



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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1st

Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced cases colors



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Cover Page:

A color guard with 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), presents it's battle colors during a casing of the colors ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Aug. 23.

To read the story and see more photos, click here.

1ST MLG'S VIDEO FEATURE

KEEPING OUR HONOR CLEAN: This is part nine of a series highlighting the work of 1st MLG (Fwd) noncommissioned officers deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. This news story is about the Combat Logistics Battalion 5 Embedded Partnering Team and the mission they accomplish while deployed.

Produced by Sgt. John Jackson.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE.



Tuition Assistance Class

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Joint Education Center offers a College 101 class to inform service members about different college offers, on and off base, as well as providing information about tuition assistance and how to use it. For more information, call the JEC at (760) 725-6660.

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A basic rider's course will be held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both courses will take place at Bldg. 200071. For more information, call Kevin Frantum at (760) 725-2897.

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CLB-5 Marines return home from Afghanistan

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - More than 100 Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5 returned here Aug. 4, from a four-month deployment to Afghanistan. Family members awaited the arrival of their Marines at the CLB-5 Parade deck.

"They're very excited," said Christine Winicki, the family readiness officer of CLB-5. "A lot of the spouses are nervous, even though it's only been four months."

Families greeted the Ma-

rines with signs, hugs and smiling faces.

"I couldn't wait for them to come back," Fitzgerald said. "We had fun out there. We did what we had to get done, and now it's time to get started on training again."

The Marines of CLB-5 supported three infantry battalions and 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion while deployed. Most of the battalion is slated to return from the deployment two months early. A combat logis-

tics platoon stayed behind to facilitate the transfer of tactical logistics support to battalions in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

"They did really well and they worked hard," said Maj. Karin Fitzgerald, executive officer, CLB-5. "We shared a really good relationship with our supported units."

They conducted seven months' worth of work in four months, "when it comes to just sheer miles driven, packs hauled and cargo moved,"

said Fitzgerald, who returned from the deployment two weeks ago.

A big part of the responsibility of CLB-5 is retrograding their support and equipment as the number of troops draws down from Afghanistan.

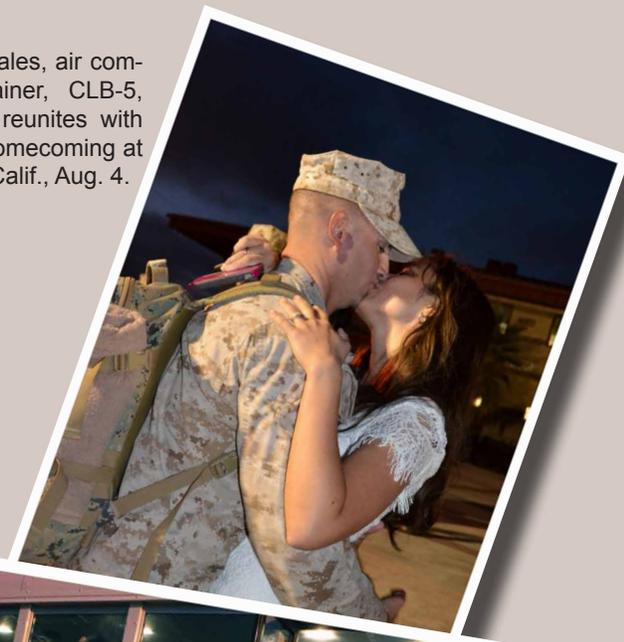
"We facilitated in shaping the battlefield for the transition," Fitzgerald said. "At the same time, we were doing our own retrograding of equipment because our battalion is being replaced by a combat logistics platoon."

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Joshua Young
Staff Writer



▲ Petty Officer 3rd Class, Roberto Manzo, corpsmen, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG, embraces his family during a homecoming at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4.

> Cpl. Marcos Morales, air communication maintainer, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG, reunites with his wife during a homecoming at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4.



< Families eagerly wait for their Marines to return from their four-month deployment to Afghanistan with CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG, during a homecoming at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4.



