The Prospector

Vol. 16, No. 12

Serving the Corps since 1943
Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow

November 25, 2026



MCLB Barstow Connect App is Live!

251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Project Leatherneck: Expanding USMC Assets



COVER

Cover photo by: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand

Col. Russell Savatt, base commanding officer, and Distinguished Guest of Honor, Mark Hotchkiss, commander of the High Desert Marines, watch on as dressed Marines present the ceremonial cake during the 251st Marine Corps Installation Cake Cutting Ceremony aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, November 5.

THE PROSPECTOR

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California
Colonel Russell W. Savatt IV, commanding officer
Sgt. Maj. Mario R. Virto, base sergeant major

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Special Photo Feature!



LCpl Larry Mosley and LCpl Miguel Garcia Calderon stand on the court as they are honored by the Los Angeles Clippers organization during a halftime ceremony at the Intuit Dome in Inglewood, California, November 4. The Marines were recognized as the Clippers' "Community Champions of the Month" in appreciation of their dedicated service, outstanding military performance, and positive contributions to the local Southern California community.

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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*

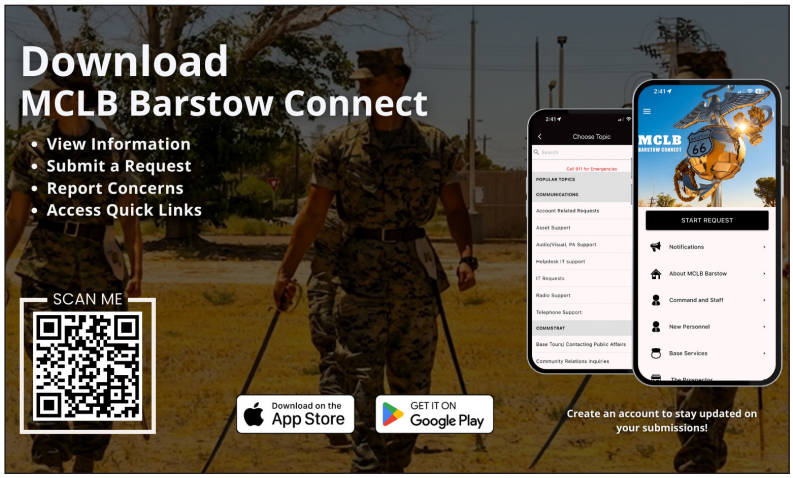




Photo by: Kristyn Galvan

(Right to Left) Jack Barry, volunteer with the Mohahve Historical Society, LtCol (Ret.) Mike Moticha, representing the Military Officers Association of America, and SSgt Joseph Ambrosino-Garcia, Toys for Tots coordinator, stand for a group photo during the inaugural toy drop-off of the 2026 holiday season at the base warehouses aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, November 19. The event marked the official kickoff of the Toys for Tots campaign, which partners with local civic organizations, veterans, and volunteers to collect and distribute toys to supportive non-profit organizations serving children across the regional community.

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Chaplain's Corner-Spiritual Fitness and Readiness

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



Official Command Photo

In 2024, General Eric Smith released ALMAR 020/24, which defined spiritual fitness in five words: **"Inner strength from higher purpose."** This definition followed the publication of MCRP 6-10.1A, Spiritual Fitness Leader's Guide by the Marine Corps Public Electronic Library.

The importance of personal spiritual fitness cannot be underestimated or ignored if we are to maintain a posture of strength. A May 2021 study published by the Costs of War Project reported that, since the events of September 11, 2001, the United States lost 7,057 service members to war operations and an estimated 30,177 service members and veterans to suicide. In other words, suicide claimed the lives of more than four times as many service members and veterans as combat-related deaths during that period. The research concluded that "deficiencies in spiritual fitness are known contributors to the range of suicide risk factors."

