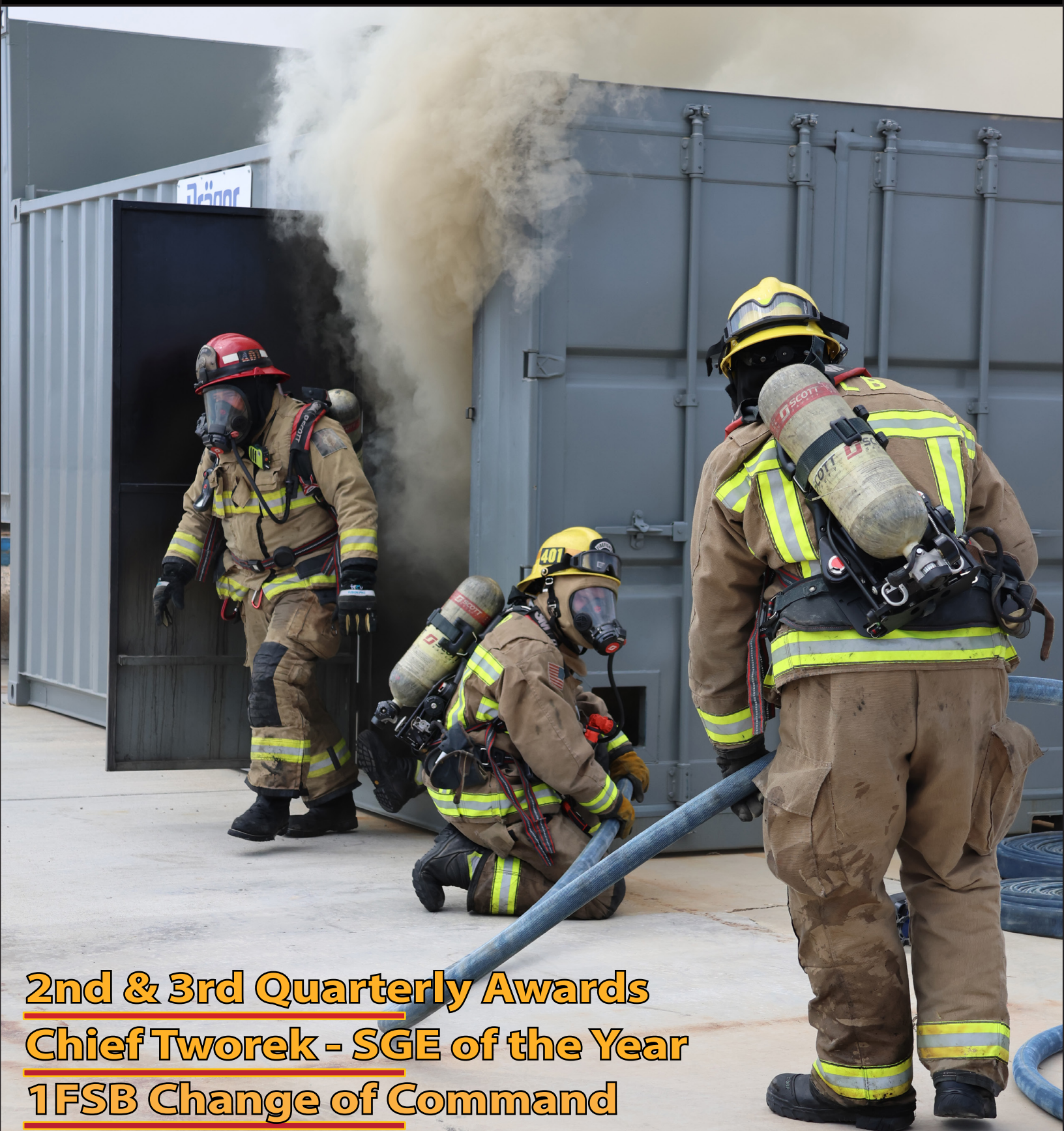


THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 15, No. 6

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

July 23, 2025



2nd & 3rd Quarterly Awards
Chief Tworek - SGE of the Year
1FSB Change of Command

COVER

Cover photo by: Laurie L. Pearson
COMMSTRAT Officer

Firefighters with Fire and Emergency Services train in fire behavior in a Drager Fire Training System, using live fire, water, and air control, at the fire training center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, July 17. The training enhances the firefighters' ability to predict and control fire behavior by understanding the dynamics between fire, air flow, and direct water versus using water to cool fire, all enhancing the safety of their crew.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Russell W. Savatt IV, commanding officer
Sgt. Maj. Miller Daceus, base sergeant major
Communication Strategy and Operations Office
CommStrat Officer: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Planner: Vacant
CommStrat Specialist: Vacant
Multimedia Specialist: Vacant
Multimedia Specialist: Anthony Plummer



