



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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'Excellence, Innovation & Quality' for the Marines and Sailors of the 2nd Marine Logistics Group

AUG. 10, 2012

Preparing For The Worst

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Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael J. Sency (left), a religious program specialist with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, receives his belt from Sgt. Maj. Timothy R. Weber, the director of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy during a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor course graduation aboard Camp Geiger, N.C., Aug. 1.



Click here to watch the training

Photo by Sgt. Rachael K. A. Moore

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael J. Sency (right), a religious program specialist with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, observes as Sgt. Jon-Preston McAdams, a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program instructor trainer, shows how to counter an enemy with a handheld weapon during a MCMAP Instructor course aboard Camp Geiger, N.C., July 26.

Religious program specialist earns martial arts instructor tab

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – A chaplain is the only servicemember not allowed to carry a weapon, even when deployed to hazardous areas. But he or she does not venture out into harm's way alone.

Standing by his or her side is a religious program specialist, who is an enlisted Sailor or who is there to assist and, more importantly, protect the chaplain.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael J. Sency, an RP with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, has participated in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program throughout his Navy career to be able to better protect his chaplain, if the situation were to arise.

"Every time you are personal security for someone, I think it is nice to know a little more about hand-to-hand combat," said Sency, a Kokomo, Ind., native. "So, learning martial arts definitely helps out."

But now, he can do a little more than help himself – he can now officially teach other Marines and Sailors MCMAP. Sency spent close to three weeks at Camp Geiger, N.C., for the MCMAP Instructor course. He graduated Aug. 1.

"Now that it's done, I loved it," said Sency. "It was great training. While I was going through it, it was painful. It's defi-

nately a learning experience."

Sency stood next to his 35 classmates as they received their new MCMAP belts with the well-recognized and hard-earned instructor tab. The tab is a piece of tan

"I have been pushed to my limits, and this taught me if I dig down deep I can pretty much accomplish anything."

- Petty Officer 3rd Class
Michael Sency

fabric, sewed on the left side of a MCMAP belt, used to identify instructors.

The course consisted of 10 hours of close-combat fundamentals, 10 hours of offensive and defensive rifle and bayonet techniques, 10 hours of offensive skills, nine hours of defensive skills, 11 hours of unarmed restrains and six hours of offensive and defensive ground fighting.

"I have been pushed to my limits, and this taught me if I dig down deep I can pretty much accomplish anything," he said.

Sency's accomplishment is not just limited to becoming a martial arts instructor, he is also a rare sight to see, according to Staff Sgt. Victor D. Velez, an instructor trainer with the 2nd MLG.

"It is not common to see an RP who is qualified to teach martial arts in the Marine Corps," Velez said. "I've only met one when I was in Hawaii. They are out there, it is just rare to see them."

Now that Sency has completed the course, he will return to 2nd MLG.

"My first goal is to heal," said Sency. "Then I'll probably start a course for the Sailors within my command pretty soon. They're all excited."

Sency can instruct up to a brown belt, which is the fourth of the five belts of MCMAP, for both Marines and Sailors. Each new belt requires different techniques and knowledge, but all levels require intensive training and dedication for weeks at a time.

"I hope it motivates fellow RPs to go out there and experience other things that not only the Navy but the Marine Corps has to offer," he said.

Sency added he plans on returning to the instructor's course to earn his black-belt instructor tab in the near future, but for now he is focused on helping others learn the basics and intermediate techniques of MCMAP. ■

FROM CHICAGO TO THE NETHERLANDS

Navy officer takes on volleyball challenge

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Dedication and self motivation has taken her places she has always wanted to go. It led her to the United States Naval Academy, and then to the officer ranks of the Navy. It led her to volleyball, and then recently to the Netherlands.

Ensign Abbie J. Merkl is the administrative officer for 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group. But in June, she took a hiatus from the daily grind to participate in the All-Navy Women's Volleyball Team camp, which is held at Naval Station Great Lakes, Ill.

"I have wanted to do this for a while now," Merkl said. "I tried to go last year, but the command couldn't afford to let me



Courtesy Photo

go for six weeks to do it."

This year was different. Since participants can apply every year, Merkl gave it one more shot.

"First requirement, and the one I think is the toughest, is each individual has to be endorsed by their command," she expressed. "Each person applying has to make sure their commands are OK with them leaving for an extended period of time."

Navy Capt.

Francisco R. Leal, the commanding officer of 2nd Dental Bn., said Merkl's outstanding performance played an important role when making the decision of letting her participate in the All-Navy Volleyball Team.

"She functions at a much higher pay grade for her classification as a medical service corps officer," said Leal. "She has her shop squared away in the sense that she has trained her personnel, so if she is unavailable they would be able to carry on with the mission."

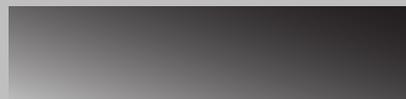
Leal also highlighted the fact that the battalion's administrative staff members were also taken in consideration when making the decision for the endorsement.

"It was in the hands of the shop whether she was going to go or not," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Leticia S. Segura, the leading petty officer for the administrative section and one of Merkl's staff members. "The CO put that responsibility on us. He See VOLLEYBALL, Page 6

"I think it was very inspirational to see her perform at sports as well as she performs at work."

- Petty Officer 2nd Class Leticia Segura

WARRIOR of the WEEK



ENSIGN ABBIE J. MERKL

OCCUPATION:
 Administrative officer

HOMETOWN:
 Upper Marlboro, Md.

I JOINED BECAUSE:
 "I thought it was a great opportunity."

FAVORITE UNIFORM:
 "Dress Khaki, it looks very professional."

IF YOU COULD PICK ANOTHER JOB IN THE NAVY, WHAT WOULD IT BE AND WHY?
 "Aviation, I want to see what I missed out on."



A Marine posts on the flank of a convoy during a training scenario for troops with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group at Home Station Training Lanes near Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 19.

CLB-8 endures IED training

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - An exhausting blanket of heat encompassed members of Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group as they cautiously worked their way down an ominous gravel road riddled with simulated improvised explosive devices.

The exercise challenged the Marines and Sailors to sweep the IED infested training sites of Camp Lejeune's Home Station Training Lanes in Holly Ridge, N.C., July 19, during a week-long training operation designed to prepare them for threats they may encounter on future deployments.

"The considerable amount of IEDs in Afghanistan are found using visual indicators, not necessarily the metal detectors," noted 2nd Lt. Eric Slockbower, the Engineer Platoon commander with the battalion, as he described the need for the field training.

"(Marines) would drive down a road, and maybe they would see a pile of rocks on the side of the road. Maybe the pile of rocks catches their eye, maybe it doesn't, but they

wouldn't think twice about it."

Slockbower stressed the need to look twice, which the Marines and Sailors learned firsthand as they worked their way through the IED scenarios with sweat seeping through their uniforms and burning their eyes. They became more aware of the different threats each feature on the road may represent for the unit's members.

The servicemembers learned to establish an understanding of their surroundings, engage the dynamic nature of their environment and recognize the signs of a threat before it is encountered, explained Slockbower.

The convoy successfully passed through a mock village, carefully clearing possible threats within the buildings as the lead vehicle pressed forward. The first explosion struck just beyond the edge of the village, launching the Marines into action.

"An IED went off in one of the first scenarios, and the Marines got out to do their sweeps," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Alex Box, a corpsman with CLB-8. "As soon as the scene was secure, I went out with a security group and got

everyone out."

The team practiced cutting through the fog of deception, anticipating each new threat as they searched for signs of explosives. They ran through their reporting procedures and secured the area with each threat they located, and they took control of the scene and dissected their performance with the instructors after each detonation.

"It's definitely a life saver," said Box, who is training for his first deployment. "Even when we drive out there before the IEDs go off or anything happens, I'm going through my head everything I was taught in training."

The Marines and Sailors passed through further simulated ambushes and practiced the recovery and treatment of casualties while under the threat of enemy fire as they wrapped up their week of field work.

The servicemembers cleared the road for the course's next pupils and sought refuge beneath the shade of nearby trees after their first venture through the IED course.

Box boarded his transport and headed once more into the



Photos by Sgt. Rachael K. A. Moore

mouth of the hot gravel road for a second shot at the course, knowing one day it could save a life. ■

Field training exercise provides real-life scenarios

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – More than 350 servicemembers with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group participate in a field training exercise here, from July 30 to Aug. 3.

During the week-long event, troops conducted convoys around the base and endured simulated firefights, improvised explosive devices and medical evacuations, which added realism to each operation.

“The main purpose here is to simulate resupply convoy missions,” explained Capt. Luke A. Sauber, the commanding officer for Headquarters Company, CLB-8. “That way when the rubber meets the road, and I mean that literally, we are ready to operate as a unit.”

The training site located on Onslow Beach here consisted of a battalion aid station, a combat operations center, an armory and a food service facility.

The site resembled a forward operating base in Afghanistan and simulated conditions troops will face once they deploy in the near future. The participants replicated resupply convoys, so they could have the chance to see how one works.



More CLB-8 stories



[Helicopter support training races against time, weather](#)



[Servicemembers make combat operations center billet look easy](#)

“Our job here is to start integrating and learning how to work together, so that way when we arrive to Afghanistan, we can hit the ground running,” Sauber added.

The Marines and Sailors of the battalion are compiled of active and reserve troops that will soon stand up as Combat Logistics Regiment 2. As a regiment, they will deploy in support of International Security Assistance Force operations.

[CLB-8 hones machine gunning skills \(link\)](#)

Sgt. Christopher Witt, a combat engineer with the battalion, explained how the realism in this exercise will help the troops adapt quickly to the way everything works during their deployment.

“The biggest thing here is the endless amount of scenarios that could happen during a mission,” Witt said. “With this type of training, Marines and Sailors know what to do immediately. [It] becomes second nature, and once they actually face a challenge in country they will know what to do.”

The battalion has completed their initial pre-deployment training at Battle Skills Training School, and some additional courses such as a machine gunner’s course and helicopter support missions.

The battalion is paving the road to a successful Afghan deployment through intensive training. The next challenge for the troops will be Enhanced Mojave Viper held aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twenty Nine Palms, Calif. ■



Photo by Cpl. Bruno J. Bego

Troops with Combat Logistics Battalion 8, 2nd Marine Logistics Group observe as Cpl. Justin P. Glover, a wrecker operator with the battalion, demonstrates how to attach a chain to a Humvee during a field training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 31.

Two engineer battalions work as one

Pvt. Franklin Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Marines from 6th and 8th Engineer Support Battalions tested their forward deployed capabilities during a week-long exercise here from July 23 to 27.

While deployed to places like Afghanistan, engineer support Marines provide servicemembers with potable water used for drinking and cooking, water for showers and other hygiene stations, as well as repair driving routes that are regularly used by heavy up-armored ve-

hicles.

During their training exercise, they purified thousands of gallons of water and set up eight showers near Mile Hammock Bay, a training area adjacent to Camp Lejeune. They also improved about one mile of road at Onslow Beach here.

Together, the battalions set up a Tactical Water Purification System and a Light-Weight Water Purification System to pump clean water into tanks. There were three 20,000-gallon and two 50,000-gallon tanks that had to be filled.

See ENGINEER, Page 9



Photo by Pvt. Franklin Mercado

Marines with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group guide a multi-purpose tractor during a field exercise at Mile Hammock Bay aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 25.

VOLLEYBALL, **Continued from Page 3**

wanted to know whether the shop was going to be able to operate without her here.”

Segura explained there wasn't a second of hesitation for them – Merkl's style of leadership allowed them to operate with or without her present.

Other requirements are a three-year background

history in the sport, points of contact – such as old coaches – and a signature from a medical officer stating the individual is in good health.

After getting her command's approval, she submitted an on-line application. Then the waiting game began. The All-Navy Volleyball Team coaches review all applications and decide the players that are best qualified.

Merkl waited almost six months before receiving a letter. It was an invitation to try out for the team.

“It was very exciting to know that I was offered this opportunity,” she said.

Although applying for the team is open to any Sailor, only servicemembers with the right skill set, such as Merkl, are selected. She has nearly ten years of experience in the sport to back her up.

Merkl played throughout her years at Archbishop Spalding High School in Severn, Md., and upon graduation, she was recruited to play volleyball for the United States Naval Academy.

“When I started high school

– it was after we just moved to Maryland – so I was going to a new school,” Merkl explained. “My mom told me I should do something during the fall, so I could make friends before the year of school starts. I am tall, so I picked volleyball and I ended up loving it and being good at it.”

Merkl participated in the All-Navy training camp, June 5 to 20. After making the team, she went on to play in the All-Armed Forces Women's Volleyball Tournament, June 21 to 28. They competed against the Marine Corps, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard teams.

“It was a great experience,” said Merkl. “I haven't played volleyball competitively since I graduated college. It was kind of weird to get back into it, since all I have done around here is play in small tournaments.”

During the All-Armed Forces Tournament, coaches were scouting out the top performers to assemble a team to represent the United States during the 33rd World Military Women's Volleyball Championship held in Amsterdam,

July 9 to 17. Merkl's dedication paid off again.

“I was ecstatic,” she said. “Of course, during the tournament, I was hoping I would be selected, but so are all of the other girls on the teams. I was one of 12 to make the team, and only three of them were from the All-Navy team – so it was a huge honor to be selected.”

