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

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WET, & DIRTY & MOTIVATED

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L.I.N.K.S.

Spouses get down to Marine Corps basics

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines make no pretense of being normal. They live in a world with its own language and values. Their last names function as their first names; their clocks have 24 hours instead of twelve; and they have an acronym or phrase for nearly everything.

A Marine's life can seem like a maze to their families back home, but thanks to the Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills class, their loved ones have access to the map.

Seventeen spouses, whose Marines are deploying with Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, took hold of that map during a L.I.N.K.S. class here, Sept. 17.

"It's about getting the spouses informed so they can be more independent," said Tracie Newman, the family readiness officer for CLR-2. "They can be an asset to their Marines, and knowledge is power for them."

They started with the nuts and bolts as the instructors broke down the rank structure, unit organization and traditions of the Marine Corps.

The class then discussed effective communication techniques and financial awareness. The volunteer instructors reviewed common terms used in the Marine Corps and even demonstrated



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Michelle Luttrell, whose husband is a Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 2, shares some of the information she learned about her fellow spouses during a Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills class aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 17.

how to read a Leave and Earning Statement, which documents a Marine's income every month.

The spouses also learned about the benefits they can receive, such as healthcare, education assistance and career planning.

"I think it's incredibly informative," said Samantha Taylor, whose husband is a Marine with the regiment. "I had a lot of questions. It can be a challenge dealing with things, such as moving and constantly being ready to reposition your schedule because the Marine Corps needs him at 3:00 in the morning."

Taylor has been married for less than one year, and her husband is now preparing for deployment. They canceled their large family wedding because of his training schedule.

Dealing with the common challenges associated with moving and the stress of deployment was a focal point for the attendees as CLR-2 is preparing for deployment.

"There are other people in the same boat, and they do share interests," said Newman, who pointed out that one spouse was married for only two weeks and another for 27 years, but both were drawn together by L.I.N.K.S. "They got to see who is more experienced and who can be a possible mentor."

Building a sense of teamwork is one of the great benefits of L.I.N.K.S., said Newman. It shows Marines their spouses are an asset to them, and it shows spouses they are an asset to each other. ■



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Two spouses, whose Marines are deploying with Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, share information about each other during a L.I.N.K.S. class aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 17.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Seventeen spouses whose Marines are deploying with Combat Logistics Regiment 2 met for a Lifestyles, Insights, Networking, Knowledge and Skills class aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 17.



Photo by Pvt. Franklin Mercado

An American flag is displayed on the desk of Petty Officer 1st Class Charles E. Steen, a career counselor with 2nd Medical Battalion aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 19.

Sailor receives award for outstanding performance

Cpl. Bruno J. Bego
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – Military awards and recognitions come in many different shapes and sizes. Some are written on a piece of paper. Others are pinned on a servicemember's chest.

Regardless of the appearance, they all represent a command's recognition of an individual's effort while serving with the unit.

In honor of his efforts in 2011, Petty Officer 1st Class Charles E. Steen, the career counselor for 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, was selected for the Chief Hospital Corpsman George William "Doc" Piercy award.

"I do not want to downplay it, but I did what most corpsmen do," said Steen, a Dallas native. "We get a mission and we accomplish it. I am just doing my job as a corpsman."

The yearly award recognizes one corpsman – who rates a Fleet Marine Force,

or FMF, badge, which is earned by Navy personnel who are trained and qualified to work alongside Marines – for contributing to the combat readiness of any air or ground element in the Marine Corps.

Chief Petty Officer Brian C. Dieffenbach is one of the senior enlisted Sailors in the battalion who recommended Steen for the award.

"There is a lot of competition out there,"

Dieffenbach explained. "The Navy's medical community is really big, including the part working with Marines."

Dieffenbach met Steen in June 2010

when he joined Alpha Surgical Company, 2nd Med. Bn. In 2011, they deployed to Afghanistan in support of International Security Assistance Force operations, where they cared for more than 400 combat casualties.

"He was one of my go-to guys," Dieffenbach said. "He did outstanding on the deployment."