The study reported that spiritual fitness—including religious involvement—was associated with significant protective effects. Individuals were reported to be sixt-two percent less likely to die by suicide, while those who practiced within a faith community were eighty-two percent less likely to die by suicide, eighty percent less likely to suffer from addiction, and seventy percent less likely to engage in risky behavior.

Additionally, research indicates that individuals who engage in spiritual practices may experience improved recovery from combat trauma, better prevention and resolution of moral injury, stronger unit cohesion, a healthier command climate, and improved performance.

Effective spiritual practices may include pursuing meaning and purpose, reading scripture, prayer, meditation, and attending church or other faith-community events. Much of the available research focuses on religion-based spirituality, and seventy-seven percent of recruits come from a faith background.

General John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps wrote:
"There is no substitute for the spiritual in war. Miracles must be wrought if victories are to be won, and to work miracles men's hearts must be afire with self-sacrificing love for each other, for their units, for their division, and for their country. If each man knows that all the officers and men in his division are animated with the same fiery zeal as he himself feels, unquenchable courage and unconquerable determination crush out fear, and death becomes preferable to defeat or dishonor. Fortunate indeed is the leader who commands such men, and it is his most sacred duty to purify his own soul and cast out all unworthy motives. Men are quick to detect pretense or insincerity in their leaders, and worse than useless as a leader is the man in whom they find evidence of hypocrisy or undue timidity, or whose acts do not square with his words."

To increase MCLB's spiritual readiness, the chapel will provide the following events through the end of the year:

1. Monthly chapel services: November 22 and December 20.
2. Weekly lay-led services sponsored by Mariners Church.
3. Weekly Women's Bible Study and Fellowship.

One App, One CONNECTED Installation

Story by: Kristyn Galvan
Public Affairs Chief

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Connect, a new mobile application, is now live and available on iOS and Android devices, providing Marines, civilian employees, tenant commands and the installation community with a centralized way to access important base information and services.

The app is designed to modernize how the installation communicates with its workforce and community by bringing essential resources, timely notifications and service request options directly to users' mobile devices.

Through MCLB Barstow Connect, users can receive real-time notifications about weather warnings, gate and traffic conditions, and emergency public safety broadcasts affecting both the Nebo and Yermo Annexes. The platform gives users another way to stay informed about developing situations that could affect their safety, daily routines and ability to carry out mission requirements.

"MCLB Barstow Connect was introduced as an effort to strengthen communication and connectivity across the installation," Col. Russell Savatt, base commanding officer, said. "The need identified was to provide a centralized, accessible platform where Marines, civilian employees, and the installation community could receive timely information, stay informed about upcoming events, and access important resources. With information often distributed through multiple channels, it can be challenging to ensure everyone receives the same information in a timely manner. MCLB Barstow Connect helps bridge that communication gap by providing a more convenient way to share installation updates, announcements, events, and other relevant information with our community."

The app also streamlines access to installation resources by placing commonly used tools in one convenient location. Rather than navigating multiple channels to find information or report an issue, users can access available services and submit requests to departments such as Facilities, Fire and Communications.

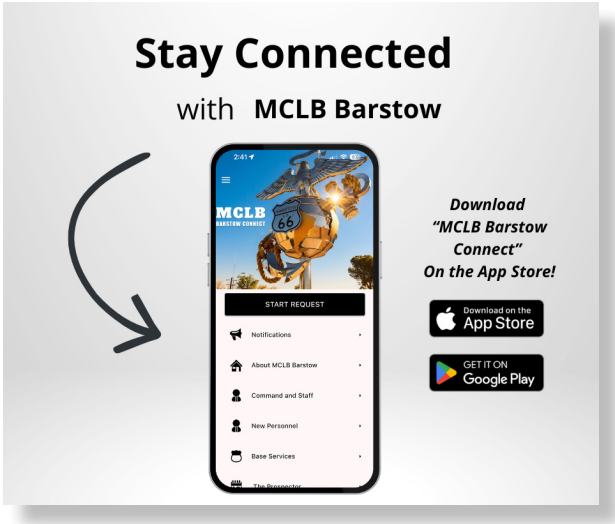
This centralized approach is intended to improve communication between the installation and its customers, help users identify the appropriate channels for assistance, and make it easier to report issues that require departmental attention.

