

THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 16, No. 5

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

April 30, 2026



Sexual Assault & Child Abuse Prevention
Bottles Up! Recycling Challenge
Volunteer Recognition Ceremony 2026



HEAT FLAG CONDITIONS



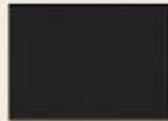
GREEN FLAG (WBGTI of 80° F to 84.9° F)
Heavy exercise for un-acclimatized personnel will be conducted with caution and under constant supervision.



YELLOW FLAG (WBGTI of 85° F to 87.9° F)
Strenuous exercise, such as marching at standard cadence, will be suspended for un-acclimatized personnel in their first two or three weeks. Outdoor classes in the sun are to be avoided.



RED FLAG (WBGTI of 88° F to 89.9° F)
All physical training will be halted for those personnel who have not become thoroughly acclimatized by at least 12 weeks of living and working in the area. Personnel who are thoroughly acclimatized may carry on limited activities not to exceed six hours per day.



BLACK FLAG (WBGTI of 90° and above)
All nonessential physical activity will be halted for all personnel.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES Essential activities are activities associated with scheduled exercises or other major training evolutions where the disruption would cause undue burden on personnel or resources, be excessively expensive, or significantly reduce readiness. Essential outdoor physical activity will be conducted at a level that is commensurate with personnel acclimatization. All efforts should be made to schedule major hot weather training activities to occur during cooler periods of the day.

COVER

Cover photo by: Katherine Cortez

A family enjoys the festivities at the Bunny Bash event hosted by the Family Advocacy Program at the Desert Housing Community Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, April 1.



THE PROSPECTOR

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Social Links and Website

OUR OFFICIAL BASE SOCIAL MEDIA AND WEBSITE CAN BE FOUND AT THE FOLLOWING LINKS:

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

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/MCLBBarstow>

Instagram: [mclb_barstow_official](https://www.instagram.com/mclb_barstow_official)

X: [MCLB_Barstow](https://twitter.com/MCLB_Barstow)

LinkedIn: <http://mclbbarstow.marines.mil>

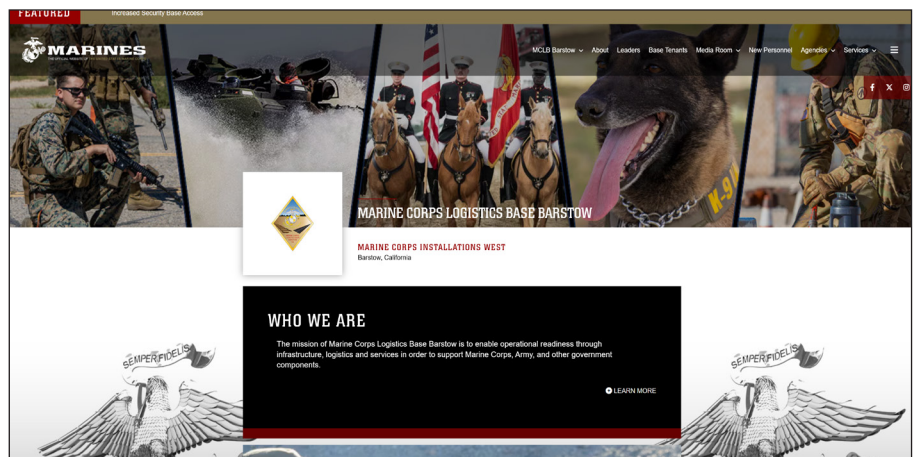




Photo by: Leo Ritualo

An Army soldier directs equipment being loaded for deployment at the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, March 30. The MCLB Barstow's railyard is approximately thirty-three miles of track and can hold within the Yermo Annex five hundred and eighty, eighty-nine foot railcars. Due to that capacity

alone, this allows the Railhead Operations Group, along with additional service support carriers Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) and Union Pacific, the ability to move railcars in support of real world missions in need of rail operations with zero, to no delay.