Merkl and her teammates packed their bags and headed to the Netherlands to battle against other military teams from Brazil, China, Greece, the Netherlands, Germany and Canada.

Segura explained the pride the members of the shop shared by Merkl participating in the tournaments.

“We were very happy here at the office, especially because she kept communicating with us and updating us on everything that happened,” Segura said. “I think it was very inspirational to see her perform at sports as well as she performs at work.”

The US Armed Forces Team placed 6th at the tournament in the Netherlands. ■



Softball improves teamwork on and off the field

Pvt. Franklin Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – During the day, Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group conduct combat logistics operations in support of II Marine Expeditionary Force and its subordinate units in order to support and conduct combat operations and sustain war fighting effectiveness.

Though the fight never ends, once a Marine's daily duties end, the evening is usually his or hers to squander or relish.

Some Marines go home to relax, others workout, some enjoy the company of fellow servicemembers, and others, such as several Marines with the 2nd MLG, participate in in-

tramural sports like the slow-pitch softball league here.

The league's season goes from July to September. Teams play twice a week at one of several softball fields here. The season culminates with tournaments and the right to be named "best softball team".

Combining the competitive nature of an organized sport and the brotherhood of servicemembers is something that couldn't be passed up, explained Sgt. Andrew Laudun, a motor vehicle operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd MLG.

"I think playing softball with my fellow Marines is great," he said. "It's a great way to relax after work and have a good time."



Though Laudun has worked with the regiment for years, this was his first opportunity to play on the team.

"I wasn't able to play on the prior teams because of deployments and [other duties]," he said. "I took the chance to play this year, and I'm having a lot of fun."

Laudun isn't the only Marine from his section that is part of the team. Sgt. Adam Lewis, a motor vehicle operator with CLR-25, also joined the squad and is convinced

participating has helped with his team's cohesiveness on and off the field.

"Playing with the people you work with is good and goes a long way for morale," Lewis said. "It's easier to get to know each other. It's not always business, and softball is a way to realize that."

The CLR-25 team has a tight core and is hoping to rebound from a slow start as they head into the thick of the season. ■



Photos by Sgt. Rachael K. A. Moore

Lance Cpl. Justin Summerfield, a Marine with **Combat Logistics Regiment 2**, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, catches a line drive during a softball game aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Aug. 2.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Cpl. Austin Mundis (left), a combat engineer with Combat Logistics Battalion 22, reviews the functioning parts of the Mark 19 Grenade Launcher with Pfc. Abigail Reynolds (center) and Cpl. Justin Wilson (right), all with the 2012 Lobster Festival detachment, aboard the USS San Antonio prior to their arrival in Rockland, Maine, July 31.

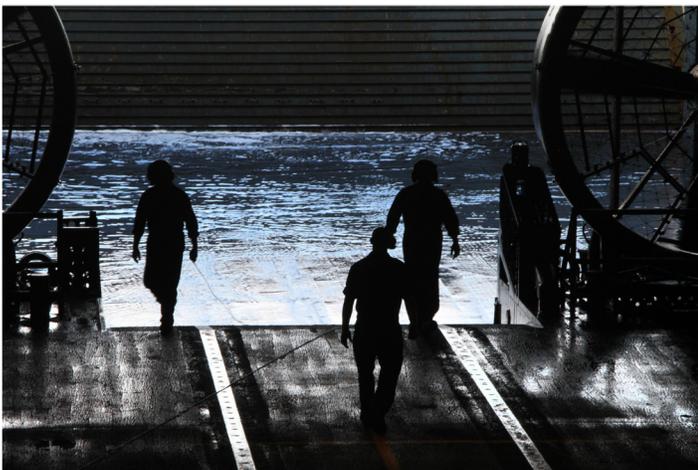


Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

A Landing Craft Air Cushion creates a small lake in the rear of the USS San Antonio as it docks with the ship on its way to Rockland, Maine, for Maine's 2012 Lobster Festival, July 30.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Gunnery Sgt. David Jackson and Cpl. Craig Turner, members of Combat Logistics Battalion 22, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, with the 2012 Lobster Festival detachment, review the controls of the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected – All Terrain Vehicle on their way to Rockland, Maine, July 31.

LOBSTERS BEWARE

CLR-27 drops anchor in Maine

**Lance Cpl.
Paul Peterson**
2nd MLG Public Affairs

ROCKLAND, Maine – They came on gentle, rolling seas.

The USS San Antonio's engine droned calmly as it pushed the ship's bow through cresting waves on its approach to the coast of Rockland, Maine, the morning of Aug. 1.

