everyone must be responsible concerning the choices they make. The Centers for Disease Control recommends making a plan if you will be drinking. Designating a driver and calling a rideshare program or taxi can all protect you from getting behind the wheel while under the influence. It is also important to be aware of any prescriptions or over-the-counter medications you are taking. Some affect driving ability or may have side effects if taken with alcohol.

As Every 15 Minutes promotes, people must think before they drink. Be responsible with your choices and protect yourself and those around you by not drinking and driving. Also, be proactive in keeping the roads safe by reporting any drunk driving to 911.

If you or someone you know struggles with alcohol abuse, resources are available. Behavioral Health at MCLB Barstow provides substance abuse counseling services and can be reached at 760-577-6533. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services national helpline can be reached at 800-662-HELP (4357).





# Pinwheels for Prevention

Photos by: Kristyn Galvan  
Multimedia Specialist

*Colonel Gregory Pace, base commanding officer, Sgt. Maj. Daceus Miller, base sergeant major and Lt. Col. Arturo Mazanedo, base executive officer, join Marine Corps Community Services Barstow Behavioral Health to place pinwheels with children and teachers at the Child Development Center on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow on April 3, 2023.*

*Pinwheels are the national emblem of child abuse prevention. They signify a sense of playfulness and joy that encapsulates the essence of childhood. Pinwheels are a tangible reminder of the importance of fostering a nurturing environment for children and symbolize collective endeavors aimed at promoting community engagement and advocating for public policies that prioritize the prevention of child abuse.*





# Telecommunicators Appreciation Week

Story by: Laurie Pearson  
CommStrat Officer (Acting)

In recognition of the unparalleled work that dispatchers do daily, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow joins in on the celebration of National Public Safety Telecommunication Appreciation Week, April 14 - 20.

As the initial first responders, dispatchers receive calls throughout the day, ranging from the standard check on a person's driver's license to the less common, but critically important, request for emergency assistance.

"Our first concern is for the safety of the base, the personnel, and the families," said Kelley Arps, who has worked in MCLB Barstow's dispatch for more than 13 years. "If anything happens, we get that call, and we are the first ones to be notified that an incident has taken place. It's our job to ensure that the public, the employees, and first responders are safe."

Rarely seen outside of their dark dispatch offices, backlit by the glow of up to seven monitors per dispatcher, they may be the first voice that someone hears in their time of need, asking "911, what is your emergency?"

The team of 13 dispatchers and one supervisor rotate 12-hour shifts. Half of the team works days while the other half take the night shift.

"We are usually in teams of two, plus a supervisor depending on the shift," Arps said. "As they say, dispatch is open 24/7/365. We have some amazing dispatchers, many [of whom] have been there longer than I have."

For instance, former firefighter Robert Mashburn, switched to Dispatch and has been with the installation for over 20 years.

Some of the most common calls that these dispatchers field are from law enforcement conducting driver's license checks.

"They also conduct Random Antiterrorist Measures stops on vehicles, and they conduct general investigations, so they will contact us to run information such as a search for Wants and Warrants, a DL check, or vehicle information," Natasha Silva, an MCLB Barstow dispatcher, said. "We also process calls for lost property reports, vetting guests who want to come aboard, and commercial drivers."

Some of the other more common calls might be for people who are sick and need medical assistance. Other calls include industrial incidents or damage to government property.

In addition to the myriad of calls they receive for responses on base, the base also has Memorandums of Understanding with local fire and police departments in the High Desert.

"A lot of our fire calls are for assistance in the surrounding community, and our response area is from Wild Wash Road, south of Barstow on Highway 15, to Las Vegas if they need to transport somebody," Arps said. "They also respond all the way to Ludlow and Needles off of Highway 40, and west in Highway 58 Cramer Junction (Four Corners)."

The police offer mutual aid to Fort Irwin and to the Barstow Police Department.

"Barstow police and fire are amazing," Silva said. "If they have a mass incident in the city or surrounding area, PMO assists. If California Highway Patrol has a pursuit that is coming near our base, our dispatch is notified and PMO assists."

The MCLB Barstow military working dog unit also provides specific support to Fort Irwin, Barstow, and CHP for bomb detection or other potential threats to the community.