Photo by: Laurie L. Pearson

Military spouses were treated to a spa night, hosted by Marine Corps Community Services' Lifestyle Insights Networking Knowledge and Skills program, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 16. The LINKS program offers opportunities for military families to connect with one another and enhance their skills, network with one another, or just enjoy activities together, such as a

Military Spouse Appreciation Night, intended to honor and support them and their families. The evening featured a variety of relaxing activities, to include spa bingo, sugar scrubs, and soothing face masks. The spouses also received certificates of appreciation from Col. Russell Savatt, base commanding officer, to recognize their vital role in the strength and resilience of the military community.

The editorial content of this magazine is prepared, edited and provided by the Communication Strategy and Operations Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer, Attn: CommStrat Office, Box 110130, Barstow, CA 92311-5050. The CommStrat is located in Building 204.

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Social Links and Website

**LINKS IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE INTERACTIVE
IN THE ONLINE VERSION**

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

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

Instagram: [mclb_barstow_official](#)

X: [MCLB Barstow](#)

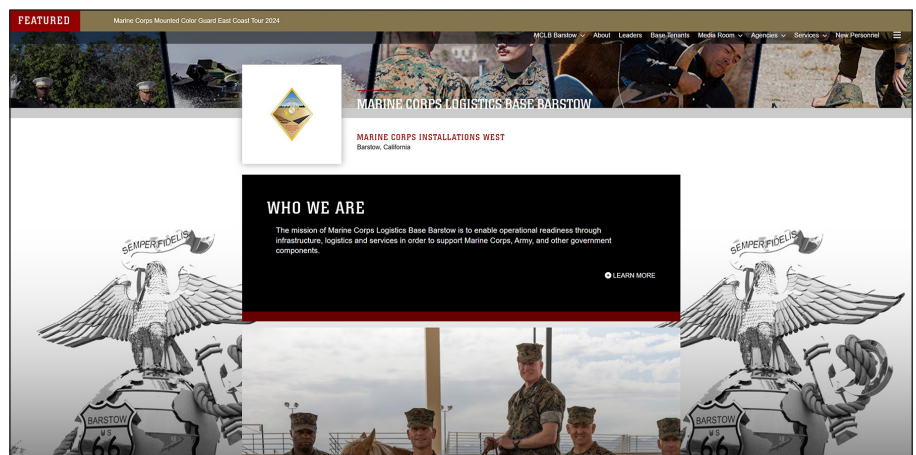




Photo by: Anthony Plummer

Esmeralda Savatt, Kim Owens and Ruby Adams cut the grand re-opening yellow ribbon with Col. Russell W. Savatt, base commanding officer, during a brief ceremony held at the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow,

California, May 2. The NMCRS Thrift Store is run solely by volunteers, and they are always looking for additional help. If you'd like to inquire about the volunteer opportunities, contact Julianna Adams, base volunteer coordinator at 760-577-5870.

