



# 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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## BEST IN THE CORPS?

Story on Page 4



INSIDE



**CLR-27 brings Halloween spirits to life ... Page 2**

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

A Grim Reaper waits for visitors at Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group's haunted house aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 21.



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see the action**

# Haunted horrors visit CLR-27

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – The halls were bright before the haunting started.

Wisps of smoke and the evil glow of demon eyes filled the offices at Combat Logistics Regiment 27's headquarters building here as weary visitors braved the dark entrance and wandered into the spooky hallways, Oct. 21.

The dark transformation took a week and completely altered an entire section of the building.

The eerie calls of actors mixed with the cries of visitors as they passed through the gauntlet of horrors: an operating table with a screaming patient, a bodiless head upon a table, a witch brewing potions and a path through a smoke-filled graveyard with zombies.

"It was a lot of work," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Cole Worst, a religious program specialist whose office was part of the haunted house. "To tell you the truth, I didn't even think about it when I walked through today. It's been a great time."

Worst dressed in a Beetlejuice costume for the event – a favorite with the youngest visitors. He and other volunteers roamed the grounds and interacted with the children.

They took special care not to scare away their littlest guests by giving them glowing wristbands to ward off the scariest monsters.

"I saw one kid hold out his bracelet, and the zombies would fall over," chuckled Laurie Valencia, a spouse who volunteered at the event. "It's always good to see the kids laughing. You know they are enjoying it."

The unit also had a bouncy castle, games and barbeque for participants. At the end of the festivities, several of the volunteers held a costume contest for the youngsters.

"I think it brings a lot of the military personnel closer together," said Valencia. "It creates a familiarity with everybody. The kids come and play together and know that Halloween isn't just scary. There is fun, too."

Some of the children laughed and others clung to their parents in fear as they shuffled their way through the building. Many immediately lined up for a second trip.

"We turned this into an actual haunted house," said volunteer Michelle Smoak with a laugh. "We knew we were all going to have to pitch in to put this together, and that is what we did." ■



# MARINE'S VOLUNTEERISM SPANS SPORT SPECTRUM

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

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. – The offensive and defensive lines clashed just shy of the 10-yard line and quickly melted into a confetti-like sea of red and green jerseys as the two teams battled for the first touchdown.

Each hit came with the hollow crack

of pads and helmets familiar to the NFL, but the children knocking helmets weren't of draft age just yet. It fell to Gunnery Sgt. Jesus M. Melendrez, the operations chief for Combat Lo-

gistics Regiment 25, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, to guide his team of young athletes, the Eagles, to a win at Camp Lejeune's W.P.T. Hill Field, Oct. 20.

They clinched the game in the second half, but the taste of victory is not what drove the Vado, N.M., native to sacrifice his weekend.

"For a lot of these kids, their dads are constantly being deployed," said Melendrez. "It is every father's dream to help his kids develop. I just take honor from being

able to mentor these kids and help them as much as my own. That is what drives me to be a coach."

He got his first taste of coaching at Camp Lejeune when he stepped in for one of his son's coaches.

The experience took place four years ago, but it ruined any illusion Melendrez was a sideline participant. He later vowed to coach every team his three sons played

for – regardless of the sport.

"It has worked out pretty well, and I have learned a lot," he said. "It provides a greater understanding of the games, and it adds to the passion for them as well."

He currently coaches baseball, football and basketball. Every time one of his children picks up a new sport, he picks up the manual on how to coach it.

"I remember one time we started the [baseball] season with warm ups and throwing the ball," said Melendrez with a chuckle. "I looked around and my facial expression went from happy to worried. I turned to my wife and my other coaches and said, 'What did I get myself into?'"

**"I turned to my wife and my other coaches and said, 'What did I get myself into?'"**

- Gunnery Sgt. Jesus M. Melendrez

## WARRIOR of the WEEK



**GUNNERY SGT. JESUS MELENDREZ**

**OCCUPATION:**  
 Operations Chief

**HOMETOWN:**  
 Vado, New Mexico

**FAVORITE FOOD:**  
 "My wife's spaghetti."

**FAVORITE PLACE TRAVELED TO WITH THE MARINE CORPS?**

"I met some really good people in Thailand, but Australia too."

