

EOD Marines receive awards for courageous actions



Marines and sailors with 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receive awards during a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 24. The awards were presented to service members for their demonstrated valor and wounds received during a recent deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Story and photos by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Having recently returned from a deployment to Afghanistan, six Marines and one sailor with 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, received awards for valor and wounds received here, June 24.

Gunnery Sgt. Matthew E. Small was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with combat distinguishing device. According to the citation, Small served as the explosive ordnance team leader with 4th Platoon, 1st EOD Co., 1st MLG (Forward), and conducted operations while under hazardous and life-threatening conditions. During these operations, Small cleared more than 28 improvised explosive devices. On four separate oc-

casions, Small located remote controlled IEDs and immediately rendered them safe, despite the possibility of them being remotely detonated at any time during disarmament.

“The thing with Gunny Small, give him a mission and he’ll get it done,” said Master Sgt. Jack W. Canady, operations chief, 1st EOD Co., 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG. “These guys are some of the best and brightest Marines I’ve ever worked with.”

Small said he was just doing what he was trained to do and his actions are anything but significant.

“I don’t think I did anything that any of my fellow EOD techs wouldn’t have done if they were in the same situation,” said Small, 32, from Hanson, Mass.

Warrant Officer Jason S. Dempsey, Staff Sgt. Shamus T. Schroeder and Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard M. Don, members

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Outdoor fitness center opens

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Col. James W. Clark, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, officially opened the new \$124,000, 14 Area outdoor gym facility during a ribbon-cutting ceremony here, June 24.

The idea for the facility came from Marines who approached Col. Bruce E. Nickle, former CLR-17 commander, and said they would like to see a functional fitness gym in that area. Construction began April 14, and in just a few short weeks, the gym is now open for use.

“It is amazing to me how quickly this was built,” said Clark. “It all started with a group of Marines suggesting to Col. Nickle what they would like to see for off-duty activities. He took that idea and went forward with it. I wish he was here to see it come to fruition.”

tion.”

Before the outdoor gym was built, the staff conducted outdoor physical fitness sessions in the parking lot. Now they have a 60-foot by 40-foot functional fitness facility designed to allow Marines and sailors the ability to execute a variety of functional fitness workouts. The gym offers more pull-up bars, free weights, rowing and cardio machines, tire flip area and even the Pürmotion. The Pürmotion is a multi-purpose workout machine that has bars for pull-ups, a dip station, an abs station and much more.

“The Marines wanted an outside facility so they could do more functional activities,” said Sabrina Gibson, manager of the 14 Area gym. “When you go inside, most of the equipment is stationary and there isn’t room to move around and do those kind of activities like you can outside.”

Gibson expressed how she felt about the new facility.

“I think it’s great,” said Gibson.



Col. James W. Clark speaks to guests during the grand opening of the 14 Area outdoor gym facility.

“Now we have a covered structure and all the new equipment here. I would like to thank everyone who helped make this possible.”



Col. James W. Clark, commanding officer of Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Sabrina Gibson, manager of the 14 Area gym, cut the ribbon during the grand opening of the 14 Area outdoor gym facility, June 24.

HAPPENINGS

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly 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.

San Diego County Fair

San Diego family fun with concerts, flowers, rides, exhibits and more is available at the San Diego County Fair from June 10-July 4. Celebrate July 4th with parades, fun and fireworks. For more information, please contact base ITT at (760) 725-5805.

Knott’s Berry Farm

In a way to show appreciation to service members for their service, Knott’s Berry Farm and Knott’s Soak City is providing one free admission to each theme park for each active duty service member during the Independence Day weekend, July 3 and 4.

4th of July Beach Bash

The 2011 Ken Grody Ford Beach Bash, presented by MCCS will feature live bands, kid activities, a volleyball tournament, heroes video, fireworks show and drawings for Ken Grody Ford cash prizes. This event is free to authorized patrons and guests with military and DoD civilian identification cards which will have to be provided at the gate. The beach bash is scheduled to be hosted at the Del Mar Beach Resort and the festivities will commence at 7 a.m.

Oceanside Freedom Parade

Watch this year’s annual 4th of July parade starting at the 101 Café, and ending at the Civic Center. Bring folding chairs for a view along the route. The event is scheduled for July 2, from 10 a.m. – noon. For more information please call (760) 754-4512.



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HONOR

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of 1st EOD Co., 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG received Purple Hearts for wounds received in action.