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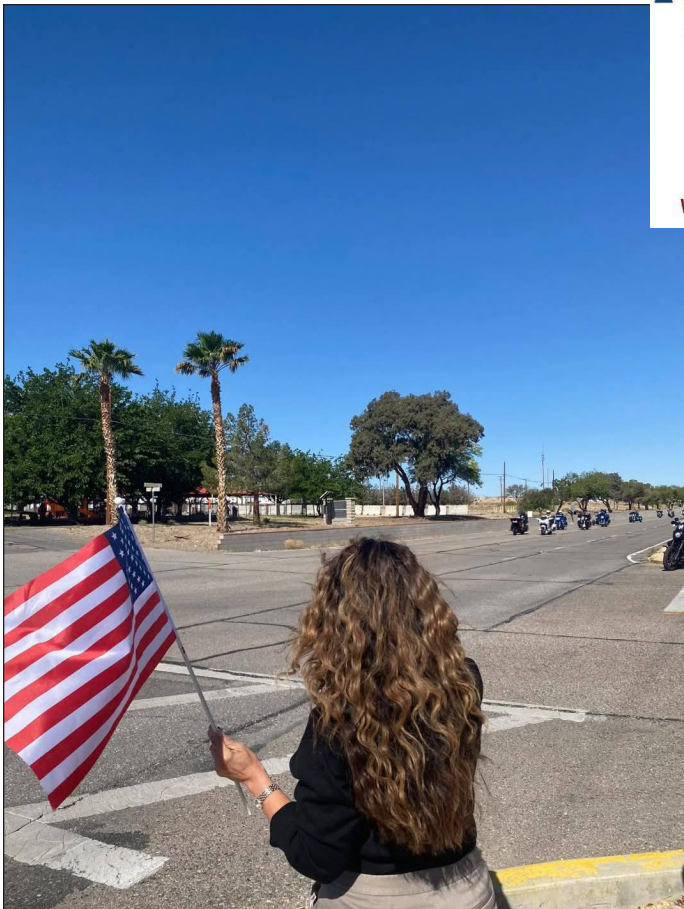


Chief Tworek
SGE of the Year

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Run for the Wall 2025

Photos courtesy of Esmeralda Savatt



Member of Run For The Wall, met with Col. Russell W. Savatt, base commanding officer and Sgt. Maj. Miller Daceus, base sergeant major, at the Route 66 Eagle Globe and Anchor statue aboard Marine Corps

Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 13. Each year they are granted special permission to cross the only portion of Historic Route 66 that is not open to the public, as it runs through MCLB Barstow. Base personnel and military families had the privilege of meeting some of the riders participating in this year's run. Run For The Wall is the largest and longest organized cross-country motorcycle run, traveling from California to the District of Columbia, where they finish at the Vietnam Memorial Wall, with approximately 1,800 riders participating in various parts of the run. The intent is to promote healing among all veterans, their families and friends, and to advocate for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action. It is also intended to honor those Killed In Action from all wars and to support military personnel worldwide.



Memorial Day 2025

Photos by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Officer

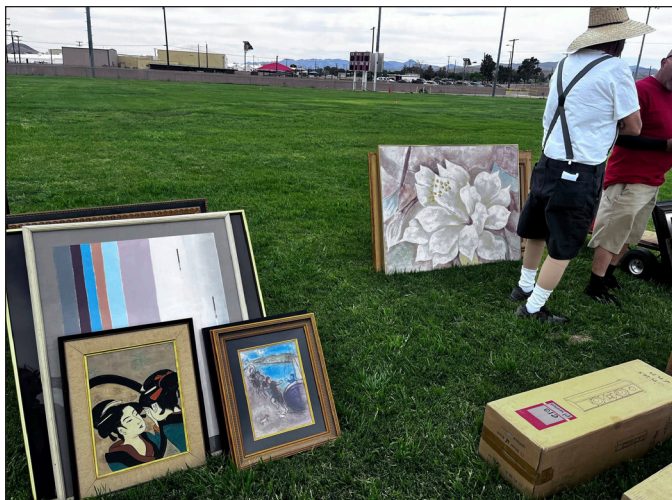


The Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Walking Color Guard presented The Colors during the Annual Veterans of Foreign Wars Memorial Day ceremony held at Mountain View Memorial

Park and Cemetery, Barstow, California, May 26. Captain Nicholas May delivered a moving message about military personnel who gave all in sacrifice to the United States of America.

The First Base Flea Market

Photos by MCCA and COMMSTRAT



The first base flea market was held on Sorensen Field aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 17. Military personnel and their families, base personnel, and members of the local community set up booths to sell art, arts and crafts, quilts, toys, tools, household goods and more to shoppers

from the base and community. Young Marine Cadets from Excelsior Charter School helped in the set-up and tear-down of the event, earning volunteer hours, in addition to conducting drill and ceremony demonstrations for attendees to enjoy.

