

# BARSTOW LOG

SERVING A MARINE CORPS REINVENTION LAB

Vol. 4, No. 40

Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California

August 17, 2000

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Spiritual growth difficult without strong foundation.

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<http://www.usmc.mil>



<http://www.bam.usmc.mil>

# Commandant establishes safety campaign

By Gen. James L. Jones

From White Letter 6-00

The reputation of the Marine Corps is based upon our tenacity, skill in combat, and readiness to fight our country's battles. This reputation is the result of hard work, effective training, and success in combat. It has come at considerable cost: the blood of Marines spilled in combat across the globe. We grudgingly endure these losses because risk is inherent in war. We assess it, we plan for it, and we avoid or minimize it as much as possible avoiding obstacles, using preparatory fires to reduce the threat, wearing force protection equipment such as helmets, flak jackets and gas masks. Unfortunately, our peacetime risk management activities are sometimes less proactive.

Leaders at all levels have historically been reluctant to halt an operation or training event due to safety concerns. Junior Marines have

been even more hesitant to stop an evolution that "just does not feel right." It takes a bold individual to recommend to the commander that we cancel or halt an evolution. Yet, this aggressive and thoughtful spirit is just the sort of attitude that we expect from Marines in combat.

Each year, over 100 Marines die in mishaps and over 2,000 are injured. We must reduce these losses. Noncombat casualties diminish our readiness, our cohesion, and our camaraderie. Our Corps needs a cultural change, and this change must be profound. We will effect this change through leadership.

To lead that cultural change, I have established the Marine Corps Executive Safety Board (ESB). On 15 June 2000 the Assistant Commandant hosted the first meeting of the ESB in Washington D.C. The ESB consists of commanding generals from our operational commands, major bases and supporting organizations. Their mission is to provide safety policy and guidance for our Corps. The Marine Corps Safety Campaign Plan will soon be published by the ESB. This plan will set us on a course to reduce mishaps while increasing readiness and combat effectiveness.

The key to achieving our safety goals is to instill in our Corps the idea

that Marines, of all ranks, must maintain a constant vigil against unsafe actions, practices or situations. They must be willing to voice their concerns. Supporting this attitude shift is a commitment to make accountability the cornerstone of our efforts as we revolutionize our approach to safety. Responsibility

**Each year, over 100 Marines die and over 2,000 are injured.**

— General James L. Jones

## Courtesy rides attempt to avoid drinking problems

By Cpl. Brian Davidson

BARSTOW LOG staff

In an effort to find a solution to the potential problem of drinking and driving, leadership at Headquarters Battalion has implemented a Courtesy Ride program for the Barstow area.

"This is another effort on our behalf to promote the responsible use of alcohol," said 1st Sgt. Charles Allen, Battalion First Sergeant.

Alcohol-related incidents involving base Marines have prompted base leaders to dig deeper for solutions to a problem that affects all of the Corps' ranks.

"Leadership is racking their brains trying to come up with solutions. We welcome any and all suggestions that could help curb the problem," Allen noted.

"We have had meetings on the topic at the base level and a lot of programs have been discussed. Many of

the programs are punitive, not beneficial to Marines, and we have chosen to focus more on the positive ways of handling the problem of drinking and driving."

The Courtesy Ride program replaces the Taxi Card program. In the Taxi Card program Marines were issued a card that would permit them to ride home in a cab free of charge if they were not in condition to drive, but that program didn't seem to work, according to Allen because no one ever used it.

"We have too many DUIs and too much underage drinking. Our NCOs have to be a part of the solution," remarked Allen.

The hope is to seize the problem at a level closest to the source, as has been the traditional remedy for the Marine Corps' aches.

"Back when I first came into the Corps unauthorized absences were a

[See RIDE Page 5](#)

for safety belongs to every Marine.

To begin implementation of this cultural shift, the following actions will be taken, effective immediately:

- All personal safety equipment and seat belt requirements will be enforced both on and off base and Marines will be disciplined for failure to utilize required safety equipment.

- Within seven days of any Class A mishap, all commanding officers shall brief their commanding generals on the circumstances surrounding the mishap and the steps taken to prevent recurrence.

- The executive officer or deputy commander within each command is responsible for the execution of safety policy. Fitness reports will include mandatory comments on the executive officer's and deputy commander's fulfillment of safety responsibilities.

- In order to better integrate operations and safety, we will reenergize our efforts to incorporate Operational Risk Management throughout our Corps. ORM will be taught at all formal schools and that training will be reinforced throughout the length of the school. At a minimum, commanders should ask two questions during any brief: "What are the risks of this event or course of action?" and "What have we done to reduce those risks to an acceptable level?" All Marines should ask themselves the same questions when beginning any off-duty activity.

[See SAFETY Page 12](#)



Photo by Cpl. Brian Davidson

A CH-46 helicopter from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 approaches the helipad at the Nebo Annex. [See Page 7](#) for full coverage of "Broken Cactus 1-00."



# THE COMMANDER'S FORUM

The "Commander's Forum" is a tool of the Base Commander to hear and address the concerns of base residents, employees and others. To contact the Commander's Forum, call the hotline at 577-6535 or send your concerns via e-mail to SMB Barstow Commanders Forum.

**Q** I have a problem that I would like to address regarding doors we are purchasing and equipment we are buying to assemble vehicles that are taking hours upon hours to repair so we can put them on.

I don't know to whom to address this so I thought I would start here.

I'd like these issues addressed so they can get settled so that we can be a more productive team.

Thank you.

**A** Thank you for your concern. The comment about Maintenance Center purchasing doors to assemble vehicles is correct. However, the doors were not a new purchase but a purchase made a few years back. The doors were part of on-hand stock for CWC 718 (previously known as the Body Shop).

The Maintenance Center makes many purchases to repair vehicles and equipment in accordance with the Statement of Work and customer requirements. Some of the vehicles and equipment received are in different conditions and configurations, all requiring minor to major repair work. The time it takes to make those repairs can vary from vehicle to vehicle.

The doors you are referring to were part of

the repair/rebuild project of five-ton cargo trucks undertaken by the Maintenance Center. They were not a new purchase but were part of on-hand stock purchased in a previous year. Using these assets to replace the doors on the vehicles and subsequently inspecting, repairing and reinstalling the removed doors on other workload allowed timely completion of the project. The Maintenance Center did not make any specialized equipment purchases solely for this project.

Thank you for bringing this issue up. Hopefully, you understand how these actions are the result of decisions to be cost effective.

**Q** This is concerning Yermo Road outside the front gate. From the gate [to where you] make a left to the stop sign at Calico Road this particular stretch of pavement is in dire need of maintenance. And I don't mean slurry the road. It is so bumpy and cracked and eaten up, you always have rocks fly up and hit your windshield or body of your vehicle, and also the crowns in the road do the steering for you which is very unsafe, especially when you attempt to make a lane change. Since the Marines and Army and the town of Yermo use this road constantly, is it possible that something can be done

about the present condition of Yermo Road?

**A** In response to your query to the Commander's Forum, the road in question is owned by San Bernardino County and, as such, the base cannot expend funds to repair this road. However, Mr. Ed Hartwell of the San Bernardino County Maintenance Yard in Barstow informed us that this road is in the planning stage for being completely repaved next year. Until then, the county plans to do some patch work later this year to fix some of the worst areas.

**Q** I'm an employee at MCB. Me and some fellow employees were wondering about an employee who was recently moved from Shop 721, the Transmission Shop, to Warehouse 403 because of his hearing.

We would like to know if he is going to work in that position permanently. Also, if he is going to be downgraded down to a warehouseman from the position that he was holding over here.

We would like a response in the *BARSTOW LOG*.

Thank you.

**A** Thank you for raising this issue. Questions of how employees should be treated when injured or physical conditions change are raised frequently.

The Deputy Commander of the Maintenance Center reviewed the medical documentation regarding the employee you have concerns with, and it revealed that the proper actions were taken in this case.

When employees sustain an injury, we make every effort to accommodate their restrictions and try to enable them to return to their previous job. Reassignments are made based on several factors such as the employee's ability to recover from the injury, the doctor's recommendations/restrictions, and suitable work available.

This employee was reassigned to a location to accommodate the restrictions recommended by the doctor. If the injury continues, and there is no indication of the employee having the ability to return to their previous work environment, a permanent reassignment would have to be made. In that case, all federal regulations regarding the reassignment would be followed to ensure the rights of the individual are respected and the needs of the command are filled.

Again, thank you for raising this issue; I know it is one that is shared by many.

## Just doing my job ...



Photo by Cpl. Brian Davidson

1st Lt. Leah L. Conley, Base adjutant, finishes the week's paper shuffle late Friday afternoon. Conley was the last Marine on deck to hear the liberty bell sound. No matter, Conley noted that what she likes most about her job is helping fellow Marines.

