THE PROSPECTOR

Vol. 16, No. 11

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

October 29, 2026



Fire Prevention Week 2026

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Kiwanis Mardi Gras Parade & Halloween Bash



COVER

Cover photo by: Kristyn Galvan

David Alfaro, firefighter, assists a child with putting on fire safety equipment as part of an educational demonstration conducted at the School Aged Care program during Fire Prevention Week aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, October 8.

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
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Special Photo Feature!



Participants in the Find the Ribbon challenge, hosted by MCCS Behavioral Health through the month of October, show off their prizes and support towards spreading domestic violence awareness aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, October 2. Read more on page 8!

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Social Media Links & Base 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***

X: ***MCLB_Barstow***

LinkedIn: ***linkedin.com/company/marinecorpslogisticsbasebarstow***

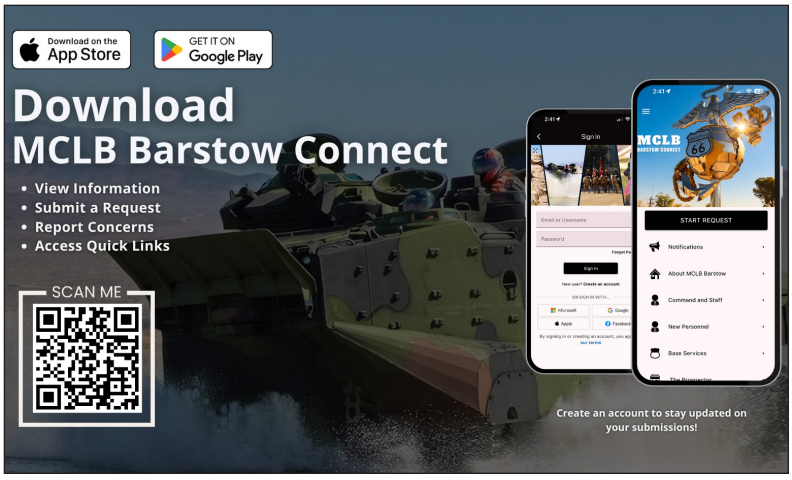




Photo by: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand

U.S. Marines fill and stack sandbags at the base public works yard in preparation for incoming El Niño weather conditions aboard Marine Corps Logisitics Base Barstow, California, October 15, 2026. The proactive erosion control and flood mitigation efforts are part of a comprehensive emergency preparedness campaign to safeguard housing complexes, critical administrative facilities, and industrial depot infrastructure from potential storm runoff and localized flooding.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Fire Prevention Week 2026 4

Brig. Gen. Kiser Visit 5

Kiwanis Parade & Barstow Fire 100th Year 6-7

Domestic Violence Awareness Month 8

Halloween Bash & Main Street Festival 9

Education/Career Fairs & Guest Speaker 11

Fire Prevention Week 2026

Story submitted by: Michelle Bledsoe
Fire Prevention Chief

Fire Prevention Week commemorates the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, one of the most devastating urban fires in U.S. history. The fire claimed more than 300 lives and destroyed more than 17,000 structures. Since 1922, the NFPA has sponsored Fire Prevention Week as an annual national observance, which was formally recognized by presidential proclamation in 1925. More than a century later, Fire Prevention Week continues to serve as an important national effort to educate communities about fire prevention, preparedness and safety. From Oct. 4–10, 2026, Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow will observe Fire Prevention Week, highlighting this year's National Fire Protection Association theme, "Charge into Fire Safety: Safe Charging Is a Superpower." The campaign emphasizes the importance of safe charging practices and increased awareness of the fire risks associated with lithium-ion batteries.

This year's campaign highlights the growing fire hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries, which are found in many of the devices used every day by service members, civilian employees and their families. Smartphones, laptops, power tools, tactical communications equipment, e-scooters and other battery-powered devices all rely on lithium-ion technology.



