

# Sec Def visits CLB-7



Photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey  
 United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta speaks to Marines assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 10. For more photos, see Sec Def Page 6.

# Marines win National Championship

Story by  
 Cpl. Kenneth Jasik  
 Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** –Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group with Camp Pendleton’s Varsity Powerlifting

Team competed and won the team championship in the United States Powerlifting Association Military Nationals here, July 1.

During the USPA Military Nationals, competitors were scored on the total weight they squatted, bench-pressed and dead-lifted.

The competition was broken down into many parts. Service members competed as both individuals in their weight class and as a team. Each team was filled with members of different weight classes,

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# Financial Investment:

## The first step toward a wealthier future

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

— More than 30 Marines, sailors and their spouses, including members of 1st Marine Logistics Group, attended a financial investment class at the Marine and Family Programs Center located near the 13 Area Dental facility here, July 8.

Many service members spend a lot of their hard-earned money on things they want and not necessarily what they need. More often than not, they live their lives from paycheck to paycheck and later-on leave their military careers empty-handed.

Marine and Family Programs a division of Marine Corps Community Services offer free classes

es to all devil-dogs, sailors and their family members to provide tips, guidance and assistance in managing their finances so they are set up for success in the future.

Marine and Family Programs offer one of the three financial classes every Friday at 9 a.m. at their center. Each class covers a different topic — money managing, investing and building credit.

During the money management class, participants learn what they can do to manage their finances, such as setting up a budget, finding the appropriate saving method, and figuring out the difference between wanting something and needing it.

Additionally, the financial investment class provide participants with information regarding investments, from basic savings

to stocks. They learn about mutual funds, the differences between traditional and roth individual retirement accounts, the Thrift Savings Plan and how to start making money by investing.

In the final class of credit management, participants receive guidance on methods used to build credit, repair bad credit, security clearance issues and utilizing their credit reports.

“The goal for this class is to help people understand the very basic concept of how to invest,” said Gerald Williams, financial consultant with Marine and Family Programs. “I want them to get the idea that they can invest at anytime, with anything. It doesn’t matter how much money they have or are making.”

The class introduced the different types of investments then went into detail about the steps of investing, including risks and advantages.

“Having a budget plan is the key element when it comes to the world of finance,” said Williams. “You have to be able to control your money before you can start investing.”

Williams encouraged everyone to start investing as early as possible. During the class, he showed examples of how making early investments could benefit them later in life.

“I’ve been investing for over four years now and my investments aren’t really working for me,” said Sgt. Jonathan McConnell, instructor at the Artillery Training School, 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division.

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## 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.

### Captain America

On Saturday, July 16, there will be an advance movie screening of “Captain America” at the Base theater at 4:00 PM. Seating is first come, first serve.

### Guitar Lessons

On Sunday, July 17, beginner’s guitar lessons will be held at the Arts and Crafts Hobby Shop, Building 13113, from 12:15-1:15 PM. Call 760-725-4880 for more information.

### Beginner’s Swimming Lessons

Beginner’s swimming lessons will begin at the 14 area pool, building 14116. Call 760-725-5084 for more information.

### NCO Association

The Non-Commissioned Officer’s Association will be holding an expo at the Pacific Views/South Mesa club on Tuesday, July 19. For more information visit [www.mccscp.com/summer-events](http://www.mccscp.com/summer-events).

### Youth Football

There will be an Eric Dickerson Youth football Camp beginning at the 11 Area Football field July 21 and 22 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Call 760-725-4188 to register.

### CLR-17 HQ Co. Motorcycle Ride

A great opportunity for all riders to share their riding knowledge and expertise with their peers is scheduled for July 22. For more information, contact the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Headquarters Company Motorcycle mentor RP2 Arias, (760) 763-6191.

### Jobs for military spouses

The Military Spouse Employment Partnership Web site offers job listings and job search preparation assistance to military spouses. Visit [www.mcejobs.com](http://www.mcejobs.com) to register.



Gerald Williams, a financial consultant with Marine and Family Programs Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Community Services, introduces the class to the benefits and risks of investing during a financial investment class at the Marine and Family Programs Center, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 8.



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# Finance

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sion. "I came here to get more information on the subject to improve my profit. It's a good class overall, and I'm looking forward to applying some of the things I've learned today to my current investments."

Many service members stayed after the class to schedule a one-on-one session with Williams, with the hope that he could help them with their personal finances. Whether it's creating a budget plan, or seeing what types of investments work best for their situations, Williams can offer advice.

"There are resources available to them to get them on the right path of finance," said Williams. "Beth [Middleton] and I are here to offer our services to them free of charge. It's better to start late than living paycheck-to-paycheck for the rest of their lives with no chance of retiring."

To find out more information about the classes offered or to conduct an individual or couples counseling session concerning personal finances, call (760) 725-9790 and ask for the financial consultants, Williams or Middleton.



Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

**Gerald Williams, a financial consultant with Marine and Family Programs Camp Pendleton, Marine Corps Community Services, talks to service members and their families during a financial investment class at the Marine and Family Programs Center, Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 8.**

# Bench

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and then were scored on how well they performed within their weight class.

Due to their strong performance, some of the Marines earned spots in the World Powerlifting Competition as well as the 2011 Olympia Professional Powerlifting Championships.

"We did great at this event," said Sabrina Taylor, coach, Camp Pendleton Varsity Powerlifting Team. "We got a few [individual] wins in the Military Nationals, and we won the [military] Team Nationals."

To become competitive powerlifters in "the world's strongest sport," the Marines have been training continuously to increase the amount of weight they can squat, bench press and dead-lift.

"The whole team has been very dedicated the last few months," said Taylor. "They really buckled down and trained hard."

Marines met or exceeded their goals and personal bests. One Marine, Sgt. David L. Douglas, motor transportation mechanic, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, even broke a world record.

"Our captain, Sgt. Douglas, was able to accomplish his 700-pound bench press goal," said Taylor.

Other members of the team also did well. In the lighter weight classes, 1st Lt. Margie J. Rodgers, assistant disbursing officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, took home the silver medal in the Women's USPA Military Nationals 132-pound weight class. She began lifting in high school and has remained interested in the sport ever since.

"It's like how other people are addicted to run-



Photos by Cpl. Kenneth Jasic

**(Above) A Marine with the Camp Pendleton Varsity Powerlifting Team performs a squat during the Military Powerlifting Nationals in Costa Mesa, Calif., July 1. (Right) First Lt. Margie J. Rodgers, assistant disbursing officer, performs a squat as part of the Camp Pendleton Varsity Powerlifting Team during the nationals. During the competition, the team out-lifted all others and took home the award for winning the Military Team Nationals.**

ning," said Rodgers, 25, from Waverley Hall, Ga. "I'm addicted to lifting weights. I like to see how much I can lift."

The team will continue to train for upcoming competitions, including the World Powerlifting Competition and the Olympia competitions this summer.





# GIVE HER ONE!

## SERGEANT MAJOR JACKSON

Story by  
Cpl. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. –

When Sgt. Maj. Brenda L. Jackson first enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1981, her plan was to serve one term, receive financial help for college and gain some life experience.

Three decades later, Jackson is finally preparing to put away her uniform for good.

As a member of the Marine Corps band, Jackson spent years travelling all over America, contributing her saxophone skills to musical selections. When the end of her first four years approached, Jackson decided to

extend her term, twice.

Jackson said she couldn't keep extending after six years on her first term, so she finally reenlisted.

"I ended up staying in because I loved what I was doing, it was rewarding," said Jackson, 48, from Canandaigua, N.Y.

In Marine Corps Recruiting Depot Parris Island, S.C., Jackson served two years as a drill instructor for female recruits. It wasn't until she arrived on the west coast in 1993 that her career took a slightly different turn.

Jackson was promoted and sent to the advanced course for gunnery sergeants. A fellow classmate suggested she be considered for a 2-year trial program at MCRD San Diego, where she would be the first female Marine to train male recruits.

Jackson said the sergeant major of MCRD San Diego met with her to discuss the idea.

"They wanted to test out having a female drill instructor so the male recruits could be exposed to females," said Jackson.

While Jackson was honored to have the opportunity, change didn't come immediately. Nearly nine months later, Jackson finally got the okay.

"We were doing field band practice and I was drum majoring," said Jackson. "We were out on the parade deck, rehearsing for my first time as a drum major because I was leading for the upcoming graduation."

As Jackson led the band across the seating area, a sign was held up saying, "You report on 1 April, 1994."

"I knew what it meant; no one else did, but I knew," said Jackson. "I thought, wow, it actually happened, I am going to be the first female drill instructor at San Diego. It was really an awesome feeling that it was going to happen."



Courtesy Photo

**Then Gunnery Sgt. Brenda Jackson walks the parade deck as the first female drill instructor to take charge of male recruits at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. Jackson checked in to Drill Instructor School, San Diego, April 1, 1994. After 30 years of honorable service, Jackson, Canandaigua, N.Y., is preparing to put her uniform away for good.**



Courtesy Photo

**Photo taken in 1994 of then Gunnery Sgt. Brenda Jackson.**

Immediately following her first drum major appearance during the graduation ceremony April 1, Jackson reported to duty and checked into her new command.

"A young sergeant says to me, 'Gunny, this is a really good April fool's joke,'" said Jackson as she laughed at the memory. "He didn't believe me. But the look on his face after he took me down to admin and realized I was really checking in, he looked terrified."

When Jackson began training, a rumor started that she was there because some of the male students were going to be sent to Parris Island, causing some tension. As the only female attending, Jackson faced other challenges fitting in amongst her peers.

"Some men think women can't hold their own," said Jackson. "But the instructors knew me and they knew what I was capable of. They were just waiting

for the (physical fitness test)."