## I don't need Church to worship

By Lt. Michael Michener  
Base Chaplain



I often hear some folks say, "I don't need church to worship God. I can have my own spiritual experience without attending church somewhere." That kind of

statement is partially true. Unfortunately, it is also partially false. People are able to have spiritual experiences with God wherever they are simply because God's presence is not restricted to some building designated as a

church. In fact, the Bible reminds us that *God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship Him in spirit and in truth* (John 4:24). However, God also created us as social beings. We need each other. And that is why He also instructed us *Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing; but let us encourage one another - all the more as you see the Day approaching* (Hebrews 10:25). Consequently, the only way to encourage each other is to meet together. I believe the main reason people avoid worshipping together at church is because they are not willing to be held accountable for their spiritual growth. Even as a clergy person, I remind folks that I need them as much as

See **CHAPLAIN** Page 12

Tonight is Family Movie Night at the Religious Ministries Center behind the chapel. Popcorn and a great family movie are provided; bring a chair and some sodas.

### Chapel Hours

Protestant Sun. 8:30 a.m.  
Catholic Mass Sun. 10:30 a.m.

### Confession services before Mass

### Yermo Bible Study

Wednesday 11 - 11:30 a.m.  
At the Colonel's Workshop

For more info call  
Don Brooks at 577-7165.



Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California  
Colonel Mark A. Costa, Commanding Officer

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The editorial content of this newspaper is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs Office of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, California. Mailing address: Commanding Officer (B130), Command Headquarters, Marine Corps Logistics Base, Box 110100, Barstow, CA 92311-5001. The Public Affairs Office is located in Building 15. Phones: (760) 577-6430, 577-6450, 577-6451, FAX 577-6350, DSN prefix 282.

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**BARSTOW LOG** is distributed every Thursday (or Wednesday preceding a holiday) 50 weeks a year. **BARSTOW LOG** is produced at Aerotech News and printed at Antelope Valley Press in Palmdale, Calif. Printed circulation is 3,500.

For information on advertising in **BARSTOW LOG**, contact Paul Kinison of Aerotech News, Lancaster, Calif., phone: (661) 945-5634.

# NEWS BRIEFS

"News Briefs" is designed to disseminate information to the MCLB Barstow community. Submissions should include a point of contact and phone number, and be received by noon, Friday for the next issue. Submit news briefs via e-mail to [daileyb@barstow.usmc.mil](mailto:daileyb@barstow.usmc.mil).

## Military Mixer

The Veterans Home of California – Barstow is holding the Military Mixer September 14 at 6:30 p.m.

MCLB Barstow, the Military Affairs Committee of the Barstow Area Chamber of Commerce, and the National Training at Fort Irwin have co-hosted the mixer for more than 10 years.

The Military Mixer presents the opportunity for all military ranks and civilians from all walks of life to get better acquainted in a friendly social setting.

Advance sale tickets are \$12 for officer, enlisted (E-6 and above), and civilians. Junior enlisted (E-1 through E-5) tickets are \$7. All other tickets, excluding "will call" are \$15 at the door.

Tickets may be purchased at:

Veterans Home, 252-6288; Chamber of Commerce, 256-8617; Fort Irwin Public Affairs, 380-4511; or MCLB Barstow Public Affairs, 577-6430. Arrange for "will call" tickets at 256-8617.

Meet new people, make new friends, strengthen community relationships – attend the Military Mixer, you'll be glad you did.

## Optometrist on base

The optometrist is on board the base August 29 through 31.

Appointments are from 8 to 11:30 a.m. and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Active duty personnel call Mary Griffiths at 577-7656/7657 for appointments. Civilian supervisors must submit Safety Eyewear Request Form 10470/01 for their personnel to Mary at Bldg. 582 or FAX it to 577-7700.

## Ergonomics class

The base wellness program is sponsoring an Ergonomics class on Tuesday from noon to 1 p.m. in the aerobics room of the base gym.

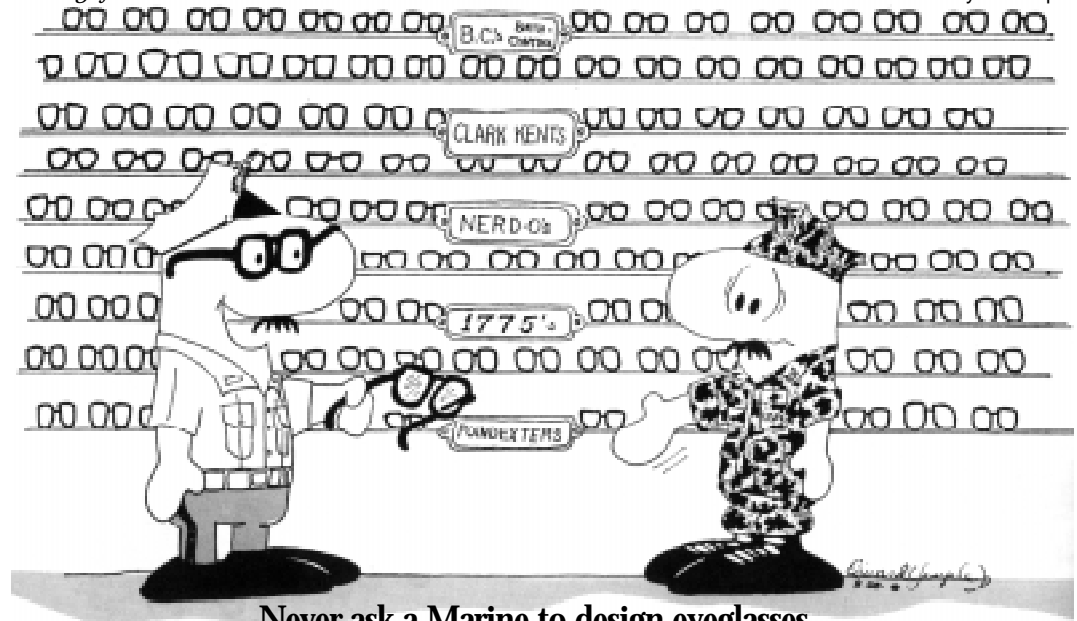
Instructor Jene Haines teaches how to be a more efficient worker, while helping to be more at ease with the work environment, reducing the risk of job related injuries.

The wellness program is also sponsoring a class on basic nutrition August 28 from noon to 1 p.m. in the aerobics room of the base gym. An Army nutritionist teaches this class which is open to civilian Marines, Marines and family members. Walk-ins are welcome.

To reserve a seat in either class or for more info call Marisa Klavon at 577-6817.

*101 things you should never ask a Marine to do*

By E. Temple



## New Parent Support Program

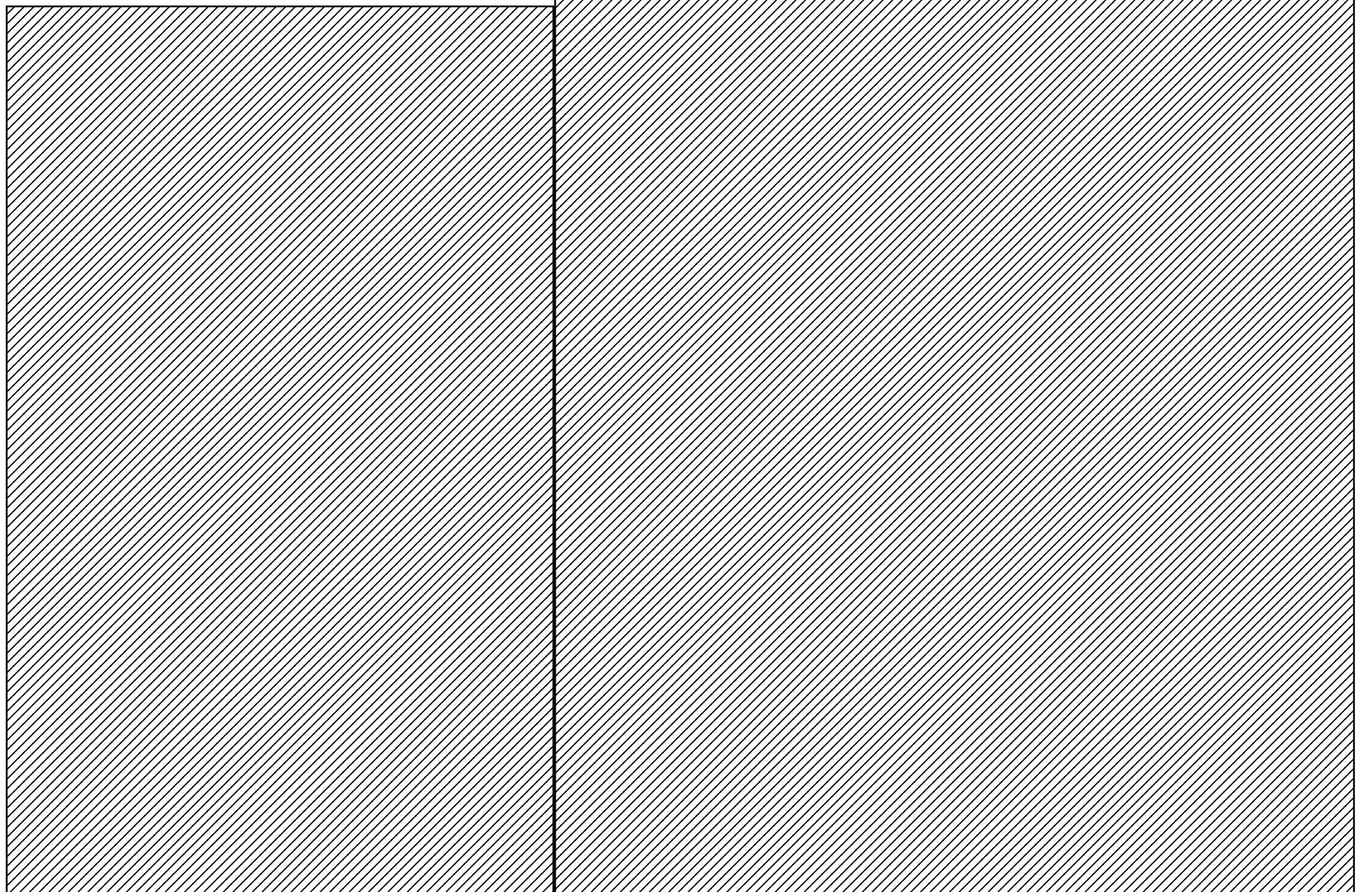
There are two different support programs on base – one for the Marine Corps and one for the Army.

