

THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 15, No. 7

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

December 31, 2025

CPX I 2025

TOYS FOR TOTS

HOLIDAYS



FLEA MARKET

Discover vintage treasures, handmade crafts, fresh baked goods and great deals from local vendors.

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23 MAY - 8-12PM

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FOLLOWED BY A CONCERT

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SECURE VENDOR ACCESS IN ADVANCE FOR THE FULL 2026 FLEA
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RETURNING VENDORS GET SPECIAL DISCOUNT!

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**LOCATION: MCLB SORENSON FIELD
INSIDE THE MILITARY BASE NEBO**



COVER

Cover photo by: Leo Ritualo
Multimedia Specialist

deputies with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office depart from a training exercise, Interagency Command Post Exercise I 2025, on the Yermo Annex, aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, December 10. The exercise involved coordination with key partners including law enforcement, Naval Criminal Investigative Services members, Criminal Investigation Division, and more. The simulations tested installation and local emergency response protocols for active shooter and mass casualty incidents.



THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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Sgt. Maj. Mario Virto, base sergeant major
Communication Strategy and Operations Office
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Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Marine-Corps-Logistics-Base-MCLB-Barstow/116845431679314>

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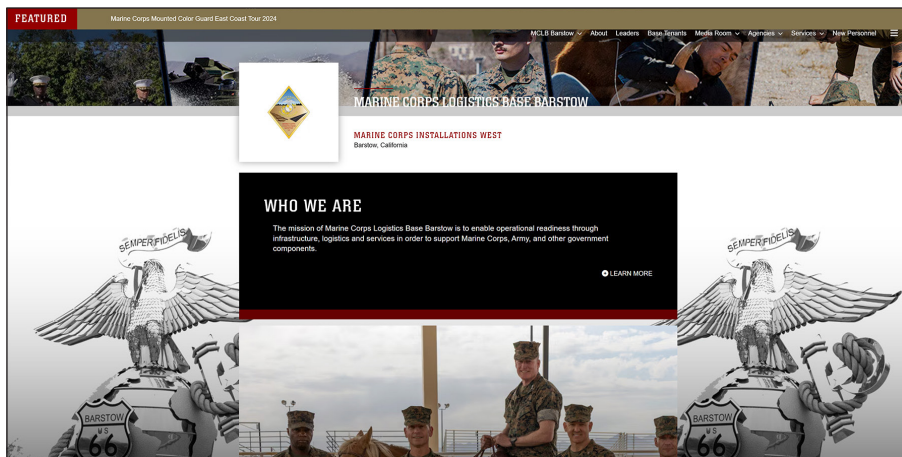




Photo by: Laurie Pearson

Joe Baca, physical security specialist, prepares to throw foam axes, under the careful supervision of Brian Korves, safety specialist, during a game of axe, Ninja star and darts, as part of the Voluntary Protection Program's holiday party held aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December

9. Throughout the event, members of VPP shared in a potluck, played various games, and participated in a Dirty Santa gift exchange. The VPP team also unveiled their new winter campaign posters, shown in the background.

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Toys For Tots

Story by: Katherine Cortez
Public Affairs Specialist



Marines gathered and sorted thousands of toys for U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots campaign, at the warehouse aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 16.

The Toys for Tots campaign that is run here on base provides toys for organizations throughout the High Desert, with the intent of getting toys in the hands of every child in need.

The program is currently being run by Sgt. Elijah Long, Armory chief and Toys for Tots coordinator, and he recalled that his first year of volunteering services to Toys for Tots, he was largely impacted and inspired.

"The first year I got involved was inspiring because I got to ride on the fire truck, hand out toys, see the happiness on the children's faces, and interact with the families who were even brought to tears by this cause," Long said.

He describes the impact this program has, not only for the children of the community, but the families, as well. Long loves doing Toys for Tots because it is one of those events that brings the community together for such a great cause.

"The connectedness between civilians and Marines became heightened with this program and it has bridged the gap between the community and military," he said. "Parents were brought to tears knowing that their children will feel the sense of happiness and involvement even through rough financial situations. The families of the community are made aware that they are cared for and the resources are available."



Photos by: Leo Ritualo

Trees for Troops

Marines and their families enjoyed more holiday festivities during the annual Trees for Troops event held aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 5. Santa Claus arrived via Fire and Emergency Services' fire truck, delivering toys, trees and good cheer to everyone present. Families enjoyed decorating cookies, singing Christmas carols, selecting gifts and selecting just the right trees for their homes.



MCLB Barstow enhances incident responses via

Story by: Laurie L. Pearson

COMMSTRAT Officer



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Officer De'Ja Drain applies pressure to a faux injury during an interagency training exercise in which participants simulated an active shooter scenario on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.



Photo by: Laurie Pearson

Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Swat team make entry in a barricaded building as part of an active shooter scenario during Interagency Command Post Exercise I 2025, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.

Marines and interagency partners engaged in an Interagency Active Shooter and Mass Casualty Exercise on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, 10 December 2025.