Military children ready to start new school year

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Family readiness officers with 1st Marine Logistics Group and Marine Corps Community Services coordinated a free school supply give-away here, Aug. 6, in time for the upcoming school year.

The school supplies were donated and collected from local Dollar Tree stores, which partner with Operation Homefront. Operation Homefront is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency financial and other assistance to families of service members and wounded warriors.

"Usually, we've done this as a [Combat Logistics Regiment 15] give-away, and then some of the other FROs have done their own," said Kristy Harris, family readiness officer for CLR-15 and 1st MLG (Forward). "This year, we just decided to do it as an MLG.

Everyone put their resources together instead of doing multiple."

Family readiness officers designated two days, Aug. 6 and Aug. 13, to allow families to collect the supplies. Students arrived with empty backpacks to fill with brand new lined paper, notepads, book covers, stickers, erasers, pens, pencils, markers, rulers, calculators, glue and every other basic supply a student might need for the upcoming school year.

"I think it's a great opportunity to get them excited to go to school with their supplies and let them be a part of picking out what they need," said Marybeth Wiener. "I think it's great that the community reaches out."

More than 150 families showed up to collect the school supplies. Volunteers assisted some families with as many as five children enrolled in school. Many family households consist of a service

member who is either deployed or about to deploy.

"I think it's a great thing to do for the families," Wiener said. "Anything to help is much appreciated."

More than 10 volunteers helped organize and hand out the supplies. Among the volunteers were Marines, sailors and family members.

v (top) Alizae, 5, looks through a pile of colorful erasers during a school supply give-away at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 6.

v (bottom) Bella Walters (right), 5, and her sister, Annika (left), 3, gather school supplies during a school supply give-away at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 6.

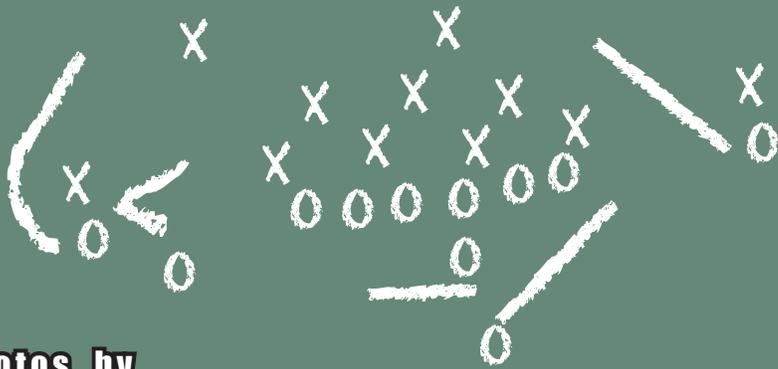


Story and photos by:
Cpl. Jennifer Pirante
Staff Writer

To see more photos, [click here.](#)