Photo Courtesy of National Fire Protection Association

While these batteries are convenient and efficient, they can pose serious fire hazards when damaged or improperly charged. Batteries that are punctured, dropped, overcharged or paired with uncertified chargers or aftermarket cords can experience thermal runaway, a dangerous chain reaction that causes rapidly increasing temperatures and can result in intense heat, toxic vapors and fire. At MCLB Barstow, fire safety is more than an annual observance; it is a critical component of operational readiness and community protection. Military installations face a wide range of fire hazards due to their diverse environments, including high-density housing and barracks, administrative facilities, industrial shops, motor pools, warehouses and ammunition storage areas. A fire in any of these locations has the potential to endanger personnel, damage critical infrastructure and equipment, and disrupt mission-essential operations. Maintaining a proactive approach to fire prevention is essential to protecting personnel, preserving valuable resources and supporting the continued readiness of the installation. By recognizing potential hazards, following established safety practices and taking appropriate precautions, MCLB personnel and families can help reduce the risk of fires and contribute to a safer, more resilient community.



Photo submitted by: Michelle Bledsoe

Marine Corps Logisitcs Base Barstow Fire and Emergency Services personnel pose with Sparky the fire dog during fire prevention week aboard MCLB Barstow, October 6.

Fire Prevention Chief Michelle Bledsoe emphasized that fire safety is a shared responsibility across the installation. She noted that practicing safe charging habits, using battery-powered devices properly and disposing of damaged or unwanted batteries through approved methods are simple but important steps that can help protect personnel, homes, facilities and mission-essential resources. Throughout Fire Prevention Week, the MCLB Barstow Fire Prevention Division will engage with the installation community by distributing educational materials, promoting battery and fire safety, and visiting facilities across the base. Activities will include outreach at the Child Development Center and School-Age Care program, participation in Marine Corps Community Services events, and visits to various installation organizations. Sparky the Fire Dog will also join select events to help educate children and families about fire safety. While fire safety remains a year-round priority, Fire Prevention Week provides an opportunity to strengthen awareness and encourage safe practices throughout the MCLB Barstow community.

When it comes to lithium-ion batteries, safe charging and proper handling are essential to protecting personnel, property and mission readiness. Users should purchase devices and chargers from reputable manufacturers, use manufacturer-approved charging equipment, and follow all charging and storage instructions. Damaged, swollen or unusually hot batteries should never be used and should be handled and disposed of through approved procedures.

Fire prevention is a shared responsibility and an essential part of protecting the MCLB Barstow community, its resources and mission readiness. By staying alert, following established safety practices and using battery-powered devices responsibly, every member of the installation can help reduce the risk of fire. As MCLB Barstow observes Fire Prevention Week 2026, the message is clear: safe charging is a superpower, and fire prevention starts with each of us.

Brigadier General Kiser Visit

Photos By: Kristyn Galvan



Brigadier General Andrew J. Kiser, commanding general, US Army's National Training Center at Fort Irwin, stands with Col. Russell Savatt, commanding officer, and SgtMaj. Mario Virto, base sergeant major, during a joint-service leadership engagement aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, October 2. Kiser, who assumed command of NTC at Fort Irwin on August 25, 2026, visited the installation to strengthen inter-service coordination, discuss potential future joint-logistics projects, and tour the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard stables.









Active Shooter Training

Photos By: Kristyn Galvan & LCpl Jonathan Sherchand

Military and civilian personnel with the Provost Marshal's Office conduct high-intensity active shooter response training at the shoot house training facility aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, October 6. The training utilized realistic scenarios and tactical simulations to refine rapid-entry procedures, threat neutralization, and room-clearing tactics, ensuring first responders maintain peak tactical readiness to safeguard the installation and its personnel.









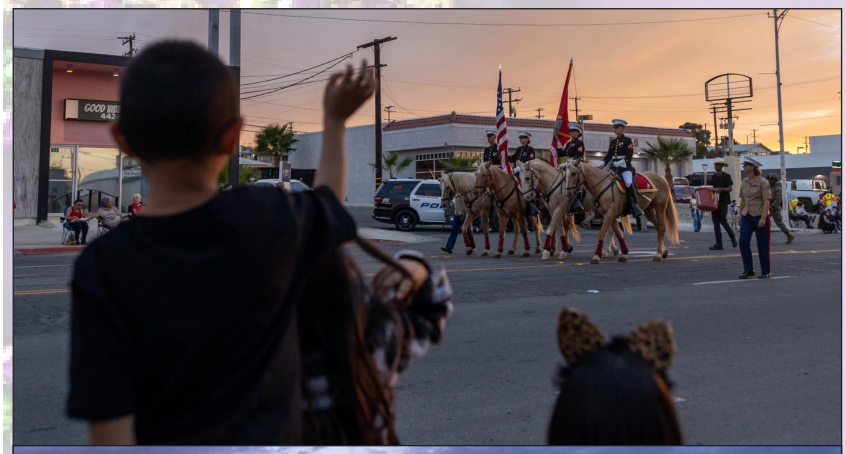


Kiwanis Barstow Crossroads Mardi Gras Parade

Photos by: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand & Courtesy of City of Barstow