"Modernizing installation communications helps ensure that everyone receives important information quickly and clearly," Tianna Tien, information technology technician and customer service representative, said. "A centralized communication platform gives Marines, civilian employees, tenant commands, and families at the Nebo and Yermo Annexes one reliable place to find updates. This includes information about gate changes, road closures, emergencies, installation services, and events. It reduces confusion, saves time, and helps the installation operate smoothly and remain mission ready."

For tenant commands and installation support organizations, the platform provides an additional communication channel to help distribute important information to the people who need it. For Marines, civilian employees, residents and other members of the base community, it offers a convenient way to stay connected with installation updates and available services.

The app's notification capabilities are particularly important during changing weather conditions, traffic disruptions or public safety incidents. Timely information can help users make informed decisions, adjust travel plans and remain aware of conditions affecting the installation. Users should continue to follow official emergency instructions and established installation procedures.

"The app bridges the gap where traditional systems fall short. Standard webpages can be cumbersome to navigate on a mobile device, and legacy alert systems (like mass emails or ALERT!) often suffer from transmission delays or restricted audiences," Victor Bencomo, S-6 operations officer, said. "MCLB Barstow Connect allows leadership to broadcast instant, real-time push alerts to anyone who has downloaded the app, ensuring rapid dissemination of public-release information. Getting critical updates no longer requires manual profile registration. Traditional emergency notification systems are often tied to government networks, workstations, or official contact cards. MCLB Barstow Connect bypasses these friction points: simply download the app, and you are instantly connected to critical updates regarding gate closures, weather warnings, and traffic disruptions."



MCLB Barstow Connect represents another step toward making installation services more accessible while improving the flow of information across the base. By bringing notifications, resources and service requests together on a mobile platform, the app supports a more connected and informed installation community.

"The driving force behind launching MCLB Barstow Connect was the recognition that we needed a more accessible, modern, and centralized way to communicate with our installation community. With Marines, civilian employees, tenant commands, and military families spread across both the Nebo and Yermo Annexes, it is important that everyone has an opportunity to stay informed, connected, and engaged, regardless of where they work or live," Col. Savatt said. "As your Commanding Officer, I want to ensure that our Marines, civilian workforce, tenant commands, and families have convenient access to the information, resources, and updates that matter to them. Effective communication is essential to building trust, strengthening our community, and supporting our mission. We must continue to adapt to the needs of our people and embrace opportunities to make information more accessible. MCLB Barstow Connect is another step toward achieving that goal. By bringing important installation information, announcements, events, and resources together in one convenient platform, we are making it easier for our community to stay informed and involved. This initiative complements our existing communication channels while providing a more accessible way to reach our people. Ultimately, this is about more than technology. It is about our commitment to our people. I want every member of the MCLB Barstow community to feel informed, included, and connected to the installation they support. When we communicate effectively, we strengthen our community, improve coordination, and build a more informed and mission-ready workforce."

CUI & Privacy: Remember that the new ticketing system is designed strictly for non-emergency, non-sensitive, and routine requests. Do not submit sensitive operational details or personally identifiable information (PII) through public tickets.

Got Questions? If you experience any technical issues or have feedback for future updates, contact the S-6 Help Desk directly at mclbb_helpdesk@usmc.mil.