The Marine New Parent Support

Program for mothers meets every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. outside the McKinney Center. Join them for an exercise walk, then have a discussion about nutrition, parenting and other needs.

Call 577-6332/6533 for more info. Fort Irwin hosts Playmorning Monday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the McKinney Center.

See BRIEFS Page 4





**BRIEFS from Page 3**

All parents with children under age six are welcome to attend.

For more info call Sandra Casey at 380-4021 or 256-5751.

**Street Fair**

Only two weeks are left to enjoy the 2000 Route 66 Street Fair.

Tuesday's theme is Country Night; August 29 is the Season Finale.

The fair is in Old Town Barstow, between Barstow Road and Second Avenue from 6-10 p.m.

Craft and produce vendors are scheduled. There's a bounce house, a swing ride, a kiddie train and pony rides for children, in addition to carnival games and a rock-climbing wall.

For more info call Susan Sorensen, Barstow Chamber of Commerce, 256-8617.

**Main Street USA Run**

The 2nd Annual Main Street USA Run is scheduled for September 9 and 10 and benefits the Boys and Girls Club of Barstow along with other local charities.

This year's run features a Saturday Poker Run, Main Street Cruise, and a concert in the Robert A. Sessions Memorial Sportspark by Papa Doo Run Run. The Car Show is Sunday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and features pre-1974 cars, trucks, Harley Davidson motorcycles and Volkswagens. More than 300

classic cars are expected to be on Main Street Barstow - Route 66.

For info call Wayne Soppeland, 256-5760; Lee Folden, 253-5585; or Dennis Jones, 252-0150.

**Kids Care Fair**

The Barstow Community Hospital is conducting the fourth Kids Care fair for the Barstow Area. It will be at the Barstow Mall, August 26, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kids Care Fair provides a wide variety of free immunizations for infants and children to protect against diseases including diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, meningitis, Hepatitis A and B, measles, mumps and rubella. The free immunizations, provided by San Bernardino County Department of Public Health, will be administered to children from two months old to teens 18 years of age. Parents should bring shot records if they have them; professional screeners will be on hand to identify needed shots.

Additionally, free screenings for height/weight, blood pressure, vision, dental, oxygen level, scoliosis and nutrition are available. Staff will record the screening results for examination by a health care professional who will then provide the parents with a referral for a follow-up if the results fall out of the normal range.

For more info call John Rader, Barstow Community Hospital, at 957-3340 or 256-1761.

**Mavericks Baseball**

The Civilian Welfare Recreation Association is sponsoring a trip to see the Mavericks take on the Lancaster Jethawks August 26 at 7 p.m.

The \$10 ticket includes the entrance fee, and a hot sandwich with chips, beans and a cold drink. There is an additional cost for transportation.

Call Dan Keirn at 577-6614 for more info or contact one of the following CWRA members for tickets:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>		<u>Phone</u>
Frederico Molino	577-7210	Dan Keirn	577-6614
Barbara Kent	577-7600	Barbara Kulseth	577-6771
Vince Chavez	577-7075	Cliff Acles	577-6092
Bruce Rowe	577-7207	Ed Guz	577-6183
		Wrayanne Huddleston	577-6714
		Tangia Joseph	577-7230
		Erneat Hawkins	577-7046
		Richard Tusing	577-6492
		Ed Fry	577-6940

**Job Watch**

<u>Annc No.</u>	<u>Title/Series/Grade</u>	<u>Open</u>	<u>Close</u>	<u>1st Cutoff</u>	<u>Location</u>
DEA-342-00	Animal Caretaker (MVO) WG-5048-06	08-09-00	09-06-00	08-23-00	MCLB Barstow
DEA-366-00	Livestock Rancher/Wrangler Leader WL-5035-08	07-27-00	08-24-00	08-10-00	MCLB Barstow
OTR-105-00	Tire Repairer (Heavy) WG-5801-06 (TempNTE one year)	08-07-00	08-28-00	08-21-00	MCLB Barstow
OTR-107-00	Computer Specialist GS-0334-09 (Temp NTE one year)	08-09-00	09-06-00	08-23-00	MCLB Barstow

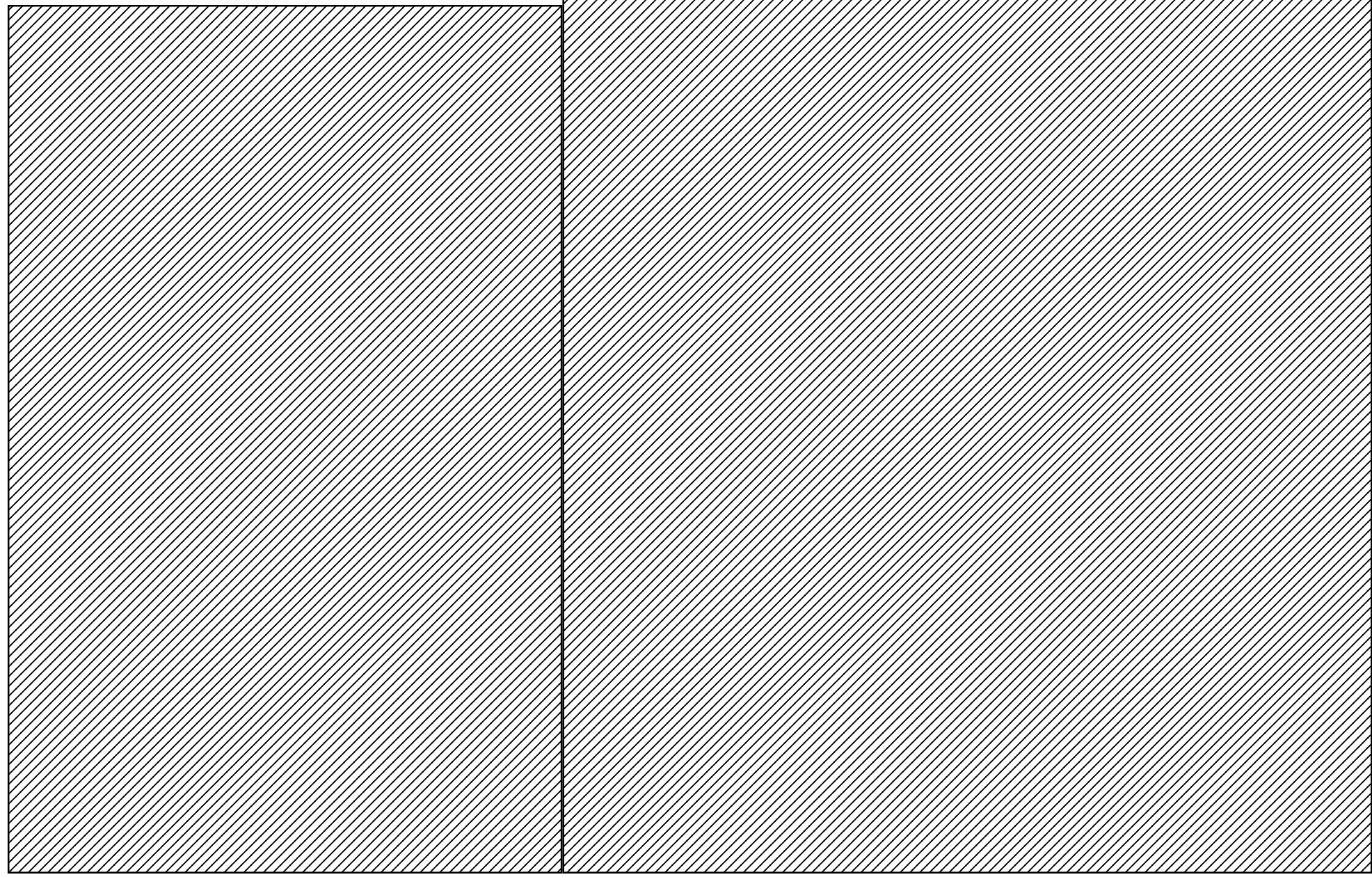
Applicants interested in announcements beginning with DEA or OTR should submit their resume to:

**Human Resources Service Center, Southwest**  
**ATTN: Code 522 (announcement number)**  
**525 B Street, Suite 600**  
**San Diego, CA 92101-4418**

For more information concerning public job announcements visit the Self-Service, Bldg. 37, Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. or call the Human Resources Office 24-hour employment information line at 577-6919.

If you have Internet access, browse to <http://www.usajobs.opm.gov>.

For information regarding Open Continuous Merit Promotion announcements point your browser to <http://www.donhr.navy.mil>.



**RIDE from Page 1**

problem. The way that problem was solved was by putting it in the hands of the NCOs. They are the link; where the rubber meets the road," said Allen.

"We are seeking incentives to encourage them to play a larger role in prevention."

Even dangling a carrot of rewarding incentives won't entirely halt the problem though.

"Marines are still going to drink," said Allen. "Marines are going to go out in town without the intention of drinking and find themselves drinking," explained Allen. "We don't want our Marines driving back to base. In those situations all a Marine does is call the DNCO."

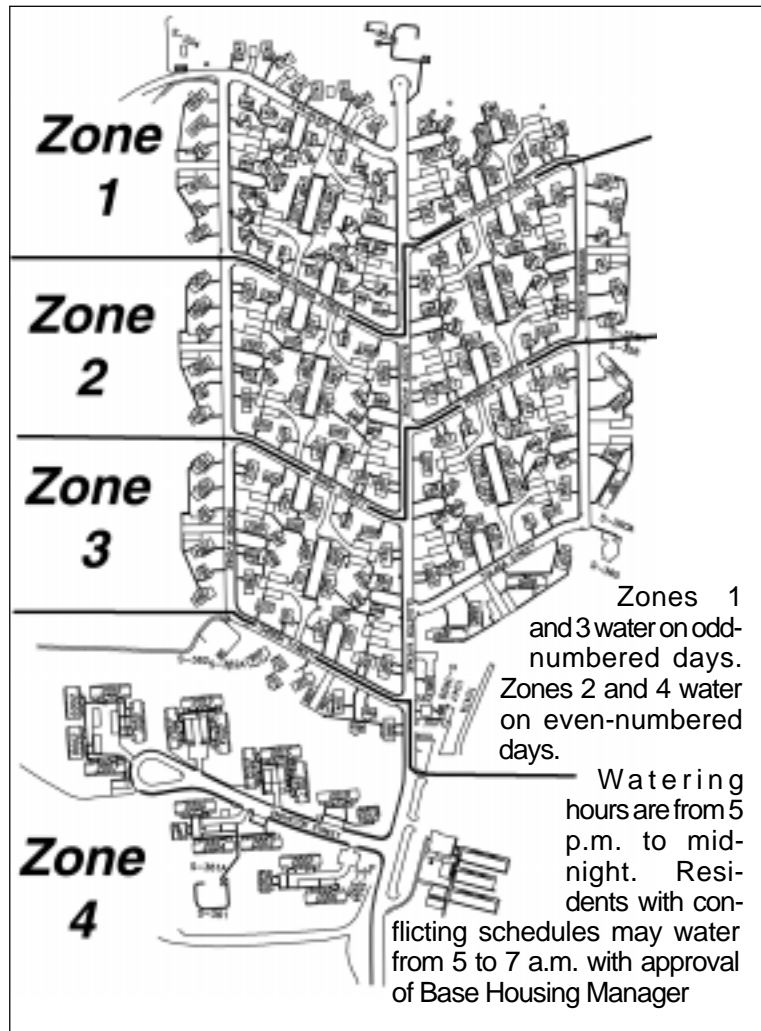
The duty will pick the Marine up and transport him or her back to the barracks.

"There won't be any questions asked. It won't be recorded in the log-book, and there is no need to fear reprisal or punitive action as a result of making the call," said Allen.

The important thing is to avoid potential disasters, Allen emphasized. But the program is no substitute for being responsible.

"It's for the rare occasion that occurs when no one planned ahead for a designated driver. It's the exception not the rule. I don't want the program to be a taxi service. It's not a taxi, but a means to give Marines every opportunity to play it safe," said Allen.

Base leaders are doing what they can to keep Marines safe, but they can't do it alone. Any ideas that will enhance the safety of the personnel here are welcome. Contact 1stSgt. Allen at 577-6700 with your suggestions.



**Kosovo Campaign Medal awarded**

Executive Order 13154 which established the Kosovo Campaign Medal was signed May 3.

The Campaign Medal will be awarded to Members of the Armed Forces for service in Kosovo or its contiguous waters or airspace after March 24, 1999, and before a terminal date yet to be set by the Secretary of Defense. The Secretaries of each of the military departments will decide who is eligible to receive the medal.

Recipients of a campaign medal are eligible for veterans' preference if they served for at least 24 months and were released from active duty under honorable conditions. Reservists are eligible if they were released under honorable conditions for the full period for which ordered or called to active duty.

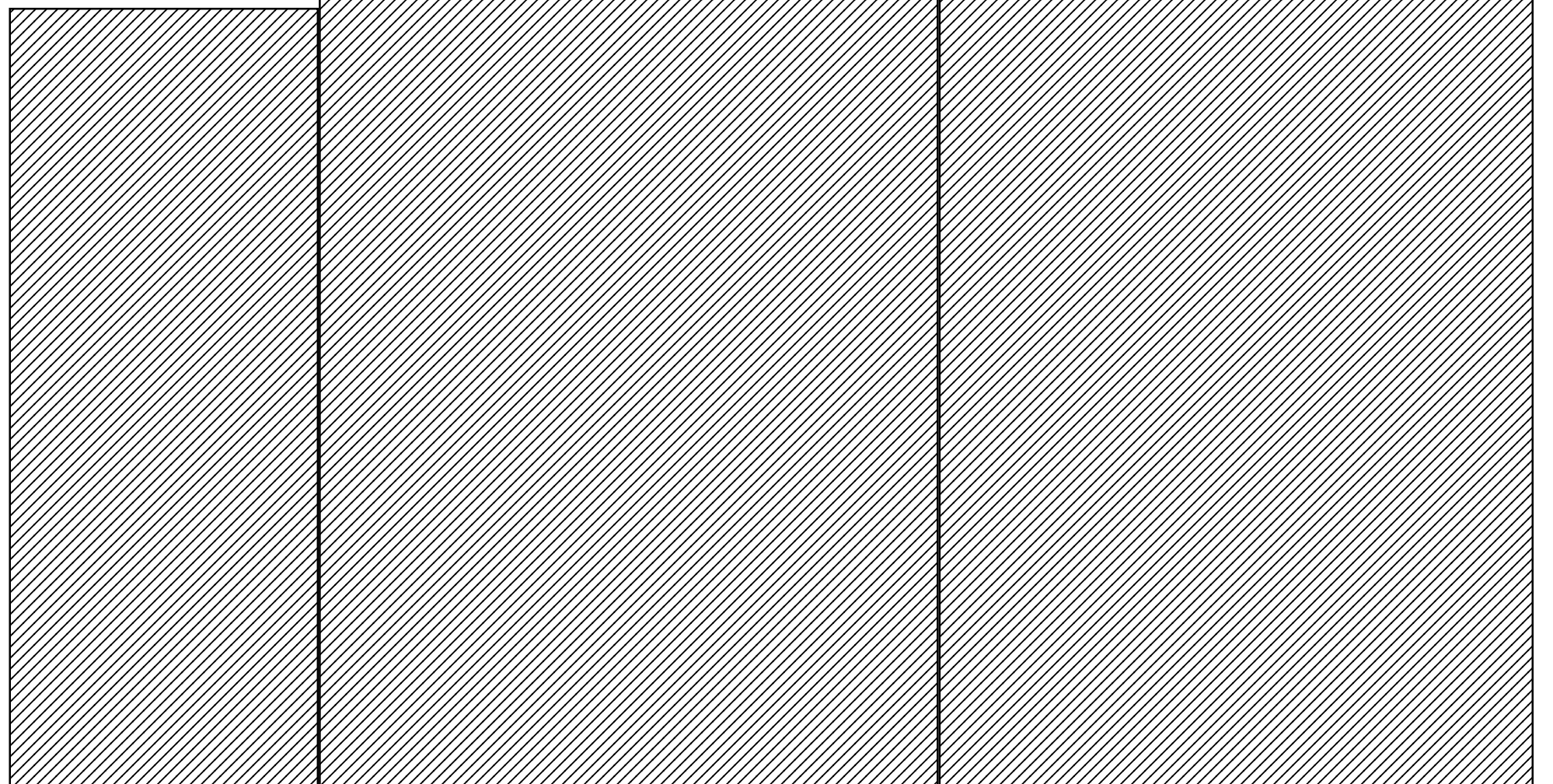
Veterans with compensable service-connected disabilities, or those who were discharged or released from active duty are exempt from the minimum service requirement for:

- a disability incurred or aggravated in line of duty, or
- for hardship or other reasons under 10 U.S.C. 1171 or 1173.