**FAVORITE SPORTS TEAM?**

"Dallas Cowboys and New York Yankees."

[See VOLUNTEER on Page 6](#)



(Above) Maj. Richard D. Kohler, the director of the Marine Corps' Food Service and Subsistence Program, observes Cpl. Kimberly A. Burkett, a food service specialist with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, at the unit's Camp Freedom kitchen aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 23.



(Above) A Marine with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group prepares a tray of apple crisp aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 23.



(Above) Sgt. Christopher Womack, the chief cook at Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27's field site, checks the consistency of rice his cooks prepared aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 23.



(Above) A Marine pours a steaming batch of shrimp creole at Camp Freedom aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 23.

# Food Service Company competes for best in the Marine Corps

Story and Photos by  
Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** – Their breath hung in the air and mingled with the steam from the water heating in their field kitchen.

The cramped galley buzzed with activity as the Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Marine Logistics Group prepared their last meal at Camp Freedom here early in the morning of Oct. 23.

The day's menu was chicken a la king and shrimp creole. The stakes – best field mess in the Marine Corps.

"We get to see the state of readiness we are in," said Art Myers, a representative of the National Restaurant Association and one of the judges for the W.P.T. Hill award. "Food service is probably one of our most important areas, but it is not often recognized, especially when we go out to the field."

The Marines of Food Service Co. won the competition for the East Coast earlier in the year and advanced to compete against the Marine Corps' best field food service units from the West Coast and overseas. The judges assessed the company on operations, sanitation, taste and quality of food.

## [Learn more about that competition.](#)

The field conditions deprived the cooks of the resources found even in a standard household kitchen. Every spice and every item of food was limited to what they had at the field facility.

"It is not like I can go to my storage room and grab whatever I want," said Sgt. Christopher Womack, the chief cook at Camp Freedom. "You have to be flexible. Everybody has to know their jobs. If they don't know something, someone has to be able to teach it."

The conditions forced the team of cooks to get creative in the kitchen's tight quar-

ters, where temperatures can soar from the ovens. The crew even sliced fruits and vegetables into decorative garnishes.

"I was in field operations during Vietnam, and this is the difference between night and day," said Myers. "I have just watched them prepare the meal here, and they put a lot of work into it. It is a balanced meal and will give the [Marines] the nutrition they need to be fit to fight and win."

Myers recently observed another Marine dining facility and said he was impressed with how the Marines watched what they ate and portioned the items on their plates.

The staff laid out a spread of apple crisp, cake and corn bread to compliment their main dishes and salad bar. Approximately 170 Marines worked their way through the dining facility at lunch, where hot coffee and ice-cold juice waited for them.

The feast took several hours of preparation under the dim florescent lighting of the camp's tents, where safety and sanitation were a significant challenge.

"We're going back to the drawing board," said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Patterson, the company's executive officer. "We are selling this to the Marine Corps and saying, 'This is something that is going to be imperative in the future now that we are going through a significant shift in our direction.'"

Patterson said the Marine Corps' new focus is to return to its amphibious and expeditionary roots, which requires a well-trained, flexible crew of food-service providers who are ready to handle field environments.

The unit already proved it was ahead of the curve when it won the initial leg of the competition on the East Coast. Patterson credited his senior enlisted leadership and a strong training regimen with the success.

The results of the competition will come out in approximately two weeks, but Patterson said win or lose, he has been humbled by the performance of his Marines. ■

# FROM BRONX TO THE SANDBOX

## *New York native keeps FOB running*

**Sgt. James Mercure**

*Regional Command Southwest*

### FORWARD OPERATING BASE

**SABIT QADAM, Afghanistan** – Volunteering to deploy to what has been one of the most volatile areas in Afghanistan may come as a tough decision for some, but for Lance Cpl. Marbelyn Cepeda, the decision was easy.