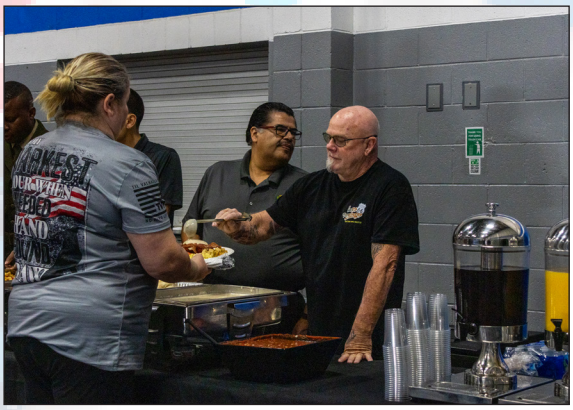
Barstow Veterans Day Honor Ride & Breakfast

Photos by: Katherine Cortez



Community members, veterans, and military personnel gather along the streets of Barstow, California, during the annual Veterans Day Caravan, November 11, 2026. The commemorative event brought together local civic organizations, active-duty Marines from Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, and veteran groups to pay tribute to the service, sacrifice, and dedication of all who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

















251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball

Photos by: LCpl Jonathan Sherchand



Marines, civilian personnel, and distinguished guests with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow join together for the 251st Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Renaissance Hotel in Palm Springs, California, November 13. The formal ceremony, which commemorated the 251st anniversary of the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps, featured the reading of Major General John A. Lejeune's original 1921 birthday message and the traditional cutting of the birthday cake utilizing a Marine Corps Mameluke sword. In keeping with ancient Marine Corps protocol, the first slice of cake was presented to the Guest of Honor, GySgt (Ret.) Ryan J. White, with the subsequent slices ceremonially passed from the oldest Marine present, Mr. Aniceto Hernando Jr., to the youngest Marine present, LCpl Miguel GarciaCalderon, symbolizing the passing of history, legacy, and leadership across generations of Marines.





















Project Leatherneck: Expaning USMC asset visibility through ELMS Integration

Story by: Kristyn Galvan
Public Affairs Chief

A team from the I Marine Expeditionary Force Consolidated Storage Program and 1st Force Storage Battalion, a tenant command aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, successfully transitioned eight Marine Corps organizations into the Enterprise Logistics Management System (ELMS) from July 7 through Sept. 30, marking the first wave of implementation under Project Leatherneck and advancing the Marine Corps' efforts to improve equipment accountability and total asset visibility across the force.

Directed by the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, Project Leatherneck, establishes a deliberate, multiyear transition toward centralized management of individual clothing and equipment through the Consolidated Storage Program (CSP). The initiative also directs the migration of individual clothing and equipment into a single accountable property system of record.

The eight organizations included in the initial implementation were selected because they held some of the largest Class II inventories among organizations not traditionally supported by CSP. The objective was to bring significant amounts of inventory into the enterprise system early, increasing visibility and accountability across the Marine Corps.

The eight organizations transitioned were:
- Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego
- School of Infantry-West
- Weapons and Field Training Battalion-West
- Field Medical Training Battalion-West
- Assault Amphibian School
- Marine Corps Communication-Electronics School, Twentynine Palms
- Marine Corps Installations-West
- Marine Aviation Training Support Group 22

According to Dan Scott, project officer and senior logistician for I MEF CSP, the transition required extensive coordination between Marine Corps Logistics Command, Training and Education Command, Marine Corps Installations-West logistics personnel and CSP third-party logistics contractors.

"Transitioning eight distinct units and their associated physical warehouses into ELMS was a massive, hands-on undertaking that required intense cooperation and coordination across multiple organizations," Scott said.

Before inventory could be migrated into the system, the team had to address years of historical Class II records, physically verify equipment and correct discrepancies in inventory data, including National Stock Numbers. The team also configured warehouse structures and property accounts within ELMS to reflect the physical locations where equipment is stored.

Another critical step involved mapping accountable Unit Identification Codes to ensure equipment issued to individual Marines, including helmets and plate carriers, could be tracked and assigned to the correct unit's property account. The transition also required training supply Marines, warehouse managers and property custodians on the system's updated interface and forms.