Please note that the Executive Order specifies that "any such member may be awarded the Kosovo Campaign Medal in lieu of the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (AFEM), or the Armed Forces Service Medal, but no person may be awarded more than one of these three medals by reason of service in Kosovo ..."

Civilian employees who wish to claim veterans' preference or to claim service credit based on their service in this campaign should submit the appropriate documentation showing the award of the campaign medal to the Human Resources Office. Kathleen Dunham at 577-6357 is the point of contact.

Active duty military personnel who participated in the campaign need to check with their administrative office for award of the medal.





# MAINTENANCE CENTER BARSTOW

Commander's Corner

## MCB sets sights on ISO 9002 qualification

By Col. Ervin Rivers

Maintenance Center Commander

ISO 9000 is a series of international standards focused on quality. It is a business operational management framework that helps product and service providers deliver high quality to their customers consistently.

*Of all the 9 better business practices we are currently pursuing in one stage or another, ISO 9002 is our number one focus of effort.* During the past year we have come a long way, but we still have much to do.

In October, auditors will visit the Maintenance Center and determine if the Maintenance Center should be listed as a quali-

fied ISO 9002 organization.

The Maintenance Center has always focused on providing high quality products to its customers. ISO 9002 complements our existing quality system and targets process improvement from the shop level to the top level. It requires us to say what we do, document what we say, and do what we document. In a complex multi-commodity re-manufacturing environment such as we have here at the Maintenance Center, this is critical in our efforts to deliver high quality products consistently. The formal framework ISO 9002 provides will help us to isolate processes that are out of control and help us to identify and follow up on corrective actions.

Organizations that have successfully implemented ISO 9002 are enjoying high morale, high rates of product consistency, re-

duced costs, improved throughput, and better utilization of their business input resources.

During my visits to our work centers, many of you have told me that you support and want to participate in this effort, and it is the responsibility of managers, leaders, and supervisors to ensure you are involved in helping to develop work instructions and refine our processes. I assure you that our senior Management is on board, and I believe that if we work together we will achieve qualification in October. Other than health and safety, and working to make current production schedules, we will focus our efforts on doing the things we need to do to become ISO 9002 qualified in October.

If we work together as a team, we will be successful.

### ISO 9000 newsletter

The Maintenance Center began publishing the the ISO 9000 newsletter July 25, and it is scheduled to come out every Tuesday for all employees.

The newsletter communicates the importance of October's ISO 9002 qualification and answers questions the employees have about the ISO 9002 process.

## CWC 711 rebuilds 14 engines in 19 days

By Richard E. Milender

Heavy Mobile Equipment Business Center

Maintenance Center Barstow received 30 6.2-liter High-Mobility, Multi-Wheel Vehicle engines to rebuild for Camp Pendleton.

Currently, 14 engines are complete, and the remaining 16 should be finished by September 8.

This averages out to 11 engines per month which is an outstanding job and turnaround time for Camp Pendleton.

On August 1, the below employees received letters of appreciation from the Cost Work Center 711 supervisor for their work on the rebuild of 14 6.2-liter HMMWV engines in 19 working days, from July 10 through 31.

The mission included the rebuild of 11 engines for Camp Pendleton, two engines

for CWC 737, and one engine for CWC 713.

Because of their efforts and dedication these engines were rebuilt in an exceptionally short period of time.

The professional and expeditious manner in which they accomplished their duties, often on short notice, and with changes to work assignments, is to be commended.

### Carbon bed fire update

By Randy Spencer

Environmental/Safety

As most of you know we recently had another fire in one of our carbon beds. That's the bad news. The good news is that within four days the system was 100 percent back on line.

That was accomplished by the outstanding efforts of everyone involved to include the Fire Department, our Engineering Department, Contracts and Purchasing, and the Environmental and Safety Office personnel just to name a few. It's important to note that at no time were any of our personnel at risk.

The heat sensors installed after the initial fire in 1997 worked perfectly. The Fire Department was notified by the sensors and responded in time to avoid any damage to the carbon bed.

We are currently looking into the cause of the fire and if additional controls are required to protect our work force they will be implemented.



Photo by Butch Holmes

The artisans of Cost Work Center 711 recently received letters of commendation for pumping out 14 6.2-liter Humvee engine rebuilds in 19 days. The members of CWC 711 are pictured above. (First row, left to right) John Cummins, Daniel Madrid, Ben Roman, Ronald Stradling, Ray Gutierrez, and Steve Rose (CWC 711 leader). (Second row, left to right) Robert Cockrell, Jim Green, Tony Cordova, Jim Gay, Pat Hazard, Donald Jones, Richard Bruce, and John Smith. Danilo Jaleco is kneeling in the foreground.

Maintenance Center Commander: Col. Ervin Rivers  
Maintenance Center Deputy Commander: Gary Baker

Editor: Dianna McCormick  
Commander's Corner phone numbers: 577-7054/7055





**ABOVE:** Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 from Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., provided evacuation flights to Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center 29 Palms, Calif. The joint training exercise was a milestone in the unit's preparation for an upcoming Western Pacific deployment.

**FAR LEFT:** HN2 Daniel Chadkewicz, corpsman, applies a tourniquet to the mangled wrist of PFC. Gabriel A. Lopez.

**LEFT:** Franklin Jones, firefighter, prepares LCpl. Erick G. Ramirez for transport to MCAGCC 29 Palms, Calif.

## Emergency evacuation repairs Broken Cactus

Story and photos by LCpl. Cory Kelly

BARSTOW LOG staff

Screams of pain churned with hopelessness and confusion rose from the rubble and ashes of the half-collapsed American embassy in the Cartuna capitol of Yermo August 9.

"We're going to get you all some help ... just hang on!" the deck commander yelled through an unending wall of soot and smoke. Small blazes crept up the walls in every which direction, as the remains of the building slowly deteriorate into a pile of steel and stone as a Marine negotiates with the responding military police.

"I'm sorry ... I know you guys need help in there, but I can't risk the lives of my men! I can't get you any help until we know there isn't a secondary device ticking in there, ready to finish the job," the senior sergeant says, keeping his distance from what remains of the building.

"Did you do a hasty bomb search?" he asks, trying to hurry along the process and get the casualties out faster.

"What? I have people dying in here, and you want me to do a hasty bomb search? The bomb has already gone off!" the commander shouts at the military policeman.

Angry and flustered he musters up the "walking wounded" and those who were lucky enough to go unscathed by the blast, and quickly searches the area inside the embassy for another bomb.

By now the fire department has arrived, and the medical units are on their way.

"Okay ... We've searched the whole building for a secondary device. Now get my men out of here!" the

See [CACTUS Page 8](#)



**ABOVE:** Two "sticks" of bombing survivors walk toward an evacuation helicopter.



**ABOVE:** Sgt. Morad S. Alkarsh assists an injured, but still mobile, comrade, PFC. Israel G. Moreno, escape the destroyed building. Caring for the so-called "walking wounded" poses a difficult challenge during an exercise, but must be done to train for the real thing.





Photo by Cpl. Brian Davidson

LCpl. Thomas E. Walsh, Fleet Support Ddivision, shows Jenna and Lupe Rosario around a HMMWV at the Street Market Festival's Military Appreciation Night Aug. 8.

### CACTUS from Page 7

Marine shouts to the policeman.

"We cant – the K-9 unit has to clear it first." the MP responds.

"But we just cleared it."

"Sorry. Cant do it."

"Where're the dogs?" the commander asks, now more angry than before.

"They are searching the perimeter," the policeman says rotating his arm in circles with his finger pointing to the deck to help convey the message more adequately over the chaotic din in the background.

