

ESPRIT



MCLB Sergeant Major on Board

Sergeant Major Edward C. Kretschmer arrived at Marine Corps Logistic Base (MCLB) Barstow last month. A native of Wyandotte, Michigan, Kretschmer, whose Marine Corps career spans more than 27 years, is the Installation Sergeant Major. He replaces SgtMaj Sergio Martinez who retired last month.

This is SgtMaj Kretschmer's second tour of duty in the High Desert. From 2014-2016, he served as Headquarters Battalion First Sergeant. He is pleased to return to MCLB where he was formerly a member of the mounted color guard.

The sergeant major was a drill instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego 2000-2003 and in the past 15 years has deployed to the Middle East five times.

He took time out of his busy schedule shortly after arriving in Barstow to meet with Commander Floyd Foster and Public Relations Officer Hjördis Jones to discuss the partnership between the High Desert Marines (HDM) and MCLB. The HDM welcome SgtMaj Kretschmer and wish him a successful tour at MCLB.

GUN RAFFLE

Guns have been purchased and tickets printed for the 2020 Gun Raffle. This year, the High Desert Marines are selling raffle tickets at \$10 each for a chance to win a Mossberg 500 or a Glock 17.

The proceeds from the raffle will go towards producing the Marine Corps Ball. The winning tickets are drawn at the ball each year.



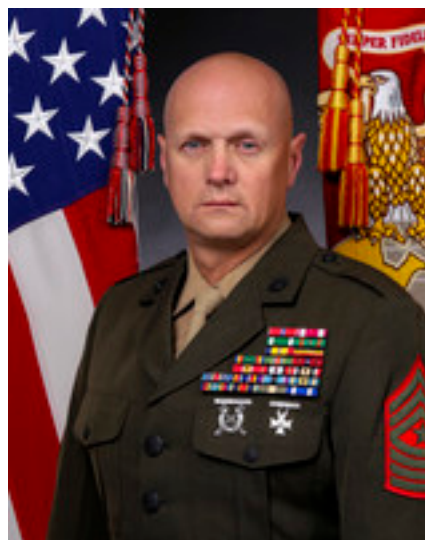
Corporal Paul Stemrich

We were saddened to learn that Paul Stemrich, long-time High Desert Marine, passed away last week.

Paul was the craftsman who originally created the decorative metals that we sell at car shows and events.

Our sincerest condolences are offered to Paul's wife, Karyn, and his family during this sad time.

Rest easy, Marine. Fair winds and following seas, Brother, until we meet again at our final post in Valhalla. Semper Fi.



SgtMaj Edward C. Kretschmer

To err is human. To forgive divine. Neither of which is Marine Corps Policy. (Old Corps adage; source unknown)

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Published monthly by:

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Here Comes the Judge

The High Desert Marines (HDM) were represented on the judging panel for the California Cadet Corps (CACC), 18th Brigade, Individual Major Awards Competition on February 22. Hjördis Jones, HDM Public Relations officer served as one of the esteemed judges for the annual event. Also assisting with the judging was HDM member Jeff Valasquez who was representing Excelsior School where he is an instructor.

The cadets were required to deliver a self-prepared speech on a topic of current national interest, and answer a series of questions covering cadet subjects they have been taught during their time in the program. Competitors were judged on their poise, appearance, knowledge, self-confidence, awareness of current events, and the quality of their speech. The first place winners in each age division advance to the State Championships in April.

The California Cadet Corps is a component of the California National Guard, Youth and Community Programs Task Force. It is a school-based youth leadership development program and the oldest of its kind, having been established in 1911. The purpose of the Corps is to provide schools and students with a quality educational and leadership development program that prepares students for success in college and the work force. The program serves 10 schools in the High Desert.

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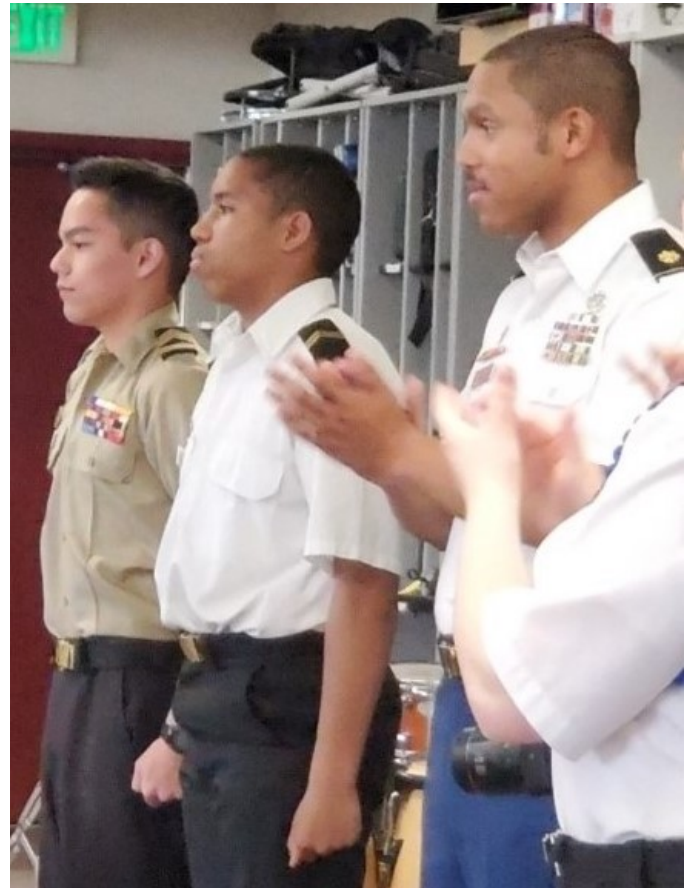
### ***DID YOU KNOW?***

*The first event at which the High Desert Marines (HDM) will participate this year is the American Cruisers Motorcycle Show at the VFW, Hesperia on Saturday, 28 March. The booth will be an impressive display of military and patriotic decorative metals, hats and American flags for sale.*

*Sales from events like this are the main revenue source for the HDM. The profits from sales allows the HDM to support many charities and veteran programs.*

*Volunteers are needed to help with the set-up and tear-down of the booth as well as manning the booth throughout the day. Call Tom Lewellen (951) 858-5618 if you can help.*

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Major Kenneth Cook-Askins, Jr., CACC Advisor (right), introduces and congratulates two of the top-scoring cadets at the awards ceremony.

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## ***Chaplains Corner***

Jose Garcia, Chaplain, HDM

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Does life press heavily upon you? Do you need courage and strength to meet the problems that confront you? Are you sick and afraid? If so, lift your heart and pray to Him who leads the way.

The imperishable love of God enfolds you. You need not fear. Did He not say "Before you call, I will answer and while you are yet speaking, I will hear? Approach this throne of grace boldly, not with the thought of beseeching or with a grumbling attitude, but with the prayer of understanding faith. Know that the help you stand in need of is already yours. Never doubt. Do more. Ask. Claim your birthright as the child of the living God as Jesus did. Know that in the invisible, universal substance in which we all live and move and have our being, is every good and perfect thing that man desires, waiting to be drawn forth by faith into visible form or manifestations.

**Prayer requests?** Call or email Chaplain Jose Garcia. Prayer box available at monthly members breakfast meetings for anonymous requests.

*Our warm thoughts and deepest sympathies are extended to Tom and Rachael Lewellen for the loss of their daughter. May God bless and keep the family in His loving arms during this difficult time.*