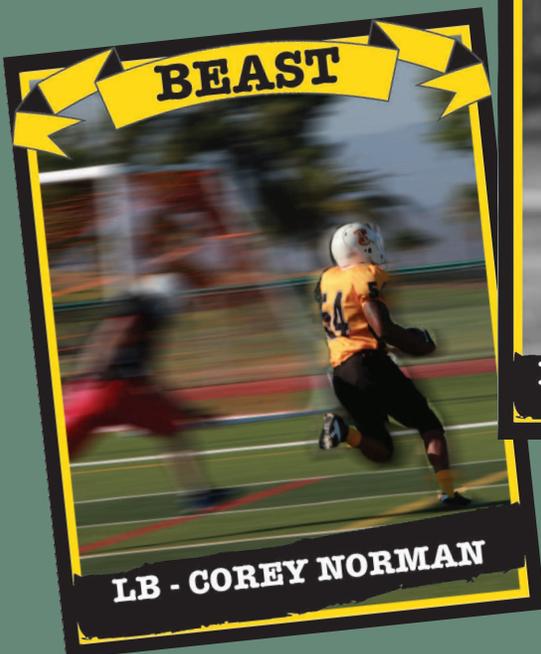
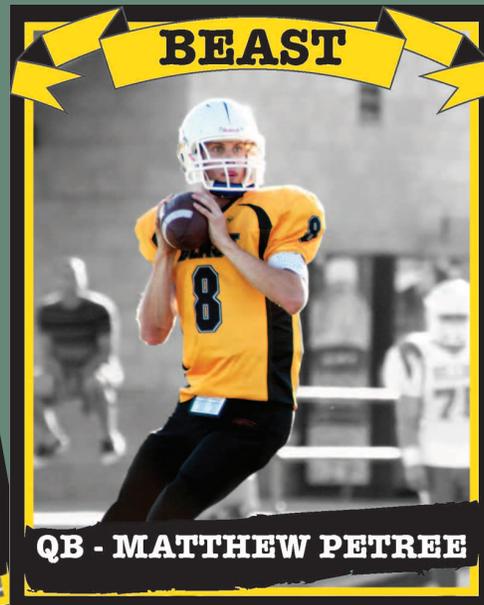
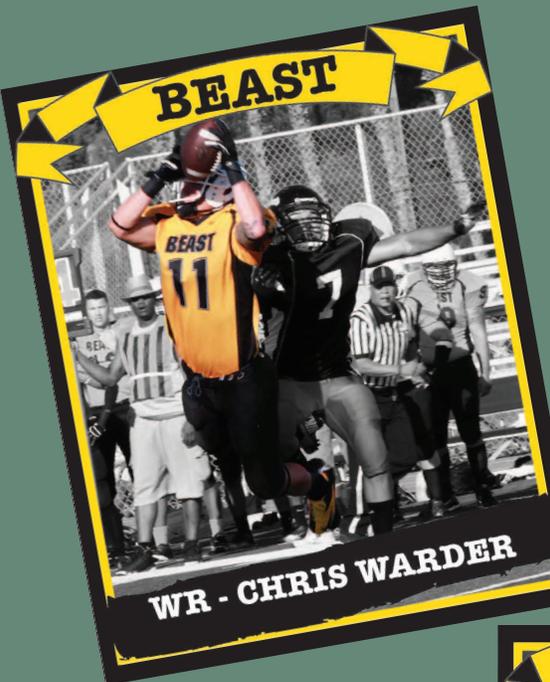
BEAST FOOTBALL

Record: 4-0



- Beast - 20 vs. 3rd AA Bn - 0
- Beast - 32 vs. MCRD - 0
- Beast - 48 vs. MASS-3 - 0
- Beast - 27 vs. 1st Marines - 0
- 9/10 Miramar @ 5 p.m.
- 9/17 1st Radio Bn @ 5 p.m.
- 9/24 WFT Bn @ 7:30 p.m.
- 10/15 11th Marines @ 5 p.m.

Photos by
Staff Sgt. Miguel Carrasco
Public Affairs Chief



Navy's Dental Corps celebrates 100 years

ABOARD USS MIDWAY, SAN DIEGO - Sailors and Marines with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, celebrated the 100th birthday of the Navy's Dental Corps with a formal ball here, Aug. 10.

More than 200 guests attended the celebration, which included sailors who served aboard the USS Midway.

Navy Capt. Blake Turner, oral surgeon, Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton, is one of only two active duty sailors, still serving, who served aboard the USS Midway during its time of operation.

"I was very excited that the dental officers from the San Diego area decided to celebrate the birthday ball aboard the USS Midway," Turner said, who was aboard the ship during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, 1990-91.

"It's a great venue. We usually have our birthday balls at a local hotel, so this brought us back to a place that's uniquely Navy."

The party aboard the ship served as a reminder of the naval traditions while at sea.

"I can't think of a better venue for the 100th anniversary celebration than the USS Midway," said Navy Capt. William N. Norman, commanding officer, 1st Dental Battalion. "This proud ship reminds us of why the Dental Corps exists. We provide outstanding dental and health care to the Marines and sailors we are so proud to serve, whether it is out to sea or in garrison."

Turner was stationed at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., in 1987 for the 75th anniversary of the Dental Corps. It was a big deal back then, he said.

"One hundred years is a major milestone for any organization," Turner said. "I feel lucky to witness it and participate in the celebration."