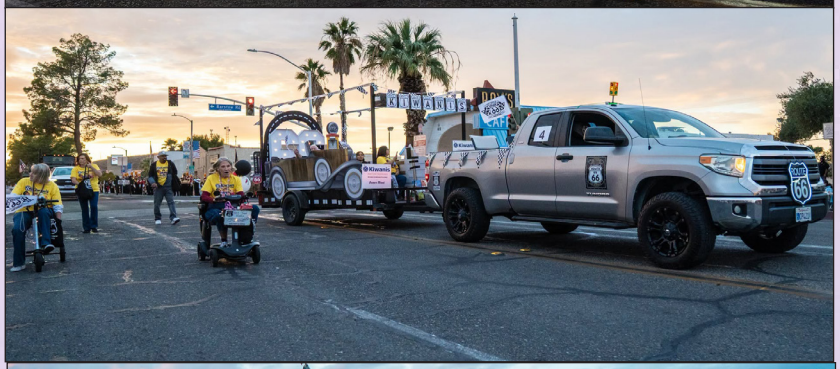
Members of the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard lead a joint-service procession during the 92nd Annual Mardi Gras Parade hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Barstow Crossroads along historic Route 66 in Barstow, California, October 17. The landmark parade with the centennial-inspired theme "100 Years of Kicks on Route 66!", featured classic cars, marching bands, and local parade entries. Mayor Tim Silva, members of the Barstow City Council, and military representatives participated in the community relations event to celebrate High Desert heritage, foster civil-military partnerships, and promote local tourism.















Barstow Fire 100th Year Celebration

Photos by: Katherine Cortez



Personnel with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Fire and Emergency Services stand alongside local first responders during the Barstow Fire Protection District Centennial Celebration in Barstow, California, October 17. The event, hosted at the Barstow Fire Protection District station on Barstow Road, celebrated a century of dedicated emergency response, fire protection, and public safety serving the local High Desert community. MCLB Barstow Fire participated in the event to showcase joint-emergency response capabilities, reinforce mutual-aid partnerships, and support community safety.

















Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Story by: Katherine Cortez
Public Affairs Specialist

Prioritizing the well-being of installation residents and healthy relationships throughout the base community is a top priority always, but especially during Domestic Violence Prevention and Awareness Month, which takes place each October.

Ensuring that personnel who live and work on base feel safe and know how to access available resources, supports the base and the Marine Corps mission as a whole.

Service members, civilians and families at every stage of a relationship, whether newly married, beginning a relationship or sharing years of commitment; are encouraged to recognize and address signs of unhealthy or harmful behavior.

According to Military OneSource:
"Healthy relationships are built on mutual respect, trust and good communication," In an article, "In an Unhealthy Relationship? You Have Options," published Sept. 15, 2026:

For service men and women, constant changes of living conditions can be stressful and overwhelming and may lead to harmful situations so having options may be comforting.

"Abuse thrives in silence and isolation. If warning signs are recognized early, peers can help break the silence of abuse. Connecting a peer to resources or encouraging them to take advantage of resources available to them will allow a professional to support them in getting the help they need. Programs that specialize in domestic abuse can help assess the risk, safety plan, and make appropriate referrals and/ or recommendations based on their specific situation," Jesica Grow Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Family Advocacy Program clinical counselor said.

The MCLB Barstow leadership promotes a variety of resources to help Marines, spouses, and civilian personnel feel comfortable seeking assistance when they feel unsafe, uncertain, or afraid to speak up about an abusive situation or one that may escalate into violence. The installation's Behavioral Health Department maintains an open-door policy and provides confidential support to help individuals navigate available options and remove themselves from hostile environments.