The commander turns and lets out a deep guttural moan, obviously attempting to calm himself.

Through the slip of hazy smoke a K-9 unit enters the building from the rear to do a more detailed search of the building's interior.

"It's hard to communicate in a situation like this. We have to turn our radios off because the frequencies they run on might detonate another bomb," the K-9 handler explains guiding his dog through a maze of fallen pillars and broken glass.

"Send out your walking wounded," one of the men from the fire department yells out.

Too eager to get his men out of the carnage that is the former embassy, the deck commander doesn't respond with words, but runs through the rubble and sends his men out, one by one.

The fires that once spider-walked the building's insides slowly die, with nothing left to burn for fuel.

As the last of the walking wounded exit the building, the K-9 unit finishes their search and a mass of firefighters and corpsmen flood the embassy, stretchers in hand.

Medics and firefighters alike scramble through the fog of confusion to find any hint of life.

Toward the rear of the building, two firefighters stumble upon a crooked and mangled body, strewn on top of a storage

shelf.

One of the men climbs up to get a closer look. After checking for vitals, he fruitlessly turns away from the body and says, "Come on. We can come back for this one later ... we cant help him. Look! There's another one over there."

Seven men are carried out across the road on stretchers.

Outside, corpsmen apply first aid to the wounded as they are brought out of the building. Trying to encompass the scene as a whole, everyone looks confused, lost and helpless, but watching the medics and firefighters one at a time reveals a ballet of synchronized perfection. Each one helps the other do what is needed to preserve the life of each victim.

The one available ambulance carries the men in stretchers, two by two, to the fire department and in minutes all the wounded, as well as the one deceased, are just yards away from the landing zone designated for their evacuation.

Twenty-nine victims and six medical personnel are divided up into five 'sticks' of seven and prepared for evacuation. This way, when the 'birds' land there is no confusion as to who gets on which helicopter.

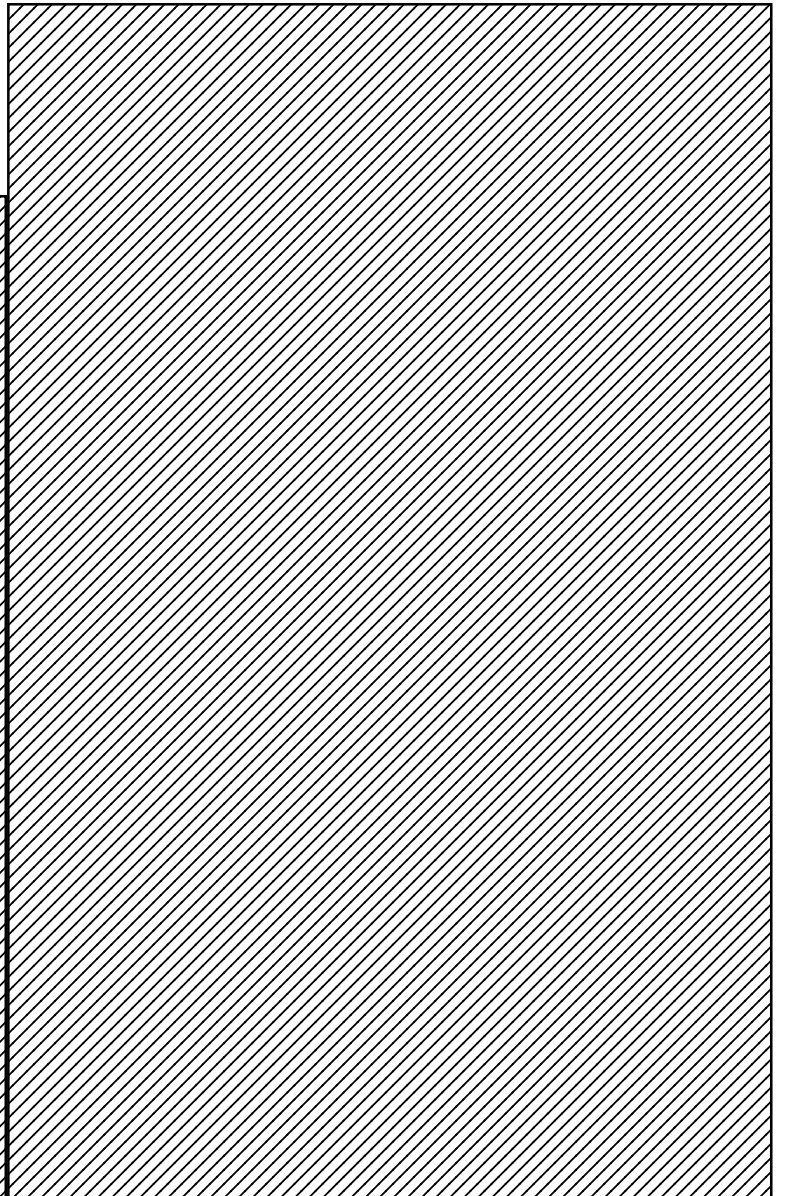
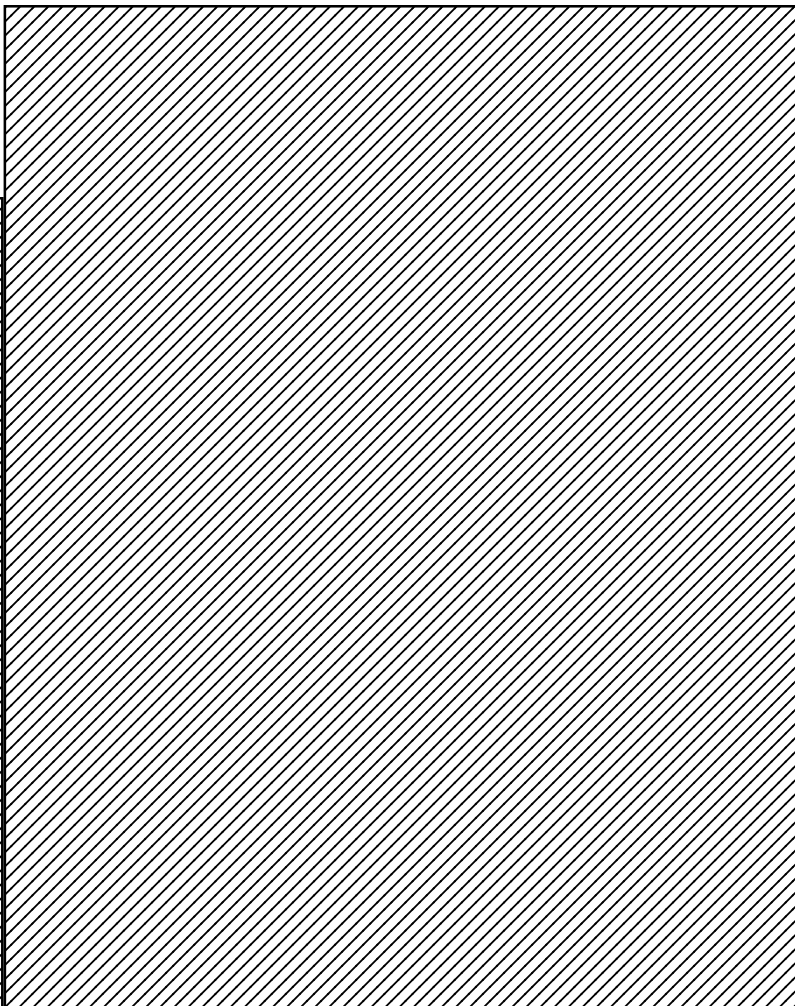
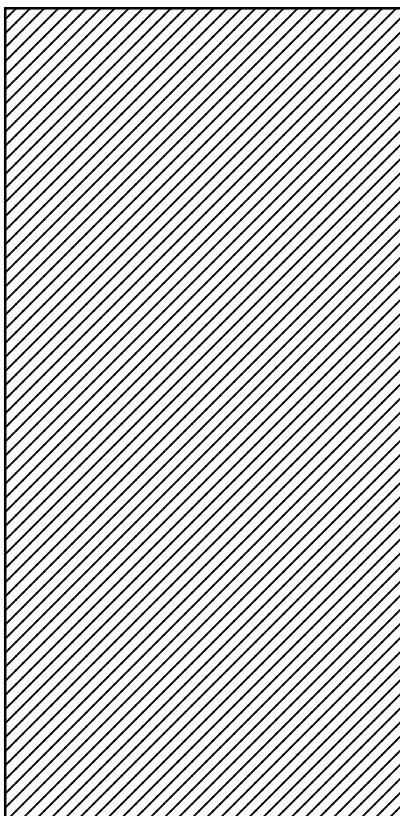
Half an hour later, four CH-46 Sea Knights bridge the horizon in formation with one following shortly behind, and touch ground in a cloud of sand and debris. Everyone rushes to their designated bird, and in minutes they take off, en route to the nearest 'safe zone' at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

An hour after take off, the 35 Marines and Sailors that took off for Twentynine Palms return to MCLB Barstow safe and sound.