Don, a hospital corpsman attached to the unit, suffered severe wounds to the right side of his face, right arm and right thigh, yet continued to provide aid to wounded Marines until being pulled off for a medical evacuation.

"I loved being with those guys, the experiences, the camaraderie, I miss it," said Don, 25, a San Diego, Calif., native. "They treated me like I was one of them."

Gunnery Sgt. Eric S. Olson, serving as the team leader, Battery B, 1st Battalion, 10th Marines, 1st Marine Division, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, with combat distinguishing device, for heroic achievement and superior performance of duties. While attached to 3rd Bn., 5th Marines, Police Advisory Team, Olson was sent to a location where an IED had been discovered by the Afghan Uniformed Police.

According to the citation, while manually rendering the device safe, Olson came under direct enemy fire. After employing a smoke grenade to conceal his movements, Olson continued to disarm the device, displaying bravery and commitment to his fellow Marines.



Gunnery Sgt. Matthew E. Small, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, receives the Bronze Star Medal during a ceremony, June 24.



Marines and sailors with 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, receive awards during a ceremony, June 24. The awards were presented to the service members for demonstrating courageous valor during a recent deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sgt. Jason L. Fetter, while serving as assistant EOD team leader attached to 1st Bn., 8th Marines, Regimental Combat Team 8, 1st MarDiv, received the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, with combat distinguishing device. Fetter assisted in the disposal of 21 IEDs with a net explosive weight

of 1,290 pounds.

According to the citation, Fetter engaged and destroyed the enemy after coming under attack during a post-blast analysis interrogation. His quick and accurate fire allowed him to finish the analysis and reduce a secondary device. Fetter's heroic actions reduced dozens of IEDs, which could have caused significant injuries or death to the Marines around him.

Staff Sgt. William A. Lightner received a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for superior professional performance. While serving as the EOD team leader with Marine Wing Support Squadron 274, Marine Wing Support Group 27, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing, from April 2007 to January 2011, Lightner responded to more than 50 EOD incidents while working with local law enforcement agencies and flight operations. As an augment to Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Lightner provided counter IED lane training to multiple infantry battalions which lead to 45 successful

EOD response missions during combat operations.

Lightner, 27, a Penn Run, Pa. native, said being a tight-knit group makes it a pleasure working with his fellow EOD technicians.

"You get comfortable with the people you are working with and build up a good rapport and trust," said Lightner.

Canady said he feels his Marines deserve more.

"These guys are running toward what everyone else is running from," said Canady, 39, a native of Sheffield, Ohio. "You take that long walk and you know there is something bad down there but you keep walking day in and day out. These boys are out there every day with death tugging at their elbow, and I think they deserve more."

According to Canady, EOD technicians helped disarm more than 5,000 IEDs, which are the greatest casualty producer to our forces.

"They jump on grenades and take care of bombs. Whatever it's going to take to win this war is what we'll do," said Canady.



Staff Sgt. William A. Lightner, an explosive ordnance disposal technician, receives a Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal during a ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 24.



- GIVE HIM ONE! - BROTHER AND SISTER RETIRE

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenith Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. —A brother and sister from Detroit who joined the Marine Corps just four years apart, retired together here, June 17, after a combined total of more than 55 years of service to the Marine Corps.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Arnold B. Marrant, assistant mobility officer, 1st Marine Division, and Master Gunnery Sgt. Tracy C. Morant, disbursing chief, Disbursing Office, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, joined in 1981 and 1985, respectively.

Arnold only intended to enlist for four years, but he ended up staying in for 30. To him, the past three decades have flown by.

“Four years turned into eight years,” said Arnold, “and here I am 30 years later. Sometimes I pinch myself to think, ‘Has that much time really gone by?’”

When Tracy joined the Marine Corps four years after her brother, she had the intention of using the military as a stepping stone for her future.

“I didn’t join the Marine Corps because of my brother,” said Tracy. “The center of my decision was based on the economic condition in Detroit, Michigan. My only goal at that time was my desire to complete my college education.”

During her farewell speech, Tracy admitted that being a Marine is hard, not only because of all the work, but also because it is tough to be away from loved ones. She also said she has no regrets over her time in the Marine Corps and admires all Marines who make the same commitment she did.

“Sometimes it’s stressful, sometimes it’s heartache, sometimes it’s painful, but because of their commitment, their level of dedication, these Marines are here doing it every day,” said Tracy.