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"I'm just doing my job as a corpsman."

- Petty Officer 1st Class
Charles E. Steen

WARRIOR of the WEEK



PETTY OFFICER 1ST CLASS
CHARLES STEEN

OCCUPATION:
Command Career Counselor

HOMETOWN:
Dallas

I JOINED BECAUSE:
"The unique experiences that the military offers."

IF YOU COULD PICK ANY OTHER JOB, WHAT WOULD IT BE?
"I wouldn't. I will retire a Hospital Corpsman. No further comment."

WHAT WOULD BE THE FIRST THING YOU WOULD DO IF MONEY WASN'T AN OBJECT?
"Pay off the national debt."



Teamwork pushes Landing Support Company through Endurance Course

Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - The murky, humid land surrounding Battle Skills Training School here is an environment only the creepiest of crawlies could love – unless it’s time for training.

Marines and Sailors with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group fought through the endurance course at BSTS here, Sept. 14.

Their gear was filthy. Camouflage uniforms were unrecognizable. Mud could be found in the deepest crevices of their soul, but none of it was a factor at the end of the day.

“This gets the Marines together and builds unit cohesion and teamwork,” said Capt. Joe Saunders, the commanding officer for the company. “It gives them a chance to get in teams, work together and push each other.

”The troops continuously helped one another throughout the course by lending a hand or giving words of encouragement. If we did stuff like this more often, it would definitely bring people closer together, and we will work well with each other,” said Lance Cpl. Joseph M. Tomes, a landing support specialist with the company.

The endurance course consisted of more than 10 obstacles, which spanned about three miles. For nearly an hour, troops pushed through challenges like crawling under barbed wire, climbing over walls and wading through muddy water.

“This is the type of stuff Marines call home about and write to their families,” said Saunders. “I’m about to be 35 years old, and I feel like I’m in my 20s again. You don’t always get this opportunity.”

Most of the Marines in the company said getting the opportunity to train with their peers in a different environment can bring the best out of Marines and Sailors. ■



Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
Troops with Landing Support Company crawl in the water under a barbed wire obstacle during the endurance course at Battle Skills Training School aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
Marines with Landing Support Company ford the swampy waters running through the endurance course at Battle Skills Training School aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14.



Marines with Landing Support Company flip a tire during the endurance course at Battle Skills Training School aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols



Troops with Landing Support Company use climb up a tower during the endurance course at Battle Skills Training School aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols



OPEN HOUSE

Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Cpl. John A. L. Silkey, a heavy equipment mechanic with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, watches over a group of visitors as they struggle to navigate their zodiac on a man-made pool set up for the battalion's open house aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 19.

Marines open doors for families, friends

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Grease, noise, heavy machinery and an audience to entertain is exactly what they wanted.

Second Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group unlocked the doors to its facilities and invited their friends and families to explore their day-to-day world during an open house here, Sept. 19.

The event helped break through the challenges the battalion's six companies face.

"The bonding is unique to the 2nd MLG, where we take Marines from all the different units and [send them on] deployments," said Gary Scalzo, the battalion's family readiness officer. "There's not continuity. When we have events such as this, we get to have all the families come back and see each other. We have more than 1,300 Marines and 800 family members. They get

to see each other, and they remember the last time they deployed together or met at events."

The unit held its open house after the peak season for receiving new Marines, added Scalzo. This allows Marines and families who are new to the unit to see what the other companies do and meet their peers.

Each of the companies organized their own displays, which ranged from vehicle and equipment demonstrations to a battalion-wide chili cook-off. Sgt. Benjamin Nickerson, a precision weapons technician with the unit, claimed the title of "Chili King" by beating out eight other contestants during a day of spicy competition.

The battalion commander also pushed the sense of rivalry by challenging the companies to outperform one another and inviting family members to vote on their favorite display.

"It's amazing to see the Marines come

together and support the desired end state," said Scalzo, who helped organize the event and encouraged the voting process. "The way they are successful in doing this is by making it a challenge. You can see the companies get excited about it. Just a friendly rivalry makes the task at hand go very easily. They really enjoy it."