"Each of these steps was necessary to establish an accurate foundation before the inventory could be migrated into ELMS," Scott said. "The goal was not simply to move data into a new system, but to ensure the equipment, its location and its accountability were accurately reflected."

Total asset visibility provides commanders, supply officers and logistics planners with information about the identity, condition, location and movement of equipment and supplies. By consolidating inventory information into a shared enterprise system, the Marine Corps can move away from fragmented local records and toward a more comprehensive view of available assets.

"Total Asset Visibility transforms supply chain management from a reactive process into a more predictive and agile operational capability," Scott said. "It gives leaders and logistics planners a clearer understanding of what equipment is available, where it is located and what condition it is in, allowing them to make more informed decisions when supporting the force."

The Consolidated Storage Program supports the force through the retail functions of issuing, recovering, storing, disposing of, requisitioning, receiving and maintaining equipment and supplies. Its responsibilities also include inventory visibility and accountability, shelf-life management and forecasting in support of I, II, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve requirements for selected Class II and Class VII military equipment and operational stocks.

Centralizing the management of individual clothing and equipment is a key component of Project Leatherneck. Moving from fragmented, unit-level supply operations to a standardized enterprise approach is intended to improve equipment accountability, reduce unnecessary surplus and administrative burdens, and help ensure Marines have access to the equipment required to accomplish their missions.

Rick Garcia, logistics management specialist for I MEF, said the successful transition depended on synchronizing the responsibilities of Marine Force Storage Command, the Consolidated Storage Program and the participating units.

"Each organization had a critical role in making this transition successful. Marine Force Storage Command provided enterprise-level policy and warehousing support, CSP handled the hands-on execution and facility management, and the participating units supported operational requirements and the transfer of property accountability," Garcia said. "That coordination was essential to maintaining accurate records, preserving accountability and preventing disruptions to the warfighter."

Marine Force Storage Command is supporting unit transitions to the ELMS platform, formerly known as the Defense Property Accountability System. ELMS serves as the Marine Corps' accountable property system of record for tracking and managing equipment and assets, with Leidos providing software and implementation support.

The eight-unit transition represents the first priority wave of Project Leatherneck, not the completion of the larger initiative. The Marine Corps' broader effort will continue through a multiyear implementation focused on strengthening logistics operations and improving the availability and accountability of individual combat equipment across the Total Force.

Under the leadership of Brig. Gen. Kevin G. Collins, who assumed command of Marine Corps Logistics Command in July 2026, future efforts will continue to emphasize modernization and global readiness. These objectives include improving logistics adaptability in contested environments, expanding support for Marine forces operating across the Indo-Pacific's First Island Chain, reducing unnecessary inventory and procurement costs through centralized management, and strengthening the accuracy of financial and property records.

Garcia said the progress made during the initial implementation provides a foundation for those future efforts.

"Project Leatherneck is about more than centralizing inventory. It is about building a more responsive and accountable logistics enterprise that can support Marines wherever they are called to operate," Garcia said. "The work completed during this first wave helps establish the foundation for future transitions and improves the Marine Corps' ability to maintain visibility of the equipment it owns and provides to its warfighters."

As Project Leatherneck continues, the collaboration between Marine Force Storage Command, CSP and participating organizations will remain essential to transitioning additional units and achieving the initiative's broader objectives. The successful integration of the first eight organizations demonstrates the coordination, preparation and accountability required to modernize how the Marine Corps manages individual clothing and equipment.

Production Plant Barstow Cake Cutting Ceremony

Photos by: Samantha Atkinson

Civilians and military personnel join together during the Marine Depot Maintenance Command, Production Plant Barstow Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting Ceremony at the Yermo Annex aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, November 17. The traditional industrial-base ceremony celebrated the founding of the U.S. Marine Corps, honoring the history, legacy, and vital contributions of the civilian-Marine workforce who execute heavy maintenance and rebuild operations to directly sustain global warfighting readiness.