1st Force Storage Battalion Change of Command

Photos courtesy of 1FSB



Lieutenant Colonel Matthew S. Hall relinquished command of 1st Force Storage Battalion to Lt. Col. Matthew M. DiStefano during a Change of Command ceremony held on the Yermo Annex, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 26. DiStefano hails from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and most recently served the G4 at MarForPacCom. He holds a Master of Arts in Military Defense Studies from Australian National University. His wife, Rachel and two daughters join them here aboard MCLB Barstow.



HQCO 5K

Photos by: SSgt. Daniel Castillo
Military Police



Captain Nicholas May, headquarters company commander, led Marines on a 5 kilometer hike aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 15. The hike began before sunrise, before the heat of the day rose to triple digits. They traversed the open desert with ruck sacks and water. Hikes like these help develop endurance and camaraderie, ensuring that Marines remain warfighter ready.



Law Enforcement Rifle Qualifications

Photos by: SSgt. Daniel Castillo
Military Police

Members of the Special Response Team, Marine Corps Law Enforcement engage in annual rifle qualifications at the range aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 30. Trainings are conducted regularly throughout the year to hone skills and ensure readiness in case of incidents on or near the base. The Provost Marshal's Office on base works closely with other law enforcement agencies in the area to ensure the safety of military personnel and civilians alike.



Quarterly Awards for

Photos by: COMMSTRAT

Employee of the Quarter - 2nd Quarter 2025 GS8 and Below - Robert Mashburn



Mr. Mashburn set himself apart through his exceptional professionalism, dedication, and composure under pressure, making him an invaluable asset to our team. His efforts directly contributed to the safety and security of over 15,000 calls within the community. Amid a significant communication failure, Mr. Mashburn demonstrated remarkable initiative by contacting the County Communications Battalion Chief and devising a temporary plan to reroute emergency calls not typically received by our public safety answering point. His proactive and positive approach consistently exceeds expectations in both performance and dedication. A steadfast supporter of his colleagues, Mr. Mashburn readily offers guidance and assistance whenever needed. His ability to remain calm and professional when interacting with distressed callers is extraordinary, allowing him to de-escalate tense situations, provide reassurance, and gather critical information swiftly and accurately. Under pressure, his efficiency and composure stand out, making his performance during this period nothing short of exceptional. Mr. Mashburn's contributions to the Provost Marshal Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

Employee of the Quarter GS9 and Above -



Mr. Alvin Martinez distinguished himself as the Employee of the Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025. A true team player, he took on additional responsibilities, eagerly stepping into the role of administrator for the base commercial infrastructure across networking, telecommunication, and information Technology (EUS IT) functions making him an invaluable asset. Mr. Martinez's commitment to finding faster, more efficient solutions, particularly in the Yermo Annex. He proactively cross-coordinated for fall protection, confined space operations, and infrastructure repair, underground cabling—expanding his single hard hat into multiple work orders for the Yermo Area of Responsibility, reducing outage response times and enhancing the overall telecom section. Mr. Martinez's unwavering and proactive approach not only enhanced the team but also inspired his peers. Mr. Martinez's contributions to the Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

for 2nd Quarter 2025

Supervisor of the Quarter - 2nd Quarter 2025
Christopher Yip

ter - 2nd Quarter 2025
Alvino Martinez



himself from his peers during Second Quarter, he's always the first to step up and volunteer as the alternate for the internet network. His cross-training in electrical, plumbing, and End User Services Information Systems makes him a versatile and indispensable asset. His dedication to customer satisfaction drives him to go above and beyond, particularly for telecom issues at the base. Mr. Yip's expertise in telecom specialties such as network design, aerial cable maintenance, fiber optic installation, fiber pulling, and copper telephone line maintenance has successfully completed over 30 telephone line projects, significantly improving the productivity of the entire S-6 team. His unwavering dedication, positive mindset, and commitment to excellence enhance operational efficiency but also contribute to the overall success of the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