The winning company, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, will receive an "Aloha Friday" from the battalion commander, which allows them to work a half day and join their loved ones for an afternoon off work.

"It's been great, and they had a blast," said Staff Sgt. Jose Gonzalez, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with the battalion, who brought his son and daughter to the event. "I'm proud to get to show them what we do here. They get to see where I work, and

See FAMILIES on Page 9

'Docs' brush up on preventive medicine

Pvt. Franklin Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Sailors with 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group participated in a Preventive Medicine Petty Officers' Course here, Sept. 18.

The course provided the attendees with an overview of preventive medicine and gave them an opportunity to expand their knowledge of preventive medicine roles and responsibilities.

"The intent is they expound on their knowledge of preventive medicine, and to be able to apply some or all of it later on down the road – confidently and accurately," said Navy Lt.

Michael Fisher, the commander for Alpha Surgical Company, 2nd Med. Bn.

Preventive medicine technicians are responsible for pest management, disease prevention and education and environmental health, which covers testing the air, water and soil for contaminants.

During the course, Sailors were taught about different species of insects and the diseases they can carry. Specimens were brought to the course to give the participants a firsthand look at some of the possible agents they could face while conducting their job.

Seaman Ray L. Daniels, a corpsman with 2nd Med. Bn., was one of many Sailors to par-

ticipate in the event, although the course is designed for petty officers.

"The course is good no matter what your rank," said Daniels. "Your job doesn't change as you pick up rank. The more you know, the better. I'm glad I came to the course. I thought it was going to be hard to pick up some of the material, but it wasn't."

Daniels also mentioned he's glad the course isn't restricted to just petty officers because any Sailor can be called on to do a job at any given time.

Fisher said the Sailors attending the course will probably use this knowledge while on deployments in the future. He encourages more Sailors to take

part in such training.

"I think it would be beneficial for other Sailors to cross-train and see what PMTs do on a daily basis," Fisher said. "They can gain a better understanding of why we have and ultimately need and rely on preventive medicine [technicians]. They are often behind-the-scenes testing water, conducting food safety inspections, providing guidance on [sexually transmitted diseases], monitoring heat conditions, conducting pest surveillance and control and so much more."

In order to ensure the base's environmental safety stays at an appropriate level, 2nd Med. Bn. hosts this training every quarter. ■



Photo by Pvt. Franklin Mercado

Sailors with 2nd Medical Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group examine a specimen during the Preventive Medicine Petty Officers' course aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 18. The duties of a preventive medicine technician include pest management, disease prevention and education, and environmental health, which covers testing the air, water and soil for contaminants.

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As a radiography technician in Afghanistan, Steen conducted 758 examinations on more than 250 patients.

While in the United States, he helped the battalion and 2nd MLG during 19 training exercises by providing tactical combat casualty care and basic life support training. His efforts helped raise the unit's deployment readiness to 100 percent.

"He puts in a lot of time with the Sailors," Dieffenbach added. "He likes to mentor and help others."

Dieffenbach highlighted the fact that Steen is also the battalion's assistant coordinator for the FMF badge program.

"He is very passionate about helping other Sailors get their FMF pins," he added. "He does anything to help Sailors succeed in their careers."

Steen shows complete modesty for receiving this award. Although he claims he appreciates the recognition, the most important thing he sees about the award is he now knows what to do in order to recognize one of his Sailors in the future. ■

One Bullet Away Day puts NCOs in command

Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols

2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Noncommissioned officers with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group took the reins of the battalion during the One Bullet Away Day here, Sept. 20.

During One Bullet Away Day, all leadership billets from staff noncommissioned officer in charge to battalion commander were filled by noncommissioned officers who were chosen after a rigorous selection process.

"It is somewhat overwhelming, but we went through a strict interview process and were selected into these positions by the battalion commanding officer and sergeant major," said Sgt. Jeffery R. Keller, who was selected to be the battalion's acting sergeant major for the day. "I take it as a big responsibility."