Operation Broken Cactus 1-00, a domestic emergency preparedness exercise, is a success.

## BARSTOW LOG

Your source for news about the base.







**By Jim Gaines**  
MCCS Publicity

**Sale bargains at the MCX**

Shop and save with big bargains at the Exchange's August Sale.

Save on TVs, boom boxes, stereos, speakers and compact disc changers.

Save even more with discounts on clothing, outdoor grills, perfumes and many other items.

The Exchange/7-Day Store is open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Call 256-8974 for more details.

**Lunch menu for this week**

This week's lunch menu at the Family Restaurant & Cactus Cafe:

**Today** - Meatloaf.

**Friday** - Hoki fish.

**Monday** - Country style ribs.

**Tuesday** - Chicken stir fry.

**Wednesday** - Salisbury steak.

**Thursday** - Pot roast.

All above meals served with coffee, tea or soft drink.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday at the Family Restaurant from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Lunch is served Monday through Friday at the Cactus Cafe from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Price is \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian.

The Family Restaurant also offers a la carte and sub sandwich menus for lunch.

The Cactus Cafe offers limited a la carte and sub sandwich menus for lunch. Call 577-6428 for more details.

**Full service at Family Restaurant**

The Family Restaurant offers breakfast, lunch and dinner service with the following schedule:

**Weekdays**

Breakfast is served from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. Menu selections are posted. Price: \$1.50 military, \$3 civilian.

Lunch is served from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Menu selections are posted. Price: \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian.

Dinner is served from 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. Menu selections are posted. Price: \$3 military, \$4.50 civilian.

**Weekends and Holidays**

Table menu service for Breakfast, lunch and Dinner: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Price varies per menu selection. Call 577-6428 for more info.

**Family Night Dinner menu**

**Tonight** - Pasta Night.

**Next week** - Southern Night.

Family Night dinners are served Thursday evenings from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Family Restaurant

Prices: (military & civilian) \$4.50 adults, \$2.50 children (5 to 11 years), children 4 years and under are free.

Everyone is welcome, bring the whole family and enjoy a delicious dinner at an affordable price.

**Hobby Shop closed Sunday.**

The Wood/Rock Hobby Shop will be closed Sunday and resume normal hours at 1 p.m. Wednesday.

We hope this does not cause any inconvenience.

**Get in shape!**

Get in shape and stay in shape with Aerobic and Cardio-Kickboxing classes.

Aerobic classes are held Monday through Thursday from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. with Gina Gailbraith as your instructor. The cost is \$20 per month or a \$2 walk-in fee.

Cardio-Kickboxing classes are held Monday and Wednesday only, from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. with Stephanie Jeffery as your instructor. The cost is \$15 per month or a \$2 walk-in fee. For more information on either of the above classes call 577-6971.

**Learn to play golf**

Oscar, the Tees & Trees Golf Course golf instructor teaches the game in easy-to-follow, affordable lessons.

At a mere \$15 for adults and \$10 for children you'll be out on the links learning your game, for the closing days of summer and the comfortable golfing days of autumn.

Don't have clubs? No problem. We rent clubs, hand carts and electrical carts.

Tees & Trees Golf Course is open Monday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and

Tuesday through Sunday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. For more info call 577-6431.

**Water Parks are closing soon**

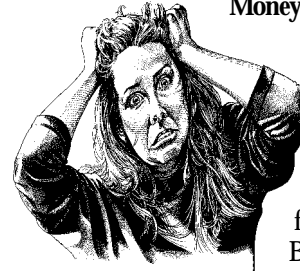
The Water Parks are closing next month.

Enjoy a splash of coolness in these closing days of summer.

ITT has tickets to Raging Waters, Wet n' Wild and Hurricane Harbor.

ITT is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more info call 577-6541.

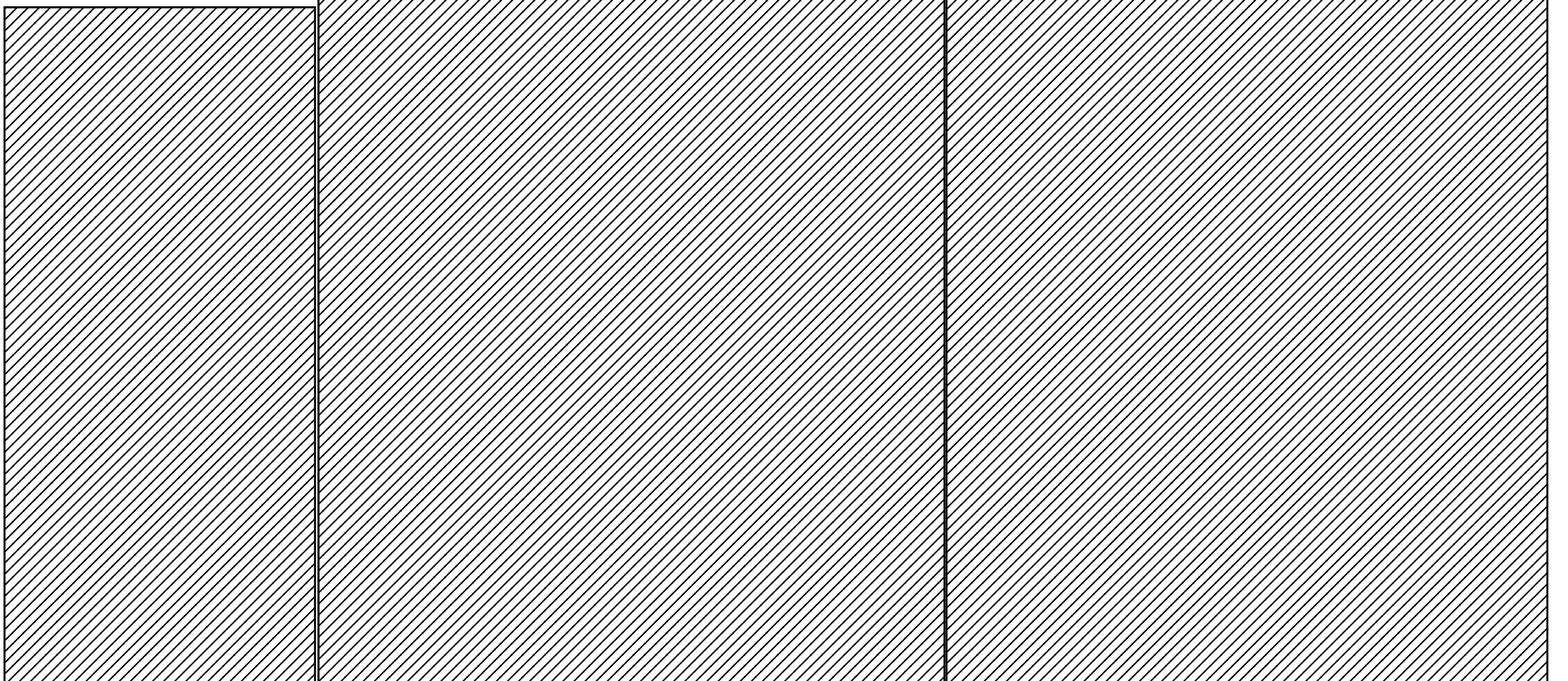
**Money problems getting you mad?**



Having trouble reconciling your checking account? Having trouble making ends meet?

One of the many services the Family Service Center provides is financial counseling.

If you answered yes to the above questions, or just want info on improving your current financial situation, see GySgt. Michael Claudio at Bldg. 129, or call him at 577-6347.



# AROUND THE CORPS

## Service members get better disability claims service

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – An improved military disability claims process initiated in the late '90s provides physical exams to service members before they retire or are otherwise discharged from active duty.

The program was adopted throughout the Department of Defense in May 1998 as part of a memorandum of understanding signed by DoD and the Department of Veterans Affairs, said Bill Lanson, pre-discharge program project manager at the Veterans Benefit Administration here.

"We wanted to assist these (service) members by getting them examined prior to discharge and also have those examinations conducted under the VA disability examination protocols," Lanson said. "In this way, the service member isn't lost between the two systems."

Previously, the VA accepted service members' disability claims after they left the service, according to Lanson. Through that process, he said, it could take months to obtain a service member's military file and health records from the National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis and additional months might pass before military disability claims were rated.

"Many times treatment was interrupted because records were lost transitioning from one organization to another," said Dr. Michael Kilpatrick, deputy director of medical outreach and issues in the DoD's special assistant's office for Gulf War illnesses.

Today, military disability examinations are conducted while a service member is on active duty, said Lanson. The examinations, he said, are

conducted either by VA medical centers, DoD examiners or VA contract medical examiners.