Over the last 100 years, dental care has made many distinct advances. Before the Dental Corps was established a century ago, toothaches, cavities and false teeth were abundantly common. The Navy relied on civilian dentists or hospital corpsmen to treat dental emergencies before the Dental Corps was established.

"The Navy's Dental Corps has changed in 100 years, as dentistry in general has," Turner said. "Modern dentistry has come a long way in preventing and treating oral disease. Esthetic treatments have now made someone's smile one of their most important attributes."

The Dental Corps officers

have sacrificed and served the country in every military campaign since World War I. The first Navy officer of WWI killed in action was a dental officer with the 6th Regiment, U.S. Marine Corps.

"Although you probably won't find us driving a ship, we do a lot of other things," Turner said. "We help with casualty treatment if there's a mass casualty aboard ship and we have a lot of collateral duties aboard ship as well."

Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the surgeon general mandated that all dental officers were to become proficient in providing health care to treat casualties and assist in emergency medical duties.

The 100th anniversary marks 100 years of dental care, sacrifices and memories for the dental officers of the Dental Corps.

Story and photo by:
Cpl. Joshua Young
Staff Writer

▼ Sailors with Navy Region Southwest Ceremonial Band play background music for the sailors and Marines at the birthday ball, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Navy's Dental Corps aboard the USS Midway Museum in San Diego, Aug. 10.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

Sailor from Baja Calif., brings motivation to Marines

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – At age 28, Petty Officer 2nd Class Armando Arias had a bachelor's degree in international business and was working as a real estate agent when he decided to make a drastic life change and enlist.

Arias, a religious program specialist with 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), had multiple family members in the Corps, but decided he wanted to choose a different path for himself.

"I go to my grandpa's house and see Marine pictures everywhere," said Arias, 32. "I'm always trying to go against everyone. I had to go against the flow."

After making the decision to enlist, Arias, a Baja Calif. native, looked into all the military branches to determine his options. He finally settled on the Navy when he was offered multiple benefits that he was looking for.

"The Navy offered me E-3 going into boot camp and automatic E-4 at six months," said Arias. "They gave me money, they gave me rank, and they gave me the Marines."

Even though he did not want to join the Marines, Arias still wanted the chance to work with them. The Navy is entirely responsible for providing medical care to the Marine Corps, which does not have its

own medical field. Though corpsmen have the highest number of members working with Marines, Arias wanted something else.

"I didn't want to be a corpsman; I can't handle the sight of blood," said Arias. "But then the recruiter told me about RPs."

Following training, Arias said he had great leadership that helped shape him as a sailor and as a leader.

"I was really quiet going through my training commands, but when I hit the fleet, I got discipline," said Arias. "That's when I got really motivated."

The religious program specialists, referred to as RPs, work with chaplains throughout the Navy and Marines. The Chaplain Corps supports the Marine Corps because it does not have its own religious personnel. Becoming an RP allowed Arias to attach to Marine units.

"My mission is to support the chaplains," said Arias. "We provide the right ministry to the right people at the right time."

In addition to assisting with religious services, Arias has another role. Deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan for a second combat tour, his job here requires him to act as personal security for the chaplain.

"The chaplains are noncombata-

tants, so I always have to be with them," said Arias. "They are not supposed to go out on missions without their RP."

As a noncombatant, chaplains do not carry weapons and are not allowed to assault an enemy, no matter what the circumstances are.

"I get to do the bodyguard stuff, the [administrative] stuff, and even if it's just putting a smile on someone's face, I'm helping," said Arias.

Throughout Helmand province, Arias escorts the chaplain on missions to forward operating bases. He said being deployed gives him a higher sense of accomplishment in his job. Marines have their own denominations and their own churches, but for any Marine deployed to remote areas, getting a visit from the chaplain is greatly appreciated.

"I actually feel like I'm doing something out here," said Arias. "You put on your gear, go out to the FOB, and the Marines are excited to see the chaplain and have a service. Back in America, you can't do that."

During this deployment, Arias has also had the opportunity to be an instructor for Corporal's Course.

"I'm all about [Professional Military Education], so teaching Corporal's Course was a great ex-

perience," he said.