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Chaplain's Corner

Written by: Edwin Y. Handley
Deputy Chaplain, MCB Camp Pendleton



The fabric of adversity is what our Marine Corps is made from. My grandfather served as a Motor Transport Officer on Iwo Jima, and as I stood atop Mount Suribachi reading the memorial offered to the 5th Marine Division by Chaplain Gittelsohn, I reflected on the strength of spirit that carried the Marine Corps to victory in the Pacific.

We have access to that same strength; a strength that enables us to push through every point of friction in our lives. That strength is rooted in faith. General Smith defines spiritual fitness as “inner strength from a higher purpose.”

I encourage each of us to seek that strength. When adversity comes, we can press forward just as the landing force did on Iwo Jima, and as Fox Company did at Toktong Pass during the Korean War. Regardless of the situation, we will find strength—and we will endure.

President Theodore Roosevelt once said, “Nothing in the world is worth having or worth doing unless it means effort, pain, difficulty... I have never in my life envied a human being who led an easy life. I have envied a great many people who led difficult lives and led them well.”

I am grateful to stand with our Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Marines as their Chaplain. In a previous assignment, I led a professional military education trip to Iwo Jima. It was humbling to walk the shores where 110,000 Marines landed to seize the island. For thirty-six days, the landing force pressed the attack until it was finally secured. More than 23,000 Marines were killed or wounded—making it one of the largest and bloodiest battles in Marine Corps history.

The battle also produced twenty-seven Medal of Honor recipients, along with countless other awards and commendations. John Basilone received the Navy Cross for his heroism during the landing. Jack Williams, a Pharmacist's Mate Third Class, was awarded the Medal of Honor for treating wounded Marines while simultaneously engaging fortified enemy positions.



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week 2026

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

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow recognized its emergency dispatchers during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, observed annually in April, honoring the professionals who serve as the first point of contact during emergencies.

Often referred to as the “first, first responders,” public safety telecommunicators play a critical role in coordinating emergency response by answering calls, dispatching personnel and maintaining communication between responders in the field.

“Your calm voices in moments of crisis, your ability to manage high-pressure situations, and your unwavering commitment to public safety do not go unnoticed,” stated Colonel Russel Savatt, base commanding officer, in a base wide email to all personnel. “Day and night—through long shifts, holidays, and the most challenging circumstances—you remain steadfast in ensuring the safety and well-being of our base, community, and our emergency responders.”

Telecommunicators are responsible for gathering vital information under pressure, ensuring first responders have the details needed to respond quickly and effectively. Their ability to remain calm and focused during high-stress situations directly impacts the safety and success of emergency operations.

“I wouldn’t consider a challenge to be a challenge, it is more of a reward,” Felice Miller, public safety telecommunicator, explained. “When you love what you do, and you love serving the community, and things of that nature, it makes days more fulfilling.”

At MCLB Barstow, dispatchers support a wide range of incidents, working closely with law enforcement, fire and emergency services personnel to ensure timely and coordinated responses across the installation.

“Dispatchers at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow serve as the critical communication and coordination hub for all emergency and non-emergency response operations on the installation,” said James Bilyeu, public safety communication center supervisor. “Operating around the clock, 365 days a year, dispatchers are the first point of contact when crisis occurs, providing calm, trained, and decisive support that sets the entire response in motion. Beyond call intake, dispatchers maintain constant, real-time communication with responding units in the field. They monitor radio traffic across multiple channels, multiple emergency and administrative phone lines, base-wide alarm monitoring, and instillation communication networks. They also track unit locations and availability, and relay updated information as situations evolve.”

Their work often goes unseen, but it remains essential to maintaining safety and readiness aboard the installation.

“Our impact is phenomenal and reaches to so many different areas within the MCLB Barstow community and beyond,” said Dave Enriques, emergency dispatcher. “Answering phone calls for people that are having psychiatric episodes as far as South Carolina and talking them down or getting police out to the area they need to be for them is very impactful.”