At 30 years of age, Jackson was in extremely good shape. Against 55 other students going through drill instructor training, Jackson finally shined as she passed many of her peers in the 3-mile run. Coming in third place, Jackson said all the guys were shocked as she passed each one.

"It was at that point when the guys started talking to me," said Jackson.

After finishing her second tour as a drill instructor, Jackson returned to the band and became the second sergeant major in the field. Female drill instructors now only train female recruits at MCRD Parris Island, S.C.

As sergeant major of Combat Logistics Regiment 17, Jackson led Marines in garrison and in Afghanistan.

"I am blessed that I finally got the opportunity to deploy,"

**See Jackson Page 5**

# Marines learn importance of media

Story by  
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.**—In order to help Marines with Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command prepare for an upcoming deployment to Afghanistan, Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group provided a media actor team to embed with Marines in a field exercise here, July 7.

To prepare for unexpected media visits while in country, these role-players acted as reporters from the “American News Channel” and showed up at a certain point during the field exercise, interviewing the unit’s commander, who learned the importance of taking advantage of a media opportunity the hard way.

“These guys are getting ready to deploy to Afghanistan, and they know that they need to prepare,” said Maj. Jeff Landis, MARSOC public affairs officer. “There are a number of mission-essential tasks they must master, but there are other critical, more specialized skills they need to experience, like handling a media encounter.”

Landis, 43, from Sunbury, Pa., feels it is important for special operations Marines to understand that they can use the media as a tool to help inform people, whether abroad or at home.

“The whole point of attempting to inject media into the training scenario is to show them that no matter what they’re doing, and no matter what impact they’re having on the local communities, it is imperative that they convey the right messages through powerful information management



Photo by Cpl. Thomas W. Provost

**Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group play the role of American news reporters during a field exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. The purpose of the media actor team was to emphasize the importance of interacting with the media to Marine Corps Forces Special Operations Command Marines, and teach them how to use it as a tool to broadcast their message.**

tools like the media,” said Landis.

According to Landis, one of the biggest roadblocks between special operations Marines and conveying their story is that most understand the importance and implications of operational security during interviews, as well as protecting their identity while deployed, so it is hard to draw the line on protecting the mission and telling the story.

“There are a number of concerns from the get-go,” said Landis. “There’s a misconception that Marines don’t need to speak to the media because of the sensitivities in the types of missions they do. That’s not necessarily true because special operations forces are also engaged in

support and stability operations, providing security and assisting local populations with simple, basic needs like food, water and shelter. Whether it’s an engineer project or medical-dental mission, we should capitalize on the opportunity to speak with the media.”

Landis said he teaches MARSOC Marines to embrace the media and provide them a better understanding of how media can help shape perceptions on the battlefield. Armed with media engagement guidance and solid messages that explain the importance of the missions and the units doing them, the media becomes a valuable information tool — especially in the current opera-

tional environment of information warfare.

“In a counterinsurgency environment, Marine Special Operations Forces perform village stability operations and foreign internal defense missions; and these include training local police forces and enhancing security, providing basic needs, stabilizing or building governance and infrastructure and assisting the host nation to transition back to normalcy, said Landis. “If perception is reality, then these perceptions, images and messages about how you’re helping the local population, are what will make the biggest difference in mission success or failure.”

## Jackson

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said Jackson. “I always wanted to experience how our young Marines operate in the combat environment. They are go-getters, you can say one word and they were on it. Their positive attitudes with all the coming and going and unscheduled changes, they did not lose a beat. They

just took it in stride and did what they had to do to accomplish the mission.”

During her post and relief, Jackson stood with the band and played musical selections with the group.

“My career has been wonderful,” said Jackson. “I’ve done a lot of stuff, seen a lot of stuff, and met some amazing people. I have learned so much.”

In her hometown in Canandaigua, N.Y., the mayor deemed

June 20 as “Sgt. Maj. Brenda Lee Jackson Day,” in appreciation for her service to the country.

Jackson plans to finish her bachelor’s degree as she transitions back to the civilian life. Majoring in biological anthropology, Jackson said she would ultimately like to work with wildlife.

“I can see myself being out in the middle of the ‘African Bush’ doing research and data collection with whatever species are

out there,” said Jackson, the owner of five dogs, one fish and an umbrella cockatoo. “It’s my dream job to just be out there with nature.”

Jackson said the biggest reward from her career has been leading Marines.

“I loved working with young Marines and knowing I could give them something to help them flourish in their career,” said Jackson. “I was able to give back.”

# SEC DEF

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Photos by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jacob N. Bailey

*(Right) United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta visits the dining facility at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 10. While visiting the forward operating base, Panetta spoke to Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward).*



*(Above) United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta speaks to Marines assigned to Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 10. (Left) United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta awards Staff Sgt. Shawn Vernon, CLB-7, 2nd MLG (FWD), the Purple Heart Medal at Camp Dwyer, July 10.*



*United States Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta talks to a Marine about the capabilities of a Mine Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle at Camp Dwyer, Afghanistan, July 10.*