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Arnold B. Marrant, assistant mobility officer, 1st Marine Division, is presented his retirement warrant at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 17. Marrant retired on the same day as his sister, Master Gunnery Sgt. Tracy C. Morant, disbursing chief, Disbursing Office, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, who together share 55 years of Marine Corps experience.

Tracy attributes the successes of her 25-year career to all the Marines who taught her lessons along the way.

“Today is not about me,” said Tracy. “Today represents each and every person who invested in my life, all the individuals who crossed my path since I stepped on the yellow footprints to the day I hung up my uniform.”

Many members of the military never know what it’s like to have family members who also serve. For Tracy and Arnold, staying in touch wasn’t always easy, but it was easier for them to have someone who they could share their experiences with.

“Serving with my brother in the Marine Corps was a great experience,” said Tracy. “Although there have been times we have been as-

signed to the same base, communication has not always been easy. During the early years there was no email or cell phones. However, just knowing I had a brother serving in the Marine Corps brought a certain level of comfort knowing I had someone within my family who could relate to me and my experiences.”

The ceremony may have been the last for Arnold and Tracy, but for many of their family members who were in attendance, it was the first one they had ever seen. Tracy said she was proud of the way she mentored Marines, and she’s confident that they will continue on strongly in her absence.

“The reason I can hang up this uniform, the reason why it’s easy to do,” said Tracy, “[is] because I know I’ve done my best.”



Master Gunnery Sgt. Tracy C. Morant, disbursing chief, Disbursing Office, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, salutes the colors at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 17.

NEW C.O. FOR MP COMPANY

Story and photo by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marines of Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a change of command ceremony here, June 20, in which Capt. Emmanuel T. Carper relinquished command to Capt. Kyle E. Larish.

The ceremony included the passing of the unit colors from the outgoing commander to the incoming commander. Afterward, each commander gave remarks to the service members, family and friends in attendance.

“It was a great tour with a fantastic group of Marines,” said Carper, 32, from Columbia, S.C. “We had worldwide deployments fighting both pirates and insurgents.”

For Larish, taking on the role of company commander is a big step that he said he is excited to take.

“It’s an exciting time for me to be here,” said Larish, 29, from West Seneca, N.Y. “I’m real fortunate to have this opportunity. There are only nine MP companies in the Marine Corps, and to have one of these, I am real fortunate.”



Capt. Kyle E. Larish, (middle), accepts the unit colors from Capt. Emmanuel T. Carper during a change of command ceremony for Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 20. The passing of the unit colors signifies the transfer of total accountability and responsibilities from one commander to the next.

Food Service Company receives new commander

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, watched as the company guidon was passed on to a new commander.

Capt. Frederick L. Hunt relinquished command to Capt. Joseph L. Fore during a change of command ceremony here, June 21.

The ceremony included the exchanging of the company guidon, and remarks from the incoming and outgoing company commanders.

Hunt gave a few kind words to the Marines who served under him during his time with the company.

“To the Marines of Food Service Company, what can I say,” said

Hunt. “You’re a great company. It’s been an honor serving as your commanding officer. Just remember one thing; food service is what you do, Marines are who you are.”

Hunt was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for his hard work and dedication as the commander of the company for the past year. During his remarks, he recognized his senior leadership for their hard work.

“Thanks for being my advisors for the past year and carrying out my commander’s intent,” said Hunt, from Lansing, Mich. “Whatever I needed done, you all did it. I truly thank you.”

Prior to becoming the commander of Food Service Company, Fore served as the 2nd Marine Division food service officer and Deputy G-4 officer.



Capt. Frederick L. Hunt passes the company guidon to Capt. Joseph L. Fore during the Food Service Company.

Before the ceremony concluded, the new company commander expressed his expectations for the future of the company.

“Marines, I look forward to lead-

ing you for the next two years,” said Fore, from Jacksonville, Fla. “I’m going to give 100 percent in being your commander. I know you’re going to go out and do great things.”

PLAN FOR FUN

Fireworks Safety Tips:

Making sure to use consumer fireworks not specifically prohibited (size limitation specified)

Specifically Prohibited: Firecrackers, skyrockets, rockets, roman candles, chasers, sparklers over 10" or 1/4 diameter, surprise items, friction items, torpedoes, items resembling food, fireworks containing arsenic, phosphorus, thiocyanates, magnesium (magnesium alloys permitted), mercury salts, picrates or picric acid, gallates or gallic acid, chlorates, (except those of alkali or earth metals), boron, titanium (except larger than 100 mesh), zirconium, gunpowder, and fireworks kits.