Mr. Christopher Yip distinguished himself from his peers during the Second Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025. Mr. Yip played a pivotal role in sustaining operational readiness by successfully executing 85% of sustainment funds, despite fiscal challenges. His proactive approach to expanding his engineering expertise—particularly in electrical engineering—allowed him to provide vital cross-functional support to both the shops and construction management team during critical understaffing periods. Mr. Yip's contributions were instrumental in NAVFAC Southwest's design and planning efforts to revitalize the aging Yermo Substation, where he went above and beyond his usual duties, offering essential system knowledge to guide electrical subject matter experts. His leadership was further demonstrated when he led a systematic walk-through of the Marine Depot Maintenance Command (MDMC) compound to identify the root causes of ongoing electrical outages. Through effective coordination with contractors, base shops, and MDMC personnel, he facilitated critical repairs that resolved a yearlong disruption affecting mission operations. Beyond immediate problem-solving, Mr. Yip was committed to long-term infrastructure resilience, spearheading efforts to restore preventative maintenance schedules for the Yermo substation and transformers—processes that had been delayed for over two years. His ability to communicate complex project risks and present strategic solutions—especially when construction bids exceeded estimates—ensured transparency and informed decision-making. Mr. Yip exemplifies professionalism, initiative, and technical excellence, making him an invaluable asset to MCLB Barstow. Mr. Yip's contributions to the Environmental Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

Quarterly Awards for

Photos by: Laurie L. Pearson
COMMSTRAT Officer

Employee of the Quarter - 3rd Quarter 2025 GS8 and Below - Benjamin Zuniga



Mr. Benjamin Zuniga distinguished himself from her peers during Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025. In recognition of his unwavering professionalism, dedication, and composure under pressure, Mr. Zuniga has distinguished himself as an indispensable member of the Facilities Department at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Consistently exceeding expectations, he successfully completed 112 Corrective Maintenance work orders, exemplifying both efficiency and a steadfast commitment to mission readiness. Mr. Zuniga demonstrates exceptional leadership and project management skills, most notably in the successful and ahead-of-schedule completion of the Bird Netting project. His ability to collaborate across trades while sharing technical expertise fosters a strong, team-oriented work environment. He also exhibits outstanding initiative and self-reliance, routinely performing at a high level with minimal supervision. With a consistently positive and proactive attitude, Mr. Zuniga motivates those around him while ensuring mission-critical tasks are met with precision and urgency. His high level of personal accountability and dedication to the organization's objectives set the standard for excellence. Mr. Zuniga contributions to the Facilities' Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

Employee of the Quarter GS9 and Above - Ms. Michelle Bledsoe



Ms. Michelle Bledsoe distinguished herself during Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025. Ms. Bledsoe, through exceptional professionalism, dedication, and composure under pressure, has distinguished herself as an indispensable member of the Facilities Department at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. Consistently exceeding expectations, she successfully completed 112 Corrective Maintenance work orders, exemplifying both efficiency and a steadfast commitment to mission readiness. Ms. Bledsoe demonstrates exceptional leadership and project management skills, most notably in the successful and ahead-of-schedule completion of the Bird Netting project. Her ability to collaborate across trades while sharing technical expertise fosters a strong, team-oriented work environment. She also exhibits outstanding initiative and self-reliance, routinely performing at a high level with minimal supervision. With a consistently positive and proactive attitude, Ms. Bledsoe motivates those around her while ensuring mission-critical tasks are met with precision and urgency. Her high level of personal accountability and dedication to the organization's objectives set the standard for excellence. Ms. Bledsoe's contributions to the Facilities' Department and Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow are truly appreciated.

for 3rd Quarter 2025

- 2nd Quarter 2025

Michelle Bledsoe



Supervisor of the Quarter - 3rd Quarter 2025

Jacob Taney



herself from her peers during Third
helle Bledsoe distinguished herself
a, leadership, and dedication to duty.
gers, interfacing with installation
emergency responders, Ms. Bledsoe
confident demeanor—especially in
leadership shines. She spearheaded
n FirstDue, significantly enhancing
ss the installation. As a mentor to
irit of continuous improvement and
collaboration and shared excellence.
g, diligence, and team-first attitude
ne Corps Logistics Base Barstow.
ivated an environment of trust that
ishments, creating a lasting impact
By holding herself and others to the
nd life safety is never compromised.
e for all fire inspector professionals,
o the Fire Department and the base
tions to the Fire Department and
w are truly appreciated.