When sailors attach to Marine units, there is often friendly banter between members of the two branches.

"There was a sergeant who always ragged on sailors," said Arias. "So during the course, I pulled the only corpsman from the class aside and told him to beat the Marines. He ended up getting the 'Gung Ho' award for the course. I was really proud."

Once this tour is complete, Arias will be stationed on the USS New Orleans, working on the Navy side in his occupation. While he has worn the Marine Corps uniform for four years, changing over to the blue battle dress uniform and working with sailors will ultimately benefit his career.

"I am not excited about taking off this uniform," said Arias. "But I'm still going to wear my [Marine Corps Martial Arts Program] belt. It took me a long time to earn my black belt."

As a member of 1st MLG (Fwd) Arias has been a great addition to the team, but looks forward to going home when his time in Afghanistan is done.

"I miss my family and friends, and I look forward to real American food," said Arias. "I want to put my feet on carpet. It's the little things in life."

Story and photo by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer



From streets of Harlem to sands of Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – Some say success is harder to achieve for kids raised in inner city neighborhoods. Though there may be more obstacles to overcome, success is still attainable, and for Sgt. Edward Gonzalez, growing up in Harlem did not define whom he would become.

“My friend’s uncle was a major in the Marine Corps,” said Gonzalez, supply chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion (-) Reinforced, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “He was one of the few people that got out of the hood. We went to see him in Quantico, and he had a nice house and car; I wanted that. He was a good influence.”

Born in the Dominican Republic, Gonzalez, a Manhattan, N.Y. native, is working on his naturalization package.

“I haven’t been back to DR since 2007 but I miss the food and the people,” said Gonzalez. “My dad has wanted me to get my

citizenship since I’ve been in [the military].”

Before enlisting, Gonzalez worked for an accounting firm. When he decided to join the Corps, he signed up for the supply job field with hopes to continue the work he had already been doing.

“I thought I was going to do accounting, which is what I wanted to do,” said Gonzalez. “But for the first seven years I didn’t do it at all. I didn’t start accounting until I got here.”

Now deployed to Afghanistan for a second combat tour, Gonzalez is responsible for keeping accountability of all supply items in 1st Maint. Bn. (-) Rein.

“All this stuff is out here and somebody has to keep track of it,” said Gonzalez. “Someone has to keep track of what assets there are and where they need to go. When we arrived here, we had 19,000 pieces of serialized gear, and we got rid of every single one of them through retrograde or redistribution.”

Being a senior sergeant and the supply chief, Gonzalez said his officer-in-charge has helped him excel throughout this deployment. First Lieutenant Jeffrey Kisla, supply officer, H&S Co., 1st Maint. Bn. (-) Rein., works directly with Gonzalez, sharing his knowledge of their field.

“He knows his job better than any [supply officer] I have ever worked for, and the way we do things is by the book,” said Gonzalez.

During this deployment, Gonzalez contributed to multiple shop accomplishments in support of the mission in Afghanistan.

“We closed out an account which is probably the hardest thing you can do in my [military occupational specialty],” said Gonzalez. “We did it successfully, and we did it accurately. A lot of the things we did, we were the first unit to do. It gives me a sense of accomplishment.”

As the war in Afghanistan continues, the needs of Marines in var-

ious locations persist as well. Gonzalez said being deployed adds a greater sense of accomplishment to be able to fill his role.

“What we do here with supply is more important than back at Camp Pendleton,” said Gonzalez. “When we first got here, a lot of guys at the [Forward Operating Bases], all they wanted were foot lockers. It’s something so simple, but it’s the little things that count. Being able to provide them with what they need – it makes you feel like you’re important, like your job out here is important.”

With a love for Marines and fulfillment in his job, Gonzalez plans to stay in the Corps until retirement. He has worked to make himself competitive to pick up the rank of staff sergeant and will find out within weeks if he gets selected for promotion.

“If I don’t get selected, I’ll take a shot again next year,” said Gonzalez. “They’re going to have to kick me out because I’m not getting out. I love Marines.”



**Story and photo by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer**