



THE WARRIOR'S LOG

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

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29 YEARS LATER

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CBRN defense specialists train Marines to decontaminate with new equipment

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Taking heavy machinery and trying to get it to start slows down a mission's success. Cranking it for 20 minutes can be stressful and make Marines' work harder, until a push-to-start button fixed the problem.

Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group were introduced to the new and improved joint service transportable decontamination system, or M26, here, Oct. 3.

The M26 recently replaced the outdated M17 and is used by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense specialist as a primary decontaminator.

"It's a better piece of equipment to use," said Sgt. Jason L. Stacy, a CBRN

defense specialist. "It's just like a new car, all you have to do is push a button to start it."

The M27 weighs approximately 550 pounds and is capable of decontaminating personnel, big equipment and large vehicles from any form of chemical or hazardous substance. It can also be used as a field shower on deployments.

"This is the Cadillac of decontamination systems," said Stacy. "This makes the mission a lot easier, and it accomplishes the mission faster."

CBRN instructors taught approximately 30 Marines throughout various units within the 2nd MLG everything they needed to know to receive certification of the M26.

"I enjoy working with the course and watching the Marines grow throughout

the training, as they become knowledgeable with this machinery," said Stacy.

Though this equipment belongs to and is used primarily by CBRN defense specialist, there was no shortage of Marines representing other military occupational specialties at the CBRN battalion training warehouse.

"In case of a chemical attack, it's good to have as many people possible trained on this system," said Stacy. "[CBRN defense specialists] aren't always going to be at the contamination sight when something happens, so the more Marines we have, the better." CBRN is preparing for all possible events, and as they train Marines to an efficient level, they're ensuring not only their own Marines are knowledgeable in case of an emergency, but that the entire 2nd MLG is as well. ■



Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group put together the new joint service transportable decontamination system during a training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 3.



Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, demonstrate how the new joint service transportable decontamination system works during a training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 3.



Marines with 2nd Marine Logistics Group start the new joint service transportable decontamination system, or M26, during a training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 3. Servicemembers were graded by chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear defense specialists during a practical application portion of the class in order to receive certification for using the M26.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

Richard L. Ray, a retired gunnery sergeant, describes what it was like to serve during the bombing of the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, which killed 241 American servicemembers, Oct. 23, 1983.

Beirut veteran shares experiences with CLB-6

Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – The 1983 terrorist attacks on the Marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killed 241 American servicemembers and sent shockwaves through the Marine community.

The official national monument that honors those fallen servicemembers stands only minutes from the Camp Lejeune front gate and tells the world a short, humble message: “They came in peace.”

Approximately 30 Marines from Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group visited the Beirut Memorial Oct. 11, to ensure – even 29 years later – the legacy of the attacks and the mission in Lebanon remains strong in the minds of today’s generation.

“It was a traumatic time for the Marine

Corps,” said Richard L. Ray, a retired gunnery sergeant who served at Camp Lejeune at the time of the bombings. “Whether it is one, two or 241, it is like you got a body blow to the stomach when you hear something like that.”

“Whether it is one, two or 241, it is like you got a body blow to the stomach when you hear something like that.”

- Richard L. Ray

Ray worked at the public affairs office on Camp Lejeune the day the attacks occurred. As soon as he learned about the scope of the event, he immediately put on his uniform and reported to his post, where his days blended into his nights as he

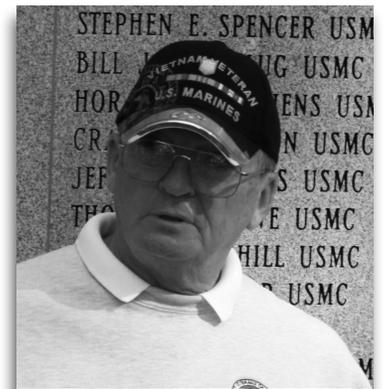
worked “day on, stay on.”

He joined the Marines on the ground in Lebanon shortly thereafter.

“It had been 14 years since I felt a round go down range,” said Ray, a combat veteran who served three tours in Vietnam. “I can honestly tell you that those 14 years mentally never existed by the time I got to

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WARRIOR of the WEEK



RICHARD RAY

OCCUPATION:
Retired gunnery sergeant

HOMETOWN:
Seattle

I JOINED BECAUSE:
“I figured I had a better chance of coming back if I was a Marine.”

FAVORITE PLACE TO BE STATIONED?
“Vietnam.”

FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?
“Seattle Seahawks.”

FAVORITE PIECE OF GEAR?
“My M-14 rifle.”



Photo by Pvt. Franklin Mercado

(Above) A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 6 crawls under fellow Marines during a physical training competition aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 27.



(Below) Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 6 assemble a M-240 machine gun during a competition aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 27.

Photo by Pvt. Franklin Mercado

Competition puts Marines to test physically, mentally

Pvt. Franklin Mercado
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - As the sun commenced its journey across the sky, Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, 2nd Marine Logistics Group began their expedition to be named best in the battalion.

More than 80 of the battalion's Marines gathered at Soifert Field here for a physical and mental challenge Sept. 27.

"It's the worst day of your life you have to survive," said Maj. Brian W. Mullery, the battalion's commanding officer. "It's our job to make sure when you encounter the worst day of your life, you can walk away from it and wake up the next day."

After listening to the commanding officer's words of encouragement, the Marines broke off into their teams and began the challenge.

Everyone started at the same event. Five of the team members crawled underneath

each other while the sixth ran to a backpack that sat in the middle of the field. The individual had to program the frequency of a communications system and ensure they could talk to the battalion via the radio. From there, the teams grabbed their gear and took off.

Obstacles were scattered throughout the French Creek area of base, and they consisted of casualty evacuations, setting up an area for a helicopter to land, a humvee push and pull, and weapons assembly and disassembly.

"A couple things impressed me," said Mullery. "One is, and I've done this kind of event with other battalions before, the basic skills of knowing how to tear down a machine gun, reassemble one or do a functions check – people tend to fall over themselves when it comes to that. You all did a great job at it and talked each other through it."

The Marines worked as six-man teams to conquer every timed event.

"If you're doing something by yourself it's a lot harder to keep going," said Cpl. Patrick Campbell, a radio repairman with the battalion. "But when you have people in your team or squad counting on you, you just give that extra effort."

His team, which was made up of a variety of military occupational specialties, placed third overall.

"This was a good way to cross train," he said. "Everyone has a different job, so working together is important."

The winning team was awarded with a day off work and a Certificate of Commendation from the commanding officer, but he didn't forget about the rest of the Marines who participated.

"I don't want to minimize or make it sound like every Marine didn't give full effort," said Mullery. "I'm watching. I'm watching to make sure we are setting you up for success." ■



A Marine with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 holds security while executing a movement rehearsal exercise during Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 25.

Photo by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

Desert training 'worth every drop of sweat'

1st Lt. Nicole Yuhas
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMPLEJEUNE, N.C. – For the Marines and Sailors of Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group the most welcomed change this fall was returning to their families and friends in eastern North Carolina after spending all September in the desert of Twentynine Palms, Calif., for training.

The regiment had the opportunity to participate in the final Enhanced Mojave Viper exercise held aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in preparation for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan early next year.

For four years, EMV has served as the Corps' all-encompassing pre-deployment training exercise, providing units with the most realistic training available, to ensure a unit was prepared and ready to deploy in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in

Afghanistan. Ordinarily, EMV is the final, culminating exercise a unit will conduct before deploying; however, this was not the case for CLR-2.

Two weeks after officially standing-up as the group's next forward element to deploy in support of OEF, CLR-2 was already setting up camp aboard MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, acclimating to the new environment and gearing up for 35 days of continuous training.

"After a few days of classes, we adjusted quickly to our new environment and new work schedule," said Maj. Shawn Tyson, Transportation Support Company commander.

EMV was the first major exercise for the newly reorganized regiment, one in which all four companies were able to participate. Yet, the regiment did not use this as a crutch, but rather continued to perform beyond expectations.

The troops of TS Company were among

the busiest in the regiment, working around the clock conducting internal training while simultaneously meeting the transportation demands of other companies.

"It has not been uncommon to see the lights of the company office and platoon workspaces burning until the early hours of the morning," said Tyson.

TS Company focused on refining a gamut of tactics, techniques and procedures through various training lanes, live fire ranges and mounted patrols.

"The first phase of our training had our motor transport platoons refining motorized operations with an emphasis on gunnery skills for vehicle mounted weapons, command and control of fires, spotting and reacting to possible IED finds, reacting to IED strikes, and vehicle recovery," explained Tyson.

"The next couple of events increase in complexity, to include live fire training to ambushes, air evacuation of casualties, key

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Beirut. Everything I learned popped right back into my head.”