Mr. Jacob Taney distinguished himself from his peers during the Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2025 . Mr. Jacob Taney distinguished himself through outstanding dedication and initiative as a Facilities Supervisor at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow. He successfully coordinated a 30-day rotational schedule for gapped work leads, fostering workforce development and expanding leadership opportunities. Mr. Taney expertly oversees maintenance operations for 278 buildings, structures, and utilities—demonstrating unwavering attention to detail, professionalism, and an intuitive ability to anticipate and resolve issues before they escalate. His keen situational awareness and proactive problem-solving are matched by his exceptional rapport with team members and department heads. Through open communication, accountability, and a hands-on leadership style, Mr. Taney ensures mission success across all levels of the organization. Managing a team of 40 personnel, he has further exemplified commitment by voluntarily leading the Energy Program, equipping his team with the tools and guidance to excel. His tireless efforts and enduring contributions to the Facilities Department and the broader installation reflect great credit upon himself and uphold the highest standards of Marine Corps civilian service.

Army General Tours MCLB Barstow Rail

Photos by: Anthony Plummer

COMMSTRAT MultiMedia Specialist



Brigadier General Brandon C. Anderson, commanding general of the Army's Fort Irwin National Training Center, toured Railway Operations on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, July 15. The Army uses the railhead aboard MCLB Barstow to transport equipment from bases around the country to MCLB Barstow where they unload the equipment then convoy to Fort Irwin for training rotations. The process is reversed at the end of their training, sending the equipment back to their home units. Using railway operations saves the Department of Defense millions of dollars each year and MCLB Barstow has the largest railhead in the DoD.



Army General Tours MCLB Barstow Rail

Photos by: Anthony Plummer

COMMSTRAT MultiMedia Specialist



Antonio Flores, Railway Operations supervisor, briefs members of the Royal Saudi Land Forces, the principal land warfare branch of the Armed Forces of Saudi Arabia, Saudi Ministry of Defense, on use of rail to transport equipment, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, July 18. Their unit will be conducting training at the U.S. Army later this year, and they are working toward understanding the overall movement of equipment as it arrives in the United States. Using railways to transport equipment saves governments and military organizations millions of dollars each year.



Fire Chief Ryan Tworek - SGE of the Year!

Story and Photo by: Laurie L. Pearson

COMMSTRAT Officer

Fire Chief Ryan Tworek, with Fire and Emergency Services aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California has earned the prestigious Special Government Employee of the year Award for OSHA's SF Region, for 2024.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Programs promote effective worksite based safety and health initiatives wherein personnel work cooperatively to implement comprehensive safety and health management systems. Within that VPP program, SGEs are utilized to conduct audits, promote program goals, and share best practices.

"Serving as an SGE, for OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program has provided me numerous valuable benefits, both professionally and personally," said Tworek. "As and SGE, I have had the opportunity to learn best safety and health practices from leading organizations, as well as learn a tremendous amount from safety and health experts on the site teams."

By serving on the VPP teams, he has been able to gain insights to enhance MCLB Barstow's safety programs as well as develop professional connections with OSHA representatives, he said.

"My SGE experience has provided valuable exposure to safety management systems and processes across multiple industries. This broader perspective has helped me implement safety policies and practices within our department," Tworek said. "The OSHA regulatory knowledge gained has strengthened my ability to navigate compliance requirements affecting fire and emergency services operations."

One of the reasons he believes that VPP is important is because it creates a culture of proactive safety and continuous improvement.

"Any opportunity I have to gain additional knowledge and best practices that can enhance the safety of our personnel is of critical importance," he said. "The most valuable aspect of serving as an SGE is the exceptional opportunity to observe firsthand how different organizations implement safe and efficient operational practices, as well as the ability to engage with safety professionals and gain insights from various industries and disciplines."

The SGE of the Year Award recognizes an SGE who demonstrates exceptional commitment and contributions to VPP. The selection criteria encompass various aspects, including: Scope of activities; Technical expertise; Initiative; Dependability.

From OSHA:

Your contributions during the evaluation period from January 1, 2024, to December 31, 2024, have set you apart from your peers.



Ryan Tworek
Fire Chief

Photo by: Anthony Plummer

Fire Chief Ryan Tworek, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Fire and Emergency Services, received his Special Government Employee of the Year Award for Occupational Safety and Health Administration's Voluntary Protection Program's SF Region, for 2024. The award highlights exemplary service to the Marine Corps, Department of Defense, as well as OSHA and VPP.