Cepeda, from 6th Communications Battalion based out of Brooklyn, New York, has served for more than three years at the reserve unit as a generator operator. Now, she is serving in Sangin, Afghanistan, as part of Combat Logistics Battalion 2, providing general support to 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 6.

Not only is Cepeda responsible for making sure generators at the forward operating base are up and running correctly, she has taken on the task of helping the other CLB-2 Marines on the FOB by managing and assisting the laundry facility and utilities section.

“It’s a different experience for me,” Cepeda said. “I volunteered for this, for the life experience. Down the line, I’m going to be able to say that I came out to a war zone and did my part.”

Growing up in the Bronx, Cepeda said she misses something about her city that may seem strange to those not from a metropolitan area.

“I miss the crowds,” Cepeda said. “It’s not something I thought I would miss out here, but being somewhere that’s alive and upbeat is a complete shift from being out here.”

A 2008 graduate of the High School of Fashion Industries, Cepeda had her heart set on becoming a fashion designer, but the drive to serve her country had her set her sights on the Marine Corps.

“I wanted to challenge myself,” Cepeda said. “I wanted to be able to look back and know that I had what it took to be a U.S. Marine.”

After her current deployment, Cepeda wants to go back to school for public relations and finish her bachelor’s degree. ■



Photo by Sgt. James Mercure

**Lance Cpl. Marbelyn Cepeda checks the oil levels of an MEP-807A generator, Oct. 18, at Forward Operating Base Sabit Qadam, Afghanistan.**

**VOLUNTEER,**  
*continued from Page 3*

He later led the baseball team through an undefeated season and saw the children grow along the way.

“I had one kid who had all the physical abilities of a superstar, but he was uncoordinated and couldn’t throw a baseball to save his life,” recalled Melendrez, who spent several weeks working with the boy and his father. “It was amazing how much he progressed in a year. A lot of the times it just takes talking to the kids and keeping them focused.”

It is a grueling pace for the coach with many hats. His responsibilities fill his schedule with the workload of a Marine during the day and a fresh set of practice drills every evening.

He turns to his family for support.

“I couldn’t do a lot of what I do without my wife,” he said. “She really helps me out through everything she does for the teams. Being the ‘Team Mom’ is every bit as hard as being the coach.”

His wife, Jackeline, helps organize events for the children and keeps Melendrez informed about the parents’ concerns and goals.

“Every kid wants to win,” said Melendrez.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson  
Gunnery Sgt. Jesus M. Melendrez, the operations chief for Combat Logistics Regiment 25, rallies his team, the Eagles, at halftime during their game aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 20.

“To score a touchdown is the most amazing feeling in the world for an 8 to 10 year old. The moment when everybody is cheering for that kid lets him know he is part of the team and he is special.”

His personal goal is not to win, said Melendrez. Being with his family, mentoring children and seeing them get their own moments in the spotlight drives him to take the field every day. ■



**Click here to watch the game**



# CLR-27 takes a TEE break

**Pfc. Sullivan Laramie**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. - Marines and Sailors gathered under clear, blue skies on dew-covered grass for a golf-tournament fundraiser at the Paradise Point golf course here, Oct. 24.

Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd Ma-

rine Logistics Group organized the event to help pay for its Marine Corps Birthday Ball. Tee off was at 7:30 in the morning, and the event ran until all teams finished their 18 holes.

The four-member teams also competed for the best scores in men’s and women’s precision-hit and longest-drive contests as well as prizes for the best and worst teams.

Many players, however, were just there for the fun of it.

“What better opportunity to play some golf in the sun with a good group of people?” said Navy Lt. Inga M. Keithly, a dentist with the 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd MLG. “I’m having a great time. This is so

[\*See GOLF on Page 8\*](#)



Photos by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

(Above) Gunnery Sgt. Michael Turner, an engineer equipment chief with 2nd Maintenance Battalion, tackles a Rubik's Cube during the unit's field meet aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 24. (Right) Two Marines race during a wheel-barrel competition at the 2nd Maintenance Battalion field meet aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 24. The unit held the competitions to develop a sense of unity within its companies and reward the Marines for their hard work.