Parents are liable for any damage or injuries caused by their children using fireworks.

Always read directions.

Use fireworks outdoors and keep safe distance.

Never use near flammable materials.

Light one at a time.

Have a bucket of water and a hose handy.

Never attempt to re-light or "fix" fireworks.

Do not wear loose fitting clothing.

Never carry fireworks in your pockets.

Never allow young children to play with or ignite fireworks.

Never point or throw fireworks at another person.

Never shoot off fireworks in metal or glass containers.

Fire extinguisher tips:

Regularly check and service fire extinguishers.

A partially discharged extinguisher is as useless as an empty one. Ensure used extinguishers are refilled.

Be sure to be trained in fire extinguisher use before attempting to fight a fire.

Before fighting a fire, ensure the fire alarm is sounded.

If the fire is larger than a small trash can, do not attempt to fight it with a portable fire extinguisher.

To minimize the possibility of injury or drowning, following the below listed safeguards will help reduce swimming hazards:

Keep yourself hydrated (Dehydration may lead to cramps when swimming).

Use sun screen lotion to avoid sun over-exposure.

Learn to swim well enough to survive an emergency.

Know your limitations and don't over-estimate your abilities.

Remember that regardless of age or skill level, no one is "drown proof." Children should always be supervised by an adult while they are swimming.

At the beach:

Stay near shore.

Avoid jetski zone.

Pay attention to surfers, boats, etc...

At the pool:

Never use any kind of electrical appliance or device while using the pool.

Never dive into the shallow end of the pool or into pools marked "NO DIVING".

Insist on safe use of the pool and all of its equipment.

No horseplay.

Ask people to leave if they're unwilling to follow safe behavior.

Glassware should never be allowed in the pool area.

Notify a lifeguard that you are a marginal swimmer.

Swim only in supervised pools.

Keep a safe distance from platforms and diving boards.

Stay out of the pool:

When you are overheated.

Immediately after eating.

After consuming alcohol.

4th of July Beach Bash: Road closure announcement

Del Mar Residents: Residents of Camp Del Mar will have access to and from their BEQs or housing throughout the course of the day via the Del Mar Gate, which will remain open to both inbound and outbound traffic until 8:30 p.m. At that time only outbound traffic will be permitted through the gate. Del Mar residents are reminded that traffic will be extremely difficult at times.

Roads Closed: The following roads will be closed for the duration of the event, to ALL motorists, except to guests of the Harborsite Inn, Del Mar Resort, Vendors, VIPs, and handicapped motorists.

- Beach Front Road - Harbor Road - Krause Street
- 8th Street between C Street and Harbor Road
- 5th Street - Boat Basin Road
- 12th Street West of C Street

Egress Traffic Flow Changes:

No traffic will be allowed into Camp Del Mar via 'A' Street bridge. "A" Street will become a one-way, two lane roadway with both east and west lanes being dedicated to Eastbound only traffic exiting Camp Del Mar area to Vandergrift Blvd.

All traffic exiting Camp Del Mar after the fireworks display will be directed onto "A" Street. Once on "A" Street, traffic in the right two lanes will only be allowed to make a right hand turn and exit out of the Main Gate. Traffic in the center lane will only be able to access Wire Mountain Road. Traffic in the far left lane will only be permitted to make a left turn onto northbound Vandergrift Blvd. In order to facilitate traffic flow, no other turn options will be allowed. Traffic will also be directed out the Del Mar Gate and no traffic will be permitted inbound the Del Mar Gate during this time.

Information provided by Marine Corps
Community Services Camp Pendleton

Word on the Street

What are your plans for the 4th of July weekend?



"I'm going with my fiancé to Sea World."

Lance Cpl. Jose Larraga
heavy equipment operator, CLB-5



"I plan to stay at home barbeque and spend time with my family."

Lance Cpl. Chris Smith
military police, CLR-17

Marines learn combat awareness

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.—Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group learned skills to improve awareness of their surroundings and help them identify possible threats, while operating in a hostile environment during a combat hunter course, here, June 20-24.

The Marines who took the class learned skills such as combat tracking, advanced observation and combat profiling; it was centered around noticing details that could be clues to future intent.

“It’ll help keep me from going complacent when I’m on patrol,” said Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Kulwatno, Motor transportation mechanic, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

An effective combat hunter knows to notice things like body language and footprints.

