

THE PROSPECTOR

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Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

March 26, 2026



Watch Out For Critters!
Mounted Color Guard
MCLBB Fire's Fourth CFAI Reaccreditation

COVER

Cover photo by: Leo Ritualo

Reuben Flores, pest control technician, carries a bag containing the honeycomb and bees after removing a beehive at the Child Development Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 16.

Easter Bunny Bash



Wed, April 1st, 5pm - 7pm

Desert Community Housing Center

Bring the whole family for a joyful Easter Egg Hunt, Egg Roll races, hands-on Easter Basket Making, and photobooth with the bunny.

For inquiries, call: 760-577-6533



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Russell W. Savatt IV, commanding officer
Sgt. Maj. Mario R. Virto, base sergeant major
Communication Strategy and Operations Office
CommStrat Officer: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Planner: Kristyn Galvan
CommStrat Specialist: Katherine Cortez
Multimedia Specialist: Leo Ritualo
Multimedia Specialist: Anthony Plummer

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.

Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6449, 577-6061, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

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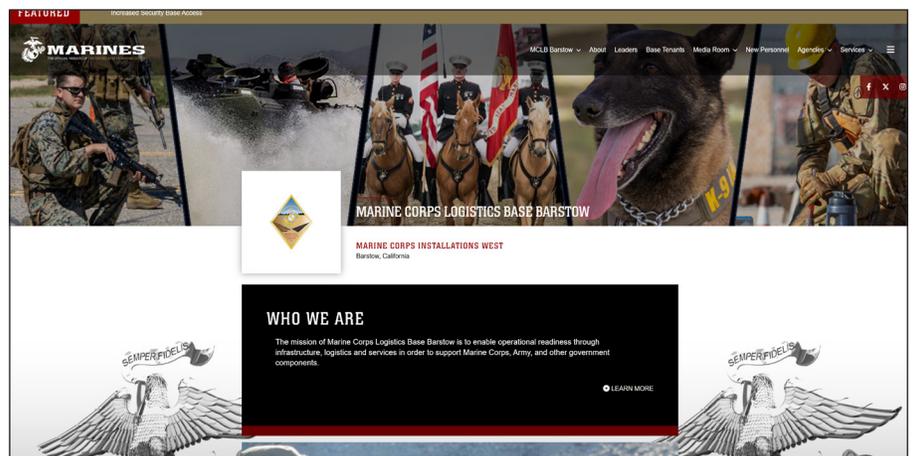




Photo by: Leo Ritualo

A Marine braces to be pepper-sprayed during Security Augmentation Force training aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 13. The SAF training is an intensive course that provides Marines with enforcement type skills like defensive tactics, baton training, vehicle searches, and weapon proficiency. The result of the

training is for Marines to be emergency ready and assist with security at installations, particularly during increased Force Protection Conditions.

CONTENTS



Lip Sync & Karaoke

4



MCG

5



When the Wild Awakes 6-7



Leprechaun Dash 5K

8



Fire's Fourth CFAI Reaccreditation

9



NCO of MCI-West: Sgt. Jorge Bosquez

11

Lip Sync & Karaoke Battle

Photos by: Leo Ritualo



Marines, civilians, and their families enjoyed a competitive night of lip sync and karaoke battles at the Major General James L. Day conference center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 6. Contestants competed for prizes in legendary celebrity costumes while enjoying music from all genres and generations.



Mounted Color Guard Texas Tour & MCAS Yuma Airshow

Photos by: Sgt. Davin Tenbusch



The U.S. Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard toured through Texas and Arizona from the end of February to the beginning of March, 2026. During the tour, they presented the colors, performed skilled horsemanship at both the Yuma Airshow and Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo Parade.

When The V

Story by: Katherine Cortez
Public Affairs Specialist

For desert animals, in the High Desert ecosystem, Spring marks a season of movement and survival.

From rodents and spiders to slithering snakes, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California and the surrounding desert are home to a wide variety of wildlife.

Reuben Flores, pest control technician, and the pest control team aboard MCLB Barstow diligently preserve the lives of animals and protect their natural habitats.

As spring arrives and more people head outdoors, it is important to respect the environments these creatures call home and maintain cleanliness around residential and office areas to avoid wildlife encounters.

