

All union members are encouraged to stop by the Local and update their phone numbers, personal email addresses and snail mail addresses.

Be on the lookout for your spring Stater Brothers gift certificates! General membership meetings are on the first Wednesday of the month.

Sincerely, Local 2018 President and the E-Board

Commanding General
MCA GCC
Marine Corps Community Services
Box 788150
Twentynine Palms, CA 92278

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We Want to Hear from YOU!
Do you have a question for us?

Please direct your feedback to the Marketing Department via your Division Head.

TEAM MCCS is a Marine Corps Community Services Publication

LOOK INSIDE FOR YOUR EMPLOYEE COUPON on page 3

RETAIL EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH - FEBRUARY 2011



WILLIAM BROGAN
Lead Audit Clerk, Main Exchange
Billy (pictured at left with Master Sgt. Ferguson and Main Exchange Manager Dan Claire) performs a wide range of clerical duties in connection with the auditing of documents and reports associated with sales and procurement operations. Billy deals with cash handling as well as customer service. He has been working in the Main Exchange for just over two years and goes above and beyond his normal duties. His involvement in everyday office duties has really helped our staff accomplish more and has lightened our load. Billy develops creative strategies for optimal outcomes and is a great asset to this company. We really enjoy having Billy as part of our staff.



AMY SILVA
Sales Associate, Camp Wilson Exchange
Amy (pictured at left with Master Sgt. Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Bessee and Supervisor Robin Ashkenasy) was nominated for Employee of the Month for February for her outstanding customer service, work ethic and dedication to duty. She is a nominee who can be relied upon to accomplish the best possible results. This is evident when she takes time to stock all merchandise on the sales floor according to the plan-o-grams. In an environment where the operation tempo is extremely high, she successfully handles multiple demands from supervisors and is willing to complete any task assigned to her. She is also self-motivated, finds things that need to be accomplished without prompting and is extremely active and eager to try new approaches. She goes above and beyond to assist others in all that she does and is well liked by the other employees. Amy pays great attention to detail in the work that she does and promotes harmony amongst her coworkers and the customers that she interacts with. She has been employed with MCCS for a little over two months and is already a role model among sales associates.



JEREMY ORTEGA
Laborer, Camp Wilson
Jeremy (pictured at left with Master Sgt. Ferguson, Staff Sgt. Bessee and Supervisor Robin Ashkenasy) was nominated for Employee of the Month for his work ethic, reliability and dedication to duty. He takes pride in his work and requires minimum supervision to complete all daily tasks assigned to him and his fellow coworkers. This type of attitude is essential in our store because of the constant flow of merchandise during Enhanced Mojave Viper. He effectively communicates with coworkers, makes decisions with confidence and closely follows all safety rules and regulations related to his job. He focuses on results in every aspect of a task he has been given. Jeremy does everything that is expected of him and more, is extremely cooperative and focuses on the needs of our establishment.



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Retail Employees of the Month/Training Calendar P.4

YOUTH SPORTS OFFERS READY, SET, RUN!

by Joe Rosselli

The Combat Center MCCS Youth Sports program is one of six recreation agencies nationwide that has been chosen to conduct Ready, Set, Run!, a program launched by the nonprofit National Alliance for Youth Sports to help children ages 8 to 13 embrace running and daily exercise.

Ready, Set, Run! is a character-building running program that trains children to participate in a 5k run. The curriculum-based program equips participants with the physical training and goal-setting mentality needed to accomplish their running goals in a fun, stress-free atmosphere.

The 12-week program is comprised of two 1½-hour sessions each week. The sessions feature a warm-up, a variety of innovative running games and exercises and a cool down. Additionally, issues like enhancing confidence and self-esteem, respecting authority, dealing with peer pressure, the importance of performing community service, being a model student and friend as well as fueling the body through proper nutrition, among other important points, are taught.

Participants receive a T-shirt and workbook that takes them through the 12-week training process. Specific programs have been designed for boys ages 8 to 10 and 11 to 13, as well as for girls ages 8 to 10 and 11 to 13.

The MCAGCC program and its participants will be featured on the National Alliance for Youth Sports website. The Alliance has been the nation's leading advocate for positive and safe sports for children since 1981.

To register for Ready, Set, Run! or for more information on the program, contact MCCS Youth Sports at 760.830.8421/3380.

ROE VIPER LIVE IN CONCERT
FRIDAY, APRIL 15TH
7 P.M. AT SUNSET CINEMA
Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
FREE CONCERT
for all MCCS authorized patrons.
830-5086 • MCCSPECIALEVENTS29.COM

Team MCCS Survey

What about Team MCCS is most valuable to you?
What could we be doing better?
We want to know.

Share your thoughts and be entered to win!
Look for your Team MCCS survey in the mail or visit the MCCS Employee page at mcs29palms.com today to fill out your survey and WIN!