“I think it’s pretty cool, we’re giving the lance corporal the opportunity to think,” said Staff Sgt. Lucas C. Lamothe, instructor, Mobile Training Company, Mobilization Training Battalion, School of Infantry (West). “We’re asking him what he thinks. We’re helping them become more articulate and a better critical thinker.”

Along with tracking skills Marines learned how to navigate

human geography as well. They learned skills on how to read a person to see if they are lying.

“We can tell based off body language, biometric cues, some of the atmospheric changes, how someone interacts with you,” said Lamothe.

The Marines who teach these skills enjoy sharing their observation knowledge with the logistics Marines, who can use these skills as well.

“Because some of this stuff is a new skill set, it’s great to see Marines want to be better observers, then see them progress and better their skills,” said Lamothe, 31, Titusville, Fla. “Basically, they can become a critical thinker and use stuff either we didn’t notice or didn’t use in the past.”

In the end, the trainers just want Marines to be more aware when they are in dangerous zones. They hope their knowledge will save the lives of those they train.

“We just want the Marines to be the better observers and critical thinkers,” said Lamothe. “We want them to be able to notice changes in the baseline and based on the criteria decide to kill or capture.”

The Marines who learn these skills, do so to become better at patrolling and possibly use the training to save lives in the future.

“I suggest that everyone takes this class,” said Kulwatno, 21, Torrance, Calif., “It’s phenomenal.”



Lance Cpl. Sophia M. Del Vecchio, Military policeman, Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, measures footprints in the sand during a combat hunter course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 24.



Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group write down their answers to an exercise during a combat hunter course at Camp Pendleton, July 24. The Marines who took the class learned skills in observational awareness and combat tracking and profiling.



Capt. Jason A. Riley, team officer-in-charge, Mobile Training Company, Mobilization Training Battalion, School of Infantry (West), teaches Marines about reading body language and other physical signs of lying during a combat hunter course at Camp Pendleton, July 24.

CG's message

July 4th marks the 235th anniversary of our nation's independence. As you spend the holiday with family and friends, I ask that you take time to reflect on the individual liberties for which the founders of our great nation fought and died; life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Those of us who serve in uniform are sworn to uphold these inalienable rights. As you celebrate our nation's independence and enjoy the freedoms won in hard fought conflict, remember that the July 4th holiday is also a time of increased incidence of preventable off-duty mishaps. Unfortunately, more than 80 of our fellow Marines and Sailors who celebrated our nation's independence last year cannot do so with us this year. Some lost their lives in Operation Enduring Freedom and are accordingly remembered as our forefathers- as defenders of freedom. However, sadly, more than half of them succumbed to traffic mishaps, recreational fatalities and suicide. As professionals, we pride ourselves to manage risk. Ensure you identify and assess all risks, then take the appropriate steps to eliminate or mitigate them to the greatest extent possible.

The combination of alcohol and motor vehicle operation is a well-documented, well-known, and inexcusable risk. Do not take it. We also need to be aware of the risks associated with recreational summer activities, particularly when they involve water sports and personal watercraft. These activities can also turn deadly when combined with alcohol. Just as we take care of our battle buddies for-



Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow, Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

ward deployed, we must demonstrate this same professionalism at home. The loss of even one Marine or Sailor to a preventable incident such as excessive alcohol consumption, firearm mishandling, or reckless vehicle operation is unacceptable. Leadership must engage at all levels to enhance communication and trust in order to prevent small problems from becoming mishaps or fatalities. Stay involved in the personal lives of your Marines and Sailors to identify and intervene in situations before they turn deadly. Your leadership is making a difference, but we need to stay after it, one life at a time.

Enjoy this holiday and the summer months ahead without incurring unnecessary and unacceptable risk. Apply risk management training and practices for even the most mundane



A display of fireworks in celebration of Independence Day, the Fourth of July.

activity; adopting a careless attitude can be fatal to yourself, fellow service members and our families.

Celebrate the birth of our nation with pride, but also responsibly. Common sense and sound decisions

will make this a great holiday.

Semper Fidelis,
J.J. Broadmeadow
Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
1st Marine Logistics Group



(top) Service members compete in a pugil stick bout at last year's Fourth of July event at Del Mar Beach, Calif., July 4, 2010. Many Americans head out to local beaches to celebrate Independence Day. (left) The American flags at the Veterans Memorial field fly high in the sky during the 8th Annual Veterans' Day Parade at downtown Murrieta, Nov. 11. Each American flag with yellow ribbon attach to it symbolizes those who gives the ultimate sacrifice.