“Critters thrive during springtime because they are coming out from being dormant during the winter. Like flowers blooming, the bees are going to begin looking to collect pollen, the snakes in (brumation and ecdysis) begin to search for the food they have not had for months and shed their old skin which removes parasites, and mammals begin coming out for mating season and in search of survival” Flores says.

There are characteristics that animals portray during spring that humans may not always be aware of.

“Coyotes, some of the common desert wanderers, are naturally cautious because of their vigilance around birds, squirrels, and other prey” Flores says.

In search of food or shelter, they may occasionally wander close to offices, vehicles, or residential areas and it is important that these areas remain free of debris, build up, and other cluttered mounds to avoid these animals from forming habitats, he explained.

The Southwestern Speckled Rattlesnake, Sidewinders, Mojave Greens and other snake species inhabit the areas of the Mojave Desert surrounding the base.

During spring, many people hike through desert areas where snakes commonly live. These critters often live in underground burrows or shaded terrain. It is important to be extra vigilant in watching for wildlife, which is often camouflaged to match their habitat.

“The importance of keeping in mind the shape of the snake’s head is to determine whether a snake is venomous or not. Note that the snakes with a more diamond shaped head are likely to be the more venomous,” Flores explained.

Although snakes can be fascinating to observe, and some species are kept as pets, they should always be left alone in the wild, as they may be venomous and can become defensive if threatened.



Photo by: Laurie Pearson

The Mojave rattler avoids the heat of the day by coiling under a desert shrub or retreating to an animal burrow. At night it may be encountered crossing or traveling along a road. It hunts small mammals by lying in wait along their scent trails and striking when one passes within range. Two pits, between the eyes and nostrils, are heat sensors that can detect any nearby object that is warmer than its surrounding.

“The heat sensing pits, and their sensory tongues allow the snakes to perceive threats, mates, prey, and this enhances their survival” Flores said.

A snake’s unique sensory adaptations help it detect danger and because snakes blend easily into their surroundings, hikers should remain alert to avoid accidentally provoking them, or other wildlife.

Habitat, diet, and behavior have a significant impact on the various species that reside in the Mojave Desert. For example, many of these species include birds that the Bureau of Land Management has been keeping their eye out for, such as the southern fly catcher. This bird is an endangered species within the Mojave Desert. This team spent some time wondering if the bird would still be seen out in the wild, and sure enough they eventually caught sight of it.

“The bird has a bright orange breast” Flores says. “There are a few other bird species that pass through the Mojave Desert during their migration and those are identified as; the turkey vultures, the blue crane, and more. If you are sitting outside before sunrise, you may encounter one of these birds and they are fascinating.”

Bees, flies, and other insect species are found frequently in the spring and roam throughout the desert in search of survival. Bees seek cool, dry areas to establish honeycomb structures. Often, these hives go unnoticed until they have grown large enough to

Wild Awakes

become hazardous to children and families.

“At the Child Development Center aboard MCLB Barstow, the staff reported a swarm of bees to the pest control team,” Flores said. Reuben Flores and Eddie Hernandez, both pest control technicians on base, successfully removed the honeycomb and bees without harming the children and most of the bees.

“Always use caution, take your time, and ensure you are not rushing the process of containment,” Flores says. “Honeybees are vital to our planet, using their harvesting and pollination to help sustain life.”

Having the proper tools is an asset to carefully removing the hives, especially if there is a queen bee present.



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

A large bee hive was located at the Child Development Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California on March 16. It was safely retrieved by pest control technicians utilizing a bee vacuum.

“I encouraged my team to purchase a device called the bee removal vacuum which is a necessary tool for a successful removal of the honeycomb which helps preserve the life of most of the bees,” Flores said. “Wasps, although they don’t make the honey, do pollinate, and it is just as important as the bees to preserve their lives, as much as possible.”

According to guidance from the Bureau of Land Management, there are many creatures that come out in the spring. One of the Mojave Desert’s main inhabitants is the desert tortoise. These animals spend most of their lives in underground burrows, which protect them from the desert’s extreme heat and cold. Tortoises leave their burrows to search for food, such as plants and cactus pads, which also provide much of the water they need to survive the summer.

“One of the main threats to the tortoises are ravens because they disturb the tortoise by poking their beak into its shell; this causes the tortoise to lose all the water it has stored and eventually kills the animal,” Flores said.

The environmental team aboard MCLB Barstow has taken measures in protecting the desert tortoise.