Ray even escorted media through some of the areas known to be threatened by enemy snipers. His role landed him on the front page of a magazine, which questioned the involvement of the U.S. military in Lebanon.

Ray saw a different attitude emerge from the American public. One that signaled a lasting change in how the military and civilian communities interacted.

“We got hundreds and hundreds of packages and letters every day to take out on the line,” said Ray, who said he passed out the overwhelming numbers of correspondence to his fellow Marines. “In Beirut we saw it, and it registered that the American public’s opinion of servicemembers was taking a turn for the better. It’s been that way ever since.”

The overwhelming support from people in the states struck Ray especially hard. He said it was the first time in 14 years that he truly felt the American public’s presence with the troops in combat.

The Beirut bombing meant just as much to the Marines still at Camp Lejeune, where Ray saw large numbers of recently retired

servicemembers return to active duty as the base responded to the crisis.

Ray was especially touched to learn the community launched a campaign to build a monument for those killed in the bombing.

“Awareness is key,” said 1st Sgt. Laureano Perez, the first sergeant of Headquarters Company, CLB-6, who organized the trip to the Beirut Memorial. “It’s one of the bloodiest losses of Marines, and it’s something that they need to know so they can pass it on to their Marines ... it’s something that we shouldn’t forget.”

After 23 years in the Marine Corps, Ray felt the same and rededicated his time to ensuring the memory of Lebanon is passed on to each generation of Marines.

“You understand too,” said Ray as he asked the Marines of CLB-6 about their own experiences in Afghanistan. “I was always one of those who wanted to sit at the front of the bus to see what was going on.”

He thanked them for doing the same.

The Marines with CLB-6 lined up in front of the memorial as Ray finished his presentation and shook his hand. They laid flowers at the memorial as they left to honor the memory of the lives lost. ■

Engineer Marines press training advantage

Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Rapid volleys of fire punched holes into the man-shaped targets and echoed over the otherwise empty ranges. The recoil of each shot road up their cheeks and shoulders as the shooters fought to maintain control of their weapons.

The Marines with Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, 2nd Marine Logistics Group stood less than 50 yards from their targets as they repeatedly engaged simulated threats during their pre-deployment marksmanship training at Camp Devil Dog here, Oct. 11 and 12.

Approximately 50 troops tackled the training, which involved firing while moving, speed reloading, precision shooting, and assessing the area for threats during the day and night.

For the men and women on the line, the time until they had to put their training into action shrank every day.

“They are going to be in dangerous places where there will be fewer Marines,” said Staff Sgt. Alexander Abel, the Engineer Co. company gunnery sergeant. “It’s one of their rare opportunities to put on all the gear they use in a real combat situation and shoot at unknown distances.”

Abel, who shoots competitively, said he felt the training came at an important time for the Marines, many of whom will soon face their first deployment.

“The important piece for me is to be able to pass on some of my knowledge to the other Marines that don’t do it all the time on their own,” he said. “That way their proficiency level is increasing their chances of survival.”

Abel demonstrated different methods to reload during combat,

and passed on some of his own techniques for maintaining situational awareness while engaging targets. He also encouraged the Marines to experiment with different shooting positions until they found their own comfort zone.

The unit recently returned from weeks of training at Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., where they honed their tactical and life-saving skills. They set up defensive perimeters, conducted simulated field exercises and trained to treat combat injuries.

Even after extensive time in the field, many of the Marines said they welcomed the prospect of getting behind their weapons again before they deploy.

“This is the first time I have received this training since Marine Combat Training,” said Lance Cpl. Wayne Dodson, a data network specialist for the company. “It gives us time to have [the training] and not forget. Plus, we just came together as a company, so we’ve been doing drills and training to build as a unit. It’s been going really well ... but there is always room for improvement.”

The goal is to build a comfort zone when engaging targets, and give the Marines from Engineer Co. the ability to share their tactical skills with other troops in future field operations, said Abel. The true application will be their performance on patrols, convoys and other operations in Afghanistan. ■





Photo by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

Marines with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 undergo realistic scenarios while executing a movement rehearsal exercise during Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 25.



Photo by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

Marines with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 set-up a simulated causality evacuation site during Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 25.



Photo by Sgt. Anthony Ortiz

Marines with Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 undergo realistic scenarios while executing a movement rehearsal exercise during Enhanced Mojave Viper at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Sept. 25.