For emergency communications and coordination within the High Desert, MCLB Barstow's dispatch center works closely with the following agencies:

- San Bernardino County Communications Center
- Desert ambulance
- Cal Fire
- Barstow dispatch
- Fort Irwin dispatch
- 29 Palms dispatch

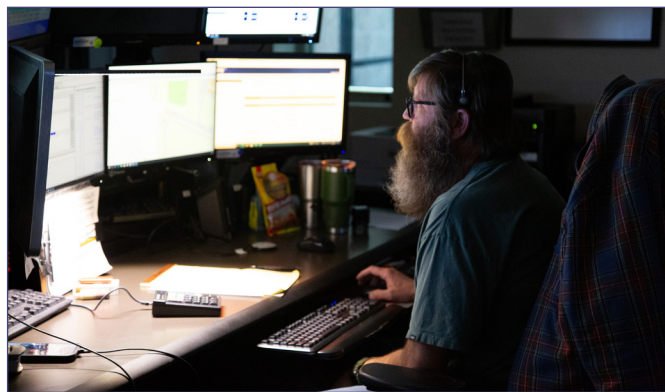


Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

*A dispatcher with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow dispatch monitors screens at the dispatch office on base, April 9, 2024. There are currently 13 dispatchers and one supervisor serving in the base dispatch.*

"It's a rush when a big situation happens," Silva said. "At the end of an incident, it's rewarding when things get resolved, people get transported, everyone gets the help that they need, and all of our coworkers are back home safely."

"I like the adrenaline rush we get when we get a major call," Arps explained. "It's important to stay focused and be certain that we are sending the right people to the right places. Things begin working out and there's a sense of being relieved and feeling like we did a good job dispatching and helping people."

Their priority is to get the right help to the right location, as quickly as possible, while also ensuring that the responding parties come back to base and go home safely.

*Dispatchers continues on page 11*

## Recent Awards

**Natasha Silva**  
Employee of the Quarter

**Brianna Hanify**  
Employee of the Quarter

**Feliece Miller**  
Employee of the Quarter



# National Pet Day

April 11 is National Pet Day!

Here are some beloved pets of MCLB Barstow:



## Skittles

"This is my baby Skittles. He was known all around the base.

He loved everyone and loved to be part of the MCLB Barstow.

He has helped with Toys for Tots, by being outside of Rite Aid dressed up as Santa Claus, greeting all the little girls and boys.

He won last year's pet costume contest here on base (it was a little biker dog).

He's gone to the firefighters

BBQ in his little stroller.

He loved his long walks, especially when we would walk over to the bowling alley so he could see his auntie Geraldine.

He is one of the reasons I started volunteering on the base.

When I was taking him for a walk one day, a couple of kids walked up to me to pet him. Because of this I made friends with the children's mother, who then introduced me to Beth Simpson.

I owe who I am to my baby Skittles, and I know he's in heaven looking down on me wagging his tail happily."

- Kimberly Owens



## Penny

"Penny is a 14-week-old, mini Irish Doodle. She's a cross between an Irish Setter and a Poodle.

Penny is an energetic little girl who loves people. Some of her favorite activities are playing tag with our cat, chewing on

sticks, or running around the house with "the zoomies". When she's not playing or socializing with people, Penny enjoys to sleep on her back or on her stomach with her back legs splayed out behind her like a cooked turkey."

- Sgt Anika Avila



## Frida Mactzil

"Meet my 21-month-old Miniature Schnauzer, 'Frida Mactzil'.

She's a sassy velcro dog who likes to stare at empty spaces in my house, listens to The Ramones, and sits on the couch like a human. At one point, I thought she was deaf, but the veterinarian confirmed she's just stubborn.

As crazy as she is, she broke down my foster children's fears with kisses and cuddles, making them open to my husband and I."

- Janet Rocha-Diaz



## Lady

"This is my two-year-old baby named 'Lady'.

She was given to us by a man who had lost everything and wanted a good home for her.

She loves playing ball and walking around the base.

She especially loves barking at the MPs when coming through the gate. (So sorry!)

She has been with us for a year and a half, and has brought us so much love and joy. She is a shepherd mix."

- Kimberly Owens



## Suki Sue

"Suki Sue is a two-year-old pug, she is my partner in crime and as velcro as they come. Her personality is anything but normal, and guaranteed to put a smile on your face."

- James Bilyeu



## Dispatchers continued from page 9

“They can go into some pretty serious calls,” Arps recalled. “They may go on a call without all the pertinent information, and there is the potential for danger and the possibility that they won’t come back home. We must notify responding parties of any changes to the situation, or escalation in the scenario so that they can be aware of everything going on at the scene.”

Along with satisfaction from the work itself, it is the camaraderie and friendships developed that motivate the dispatchers to come in to work every shift, ready to set everything aside and focus on the needs of those who call in for help.

“Sometimes I’ll see Natasha more than I see my husband and my kids,” Arps said. “I feel like I’ve known her forever. We know each other’s whole life stories. We’ve seen each other laugh, cry, you name it. Some of the calls are heartbreaking.”