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week provides an

opportunity to recognize the professionalism, dedication and resilience of these individuals, whose contributions are vital to both emergency response and overall mission success.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Dispatchers work alongside one another to receive incoming calls at the Consolidated Emergency Communications Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, April 14.

“The dispatchers of MCLB Barstow represent far more than a communications function- they are the operational backbone of emergency response for the instillation and trusted regional partner in public safety,” Bilyeu says. “Whether responding to an on-base incident or activating mutual aid for a neighboring community, dispatchers exemplify the Marine Corps values of readiness, professionalism, and dedication to protecting those who serve.”

Leaders aboard MCLB Barstow emphasize that telecommunicators are a critical link in the chain of response, ensuring that every call for assistance is met with coordination and precision.

“We are extremely grateful for our emergency dispatchers at MCLB Barstow. Dispatchers are a critical component of the emergency response, they are the first personnel to be notified of an emergency, and their calm professionalism gathers the essential information that allows us to respond,” stated Ryan Tworek, Fire and Emergency Services’ fire chief on base. “Our dispatchers are also trained as Emergency Medical Dispatchers which allows them to provide medical guidance to the reporting person and help with emergency medical needs. Overall, our dispatchers are essential to our mission, they are there 24/7 prepared to answer any call for help. We have a great team of emergency dispatchers, and we are happy to be able to have a week to show them our appreciation.”

This recognition serves as a reminder of the essential role dispatchers play in protecting personnel, supporting first responders and sustaining operational effectiveness across the installation.



Sexual Assault Pre

Story by: Katherine Cortez
Public Affairs Specialist



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow promotes a zero-tolerance policy for sexual assault and sexual harassment. Marines, civilians, and all personnel aboard MCLB Barstow are encouraged to say something if they witness or even suspect concerning behavior.

“Fostering a culture of dignity and respect starts with being an upstander rather than a bystander,” said Michelle Adams, Sexual Assault Prevention and Response coordinator. “The three D’s with SAPR are Direct, Distract, and Delegate. Being direct means confronting the harasser or telling them to stop. You can also create a distraction to interrupt the interaction and deescalate the situation before it worsens. Delegating means seeking help from others, such as a supervisor or someone you trust, to check on the victim and remove the offender from the situation.”



It is encouraged for everyone to be involved in preventing violence within our installation and speaking up on behalf of those who may be afraid. Supervisors and leaders play a critical role in creating a safe environment for individuals who come forward with concerns about their own safety or the safety of their peers.

“Leaders and supervisors can ensure safe, confidential, and retaliation-free reporting of sexual assault by fostering a zero-tolerance command climate, actively promoting restricted reporting options,

and ensuring that SAPR annual training is completed by their Marines or civilian workforce,” Adams explained.

Adams encourages, “Key actions include engaging with the SAPR workforce, providing confidential 24/7 resources such as the SAPR Support Line and Safe Helpline, and limiting information to a need-to-know basis in unrestricted reports to protect the victim’s identity during the investigative process. Leaders can also listen actively to concerns, believe victims, and provide immediate, non-judgmental support.”

Adams explained that one example of the lack of accountability occurred in Rome, in the late 1990s, when a young woman accused her driving instructor of rape. Although he was initially convicted, the case was later overturned by the Italian Supreme Court of Cassation. The court suggested that because the victim was wearing “very tight jeans,” it would have been difficult to remove them without her cooperation—thereby implying consent. Critics around the world condemned this logic as an example of victim-blaming.

“Enraged by the verdict, women in the Italian Parliament protested by wearing jeans to work,” Adams said. “This example underscores the important connection between victims and advocates, a relationship that fosters



Prevention Month

Photos by: COMMSTRAT & Behavioral Health

trust, reinforces respect, and contributes to the reduction of violence while enhancing safety and cohesion.”

From this movement emerged Denim Day, a campaign that continues to challenge harmful myths about sexual assault and promote accountability. Every year, on April 23, people are encouraged to wear denim in support of this movement.

Practices of accountability and integrity should be taken seriously throughout the entire year.

“Taking accountability can be a matter of profound consequence and, at times, even the difference between justice and injustice, or harm and protection” Adams said.

April being Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, the United States Marine Corps SAPR Program has created the theme “Step Forward—Prevent, Report, Advocate” for 2026.

“The theme is a call to action for all individuals to use their personal and collective strength to advance meaningful change in preventing and responding to sexual violence,” Adams said. “Phase one of the STEP FORWARD campaign started in 2023 with a campaign to increase awareness of sexual assault and resources to enhance response. Phase two started in 2024 to change harmful behaviors, provide support to victims of sexual assault, and encourage sexual assault prevention initiatives year-round.”

It is strongly encouraged to speak up if you feel unsafe. Sexual violence includes any type of unwanted sexual conduct, including words or actions of a sexual nature carried out against a person’s will and without their consent. If you are unsure about a situation or would like more information, please call the Sexual Assault Support Line at 760-577-6036.

Resources that may be helpful in staying proactive:

MCLB Sexual Assault 24/7 Support Line: 760.577.6036

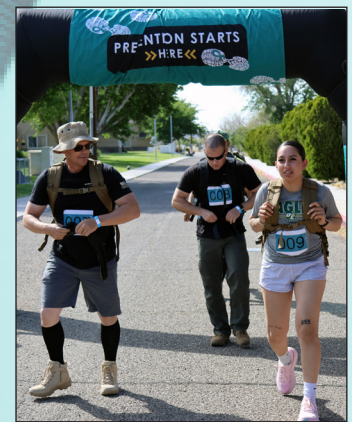
National Sexual Assault Sexual Assault Hotline: 800.656.HOPE (4673)

Online Chat: online.rainn.org

DoD Safe Helpline: 877.995.5247 or online at: SafeHelpline.org

Support Group Chat for Men: 1in6.org

Military One Source: 800.342.9647 or online at: militaryonesource.mil



Thrift Store Feature Story

Story by: Katherine Cortez

Public Affairs Specialist

The Navy Marine Corps Relief Society Thrift Store, a base resource, has grown into a key support hub, as it offers affordable goods and assistance to military families.

Esmeralda Savatt, thrift store head volunteer, and wife of Colonel Russell Savatt, base commanding officer, and her team of volunteers have made this store an affordable option for Marines, Sailors, and families. They lead the store with integrity, compassion, accountability and respect.

“Respect for the donors who trust us with their items. Integrity in how we price, present, and manage the store. Accountability to our volunteers and customers is doing things the right way even when no one is watching, and compassion, because every person who walks through our doors has a story, a need, or a moment where they could use a little kindness.” Savatt said.

The volunteers helping to run the thrift store diligently manage the items that are donated and take the inspection of products very seriously. The store is equipped with items such as clothing, sports equipment, shoes, seasonal décor, infant clothing, toys, jewelry, and more.

“Quality starts with careful sorting” Savatt said. “We inspect every item, ensuring it’s clean, functional, and appropriate for resale.”

“Mrs. Esmeralda and Ms. Adams have come in here and it is phenomenal what they have done,” Cathy Donaldson said.

Esmeralda Savatt, Kimberly (Kim) Owens, Cathey DeVault-Donaldson, Ruby Adams, Ruby Riberich, and Connie Sanchez are some of the store’s full-time volunteers. An honorable mention goes to the various other volunteers that offer their time to the thrift store when their schedules permit. The need for new volunteers and opportunities to give back to the community are always available at the thrift store. Volunteer inquiries could be addressed by reaching out to Julianna Adams, the base’s volunteer coordinator, at 760-577-6675.



Photo by: Katherine Cortez

Volunteers with The Marine Corps Relief Society thrift store pose for a photo to demonstrate the items on sale and promote their weekly deals aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California March 19.

“Volunteers are the heartbeat of the store,” Savatt said. “They sort donations, price items, maintain the racks, greet customers, and keep the store running smoothly. Their dedication determines the quality of the shopping experience and the success of our mission. Without volunteers, the store simply wouldn’t function. They are essential, not optional.”

March 2025, Savatt and Owens were given the opportunity to support the thrift store’s operations. What began as a chance to simply lend a hand soon evolved into much greater responsibility. They stepped up to carry the work forward alongside their existing duties. In that moment, they recognized the store’s true potential. This store was not just a place to shop but has become a vital hub of support for military personnel and their families.

“That spirit is reflected in the people behind it and volunteers who are deeply committed to supporting the community of Marines, Sailors, and their families. For them, the work goes beyond daily tasks; it carries real meaning and impact.”

“Seeing a young service member walk out with essential items they genuinely needed, all at a price they could manage—the relief on their face reminded me that this isn’t just retail; it’s dignity, support, and readiness,” Savatt said. “Every time a family finds something they couldn’t otherwise afford, or a volunteer shares how meaningful their service feels, it reaffirms that this work has purpose.”

The store helps service members and their families, especially those relocating or managing tight budgets, to access what they need without financial strain. Proceeds from every purchase directly fund assistance programs through the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society, ensuring the store’s impact extends far beyond its walls.

“The store is a direct extension of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society mission,” Savatt explained. “Every dollar earned goes right back into programs that help them in times of need.”

In addition to its current services, the store is expanding its reach through new initiatives. These include promotional deals, customer loyalty programs, and more.

“We are working on an initiative to promote deals, loyalty programs, and ultimately create a resource for those who are cleaning out their homes and need somewhere to take their items so that someone else can use them,” Adams said.

Savatt’s vision for the thrift store is rooted in the systems and standards she is actively putting in place. From maintaining an organized sales floor to establishing clear processes for sorting and displaying donations, she is creating a structure that ensures consistency and quality. She also emphasizes volunteer support, encouraging questions and attention to detail so that everyone contributing to the store feels confident and valued in their role. These day-to-day practices are shaping a culture of care that customers can see and experience.

“I want to leave behind a store that is organized, welcoming, and known for excellence. A place where volunteers feel valued, customers feel respected, and the community feels supported, my hope is that long after I’m gone, the systems, standards, and culture we’ve built together continue to serve families with pride and purpose.” Savatt said.

That commitment shows in the small but meaningful details she reinforces daily.

“I encourage volunteers to ask questions when unsure. It prevents mistakes and keeps the store looking polished,” she added. “It’s the little details that set us apart and make the store feel cared for.”



Photo by: Katherine Cortez

The Marine Corps Relief Society thrift store has a themed area at the front of the store for families to purchase affordable decor items, holiday bundles, accessories and more aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California March 19.

Pinwheels for Prevention 2026

Photos by: Leo Ritualo

Children and teachers placed blue pinwheels in front of the Child Development Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, April 3. The blue pinwheels serve as the national emblem for Child Abuse Prevention Month, symbolizing the joyful, healthy, and secure childhoods that every child is entitled to. These pinwheels represent hope, happiness, and the collective duty of the community to avert child abuse and neglect by supporting families and enhancing awareness.



Bunny Bash & Child Development Center Egg Hunt

Photos by: Katherine Cortez & Leo Ritualo

The Family Advocacy Program hosted a Bunny Bash for military, civilians, and their families at the Desert Housing Community Center, also children searched for eggs at the Child Development Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, April 1. Both of these events included egg hunts, crafts, games, and an opportunity to spread awareness about child abuse prevention.





SPRING FESTIVAL

“Around the World” Theme.

MAY 1, 2026 | 5 – 8 PM | LAWN AT BUILDING 218

Join us for an evening of global fun and cultural celebration!



FOODS FROM AROUND THE WORLD FOR PURCHASE



INFLATABLE GAMES



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT



TRIVIA



COUNTRY BOOTHS

AND MUCH MORE!

OPEN TO ALL BASE ACCESS PERSONNEL!



REMINDER: SCHEDULED POWER OUTAGE

While the power is out, why not spend the time enjoying our outdoor festival!

MCLB Barstow Recognizes Volunteers during National Volunteer Month

Story by: Kristyn Galvan

Public Affairs Chief

Service members and civilians were recognized for their dedication to volunteerism during a volunteer recognition ceremony aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, April 30, in observance of National Volunteer Month.

Throughout April, installations across the Marine Corps highlight the impact of volunteers who dedicate their time to strengthening their communities. At MCLB Barstow, volunteers play a vital role in supporting programs such as Behavioral Health events, the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society thrift store on base and various community outreach initiatives both on and off the installation.

Angelica Benavidez, Marine Corps Community Services operations officer, emphasized that volunteer efforts extend beyond the gates of MCLB Barstow, strengthening ties with the local community and reinforcing the Marine Corps' commitment to service.

"Volunteers help because they want to help, not because they have to," Benavidez said. "They use their personal time to support others. That's admirable and deserves recognition. National Volunteer Month is an opportunity to highlight every volunteer's selfless service."

The ceremony honored individuals who consistently give their time and effort to improve quality of life for Marines, families and members of the surrounding Barstow community.

"All of our programs really do depend on the support of our volunteers," said Julianna Adams, installation volunteer coordinator. "Sometimes being in a secluded area like Barstow, people can start to feel alone so investing your time into something that keeps you motivated but where you are able to give back, be involved, and even learn new skills is so important."

Volunteers supporting Behavioral Health programs contribute to events that promote resilience, stress management and overall well-being, helping to foster a culture of care and readiness across the installation.

In addition, volunteers at the installation's NMCRS thrift store provide an essential service by offering affordable goods to military families while supporting sustainability and community connection.

"There are so many opportunities out there to support great causes," Benavidez said. "And if you have children, have them support as well. It's a great way to get involved, gain experience and knowledge, and meet some amazing people along the way."

For many volunteers, the opportunity to give back is both personal and rewarding.

"Volunteering is important to me because, I believe we all have a profound purpose in the lives of others," said Kimberly Owens, one of the installation volunteers. "My motivation continues with Julianna Adams as such a great volunteer leader and grows bigger with passion for serving my community. To me, service is the best way to spread love and joy."

The volunteer recognition ceremony served as an opportunity to formally thank those whose selfless service often goes unseen but remains essential to mission readiness and community

support.

"When I first started there were only two volunteers in January of 2025," Adams said. "Now we have about twenty volunteers and organizations off base that are joining us in volunteering their time as well, really building those strong community relationships."



Photo submitted by: Julianna Adams

Volunteers pose together while working the Christmas Food Pantry at the Desert Housing Community Center aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, December 22, 2025.

National Volunteer Month serves as a reminder of the collective impact individuals can have when they dedicate their time and energy to helping others.

"What keeps me coming back? The answer is simple, it's the people," Owens explained. "I've realized that when we serve, we aren't just checking a box; we are making people happy by bringing families and friends together. Every time I walk onto the base or sit down with our team, I see the happiness of being able to share our time together."

The contributions of MCLB Barstow volunteers reflect the Marine Corps' core values of honor, courage and commitment, both in uniform and within the community.

"Honor is reflected in a volunteer's integrity and sense of responsibility," Benavidez stated. "Courage shows in a volunteer's willingness to step outside their comfort zone and face challenges. Commitment is seen in a volunteer's dedication and reliability. All the volunteer support we get aboard MCLB Barstow are amazing people. We couldn't do what we do without them!"

Through their service, these volunteers contribute to a stronger, more resilient MCLB Barstow community and continuously supporting our Marines mission readiness.