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leader engagements with role players and even firing live rockets,” he continued.

These evolutions not only tested the capabilities of the troops, but also those of the vehicles and other pieces of heavy equipment that were utilized.

The companies were able to complete the majority of their pre-deployment training requirements while simultaneously honing the individual military occupational specialty skill sets of their troops.

“Each of the platoons and sections ... are training to improve their required skill sets in preparation for deployment,” said Capt. Luke Sauber, Headquarters and Services Company commander.

Sauber continued, describing the challenging scenarios the intelligence section analyzed, the proficiency of the operations section in managing the actions of the entire regiment, the detailed network of radio and data services that Communications Platoon managed, the successful Helicopter Support Team exercises and aerial delivery drops that Landing Support Platoon conducted, and the multiple functions of the logistics sections.

“The Marines of the [logistics section] are among the busiest. They established a field armory, coordinated the daily feed plan of the regiment, managed the ammunition holding area for thousands of rounds, and coordinated dozens of movements of personnel and equipment,” explained Sauber.

The regiment was also tasked with providing logistical support to the other ground units participating in EMV. This ranged from conducting resupply convoys to providing thousands of gallons of fuel via the fuel farm in order to maintain the continuous flow of daily operations.

“Bulk Fuel Platoon continuously stayed busy supporting 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance and 2nd Tank Battalion with fuel resupply and issued over 12,000 gallons over a four and a half week period,” explained Capt. Brian Cooley, Engineer Company commander.

Overall, this month-long training exercise pulled Marines and Sailors out of their comfort zones; it tested them physically, mentally and emotionally. The troops were constantly working to overcome the challenges of the desert environment, fatigue from ongoing operations and periods of sleep deprivation and missing loved ones. The consensus, however – it was worth every drop of sweat.

“We have come together into a cohesive team under the strain of harsh weather conditions, very long days, and a relentless training schedule that has tested our resiliency down to the last individual,” said Lt. Col. Chris Hrudka, CLR-2 deputy commander. “The Marines and Sailors have done a tremendous job at taking care of each other and maximizing the training value.”

EMV was a very large milestone that provided ample feedback on what areas still need improvement. Subsequently, CLR-2 recognizes the need to maintain a heightened training pace to ensure it is fully prepared before deploying next year.

“Ultimately, we will be ready and prepared for a successful deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom,” concluded Tyson. ■



**To see more
photos from
CLR-2
click here**



(Left) Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 26, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group check-in troops during a training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 3. (Below) Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 26, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group help each other during a training exercise aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 2.



Marines learn humanitarian aid, evacuation processes for deployment

Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols
2nd MLG Public Affairs

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - The Marine Corps is known most for its historic battles across history, but for its numerous battles won, the Marine Corps has also participated in significant humanitarian efforts.

Marines and Sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 26, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group performed a series of training events here, in order to prepare for such humanitarian efforts from Oct. 1 to Oct. 3.

During the training, CLB-26 performed mass casualty, humanitarian assistance and evacuation control center scenarios to prepare the troops for an upcoming deployment.

This training focused on getting the Marines familiar with the intricacies of administrative processing for a humanitarian

assistance shelter and also supply distribution for disaster assessment and response.

"Humanitarian assistance training is one of the most likely courses of action for the upcoming deployment we will participate in," said 2nd Lt. Nicholas S. King, the humanitarian assistance officer in charge. "It is an opportunity for the United States to relieve or reduce the results of a natural disaster, man-made disaster, or any other endemic that causes hunger and privation that presents a serious risk to loss of life or property."

Processing displaced personnel and handling the distribution of food, cots, bedding or any other items deemed necessary were the main focuses of the training.

The event made certain that displaced persons or refugees are processed in a timely manner and mitigated unnecessary suffering.

"Combat logistic battalions are required to accomplish several mission essential tasks, one of these mission essential tasks is non-combatant evacuation operations (NEO)," said 1st Lt. Shane K. Cooley, the evacuation control center officer in charge. "The NEO is a complex mission that requires coordination with various elements. Without this unique capability, the NEO mission will fail. This training prepares Marines and Sailors to operate in a chaotic environment and prepares the battalion for the upcoming deployment to evacuate U.S. citizens, their families and friends of the United States."

In order to deploy the battalion must be certified by the II Marine Expeditionary Unit special operations training group. This training conducted is one step closer to CLB-26's deployment readiness and mission success. ■

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