# Field meet puts maintenance Marines to the test

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

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** - The Marines of 2nd Maintenance Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group put their strength, teamwork and intestinal fortitude to the test during the unit's field meet here, Oct. 24.

The battalion's companies went head-to-head in a series of competitions over the course of the day, including a 10-kilometer run, tire flip, tug-of-war contest, three-legged race, seven-ton truck pull and a stomach-churning doughnut-run challenge.

"The battalion field meet was intended to build camaraderie," said Lt. Col. Craig Clemans, the battalion's commanding officer. "Trying to make a big unit small is a challenge. Events like this where we have company competitions and we allow them to compete against each other make the big unit small and builds camaraderie."

Crowds of Marines gathered around two seven-ton trucks to start the event. Each company took turns dragging the metal behemoths 25 yards as they raced for the best time.

More of the battalion's Marines tested their mental agility as the cheers from the truck pull echoed over the field. They elevated their heart rates with a cardiovascular work out, crawled across the field to a Rubik's Cube and struggled to complete the puzzle before their competitors.

"A sense of competition is something I very much want to promote," said Clemans. "It really puts the character of the Marines on display and fosters a sense of sportsmanship. In winning and losing,

there is a sense of unity that brings us together."

The Marines grew even more boisterous during the tug-of-war challenge, where the rhythmic chants of "pull ... pull ... pull" flowed from each team as they attempted to drag their opponents into defeat.

The most unappetizing event, however, was one the Marines volunteered to give a shot. It was a doughnut-eating contest and three-mile sprint, which left a sea of disorganized boxes and doughnut remains strewn about the road.

"It was probably the most comical event of the day – the mile-and-a-half run, then eating a dozen doughnuts and another mile-and-a-half run," said Sgt. Matthew Stotts, one of the officials who helped run the tug-of-war challenge but refrained from indulging in any pastries. "I don't think I have eaten a dozen doughnuts in two years. I think there is going to be a lot of [cleaning] at the battalion today."

Sweat and sticky doughnut glaze clung to their cheeks as more than a dozen Ma-  
[See MAINTENANCE on Page 9](#)



# Sailors seize voice at 2nd Dental Battalion

**Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson**

*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** - They're new, and they're on the move.

Sailors with 2nd Dental Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group breathed life into their Junior Enlisted Association in September, and they don't plan on stopping to catch their breath.

The association acts as a forum for junior enlisted Sailors to voice their opinions, build camaraderie and directly impact the community around them. It also helps deepen the service members' connections to their unit.

"When I first came here, it was kind of hard to adjust to the way things were," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Calvin B. Hanks, the president and founding member of the association. "I decided to make a change – not only to become a better person, but a better sailor."

The association's members elected Hanks as their president shortly after the group was established, and they set right to work launching their first major event – a three-mile suicide awareness walk through the streets of Camp Lejeune.

"The reception was extravagant," said Hanks. Several of the battalion's senior leadership joined the 45 other participants for the walk to draw attention to the association's cause in spite of the event's short notice.

The battalion's response to JEA has stayed strong as a whole, noted Hanks, who credits the support of his senior enlisted men-

tors and unit command for helping to create and guide the group.

"They inspired me to use the potential I always had," he said. "Your idea can be put out directly so the entire command is impacted. That is what it has been afforded to me, along with the opportunity to have more camaraderie with my fellow junior enlisted."

After less than two months as an official association on base, JEA has already added 16 service members to its ranks. The number of participants is continually growing, said Hanks, and the group's meetings frequently attract more of the unit's Sailors, who want to see if JEA is right for them.

Hanks said he feels JEA serves as a light for other enlisted service members, whether they are getting out of the military or staying in. It can show them they can have an impact, and there is a path for them to be successful.

"We want to be on a broader scale," said Hanks, who was part of a JEA at his previous command and would like to see the organization grow to include even more units. "I feel like it shouldn't be limited. There is more power in numbers. If we all come together collectively, we could have a huge impact not only on our commands at Camp Lejeune, but the community surrounding us."