Only fog and a short-lived rain hindered the troops' two-day voyage, a quick endeavor for the Marine and Navy team trained to strike distant, hostile shores. Maine's coast promised a far warmer welcome for the nearly 100 Marines and Sailors from Combat Logistics Regiment 27 sent to support Maine's 2012 Lobster Festival from Aug. 1 to 5.

"These [Marines and Sailors] were handpicked from their sections to participate in this event," said Capt. James Mackin, commander of troops for the regiment's Lobster Festival detachment. "A lot of people where we are going are unfamiliar with the military.

"They know the broad brush strokes, but this will give them the opportunity to see the Marines and Sailors in uniform with all their gear."

The regiment's personnel escaped the blanket heat of Camp Lejeune, N.C., and joined the more than 300 crew and support

personnel on the San Antonio at Norfolk Naval Base, Va., July 29. The unified Marine-Navy team then proceeded north to demonstrate their combined abilities to the people of Maine.

The San Antonio pressed through the telltale fishing buoys that announced their arrival in lobster territory and dropped anchor off of Rockland. Marines and Sailors donned their dress uniforms.

Shore parties are scheduled to join the festivities, said Gunnery Sgt. Morris Holliday, the detachment's first sergeant. Troops will spend the week refurbishing an area lighthouse, assisting in the festival's beauty pageant and concerts, escorting area officials to events and participating in a 10-kilometer race. Above all, they will meet and interact with the American public.

"It's definitely a break in the routine, and it lets the Marines see what else is out there," said Mackin. "People see the uniform, and they appreciate what you do. They thank you for your service. I think it hasn't really set in for most of the [Marines and Sailors]," he added over the competing hum of the living ship. "They're trying to anticipate what to expect, but it's going to be a surprise to most of them."

Continued on next page

**ENGINEER,
Continued from Page 6**

“We have a lot of water to pump, and they’re really helping us,” said Lance Cpl. Mario MedenaValdez, a water support technician with 8th ESB, on the third day of training. “We’re working well together. We have 37,000 gallons of water already, so we’re setting a good pace.”

Marines from both battalions completed the mission as if they’d been working together for longer than the beginning of the week.

“Sixth ESB has stepped up and helped us out with this



Photo by Pvt. Franklin E. Mercado

Marines with 6th Engineer Support Battalion and 8th ESB work on generators during a field exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 25.

exercise,” said 1st Lt. Lennie Jackson, the Engineer Support Company executive officer. “With [most of] 8th ESB deployed now, we are limited in the number of personnel we have.”

The training is not only helping 8th ESB meet training requirements, but it’s helping prepare the Marines of 6th ESB for Afghanistan. They are slated to deploy in the upcoming months.

“They’re doing an outstanding job,” Capt. Donald Galloway, the ES company commander, said about the Marines of 6th ESB. “They are very motivated.”

Throughout the training both battalions have kept that motivation and worth ethic at a high level. The unit’s have shown they are truly capable of performing multiple missions at the same time.

There was no better time for 6th ESB to prove they are capable of taking the reins upon arriving in Afghanistan, with the battalion taking authority from 8th ESB’s forward deployed element. ■



Photo by Pvt. Franklin E. Mercado

A multi-purpose tractor lifts dirt during a training exercise with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group at Onslow Beach aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 25.



Photo by Pvt. Franklin E. Mercado

Lance Cpl. Mario MedenaValdez, a water support technician with 8th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, explains how to use the Tactical Water Purification System during a training exercise at Mile Hammock Bay aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., July 25.

LOBSTER, Continued from Page 8

Maine’s 2012 Lobster Festival is a unique opportunity for the detachment personnel. It is the first sea passage for many of them, and it is a chance to practice the joint service capabilities they are trained to support.

The troops on the San Antonio are not the only ones in for a surprise. Visitors will be able to tour the vessel and experience the sway and sound of the ship for themselves. Marines and Sailors will guide the public through displays of their vehicles and equipment, such as the Mine Resistant Ambush Protected – All Terrain Vehicle and different types of crew-served weapons.

Approximately 100 servicemembers are also scheduled to march in the festival’s parade, with more than a few pounds of lobster awaiting their hungry arrival.

“They’ll remember,” said Holliday, recalling a similar venture he took to Puerto Rico as a highlight in his career. “It isn’t often many of the servicemembers get a chance to join the American public in uniform.”

It is a small exercise in the large muscle group of Marine-Navy combined arms to be sure. The talk of the crew, however, has more than a few Marines and Sailors ready to challenge the lobsters for supremacy during their sea voyage. ■

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SGT. MAJ. GEORGE W. YOUNG JR.

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