Photo by: Laurie Pearson

Corporal Rigoberto Felix, a member of the Special Response Team on Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, found a desert tortoise crossing the road near the base’s rifle range, May 13, 2021.

“They have created decoy desert tortoises with a paint substance inside the animals shell and when the bird comes by to disturb it, they are marked with the paint from inside the shell and it tells the team that this bird is a threat,” Flores explained. “Other things you can do to ensure the safety of your home, office, and families, is to check that the areas around your spaces are clean, and free of debris.”

During an interview with the public affairs office aboard MCLB Barstow in 2023, Gregory Kunkel, former Emergency Medical Services Chief, was once bitten by a rattlesnake while spelunking in the High Desert. His advice then would be to refrain from putting your hands and feet in places where you cannot see what lies within. He had placed his hand on a ledge just above eye level, and the snake likely mistook his hand as prey.

If an animal is in the way of daily activities, such as near your home or office, on a road, or in a traffic area, please contact the Facilities helpline at (760)577-6220, and they will safely return the animal to its habitat.



Leprechaun Dash 5K

Photos by: Leo Ritualo



Marine Corps Community Services Semper Fit hosted a Leprechaun Dash 5K at the Fitness Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 11. The run encouraged military, civilian patrons, and their families to engage in friendly, fun competition with wearing green, catching leprechauns, and top finishers winning prizes at the end of the race.



MCLB Barstow Fire's Fourth CFAI Reaccreditation

Story by: **Kristyn Galvan**
Public Affairs Specialist

Fire and Emergency Services personnel aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California were successfully reaccredited by the Commission on Fire Accreditation International on March 12, 2026, marking the department's fourth consecutive reaccreditation and reinforcing its commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. The achievement places MCLB

The Commission on Fire Accreditation International process is a rigorous, peer-reviewed assessment that evaluates a department's performance, governance and alignment with nationally recognized best practices under the Center for Public Safety Excellence accreditation model.

Ryan Tworek, fire chief at MCLB Barstow, emphasized the significance of the accomplishment and the effort behind it.

"This reaccreditation reflects the hard work, professionalism and dedication of every member of our department," said Tworek. "It demonstrates our commitment to continuous improvement and to providing the highest level of service and protection to the installation."

The accreditation process ensures departments operate with a clearly defined mission, supported by comprehensive planning documents and measurable performance benchmarks. This structured approach enhances operational effectiveness and strengthens emergency response capabilities.

"CFAI accreditation is not a one-time achievement—it requires ongoing evaluation and accountability," said Tworek. "Our team continuously looks for ways to improve our processes, training and response capabilities to better serve our community."

In addition to validating operational standards, the accreditation affirms the department's alignment with national fire service best practices, ultimately enhancing safety for personnel and the communities they serve.

"Being part of such a small percentage of accredited agencies speaks to the caliber of our firefighters and emergency responders," Tworek stated. "This recognition reinforces that we are



meeting the highest standards in the fire service."

The reaccreditation highlights MCLB Barstow Fire and Emergency Services' sustained commitment to excellence, accountability and mission readiness in support of the installation and the Marine Corps.



Photo courtesy: CFAI Representative

Ryan Tworek, fire chief, poses with CFAI representatives as he accepts the Accredited Agency Award on behalf of the Fire and Emergency Services aboard MCLB Barstow on March 12, 2026.

Barstow Fire and Emergency Services among an elite group of fire agencies worldwide. Of the thousands of fire departments across the globe, only approximately 340 agencies hold this accreditation, representing departments that collectively protect just fourteen percent of the United States population.



FES Tackles Structure Fire in Daggett

Photos by: Leo Ritualo



Firefighters with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's Fire and Emergency Services responded to a structure fire in Daggett, California, March 4. The home was fully engulfed upon arrival, and MCLB Barstow's firefighters joined other local units to douse the flames.

★ ARTISAN ★ OUTDOOR MARKET ★

11 APR and 30 MAY

8:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Vendor Set-Up: 7:00 AM

*Come enjoy great finds, fresh baked goods,
food vendors and more!*

Location: Sorenson Field

Aboard MCLB Barstow, CA



VENDORS NEEDED!

Vendor Fee: \$20

- Must Have Vendor Insurance
- Submit a W-9
- Be Willing to Complete a Contract



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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All Vendors should provide their own power to booth.