Explore More Program goes to the Stables!

Photos By: Katherine Cortez

Military families participate in the MCCS Barstow "Explore More" youth enrichment event at the Marine Corps Mounted Color Guard stables aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, November 18. The educational community relations initiative, co-hosted by the MCCS Personal and Professional Development team and the base School Liaison, featured horse grooming demonstrations, tours of the historic stables and ceremonial award collections, and hands-on arena activities. The program is designed to foster curiosity, support family engagement, and preserve the unique equestrian heritage of the Marine Corps' last remaining mounted color guard.













16 NOV – 18 DEC 2026

YOUR BARRACKS. WE'RE LISTENING.

Marine Corps Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Shape the future of Marine Corps housing. Rate your barracks' quality, condition, and management. Starting 16 November, use the link in your email or scan the QR code. Your feedback is confidential.

Questions?
Email: usmctss@rdniehaus.com
Call: 1-800-350-4888
Visit: usmc-info.rdniehaus.com

OMB Control Number: 0704-0553
OMB Expiration Date: 08/31/2028

Fire Swift Water Rescue Training

Photos by: Kristyn Galvan & Katherine Cortez

Fire Chief Ryan Tworek, with Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow Fire and Emergency Services, coordinates with personnel from San Bernardino County Fire and the Barstow Fire Protection District during a joint Swift Water Rescue training exercise in Barstow, California, November 17 . The collaborative exercise focused on regional emergency response strategies for potential localized flooding in Yermo, Barstow, and the North Desert areas as part of proactive El Niño winter weather preparations. First responders also demonstrated newly acquired specialized rescue equipment designed to enhance swift water extraction capabilities and ensure public safety across the high desert mutual-aid footprint.



















Presidential Fitness Test

Photos by: Katherine Cortez & Kristyn Galvan

Youth participants execute physical fitness assessments during a Presidential Fitness Test event at the Semper Fit Gym aboard Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California, Nov. 23. Hosted by MCCS Barstow and Camp Pendleton, the youth outreach initiative was administered by Semper Fit staff and featured core strength, upper-body strength, and cardiovascular assessments to promote healthy, active lifestyles among military children and provide opportunities to earn National or Presidential-level fitness recognition.













HIV/AIDS Awareness Month
Seasonal Depression Awareness
Safe Toys & Gifts Month

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1-3PM: LifeSkills: Basic Stress Management @ Bldg. 126 9-10AM: NPSP Take it, Make it @ Housing Community Center 1	2	3	Winter Wonderland @ James L. Day-5 PM 1-3 PM: Volunteer Orientation, Bldg. 126 1-3 PM: Holiday Stress Management Workshop @ Bldg 218-Library 5-7 PM: Screens & Strikes: Christmas Movies @ Leatherneck Lanes 4	5
6	7	9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 8	National Pastry Day 3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 9-11 AM: Child Abuse Info Table @ MCX 9	10 AM- 12PM: Homeschool Hub 9-10 AM:Smooth Move Workshop @ Bldg. 126 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 10	L.I.N.K.S. Networking: Auto Skills Get Holiday Ready Class @ Bldg. 363 10-11 AM: Bilingual Storytime @ Library 11	12
13	14	10-11 AM: NPSP Playground @ Desert Community Housing Office: Gingerbread Theme 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 15	2:30-3 PM: Library Storytime @ Bldg 218 3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 16	3-5PM: L.I.N.K.S. Graduation @ Bldg. 126 10 AM- 12PM: Homeschool Hub 9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 17	Polar Express Movie Day @ Library-3 PM 18	19
10AM: Worship Service @ Base Chapel 20	21	9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 22	3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 23	Christmas Eve 24	 25	26
27	28	9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 29	National Bacon Day 2:30-3 PM: Library Storytime @ Bldg 218 3-4 PM: Kid's Class-Create Space @ Bldg. 218 30	9AM - 1PM: Thrift Store Open 31		

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