The group has already begun reaching beyond the base's gates. They are working to get in contact with local retirement communities, where they can send Sailors – decked out in their finest Navy attire – to bring food and entertainment to the residents. ■

## **GOLF,**

*continued from Page 6*

much better than fixing teeth."

The tournament was open to officers and enlisted personnel. Some teams even mixed officers with enlisted, and Keithly's team, or scramble, actually had a civilian playing.

He wasn't the best at the game, noted Charlie Burrows, Keithly's boyfriend who was visiting from New England, but that didn't stop him from taking a swing at it.

A few of the golfers were seasoned from lessons and years of playing. Others had never picked up a golf club in their lives.

Navy Lt. Aaron G. Hassel, also with the 2nd Dental Bn., said he has been playing on and off for four years. He first started golfing when he was in dental school. After the tournament, he said he may play more.

"It's a great game," said Hassell. "It's relaxing, and I think more people should play."

At the end of the day, skill didn't matter because the game was all about having a good time and building camaraderie.

The winners of the 18-hole game were Capt. Douglas J. Kohlstedt, Capt. Joe Somerdyk, 1st Lt. David C. Giles and 1st Lt. Barrett Patton. ■

Photo by Pfc. Sullivan Laramie



**Navy Capt. Gregory N. Todd, the chaplain with 2nd Marine Logistics Group, drives a ball at the Paradise Point golf course aboard Camp Lejeune, N.C., Oct. 24.**

## MAINTENANCE, continued from Page 7

rines gorged themselves on the fluffy treats and raced around the battalion's complex.

Some contestants attempted to mash their pile of doughnuts into one grand serving while others went with a slow, deliberate pace. The pain on their faces was evident regardless of their strategies as each bite sucked the moisture from their mouths and threatened to overflow their bellies.

Fighting through the pain was just another part of the game for the Marines.

"The number one thing is pride," said Stotts.

The battalion trophy hung in the balance, and each company wanted to claim the bragging rights of having the award.

Electronic Maintenance Company claimed first place at the end of the day. They will have to defend the trophy at the unit's next competition. ■



Photo by Lance Cpl. Paul Peterson

# Marines learn how to detect invisible threat

**Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols**  
*2nd MLG Public Affairs*

**CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C.** - Deadly radiation kills if it goes undetected, so it falls upon specially trained Marines to alert units of the unseen danger.

More than 30 Marines from various units within the 2nd Marine Logistics Group learned how to counter radiation by using the AN/PDR-77 during the Monitor Survey Reconnaissance Course here, from Oct. 15 to 18.

"Every unit is responsible for having a select number of Marines who are certified with this equipment," said Sgt. Steven D. Potts, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 27, 2nd MLG.

It could possibly save the lives of many servicemembers, he added.

CBRN defense specialists trained the Marines to use the AN/PDR-77, a small, box-shaped sensor that detects alpha, beta, gamma and X-ray radiation.

"This [course] provides a tool for the commanding officer if we ever face a CBRN attack," said Sgt. Jason L. Stacy, a CBRN defense specialist with CLR-27. "These reconnaissance teams can find the extent of the contamination or radiation, what type of chemical is present or how much radiation is present, and we can

use the area or find a clean route through or around it."

The students underwent more than 10 hours of classroom lectures and then had to test their skills during practical application to meet the Marine Corps' requirements.

The students donned protective suits and gas masks, which formed a barrier against contaminated environments. They then responded to a simulated radioactive catastrophe, where they measured and plotted contaminated areas.

The students filtered their way through the area in groups of three, preparing them to respond as a team to natural or manmade disasters that can cause harmful radiation.

"Not knowing exactly what the contamination is and how much there is can be a challenge," said Stacy. "The terrain and the time it takes to find the extent of the contamination and spending a long time in MOPP gear can be exhausting."

Each Marine used the equipment to measure the simulated radiation levels at specific points along the course. They placed the sensors on the ground and then evaluated the results. ■

**Click here to  
watch training**



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