"It's an honor to be selected for this position," said Sgt. Matthew J. Stotts, the acting battalion commanding officer for the day. "It is a good feeling to know you are doing a good job, and it speaks volumes of what you do as an NCO."

Despite the change in leadership, the battalion's mission still rolled on. The Marines of 2nd Maint. Bn. are responsible for maintaining the equipment of II Marine Expeditionary Force, to include ordnance, motor vehicles, communications electronics and engineering equipment.

In addition to mission accomplishment, the NCOs in charge had to look out for their troops' welfare.

"We need to make sure the Marines are getting taken care of, and make certain the work is getting done," said Cpl. Cody A. Spinhirne, who was the acting Headquarters Company platoon sergeant. "Formations are being put in place to ensure all the Marines know what they are doing today."

The battalion consists of six companies and more than 1,400 Marines, so organization is paramount – especially without the key leaders.

Throughout the day, the acting leadership filled the big shoes by conducting daily business and ensuring safety



Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols

Sgt. Jeffery R. Keller, the battalion legal chief for 2nd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, conducts a meeting while he serves as the acting battalion sergeant major during the One Bullet Away Day aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 20. The Piscataway, N.J., native was one of the noncommissioned officers that were selected to be put in command billets for the day as the staff noncommissioned officers and commissioned officers took the day off to golf and build senior leadership cohesion.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols

throughout the maintenance garages, but there were some curveballs. The NCOs in charge responded to simulated drunk driving, drug and traffic incidents.

"The Marines did very well with the leadership positions given to them," said Stotts.

With their day as senior leadership completed, the Marines retired to assume their normal duties in the morning.

Marines with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group discuss how to fix an engine during One Bullet Away Day aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 20.



2nd MLG: Are you ready to ride?

1st Lt. James Stenger
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Do you love a thrill? Do you despise closed windows and air conditioning? Would you rather be on the open road than anywhere else in the world? Are you ready to ride?

If the answer to any of those questions is yes, you need to check in with the motorcycle rider-coaches for the Basic Rider's Course at the Hadnot Point Motorcycle Training Facility here.

The BRC is a two-day course, is free to active-duty military personnel, and teaches the basic fundamentals of motorcycle operation and safety. Eleven servicemembers from across II Marine Expeditionary Force completed the BRC Sept. 25 on their way to becoming fully-certified motorcycle operators.

As part of force preservation and safety measures put in place in 2008 by the Marine Corps' top leaders, the BRC is the first step toward being compliant with Marine Corps Order 5100.19F, which governs motorcycle riders.

Once a Marine or Sailor graduates the BRC, they are better prepared to take a state Department of Motor Vehicles test in order to receive a motorcycle endorsement on their license. Rules differ depending on the state issuing the en-

endorsement, but hopeful riders can expect a written exam and live skills test on a motorcycle.

After a rider purchases his or her own motorcycle, Sailors have 60 days and Marines have 120 days to complete follow-on training with their motorcycle. This course, the BRC-2, is also offered free of charge for active-duty military personnel on base.

After completing the follow-on training, riders can take their registration and certificates to the base pass and registration office and receive decals for on-base access. Most insurance companies will also award a discount after successfully completing a safety course.

The purpose of the BRC is not simply to get Marines and Sailors the appropriate paperwork required to be able to ride on base.

The goal from the start of the safety program was to completely eliminate motorcycle fatalities across the Department of the Navy.

According to Mike Lacy, a motorcycle rider-coach who operates the Hadnot Point training facility, in 2008 more servicemembers died due to motorcycle accidents than troops supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Not everyone can ride a motorcycle," said Elaine Lacy, Mike's wife and fellow rider-coach. "Nobody wants to get



Photos by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Marines with II Marine Expeditionary Force participated in the Basic Rider's Course aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 25. The BRC is a two-day course, is free to active-duty military personnel, and teaches the basic fundamentals of motorcycle operations and safety.



that phone call ... if it could have been prevented."