"This full-scale regional command training and interoperability exercise is designed to enhance emergency preparedness and rapid response capabilities to violent incidents," said Maj Grant Burnett, director of Operations. "The exercise involved coordination with key interagency partners, including local law enforcement, local fire and emergency services, as well as federal law agencies."

Personnel and other resources from the San Bernardino County Sheriffs Office, Naval Criminal Investigation Services, Barstow Fire, California Highway Patrol, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Mercy Air worked closely with the Provost Marshal's law enforcement officers, Fire and Emergency Services' firefighters and paramedics, Dispatch teams, and Base Operations to

conduct simulation to test installation response protocols to shooters and mass incidents.

This complex and faceted training brought our local agencies together in communications, relationships, and team

"We routinely focus on training on base, but these large-scale exercises provide opportunities to train agencies to ensure interoperability in an emergency. It also allows us to adapt our response to meet the needs of an incident," said Chief. "These collaborations help reinforce best safety, communication, and logistics."

"Each team participated in the drill benefited from hands-on training, real-time response to catastrophic events, and stabilizing care," said Mercy Air flight and Clinical Base



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Firefighters and paramedics provide life saving measures to mannequins during a simulated active shooter attack, as part of Interagency Command Post Exercise I 2025 held on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.

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Hipolite. "This allows us to identify any barriers or gaps that may arise and correct them before they have a potential impact on the safety of any patients or the crews responding. Performing these drills also helps us hone each of our roles and communication required to coordinate these incidents so that we can provide the best care to our patients."

"Where seconds make all the difference in saving a life, trainings like these create a lot of muscle memory, so when the call to action is real, we are ready to respond seamlessly and quickly," said Sexton. "This gives practical and first-hand experience when responding to any critical incident, big or small."

If you have questions, please call Communication Strategy and Operations office, at 760-577-6430.

For media inquiries, contact Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Communication Strategy and Operations at mclbb_commstrat@usmc.mil.



Members of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office SWAT team rescue a hostage during a simulated active shooter training exercise as part of Interagency Command Post Exercise I 2025, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.



Photo by: Leo Ritualo



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Law enforcement officers from the Provost Marshal's Office, and San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office coordinate a response to a simulated active shooter attack on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.



Photo by: Leo Ritualo



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Gunnery Sergeant Bryan Robert, staff noncommissioned officer with the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard acts as a witness, giving a statement to officers as part of Interagency Command Post Exercise I 2025 held on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.

San Bernardino County Sheriff's Office SWAT team prepares to breach a building during a simulated active shooter exercise on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 10.

Employee Recognition Day and

Story and photos by:
COMMSTRAT Team

Marines and civilians enjoyed a day of recognition and celebration during the Employee Recognition Day events held at Semper Fit Gym aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 8. Events included a pickle ball tournament, corn hole tournament, kickball tournament.

Awards were presented for the following: Supervisor of the Quarter, Han Gaang; Employee of the Quarter, Kerwin Dy; Employee of the Quarter, Jenny Guerrero.

The first group award was America Recycles Day Hero Award for exceptional stewardship through their work in environmental resources management. Recipients included Dexter Robeson, Environmental director; Elizabeth Barron, Natural and Cultural Resources Program manager; Melissa Castillo, program analyst; Gary Figueroa, Solid Waste and Qualified Recycling Program manager; Malvis Campbell, Water Program manager; Miguel Arandaguillen, Environmental Services and Conservation supervisor; Thomas Connors, Environmental Compliance supervisor; Tammy Lopez, Hazardous Material and Waste Program manager; and Alicia Flores, Facilities director.



d Quarterly Awards Ceremony



Bikes for Tots



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Anthony Sanchez, Heavy Mobile Equipment Mechanic supervisor and his team donated 15 bicycles and a scooter to the Toys for Tots campaign at Production Plant Barstow, Marine Depot Maintenance Command, on the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 18. Sanchez and his team have been gathering and donating to Toys for Tots for the past 16 years. They have donated a total of 153 bikes to date.

"It has brought a sense of belonging to these children and families," Sanchez said. "I've encouraged the installation in Albany to continue the tradition in their area."

Equifest 2025

Photo by: Gunnery Sgt. Brian Robert

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard prepares to compete in the annual Equifest event, Pasadena, California, December 31. The Mounted Color Guard was led Col. Russell Savatt, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Maj. Shelly Ochoa, base executive officer, Capt. Elizabeth Kemp, MCG officer in charge, and Sgts. John Davis, Lauren Griffin and Maggie Hardy. This is the last MCG in the Marine Corps and the horses and riders are stationed aboard MCLB Barstow.



MCG in Victorville Christmas Parade

Photos and write-up by: Laurie Pearson
COMMSTRAT Officer

The Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard, led by Col. Russell Savatt, commanding officer, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Gunnery Sgt. Brian Robert, staff noncommissioned officer, Maj. Shelly Ochoa, base executive officer and Capt. Elizabeth Kemp, officer in charge of the MCG, lead the Victorville Kiwanis Childrens Christmas Parade, Victorville, California, December 6. The four MCG riders that followed Sgts. John Davis, Hugh Groves, Lauren Griffin and Maggie Hardy. This is the only Mounted Color Guard in the United States Marine Corps, and they are housed at the stables on the Yermo Annex aboard MCLB Barstow.