Arps recalled one incident during which a baby was not breathing. She had not yet logged into all the systems, and there was no time to do so. She immediately began to call out resources, while simultaneously walking the caller through the steps for critical Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation on the baby.

“I think I cried the whole next day,” Arps said. “Partly because of the adrenaline dump. Partly due to relief that the baby survived. Police and fire personnel had responded and taken over care of the baby. The baby was doing fine that next day, but it was emotional.”

Responding with efficiency and compassion is something that is taught from the top down in dispatch.

“Bilyeu is a very involved leader and he’s very compassionate about what we go through daily,” Silva said. “He often checks on us to see what we need and makes sure that we are okay getting through our day. We often eat at our desks while working, so he also encourages us to take a walk or go to the gym, if possible, to help our bodies and our minds.”



***If you have an emergency, please call 911, even on base. The call will initially go to the California Highway Patrol Dispatch Center. Immediately tell them that you are on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and your call will then be routed to the base Emergency Telecommunicators with a special ring that alerts them that this is a 911 call.***

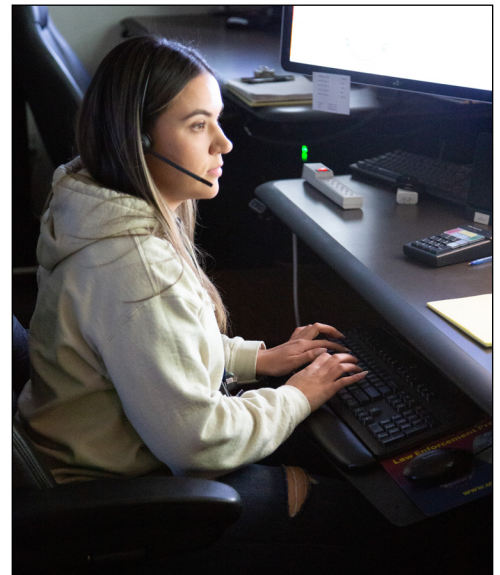


Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

A dispatcher with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow dispatch monitors screens at the dispatch office on base, April 9, 2024. There are currently 13 dispatchers and one supervisor serving in the base dispatch.



## Special Recognition:

*Thank You for your Service in Dispatch*



KELLEY ARPS  
NATASHA SILVA  
FELIECE MILLER  
AUSTIN FREITAS  
LIZA AUGIRRE  
MELINDA LARRSEN  
CARMEN SLACK

ROBERT MASHBURN  
KATIE VIOLETTE  
BRIANNA HANIFY  
ERIN STEVENS  
DAVE ENRIQUEZ  
NICOLE GRAY  
JAMES BILYEU



**Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness Month**  
**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Month**  
**Month of the Military Child**  
**National Volunteer Month**

# APRIL



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>April Fools' Day</b> Child Abuse Prevention Month: Find the Blue Handprint SMP April Steak & Lobster Dinner		A Mile in Their Shoes Virtual Run Child Abuse Prevention Month: Pinwheels for Prevention	Child Abuse Prevention Month: Wear Blue Day SMP Warrior Athlete / Meal Prep PME		Drive, Chip, & Putt
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday Drive		Marine & Family - Baby Boot Camp, The 5 Love Languages of Children SMP Rec Center Movie Night	<b>National Siblings Day</b>	<b>National Pet Day</b> Child Abuse Prevention Month: Wear Blue Day Volunteer Orientation		Auto Skills - Open
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Sunday Drive Auto Skills - Open	<b>National Tax Day</b>	SMP Monthly Meeting	L.I.N.K.S. Networking SMP Outdoor Poker Night	Child Abuse Prevention Month: Wear Blue Day Supporting Survivors & Resiliency - Guest Speakers	SMP Six Flags Magic Mountain ALL DAY	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Sunday Drive SMP Days of Service	<b>Earth Day</b> SMP Days of Service	SMP Days of Service	<b>National Denim Day</b> Volunteer Recognition Ceremony SMP Days of Service	Child Abuse Prevention Month: Wear Blue Day L.I.N.K.S. Foundations SMP Days of Service	<b>Arbor Day</b> SMP Days of Service	Open House Marine Memorial Golf Tournament Auto Skills - Open SMP Days of Service
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Sunday Drive Auto Skills - Open SMP @ Barstow's Feed the Hungry		Marine & Family - Playgroup				
28	29	30				

**Month of the Military Child**

For more details, visit MCLB Bartstow's community events page at:  
<https://barstow.usmc-mccs.org/calendar-of-events>