One of Our Own: NCO of the Year for MCI-West 2025

Story by: Kristyn Galvan

Public Affairs Specialist



Official Command Photo

Sergeant Jorge Diego Bosquez Jr., military working dog handler assigned to the Provost Marshal's Office aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, was named the Noncommissioned Officer of the Year (2025) for Marine Corps Installations West, recognizing his outstanding leadership, professionalism and dedication to mission accomplishment.

Sgt. Bosquez was notified in an official package delivered to MCLB Barstow that he was selected as the top performing noncommissioned officers from installations across Marine Corps Installations West, demonstrating excellence in leadership, professional knowledge and physical readiness during the selection process.

As a military-working dog handler, Sgt. Bosquez is responsible for the training, care and operational employment of his K-9 partner, Tigi, of two and a half years. Together, the team conducts patrol and detection operations supporting installation security, law enforcement missions and force protection efforts aboard the installation.

The selection highlights Sgt. Bosquez's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of readiness and professionalism within the Marine Corps' law enforcement community.

"This honor just shows for me to keep on doing what I'm doing but, to push others to do the same thing," Bosquez said. "As a noncommissioned officer you have to understand that you aren't working for yourself, you're working for your Marines. Everything you do is for the people, not for yourself; you have to be selfless and not selfish at all."

Leaders at MCLB Barstow say Sgt. Bosquez's leadership and work ethic make him stand out among his peers.

"Sgt Bosquez is very professional and is the only sergeant for PMO besides the staff sergeant (Provost Sgt)," states Lt. Christopher Dixon, kennel master aboard MCLB Barstow. "He attained sergeant very fast, and his supervision has definitely helped the unit. He was the acting

kennel master for me for six weeks, while I had to fly home for a death in family."

In addition to his operational duties, Bosquez strives to mentor junior Marines and foster a culture of accountability and teamwork within Provost Marshal's Office.

"At the end of the day, we are all Marines, but we are all human beings," Bosquez said. "You have to understand how to talk to individuals, how to care for them, and be there for them to guide them in the right direction. I am pretty down to earth but I am definitely a sergeant when I need to be; knowing the difference of when to flip the switch and when to flip it back off is a challenge, but makes a difference."



Photo by: Leo Ritualo

Sergeant Jorge Bosquez trains K9 partner, Tigi, during exercise demonstration aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 25, 2026.

The MCI-West NCO of the Year program recognizes Marines who demonstrate exceptional leadership, professional development and dedication while supporting installation operations and the readiness of the Marine Corps.

"One thing that I would pass down is to be a mentor but always be a student," Bosquez explained. "I have grabbed a lot of things that I do from individuals that are in charge of me and that has helped mold me into who I am but, being open as a student keeps me humble to always learn."

Bosquez's selection reflects the professionalism and commitment of the Marines serving aboard MCLB Barstow and the vital role noncommissioned officers play in maintaining mission readiness across the force.



APRIL 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month/Child Abuse Prevention Month: Find the Ribbons @ BLDG 218 5-7PM: BUNNY BASH	Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays 6-7AM: SAPR Gate Handouts @ NEBO Gate	National Burrito Day 12-5PM: Auto Skills - Open 1-3PM: Volunteer Orientation @ BLDG 126	10AM - 2PM: Thrift Store Open 8AM-5PM: Auto Skills - Open
Easter 11:30AM-7:30PM: BUNNY BOWL @ Leatherneck Lanes 10AM-6PM: Auto Skills - Open		9 - 11AM: Real Relationships (ONLINE CLASS) 9 - 10AM: Take It, Make It Activities @ Desert Housing Community Center 1-3PM: Bridging the Generation Gap @ BLDG 126		Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays	9-11AM: Bagels, Bingo, & Boundaries @ Desert Housing Community Center	National Pet Day
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Tax Day 3-5PM: SAPR Splash n Dash 5K @ Bldg. 38 Earth Day	Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays 10-11AM: Playground @ Desert Housing Community Center	5-7PM: SAPR Strike Out @ Leatherneck Lanes	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		8-9AM: Coffee and Consent @ MCX, Bldg. 319 10-11AM: Infant Massage @ Desert Housing Community Center	National Denim Day Denim Day Photo Op at EGA Monument @ 11AM	Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month: Wear Teal Thursdays		
26	27	28	29	30		

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