Tim Heiden Foundation & American

Story by: Katherine Cortez

Public Affairs Specialist

American Cruisers Motorcycle Club along with the Tim Heiden Foundation hosted their 6th annual toy distribution to military families aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, 23 December.

With the help of Fire and Emergency Services, and Provost Marshals, American Cruisers MC and the Tim Heiden Foundation volunteers conducted a convoy of motorcycles, trucks, fire trucks and police vehicles, complete with lights and sirens through base housing. Once at the Desert View Community Center parking lot, military families converged and each child ended up with a toy in their hand and

smile on their face.

"Seeing the kids smile makes it all worthwhile," said John "Big John" Manser, president of both organizations.

The Tim Heiden Foundation has been around for over thirty years when Tim decided to begin the tradition of giving, from his police car. Heiden a retired Marine, and police officer with Barstow Police Department at the time, thought it would be a good idea to bring the toy distribution tradition to base around six years ago. When Heiden passed away, the foundation was established to carry on that tradition. He also helped found the Barstow

PD Christmas Cops for Kids which is operational today, as well. All organizations work hand-in-hand. MCLB Barstow's Toys for Tots can obtain many of the toys distributed by these organizations, in addition to their own drive campaigns.

Through the past six years there have been hundreds of gifts given away to the children of military families on base.

Linda Manser has been a volunteer for many years and said that she continues to be inspired by the children's contagious smiles.



Cruisers MC Toy Distribution on Base

Photos by: Leo Ritualo

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Community Action Partnership delivers food

Story by: Katherine Cortez

Public Affairs Specialist

Community Action Partnership hosted their third food pantry event aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 22.

The food pantry partnership was brought onto the installation by Julianna Adams, Marine Corps Family Team Building representative and the volunteer coordinator, and Sgt. Maj. Mario Virto, base sergeant major. Adams said it all began with a conversation she overheard at a dress exchange event.

“A military spouse had brought up the idea of having a food pantry at MCLB Barstow,” she said. “We contacted the organization that Fort Irwin has their monthly food pantry with, and asked if they could support MCLB Barstow.”

This event was open to civilian and military personnel at the Desert View Community Housing community center and is a resource to aide military families with food items, as well as hygiene products.

“This program has been important for both military and civilian families, and the joint venture between the two is worth continuing through more partnerships and food pantry opportunities,” said Virto.

The very first food pantry was organized during the furlough that took place in October so that families felt supported, even through unknown situations. Adams and Virto have found this program to be of such importance in this community they have worked together with to make this food pantry happen for the second and third time, and potentially seeking opportunities to make it a more permanent occurrence.

“None of this would be possible without the help of the command and those who have volunteered,” said Adams. “Youth volunteers have also become involved and they are having fun while fulfilling their required service hours.”

“It is really fun to help out, hangout, and it means a lot to make an impact” Alexandria and Abigail, daughters of Denise Gutierrez, fire prevention officer.

“There is a really positive impact that this program has on families, knowing that they are fed and nurtured during the holidays, said Robert Harris, Personal and Professional Development supervisor and education coordinator.



Photos by: Leo Ritualo

Promotions and Awards

Sergeant Hue H. Groves, Mounted Color Guard stableman, receives the Navy Marine Corps Commendation medal, during a ceremony held on the Parade Deck aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, December 18. Groves was recognized by Sgt. Maj. Mario Virto, base sergeant major, for his strong character and willingness to lead the stables on the Yermo Annex, on base. Some of his accomplishments have been leading the adoption of six mustang horses, mentored, and trained the team of stablemen to raise the horses to be able to perform in the Mounted Color Guard.

Sergeant Lauren A. Griffin, MCG stableman, is presented a Certificate of Commendation for her role as a stableman at the Yermo Annex. Griffin is acknowledged for her superior performance on the Mounted Color Guard and for proficiency as a non-commission officer.

Lance Corporal Allen J. Castillo, administrative clerk, is recognized as Marine of the Quarter and is presented the award of Meritorious Mast by Sgt. Maj. Mario Virto, base sergeant major.

Photos by: Leo Ritualo



Marines were honored during an awards and promotions ceremony held aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 3. Sergeant Liam White, Cpl. Jovany Cardenas-Rios and Cpl. Arturo Sierra, all crash fire rescue, recieved the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for their work over the past six months with base Fire and Emergency Services. In addition, Cpl. Jayden Williams, administrative clerk, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for exemplary service and end-of-tour accomplishments during his service aboard MCLB Barstow.

Photos by: Leo Ritualo





MCCS



Family Bash

**COUNTRY LINE DANCING
NIGHT**

FRIDAY, 16 JAN, 5PM - 8PM

@ JLD, BLDG. 38

**LESSONS FROM 5:30-6:30
LINE DANCING FROM 6:30-7:30
KARAOKE TO END THE NIGHT**

Join us for Country Line Dancing event, open to all ages & skill levels. Enjoy great music, easy steps, and a fun country atmosphere. No partner needed, just come ready to dance. Light appetizers & refreshments provided