WE WANT YOUR FEEDBACK!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING EMPLOYEES First Quarter Length of Service Awards

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <p>5 YEARS
Thomas Burke
Zachery Cox
Susan Crittenden
Benjamin Dolnick
Charles Fanning
Robert Kelly
Harold Neiger</p> | <p>10 YEARS
Teresa Crawford
Terance McGuinness
Laura Williams</p> | <p>25 years
Necitas Elmore</p> <p>30 years
Laurette Rogers</p> |
| <p>15 YEARS
David Deshazo
Bernardette Lovejoy</p> | | |



Director's Letter



April ushers in an array of fascinating events and fun opportunities to get out and enjoy our beautiful spring here in the desert. Each April, MCCS celebrates Month of the Military Child. The children of Marines, Sailors and civilian Marines have been handed a difficult challenge, and this month we celebrate their perseverance through fun activities and special recognition. In honor of our Marine and Sailor children this month, I would like to invite our MCCS employees and your families to a Heroes at Home workshop on April 16, the Month of the Military Child Carnival on April 26 and so much more. Details about all of our upcoming April activities are available in the Activities Calendar below or on the events page at mccs29palms.com.

This month, we also welcome Bo Bice to Sunset Cinema for a free concert on April 15. I hope you'll take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy great southern rock music with your family. Bo Bice is an avid supporter of military families and I look forward to enjoying his unique musical talents.

There's so much more available to you as we embark on an exciting spring. While you're out and about enjoying on-base activities, don't forget to pick up your spring issue of Desert Lifestyle magazine, due out April 1. You'll find even more unique ways to enjoy your time here as you work day in and day out serving our men and women in uniform. Thank you for all that you do!

Sincerely,

Katherine A. Catlin
Katherine Catlin
MCCS Director

APRIL ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

Program	Activity	Date & Time	Age
MCCS Special Events 830.5086 • Bldg. 1024	Operation Stork (Officers' Club)	April 6, 6 - 8:30 p.m.	MCCS-authorized expectant mothers
	Bo Bice Concert (Sunset Cinema)	April 15, 7 p.m.	MCCS-authorized patrons
	Family Fun Fitness Festival (Home Store Lot)	April 30, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.	MCCS-authorized patrons
All Hands Restaurant (at Officers' Club) 830.6610 • Bldg. 1573	Italian Buffet Night	April 15, 5 - 8 p.m.	All hands
Lifelong Learning Library 830.6875 • Bldg. 1528	Month of the Military Child Carnival	April 26, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.	All hands
Youth Sports 830.8421 • Bldg. 1004	Youth Football & Cheer Camp	April 26, 5 to 8 p.m.	6 - 18 year olds (still in high school)
	Challenger British Soccer Camp	Register throughout April	Ages vary by sport
	Hook a Kid on Golf		
	Start Smart Sports Development		
	Ready, Set, Run!		
Sports 830.4092 • Bldg. 1321	CG's Intramural Softball League	Season is April 11 - July 9	Active Duty, NAF/DoD Employees aboard base
Semper Fit 830.3381 • Bldg. 1004	Healthy Lifestyles Session #32	Sign ups start April 11 Program runs April 18 - May 29	MCCS-authorized patrons
Auto Skills Center 830.7527 • Bldg. 1083	How to Inspect Brakes	April 9, 11 a.m.	MCCS-authorized patrons
Counseling Services 830.6245 • Bldg. 1438	Open Door Counseling	Mondays, 7 p.m.	MCCS-authorized patrons

SAFETY

Foul Weather Driving

Spring in the desert often ushers in unpredictable storms. Bad weather creates added driving hazards, such as rain, snow and ice, which make roads slippery and can reduce tire traction. Often, visibility is reduced and many drivers become tense and worried, which may make them drive less safely. Prepare for driving in foul weather by following these safety tips:

- Clean off headlights regularly to improve visibility; check periodically to make sure no bulbs are burned out
- Replace windshield wiper blades; they're not effective when they're worn
 - o Check tire condition and inflation as worn tires can't grip the road and may blow out
 - o Tire pressure falls with the temperature. Check tires before driving and inflate them to manufacture's recommended level
- In cold climates, add the following to your vehicle emergency kits:
 - o Spill proof container of sand or cat litter
 - o Ice scraper, snow brush and small folding shovel
 - o Blanket (to keep warm while waiting for help after a breakdown)

Stay safe when traveling in the rain:

- Reduce speed and stay four seconds (not the usual two) behind the driver in front
- Use windshield wipers and headlights (not parking lights)
- Use a defroster if the inside windows steam up
- Be aware that roads are most slippery in light rain or when rain first starts as the mixture of rain with oil and dirt on the road makes it slippery
- Slow down for large puddles, which can reduce braking ability
 - o Drive through slowly, tapping the brakes
 - o Test brakes once you're through, after checking that no one's close behind
- Avoid hydroplaning in puddles (tires driving on the water, not the road) and if you start to lose control, take your foot off the gas; don't brake suddenly
- Be aware of passing trucks; their spray could temporarily limit your ability to see
- Be prepared to respond quickly if other drivers lose control