Tworek will be competing against other regional winners, for OSHA's 21st Overall Annual SGE of the Year Award during their VPPPA conference to be held August 12 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Chief Tworek encourages others to become an OSHA SGE.

"Our base Safety office has provided us with an opportunity not available to many people," he said.

If you have questions or would like to become an OSHA Special Government Employee, please call Safety at 760-577-6003.



USMC Mounted Color Guard

Photos by COMMSTRAT, MCG and Esmeralda Savatt

The United States Marine Corps' only Mounted Color Guard, housed at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, continues to perform at events all over the country. In these shots, they were at Gunnison, Colorado for the American Legion Post 54 Patriot Night and Cattlement's Days Parade, Rooftop Rodeo in Estes Park, Colorado, and the Cody Stampede Rodeo held in

Cody, Wyoming each year. In addition to those events, Capt. Elizabeth Kemp, the officer in charge of the MCG, received the Military Rodeo Cowboy Association, Rodeo Team Champions belt buckle awarded to the MCG after they won their last competition.



Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

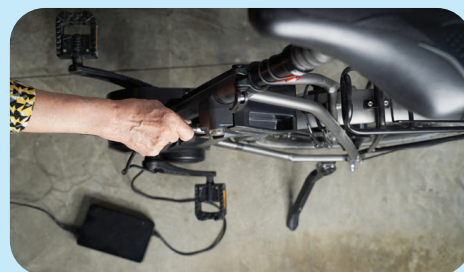
Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



**NATIONAL FIRE
PROTECTION ASSOCIATION**

The leading information and knowledge resource
on fire, electrical and related hazards

Your Logo



MCLB BARSTOW SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM & RECREATION CENTER EVENTS

JULY 2025

REC. CENTER HOURS | **CLOSED Monday Night** | **1100-1300 M-F** | **CLOSED SAT** | **CLOSED SUN**
1500-1900 T-F

MONTHLY SMP MEETING

15 July 1130 @ the Rec Center Bldg. 375

POINTS OF CONTACT

SMP Coordinator

AJ Jacobs
 (760) 577-5889
BarstowSMP@usmc-mccs.org

SMP Executive Board President

Cpl Bonilla, Crystal
 (760) 577-5896

Vice President

Cpl Fitzmayer, Ben
 (760) 577-6370



Advanced registration is required for all SMP trips, events & volunteer opportunities unless otherwise stated. Program events are open only to single Marines and Sailors stationed aboard MCLB Barstow. Participants who volunteer with SMP must register in advance with SMP HQ in order to receive a letter of appreciation. All recreation center activities are open to all Active Duty stationed aboard MCLB Barstow, regardless of rank or marital status. Authorized patrons of all abilities are welcome, please contact SMP staff if reasonable accommodations are necessary.

RECREATION CENTER ACTIVITIES

01 July Impromptu Dinner

1600-1900 Come enjoy a free home cook meal and stay to watch a movie or play some games.



03 July Warrior Hike Breakfast

0700-0800 Rec Center will support HQ Battalion on their Warrior Hike with breakfast burritos. Chorizo eggs, rice and beans.



10 July Movie Night & Dinner

1600-1900 Come enjoy a home cooked dinner and stay to watch a Navy Motions Pictures Movie.



15 July Taco Tuesday

1600-1900 Come enjoy a taco Tuesday in style! Build your own tacos served with beans and rice.



22 July Billiards Tournament

1600-1900 Come compete in billiards tournament. Winner to receive an MCX gift card. Chow provided.



EVENTS AND TRIPS

18 July Off Base Movie Night & Dinner

1700-2300 Come sign up for dinner and a movie@ Cinemark in Apple Valley. Cost: \$12 For more info call 760 577-5889.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

11, 18 , 25 July Navy Thrift Store

1100-1300 Base Thrift Store. Call 760 577-5889 for more info.

24 July San Diego Comic Con

All Day Event! Spots are filled. Call 760 577-5889 for more info.



<https://barstow.usmc-mccs.org/marine-family-support/single-marine-program>

More Info: (760)577-5889, Active Duty Rec. Center | 375 Iwo Jim a Ave.