When service members near their active duty separation dates, they can expect to see VA representatives at transition briefings on veterans' entitlements, said Robert Epley, director of VA Compensation and Pension Services.

"One of our VA reps would take you aside ... if you think you have a disability ... they'll talk to you about it, explain to you how the process works, and indeed, they'll take an application for benefits from you while you're still on active duty," said Epley.

Service members can then complete any needed physical exams before separation as they develop disability claims. This method allows their claims to be processed faster, said Epley.

"If they suspect they might have a (service-related) disability, there is no better time than when they're getting ready to return to civilian life," he said.

A goal of the program is to have military disability claims judged within 30 days after separation, said Epley.

The program "is really a major step forward in the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs relationship," said Kilpatrick. "They are now focusing on the individual with the single purpose of making it easy to receive the proper attention, counseling and advice at a very stressful time in a service member's life," he said.

## Scientific journal publishes Gulf War health editorial

In an continuing effort to help address important questions regarding Gulf War health issues, the Departments of Defense and Veteran Affairs have authored an editorial accompanying a review article on Gulf War veterans' illnesses by Dr. Jeffery Sartin, which appears in this month's peer-reviewed medical journal, "Mayo Clinic Proceedings."

The editorial affirms that much has been and is being learned about the health status of Gulf War Veterans. It notes that the U.S. government for fiscal 1994-1999 has committed more than \$160 million to support more than 150 clinical, basic science, and other research projects to further understanding of the causes related to illnesses among Gulf War veterans, popularly known as "Gulf War Syndrome."

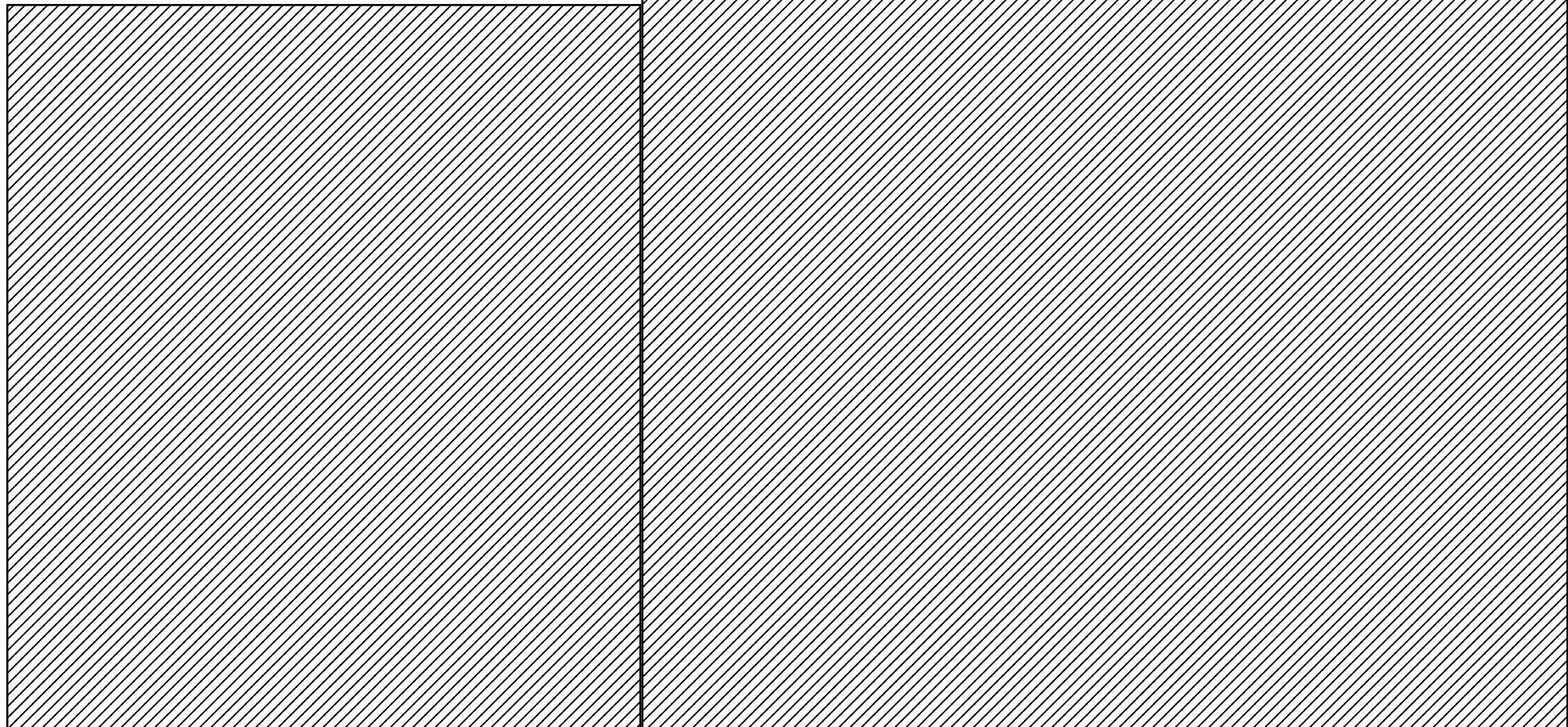
The article states that research investigations have already answered some critical questions. Examinations of more than 100,000 Gulf War veterans have identified a broad diversity of common health problems. Moreover, mortality studies of Gulf War veterans have not shown a higher rate of deaths due to disease; and stud-

ies of hospitalization records have not found an overall increase in birth defects among their children since the war.

The editorial observes that in some studies, however, varied populations of Gulf War veterans have reported higher rates of numerous symptoms and illnesses. But analysis of hospital records reveals no general increase in hospitalization among Gulf War veterans during the first few years after the war.

On the 10th anniversary of the Gulf War deployment, it is becoming clear that no single solution for the health questions that have arisen since this war will be found. As the large pieces of the medical puzzle are put together, lessons can be drawn to provide better health care for Gulf War veterans, and to protect military troops in future deployments.

Homepage for the journal is at <http://www.mayo.edu/proceedings>. Text of the copyrighted article can be viewed at <http://www.mayo.edu/proceedings/2000/aug/7508e1.pdf>





Please submit all Trader Ads to [daileyb@barstow.usmc.mil](mailto:daileyb@barstow.usmc.mil).

**1998 MUSTANG:** Under warranty, AM/FM cassette, CD, 5 speed manual, spoiler, silver outside/gray cloth interior, remote keyless entry, 3.8L, 27K miles, \$12,000 OBO. Call 725-6804/5625/9066.

**1993 FORD ESCORT:** Automatic, A/C, AM/FM cassette, good condition, \$1,500. Call 253-9162.

**1995 KIT ROAD RANGER:** 5<sup>th</sup> wheel, 20 ft, super slide, awning, electric jacks, two-door refrig/freezer, microwave, ducted A/C, floor ducted heating, other extras. Blue Book is \$13,250-16,625. Call 256-3489.

**CAMPER SHELL:** For long-bed, small truck, \$50; carpet kit, \$75; both for \$100. Good condition. Call 252-3011. Lv msg.

**FOR SALE:** 5 speed trans, 1984 Ranger 4 cyl, \$350. Call 243-1392.

**FOR SALE:** 2.3L 1984 Ranger 4 cyl engine, all smog, complete, 55,000 miles, \$300. Call 243-1392.

**FURNITURE:** Sofa/loveseat set, good condition, \$250. Call 252-0185.

**FURNITURE:** Dining table, solid oak, seats 6-10 people, \$550. Will accept payments. Call 255-3045.

**FURNITURE:** German blonde wood, bedroom set, twin bed headboard w/ linen storage cabinet, curio cabinet, closet and desk. Bed and headboard 9' long, 6.5' tall, \$750. Call 254-3731.

**CHAPLAIN from Page 2**

they need me. Their personal experience with God may offer an insight to me that I had not previously thought of. Or, it may simply remind me of old truths I needed refreshing. We need each other.

The best illustration of this is the old story about the fire place.

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The minister made himself at home but said nothing.

In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then it's fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave, he slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the

middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday".

The point of this is to emphasize that we really do need each other. I hope you will get back to the church of your choice this coming Sunday. There are folks there that need you. There are folks there that you need.

Blessings,  
Chaplain Michener

**SAFETY from Page 1**

Safety and operations must intertwine in such a manner that risk management and safety are a part of the planning and execution of all missions, exercises and daily evolutions. Risk awareness must be increased through aggressive training. Safety must become an enduring principle for the

Marine Corps.

I am committed to halting the accidental deaths and injuries in the Marine Corps. To that end, commanders must embrace the idea that safety is an element of force protection. By doing so, we will save the lives of our Marines and increase the combat readiness of the Corps. Both are worthy goals.