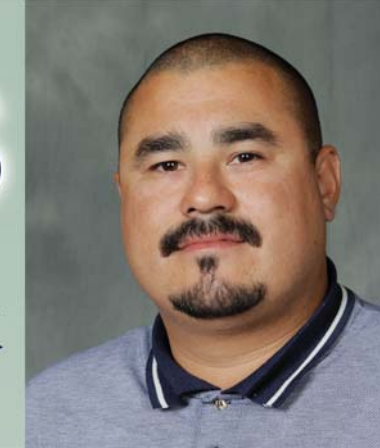


DECEMBER 2010 EMPLOYEES OF THE MONTH

◀ Mid Level - Lance Lenon

Frontline - Refugio Ruiz Jr. ▶

By Katie Elwell



Lance Lenon

Divisional Sales Manager, MCX

Lance Lenon's journey to divisional sales manager at the MCX has taken him across the country and back again and taught him much about life in the retail and hospitality world.

Lenon attended the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, earning a degree in hotel administration. For his mandatory internship, he was placed at the Tropicana, one of the Vegas strip's most prominent hotel/casinos. After finishing school, Lenon was hired on at the Tropicana full time, an unusual privilege for a fresh college graduate. "At one time I was the youngest executive on the Las Vegas strip, and I was one of the few graduates from the hotel college to actually have a job in Las Vegas," Lenon said.

As life goes, the hotel was sold and Lenon moved on, trying out various jobs in his field. A former Tropicana colleague pointed him to a job at Robinsons, a large upper scale department store in Southern California. So began Lenon's retail experience.

The ambitious employee wasn't content in his position. He wanted to do more. "I went into an interview and told the merchandise manager I really, really wanted to be a buyer," Lenon said. After only one month of training, he was made assistant buyer. Two years later he was moved up to the position of buyer of men's sportswear coordinates.

Several other jobs in retail would follow, but none as fascinating to Lenon as the position of buyer. A newspaper ad brought him to the Combat Center, where he was hired as a buyer at the Marine Corps Exchange. Lenon had grown up aboard Camp Lejeune while his father served in the Navy. Being a civilian Marine is one of the most rewarding aspects of his job with MCCS. "It's been an honor to serve in my capacity," he said adding, "I think that the core values of the Marine Corps are my core values as well."

Not all of Lenon's life has revolved around work though. Since high school, he has been building a collection of history books and books on vintage luxury ocean liners, books that have traveled with him throughout his many occupations. Whatever he's doing, whether purchasing sport coats, reading about the Queen Mary ocean liner, or encouraging his coworkers, Lenon strives to embrace an attitude of care and service. "I try to be motivational and uplifting," he said. "I truthfully believe in human dignity and I try to give everyone I work with the respect and human dignity that they deserve."

RUNNERS UP

Mid-Level

- Eugene Dearstine,
Marine Corps Family
Team Building

Frontline

- Sharon Morgan,
Food and Hospitality

- Jose Garcia,
Retail

CONGRATULATIONS!

Refugio Ruiz, Jr.

MCCS Car Wash Maintenance Worker

Refugio Ruiz Jr., December's Frontline Employee of the Month, packed his bags in 1996, hopped in the car with his dad and started driving. The family has been living in Highland, Calif. but it was time to go.

"One day he just decided to drive and drive and we ended up here. From there we just stayed," Refugio recalled.

The family stumbled upon a little town in the middle of the desert called Twentynine Palms and began to build a new life for themselves. Fifteen years later, Refugio has a wife and two children of his own, a job at the MCCS car wash and a home business that he's looking forward to passing down to his 8-year-old son and 9-year-old daughter.

"Having kids has really calmed me down and shown me that there are more important things in life than yourself," he said. "That's pretty much all I work for is my family and my kids."

Work is a major part of Refugio's life. Whether he's washing government vehicles or fixing fences, cars or landscaping for his business "We Do it All," Refugio is always looking for ways to improve his life and the lives of those around him. "Have pride in your work," he encouraged fellow employees. "Always do the job right the first time so you don't have to do it again."

It's an ethic he learned from his father, a single dad who works for MCCS in the warehouse and still lives across the street from his son and grandchildren and is a constant example to his family through hard work and perseverance.

"Everything I learned, I learned from him," Refugio said adding, "I'm still learning from him. I see a person who could have gone wrong in his life, but instead he changed his whole life to be a parent to us, a single parent especially. He's always been a good father to me and I would not be here without him."

But all work and no play isn't good for any employee, especially the father-of-two-type. Whenever Refugio gets the chance, he pulls out the quad and dirt bike collection, complete with mini-versions for the kids, and heads out to the dry lake bed in Joshua Tree for a little off-roading.

EMPLOYEE COUPON



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760.830.5035 • BLDG. 1531 • MCCS29PALMS.COM

Valid April 1 - 30, 2011
One Coupon Per Employee. Valid MCCS ID required.
Not to be combined with other specials, discounts & coupons.