"Installation FAP hosts a variety of recurring educational programs and community awareness events aimed at building strong, resilient military families: Skill-building courses centered on healthy communication, financial management, anger management, and relationship enhancement, such as "Within My Reach" or "The Seven Principles of Making Marriage Work,"" Tarongoy, base Family Advocacy Program victim advocate, prevention, and education specialist said.

"Conflict can be uncomfortable, but relationships can grow when couples learn to discuss their needs and resolve their differences respectfully. There's a concept called "fair fighting" where couples use techniques to resolve conflict respectfully while avoiding personal attacks, using "I" statements, taking turns speaking, and taking time outs when emotions escalate," Grow said.

Command also encourages a "See Something, Say Something" mindset to help advocate for those who may be afraid to speak up because of possible retaliation. Speaking up for a victim may be a determining factor in preventing a situation from escalating from unhealthy to abusive. Being an upstander takes strength and courage, and although it can feel intimidating, there are ways to raise concerns.

"Victim Advocacy Services delivers 24/7 crisis intervention, safety planning, resource navigation, emergency lodging assistance, and hands-on advocacy during medical or legal proceedings," Tarongoy said.

When seeking prevention education, training, or awareness events the installation promotes various resources available to base personnel that include workshops, unit briefings, awareness campaigns, and more.

For further information on family advocacy, please contact Family Advocacy Program, or Behavioral Health Program (760) 577-6533. For 24/7 support please contact the DV support line at (760) 577-6484.

Main Street Route 66 Festival

Photos courtesy of: City of Barstow









Civic leaders, military representatives, and community members gather during the annual Main Street USA Route 66 Festival in Barstow, California, October 17, 2026. Co-hosted by the Saturday Night Cruisers, the Barstow Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee, and the Miss Route 66 Pageant, the community relations event celebrated the historic heritage of the "Mother Road" with classic car displays, live music, local vendors, and a new mural dedication. The festival also welcomed regional representatives from the offices of Assemblymember Jay Obernolte, Supervisor Dawn Rowe, and Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh to recognize local organizers and foster community partnerships across the High Desert.









Halloween Bash 2026

Photos By: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand

Children and families join in the spooky activities during the MCCS Barstow Library Halloween Craft Bash at McTureous Hall aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, October 23. The event featured interactive Halloween-themed crafts, festive games, and an escape room to support installation quality-of-life programs and foster community relations among base residents, civilian-Marines, and active-duty families.













HONORING OUR VETERANS. STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY.

BARSTOW VETERANS HONOR RIDE & COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Local Heroes. Stronger Barstow.

PEOPLE ★ COMMUNITY ★ VETERANS ★ STRONGER TOGETHER



SAME COMMUNITY. SAME GRATITUDE. A BRIGHTER TOMORROW. ★

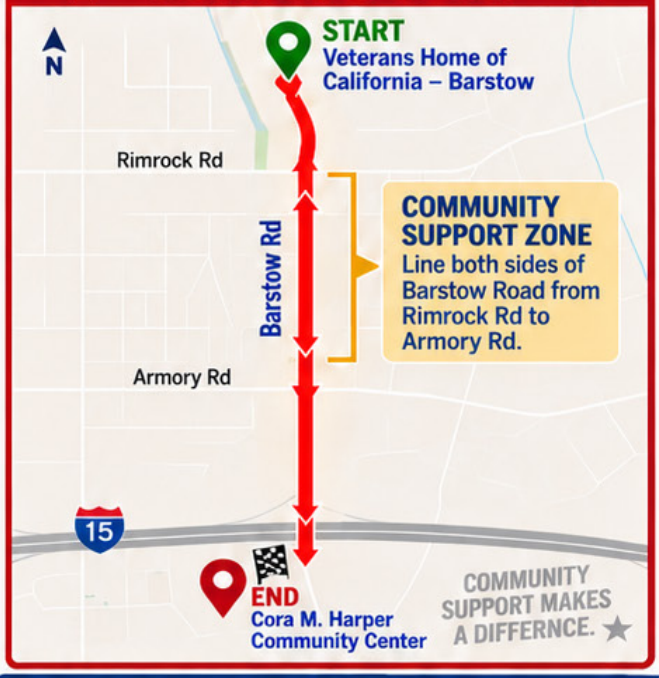
★ VETERANS DAY ★
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Cora M. Harper Community Center
841 Barstow Rd, Barstow, CA 92311

- Join the community in showing appreciation and gratitude to our veterans as they travel from the Veterans Home to the Cora M. Harper Community Center.
- Veteran service organizations will be handing out American flags to the public along the route.
- Community members are encouraged to line Barstow Road between Rimrock Rd and Armory Rd and wave flags in support of our local heroes.
- Complimentary breakfast for veterans and one guest.
- Veteran registration information will be posted soon on the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce website.