According to Elaine Lacy, the Marine Corps started this safety program with the idea that "someone has an interest in your safety." To emphasize this point, Elaine immediately memorizes every student's name and clothing in order to give the training a personal feel. Her ability is uncanny.

Sometimes that can make all the difference.

"I have only been [at Camp Lejeune] for two months, and I've seen an accident almost everyday," said Cpl. Dominique Rollison, a 22-year-old Marine attached to Combat Logistics Regiment 25, originally from Charleston, S.C. He has been riding recreational motored vehicles for roughly 10 years.

"I realized I had a lot of bad habits," he said. "This course teaches the proper way to do things."

The course is broken in two separate portions. Students first receive classroom instructions, complete with video aids and a question-and-answer handbook. The indoor guided discussions teach learners not to "pop the clutch" and the importance of conducting pre-ride inspections.

Once students complete the static training, they move to the training facility, or range, and

receive hands-on instruction. The live segment begins at the basics, like the relationship between the clutch and throttle, and graduates to advanced techniques, like how to properly cross an obstruction or how to swerve safely.

The BRC takes a crawl, walk, run approach to learning, which enables students to gradually gain comfort on their bikes.

"[The training was] actually a good stepping process," said Cpl. Evan W. Pollock, a 22-year-old Marine attached to Combat Logistics Regiment 25, originally from Placerville, Calif. "A motorcycle can permanently damage you or take you away from your family."

The instructors are patient. The students are eager. The simple blunders and potentially dangerous riding is comical when conducted on a closed course, with supervision. On the open road, however, motorcycle safety is not a joke.

Elaine and Mike Lacy have nearly 50 years of motorcycle riding experience, combined. Nearly every member of their family owns a bike and so the couple takes every opportunity to educate the Marine Corps' newest riders.

"Hopefully they will learn from their mistakes," concluded Elaine.

Click here and watch Marines attack the pavement during the Basic Rider's Course.





Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Lance Cpl. Evan N. Burgos, a basic electrical engineer equipment systems technician with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, jokingly tests his hearing protection as a visitor to the battalion's open house attempts to ask questions about the tools he uses to perform his mission aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 19.

FAMILIES,
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now they know where I'm at. It helps out on those days where I'm working long hours."

Attendees were able to ride in some of the battalion's vehicles and operate some of the heavy-lifting equipment used for maintenance. A few of the more adventurous participants even jumped into one of the unit's zodiac boats and attempted to maneuver the craft in a man-made pool set up by the battalion's personnel.

"It's good for the kids," said Lance Cpl. Ronald Everitt, a heavy equipment and small craft mechanic with the battalion, who helped children run a hoist used to lift vehicles for maintenance purposes. "It's certainly not like the normal turning and burning we do. It's refreshing."

The open house also acted as an opportunity to introduce the participants to some of the benefits available to them at Camp Lejeune.

Professionals from support services such as Resilience Education, Marine Corps Family Team Building, the Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society, the American Red Cross and the Single Marine Program set up booths to provide information to the families and Marines in order to help them maximize the benefits of their services.

The USO also joined the festivities and provided freshly grilled food as the families and unit personnel mingled in the battalion's courtyard.

"The families do very well in keeping in contact with each other and lifting each others' spirits," said Scalzo. "One Marine may be deployed while another is back here, and they continue to work with each other to support their military lifestyles."

Scalzo also said that more cohesion-building activities are scheduled for the future, but first the battalion's personnel need to tackle the job of cleaning up from the day's activities, drain the pools of water in the central courtyard and return to their daily duties. ■

Landing support specialists with Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15 spent the night providing security and fighting off insurgents on Camp Bastion, Afghanistan, Sept. 14. For Sgt. Rasheem Thomas, back right, his first night working on Camp Bastion is something he and his Marines will not soon forget. (Back row from left to right: Sgt. John Thornton, Cpl. Timothy Bruce, Staff Sgt. Justin Pauley and Sgt. Rasheem Thomas. Front row from left to right: Pfc. Jacob Karnes, Lance Cpl. Danielle Ritter and Cpl. Jenna Owings.)

Photo by Sgt. John Jackson



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