

THE PROSPECTOR



Vol. 14, No. 11

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow
Supporting the Corps since 1943

June 13, 2024



Desert Wildlife

Pool Safety

SNCO Field Meet



COVER

Cover photo by: Capt. Ian Thomasgard

A wild burro glances at the camera, Mojave, California, March 2023. Wild burros are protected by the United States Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, jointly managed with the Bureau of Land Management.

BLM will gather and relocate wild burros to approved territories, in order to ensure their health and safety, especially in the harsh desert climates. The Wild-Free Roaming Horses and Burro Act of 1971 grants federal protection for wild horses and burros and BLM has the Wild Horse and Burro Program, through which they also manage and protect wild burros.



THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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Sgt. Maj. Miller Daceus, base sergeant major

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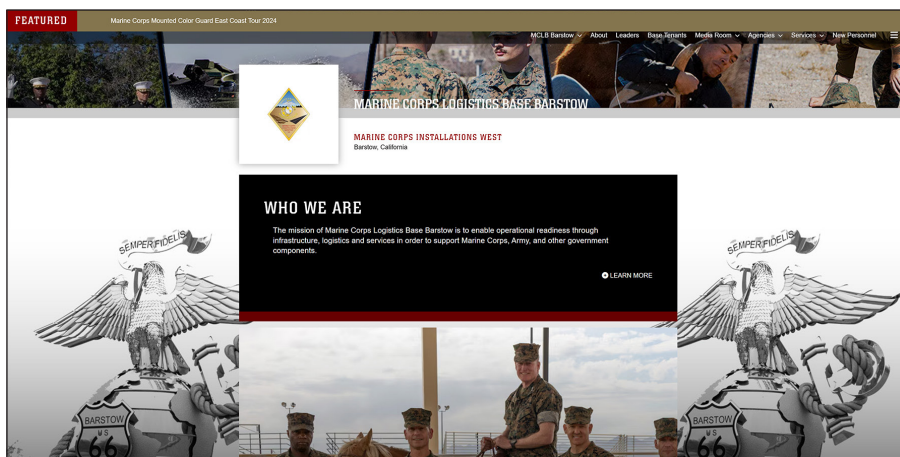




Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Corporal Ashton Cunningham, calibration technician, Cpl. Gilbert Melesio, military police officer, and Cpl. Crystal Bonillarios, supply administrator, perform sword drills during the Corporals' Course, held at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 3. The course

teaches Marines the basic knowledge and skills needed to assume greater responsibilities as a non-commissioned officer. They learn and practice specialized skills such as sword work, land navigation, use of camouflage, leadership and team building skills.

CONTENTS



CO and XO Farewell

4-5



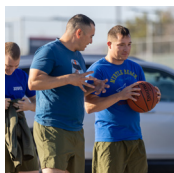
Pool Safety

9



Wildlife of the Desert

6-7



SNCO Field Meet

10



SRP Launch Party

8



Pure Praxis

11

Farewell to MCLBB's CO and XO

Photos by: Kristyn Galvan
Multimedia Specialist



Chief Paul Purdy, fire chief with Fire and Emergency Services shakes hands with Col. Gregory Pace, base commanding officer, during a farewell event held in front of the newly remodeled fire station at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7.



Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Manzanedo, base executive officer, plays a final round of golf at the Marine Memorial Golf Course adjacent to the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 5.



Colonel Gregory Pace, base commanding officer, holds his commemorative plaque in front of Fire and Emergency Services as he bids farewell to the FES personnel, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7.



Chief Paul Purdy, fire chief with Fire and Emergency Services, bids farewell to Lt. Col. Arturo Manzanedo, base executive officer, at the new fire facility at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7.



Photo by: Veronica Mears

Colonel Gregory Pace, base commanding officer, holds his Desert Rat certificate, alongside his wife, Maretta Pace, and Sgt. Maj. Miller Daceus, base sergeant major, during the joint farewell party at Los Domingos restaurant, Barstow, California, June 7.



Photo by: Veronica Mears

(above photo) Colonel Gregory Pace, base commanding officer, and Lt. Col. Arturo Manzanedo, base executive officer, admire some art at their joint farewell party at Los Domingos restaurant, Barstow, California, June 7.



Photo by: Veronica Mears

(left photo) Lieutenant Colonel Arturo Manzanedo, base executive officer, holds his Desert Rat certificate alongside his wife, Roxanne Manzanedo, during the joint farewell party at Los Domingos restaurant, Barstow, California, June 7.



READ, RENEW, REPEAT



**DOD MWR LIBRARIES
SUMMER READING PROGRAM**
on Military Installations Worldwide

The Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation 2024 Summer Reading Program is still going! It's not too late to sign up and participate. Visit the McTureous Hall library at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California for more details, or barstow.usmc-mccs.org/library.

Keep Out of Striking Distances

Story by: Laurie Pearson
CommStrat Officer



Photo by: Captain Ian Thomasgard

A sidewinder, part of the pit viper family and native to the Southwestern U.S., lurks on desert rocks, Newberry Wilderness, California, April 2024. Although their venom is weaker than other rattlesnakes, a sidewinder bite can still be fatal.

As temperatures soar this June, so does the activity level of wildlife at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California.

Chief Greg Kunkel, with Fire and Emergency Services, explains that one of the most important things residents and personnel on base can do to protect themselves is to watch where you put their hands and feet. This is a significant step to prevent sustaining an injury from the various forms of wildlife on base and throughout the Mojave Desert.

“Speaking from experience, never put your hands or feet, or anything else, anywhere where you cannot see what might be lurking there,” Kunkel said.

Years ago, Kunkel was bitten by a speckled rattlesnake, common to the area.

“I was exploring lava tubes and reached my hand up to steady myself when I was struck,” he said. Fortunately, he was able to get to a location where an air ambulance could land and fly him to a hospital.

“To this day I have nerve damage and you can see

the lack of mobility in the area on my hand,” Kunkel said.

There are various critters within the Mojave Desert that are unique to the terrain, and many of those are venomous.

“In the Barstow area there are three primary venomous snakes,” Kunkel said. “Sidewinder (*Crotalus cerastes*) can be found in the sandy washes of the desert. They have a unique way of locomotion in that they travel laterally or ‘sidewind.’ Also, they have specialized scales above their eyes that work as a sunshade, like a ballcap to keep the overhead sun out of their eyes. Mojave Rattlesnake (*Crotalus scutulatus*), sometimes referred to as the ‘Mojave Green.’ These have a greenish hue to their scales and are considered by many to be the most dangerous of the North American rattlesnakes due to the large component of neurotoxin in its venom. These are generally found in the lowlands in the Barstow area. Then the Speckled Rattlesnake (*Crotalus mitchelli*), which is typically found in the rocky outcroppings in the Barstow area. This is the species that bit me in an old lava flow in the Rodman Mountains near Newberry Springs.”

Rattlesnakes are pit vipers, and there are two components to pit viper venom. The first being a cytotoxin. This component destroys the body’s cells and tissue. The



Photo by: Captain Ian Thomasgard

A horned lizard suns itself on a rock at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, May 2024. These lizards are camouflaged to blend in with the sand and rocks.

ence of these Desert Critters



Photo by: Captain Ian Thomasgard

This Cooper's hawk sits on a limb scouting its next meal on the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, August 2023. These hawks are avid hunters with sharp eyes as well as talons.

second is a neurotoxin. This effects the body's nervous system and works to effect the respiratory system, causing labored breathing, or in extreme cases, apnea which is the cessation of breathing.

"Generally speaking, humans receive one of two types of bites," Kunkel said. "The first, and the most common, is when humans attempt to interact with rattlesnakes. They will try to pick one up or harass it in other ways. The rattlesnake will first warn with a light rattle as it tries to escape. If that doesn't work the snake will take up its classic defensive posture of it being coiled up with its head held in the air, over its coils, preparing a strike. Of importance to note that this sequence is not a steadfast rule. If the snake is startled it may immediately go into its defensive posture. The second type of strike and the one that got me is called a predatory strike. Rattlesnakes are opportunistic predators in that they will hide and wait for prey to come along before striking and biting it. In a predatory strike the snake will not rattle, rather, only strike. Also, in most cases of predatory strikes the victim will receive more venom. This is because the snake wants to ensure a quick kill of its pray and not have to track it for great distances across the desert."

Some of the other venomous critters in the Mojave Desert include scorpions, a variety of spiders, such as Desert Recluse, Brown Widows and Black Widows, and even a lizard, called a Gila Monster.

One way to avoid injury is to avoid contact with the

venomous critter. Watch where you put your hands and feet. Look out of your vehicle door before exiting to ensure that the vehicle is not parked next to anything that can strike feet or ankles.

In base housing, near the barracks, or even in base offices, snakes, spiders, and scorpions may enter through open doorways, open bay or garage doors. It is common for pest control on base to be called out to these various locations to capture then relocate the animal, or spider.

Another thing that base personnel and families can do to increase safety from stings and bites, is to clear the areas around homes and office so that they are free of debris and items that might hide or house these creatures. Also remove trash, brush, tumbleweeds and other weeds from around the perimeter.

Also keep in mind that many desert dwellers will seek out areas that increase their chance of survival, such as areas with water and shade. So, if you are gardening, be extra cautious before reaching for a vine, vegetable or flower.

If you see snakes, or other desert critters in an area that is potentially dangerous to people, or may cause a work stoppage, call the help desk immediately at 760-577-6220.



Photo by: Captain Ian Thomasgard

This desert tortoise, is crossing part of the Mojave Desert, near Ord Mountain, California, September 2022. They are a protected species. Should you see them in the area, leave them be. Touching them can cause a startle response during which the tortoise will urinate all of its stored water, increasing chances that it will die. Respect them from a distance.

Summer Reading Program Launch Party



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Children read together in a corner of the McTureous Hall library, during the launch party for the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library 2024 Summer Reading Program, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 4.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

McTureous Hall library staff assist with sign ups during the launch party for the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library 2024 Summer Reading Program, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 4. The staff are wearing T-shirts that were part of the giveaway for the first 100 participants who signed up. T-shirt artwork by Zoe Persico.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Children read through storybooks at McTureous Hall library, during the launch party for the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library 2024 Summer Reading Program, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 4.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

A mother and child enjoy one of the activities during the launch party for the Department of Defense Morale, Welfare and Recreation Library 2024 Summer Reading Program, at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 4.

Stay Safe at the Pool this Summer

Story by: Vanessa Schell
CommStrat Specialist

Staff of the Oasis Pool at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, urge patrons to understand and follow important rules for water safety, especially for young children at the pool. California was amongst several states with the highest reported pool drownings between 2019 and 2021, according to a report by insurance company Quote Wizard. Per Quote Wizard's report, for children under the age of 14, 120 fatalities in the pool were in California, out of 788 for the entire United States.

"In the aquatics field, all the rules are typically the same," said Jessie Winston, the Oasis Pool manager, meaning these rules are typical of most pools open to the public. Patrons can see a list of these rules posted around the Oasis Pool, but on the same list posted in the office, this rule is underlined "pool toys are provided by the facility, any additional toys are subject to approval by pool management."

The reason that pool toys are under strict approval and why other activities such as breath holding are prohibited, is to mitigate the risk of a water-related incident. Floaties such as water wings can easily slip off or give a false sense of confidence when it comes to staying afloat, but when the swimmer lacks the ability to independently stay afloat and upright, even simple water wings can have deadly consequences.

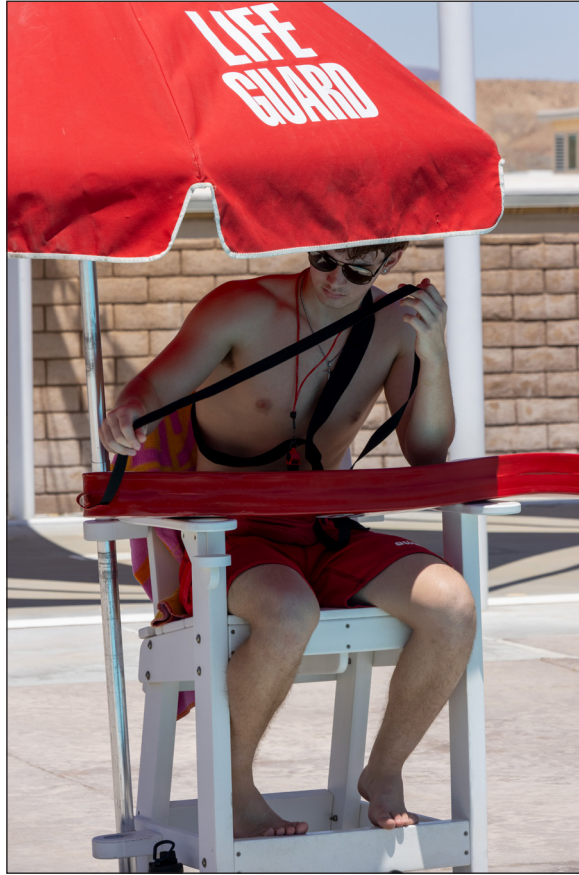


Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

A lifeguard checks his equipment at the Oasis Pool at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7.

Snorkels, amongst other toys such as pool noodles and innertubes, are also prohibited, for similar safety reasons.

However, water wings that are attached to a life vest with an additional float support across the chest are likely to be approved. A good rule of thumb is to bring Coast Guard approved life vests. The quickest way ensure they are approved is if they are emblazoned with "Coast Guard" on them, and these can be found at most retail stores. It is also important that the life vests are the proper size for the wearer. Although an ill-fitting life vest won't necessarily pose an immediate danger, it can obstruct the view of the wearer, or slip off, both of which could lead to an incident.

"Safety is so important with kids, because oftentimes they think they can swim, when they can't," said Winston. "When these rules are heavily enforced, it's for their safety."

If you are unsure about what is allowed at the pool or have any questions regarding pool safety, please contact the Oasis Pool office (760) 577-6284.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Children, from School Aged Care, enjoy swimming at the Oasis Pool at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7. Approved swimmers who pass the swimming test do not require life vests.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Children, from School Aged Care, wear approved life vests, and enjoy a swim session at the Oasis Pool at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, June 7.

MCLBB's Field Meet Defines Esprit De Corps

Story by: Vanessa Schell
CommStrat Specialist

United States Marine Corps and 1st Force Storage Battalion staff noncommissioned officers participated in a field meet at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's McCarver Hall Fitness Center, California, May 31. U.S. Marine Corps Captain William Kemp, 1st FSB supply officer, organized the field meet, which has not occurred at MCLB Barstow in several years. "For us here at Barstow, this will be the first one in some time. Though every senior Marine with rotations at other units has stories from other field meets, many first timers here haven't participated in one before. A field meet will give them a taste of the fleet life while showing off their status as combat athletes," said Kemp.

During the field meet, Marines were divided equally into red and blue teams and competed against one another in eight challenges, which included trivia, basketball, weights, pull-ups and tug-o-war. For the U.S. Marine Corps, field meets are a customary tradition in every battalion and have been in existence for at least a century, since World War I.

U.S. Marine Corps Capt. Michael Henson, commander of Company L, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines at Twentynine Palms, California, saw firsthand the importance of esprit de corps when he was a private first class. "Esprit de corps defines a special club, a brotherhood, a sisterhood, an organization, an institution that is greater than its individual

members. Such groups often trace their lineage to long before any of the current members joined. Esprit de corps is often strengthened by an inherited legacy kept alive by reverence for those who went before," said Henson, in the November 2021 issue of *Proceedings*, an open forum publication by the U.S. Naval Institute. "Though it may be hard to measure, it is indisputable that units



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Marines on the blue team fight to keep control of the rope during tug-of-war at the field meet held at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 31.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

United States Marine Corps Lt. Col. Arturo Manzanedo (right), base executive officer, Gunnery Sgt. Richard McGriff (left) and Gunnery Sgt. Brandon Rozsnyai (middle), observe the action during the Marine Corps field meet held at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 31.

with strong esprit are more combat efficient than units without. Anyone who has experienced it can attest to its effectiveness," said Henson.

Esprit de corps is defined by Merriam Webster as "the common spirit existing in the members of a group and inspiring enthusiasm, devotion, and strong regard for the honor of the group."

"The 2024 Barstow SNCO field meet was an event to showcase the plethora of athletic and intellectual skills our Marines here on base have developed. Marines are by nature both proud and athletic and have the mental toughness for all levels of competition. Field meets are an opportunity for Marines to compete and prove their worth to one another while also spending time together outside of the working environment. Field meets historically raise both comradery and esprit de corps," said Kemp.



Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

Marines on the red team compete in the pushup challenge during the field meet held at the Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, May 31.

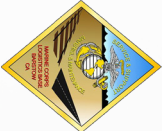
"Everyday People, Everyday Heroes"

Photos by: Kristyn Galvan
Multimedia Specialist



Kelly Pfleider, founder and creator of Pure Praxis, alongside her team of actors demonstrate through performance-based training to the Marines and civilians at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow's McCarver Hall Fitness Center, California, June 7. Pure Praxis discusses sensitive subjects, and their aim is to empower individuals to resolve them. Through Pure Praxis' workshops, participants will learn to foster social transformation by employing dynamic, socially responsive theater to recreate challenging real-life scenarios.





JUNE

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|-----------|--|--|--|--|---------------------------|
| 7 - 11AM: Sunday Drive @ Marine Memorial Golf Course Auto Skills - Open | | 9 - 10AM: Take-It Make-It Activities @ Bldg. 363 10 - 12PM: Summer Reading Program Kick Off Party @ Bldg. 218 | World Environment Day 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 Summer Reading Program Sign-Up Begins @ Bldg. 218 | D-Day 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 4 - 6PM: Sugar Loaf Social @ Bldg. 38 | Auto Skills - Open |
| 7 - 11AM: Sunday Drive @ Marine Memorial Golf Course | | 9AM - 4PM: Baby Boot Camp @ Bldg. 363 4 - 5PM: Family Advocacy Program Info Table @ Bldg. 38 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 1 - 3PM: Volunteer Orientation @ Bldg. 126 | Flag Day 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 5 - 7PM: Family Advocacy Program Info Table @ Bldg. 342 | Auto Skills - Open |
| Father's Day | | | Juneteenth 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | |
| 7 - 11AM: Sunday Drive @ Marine Memorial Golf Course Auto Skills - Open | | | 9 - 10AM: L.I.N.K.S. Net-working @ Bldg. 126 1 - 2PM: Family Advocacy Program Prevention Hour @ Bldg. 218 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 4-5PM: L.I.N.K.S. Foundations @ Bldg. 126 | 12 - 5PM: Kids Bowl Free @ Bldg. 342 | |
| 7 - 11AM: Sunday Drive @ Marine Memorial Golf Course | | 4 - 8PM: Route 66 Cafe Dining Night @ Bldg. 38 | | | | |
| 30 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

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