★ HONOR RIDE ROUTE ★



LINE THE ROUTE ★ WAVE YOUR FLAGS ★ HONOR OUR VETERANS

HOST & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

BARSTOW HEALTH FOUNDATION — Host / Lead

BARSTOW CHAMBER OF COMMERCE — MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Rotary Club of Barstow

BARSTOW

BARSTOW COMMUNITY COLLEGE — Military and Veterans Programs

AUSA

AMERICAN LEGION POST 324 — BARSTOW, CALIFORNIA

For more information or to volunteer, contact Barstow Health Foundation.
info@barstowhealthfoundation.org | www.barstowhealthfoundation.org

Barstow Supports Those Who Serve ★

Education & Career Fairs

Photos by: Kristyn Galvan & Katherine Cortez

Personnel with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow and representatives from regional colleges and businesses engage with attendees during a two-day professional development and employment initiative in Barstow, California, October 15. The program commenced on Oct. 14 with an Educational Fair hosted by Marine Corps Community Services aboard MCLB Barstow, connecting service members and families with higher education opportunities. The initiative concluded on Oct. 15 with a community-wide Career Fair at the historic Harvey House in Barstow, where the base Human Resources Office, Fire and Emergency Services, and Provost Marshal's Office joined local employers—including San Bernardino County and Barstow Community Hospital—to recruit local talent and link job seekers with regional career pathways.



















Guest Speaker: Mr. Phil Downer

Photos by: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand







Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow hosted Vietnam War veteran, author, and professional speaker Phil Downer for a brief of command leadership and resilience, October 16, 2026. Downer, who served as an M-60 machine gunner with Hotel Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment—the unit depicted in the award-winning film Full Metal Jacket—addressed Marines and civilian personnel. Following a highly successful tour with the 3rd Marine Division mental health team in Okinawa, Downer's presentation provided practical steps for recovering from trauma, cultivating core values, and maintaining operational readiness.



National Family Caregivers Month
National Diabetes Month
Movember

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Zero Tasking Day 1	2	9-10AM: Family Care Plan @ Bldg. 126 9-10AM: NPSP Take it, Make it @ Housing Community Center 3	1-3PM: LifeSkills: Bridging the Generational Gap @ Bldg. 126 9-11AM: Domestic Violence Info Table @ MCX 4	Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony @ Base EGA Statue 5	1-3 PM: Volunteer Orientation, Bldg. 126 5-7 PM: Screens & Strikes @ Leatherneck Lanes (Coco) 6	7
8	9	9-10AM: Sponsorship Training @ Bldg. 126 9 - 10AM: Take It, Make It Activities @ Desert Housing Community Center 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 10	**Veteran's Day** 9-10 AM: Sponsorship Training @ Bldg. 126 3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 11	10 AM- 12PM: Homeschool Hub 9-10 AM:Smooth Move Workshop @ Bldg. 126 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 12	L.I.N.K.S. Networking: Day of the Dead "Loteria Night" @ Bldg. 363 Marine Corps 251st Ball in Palm Springs 13	14
10AM: Worship Service @ Base Chapel 15	16	10-11 AM: NPSP Playground @ Desert Community Housing Office (Fall Themed) Food Pantry @ Housing Community Center 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 17	3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 4:30-6:30PM: Turkey Trot 5K 18	9AM-4PM: Baby Boot Camp @Desert Housing Community Center 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 19	20	21
22	23	10-11AM: Playgroup @ Housing Center 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 24	25	**Thanksgiving** 26	8:30AM-4PM: L.I.N.K.S. Full Day Training @ Bldg. 126 27	28
29	**Stay Home Day** 30	9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open		9:30-10 AM: Library Storytime @ Bldg 218 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open		

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