

## CLB-1 learns to combat IEDs

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.**

—For coalition forces who transport supplies to service members in Afghanistan, the road to the forward operating base can be a long one filled with dangers, including improvised explosive devices and ambushes.

In order to prepare for the challenges they may face during combat logistics patrols in Afghanistan, Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a simulated combat logistics patrol here, July 27.

During the scenario, Marines found a simulated IED and called explosive ordnance disposal personnel to render it safe. A short while later, they were ambushed and the security element provided suppressive fire while the other vehicles moved to safety. When they were almost back to base, a simulated IED detonated and the Marines called a medical evacuation for the notional casualties from the blast.

“If this actually happens in combat we know how to react and what steps to take,” said Pfc. Jesus Vargas, combat engineer, Alpha Company, CLB-1.

“The variety of things we did really helps out because you don’t know what to expect out

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*A Marine With Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, returns fire during a simulated ambush at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 27.*

## Leadership Through Understanding

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS RECRUIT DEPOT, San Diego** – More than 20 senior leaders from I Marine Expeditionary Force participated in an equal opportunity leadership conference held July 26-28. The participants took part in group exercises and decision-making scenarios. One decision game posed the following situation:

Before taking a trip, a baron tells his wife not to leave the castle or she will be killed. Once he is gone, the baroness leaves the castle to visit her lover, but upon returning, encounters a madman who says he will kill her if she tries to cross the river. The baroness returns to her lover for assistance but he provides no help. So the baroness goes to a boatman and asks to be carried across the river to the castle, but she does not have five coins for payment and the boatman refuses to help. The baroness then goes to a friend to borrow money, explaining her situation, but yet again, the friend offers no aid. The baroness tries again to return to the castle and the madman kills her. On a scale of one to six, rank the most responsible to least responsible person for the baroness’ death.

After being placed in five groups, senior enlisted Marines and offi-

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there,” said Vargas, 20, a Dallas native.

The Marines and sailors knew what to do in each part of their simulated combat logistics patrol because they had a plan, and they let each other know what was going on.

“I heard good communication,” said Lance Cpl. Will. H. Fonseca, combat engineer, Alpha Company, CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG. “Everybody knew their jobs, everybody knew what was going on, gunners knew what to do, everyone did pretty good.”

The training evolution helped build the Marines’ confidence and ensured that they would be ready to handle the unexpected.

“I think it helped me realize that I knew more than I thought I knew,” said Fonseca, 19, from San Antonio. “It helped me realize that once you go outside the wire, anything can happen and you need to be prepared for the worst.”



**A Marine With Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, returns fire during a simulated ambush at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 27. During the combat logistics patrol, they were ambushed and the security element provided suppressing fire while the other vehicles moved to cover.**

# LEADERSHIP

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cers were instructed to come to an agreement and explain to the class how they decided who was most responsible. The purpose of this exercise was to show how difficult it is to convince a group of leaders to come to an agreement because their values and belief systems vary.

“I thought, ‘Wow, we can’t even agree on the first problem because of our differences,’” said Master Sgt. Kip Lawson, training chief, Security Battalion, Provost Marshall’s Office. “It’s definitely something we need to work on as leaders.”

During the conferences, equal opportunity representatives discussed various topics including socialization, values, attitudes and

behaviors.

“The conference focuses on understanding others that may be different from ourselves,” said Gunnery Sgt. Duane K. Hairston, equal opportunity advisor, Marine Corps Installations West. “We are improving our leadership, which results in increased unit cohesion and readiness.”

After showing the class film clips of discrimination toward multiple ethnicities in the movie “Crash,” a movie based on racism in Los Angeles, instructors also sparked heated debates regarding nationality and gender biases.

One speaker addressed a significant stigma that existed for him as a junior Marine many years ago: a rumor that female Marines always automatically win meritorious boards.

“The only reason I never went on a meritorious board was because there was always a female on it,” said Gunnery Sgt. Craig Ranney,

‘We are improving our leadership, which results in increased unit cohesion and readiness.’

- Gunnery Sgt. Duane Hairston, equal opportunity advisor

EO advisor, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “If there is a female going up on the board, don’t even bother going on it. That was my stigma and what I was taught growing up through the ranks.”

As an advisor of equal opportunity and diversity, Ranney learned how derogatory the idea was and discussed how great of an impact stereotypes had on junior Marines. He explained how leaders played a major role in diminishing negative perceptions.

“As leaders, we are responsible for educating ourselves and educating our Marines,” said Ranney. “That’s the only way we’re going to win. We are in the position to change the culture, so do it.”

At the end of the “drawbridge exercise,” each group reached a conclusion of who was most responsible for the baroness’ death. Though it was difficult and compromise didn’t come easy, their answers were finally made. The largest debate was whether the baroness was most responsible for disobeying the baron after being warned she would be killed, or whether the madman was most responsible for actually committing the act. The discussion gave the leaders a new perspective on how to handle real decision-making situations throughout the Marine Corps.



**Marines participate in an equal opportunity discussion during a leadership conference held on Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Calif., July 26-28. During the discussion, the leaders experienced difficulty agreeing because of different values and belief systems, and began working on compromising for the greater cause.**

# Engineers reinforce skills

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** – When it's time for Marines on patrol in Afghanistan to call it a day, they need a place they can call "home." In most cases, these places are forward operating bases built and maintained by combat engineers.

To help prepare for building and improving FOBs, combat outposts and patrol bases in Afghanistan, Marines with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, added improvements to an existing forward operating

base here, July 28-Aug. 1.

To improve the FOB, Combat engineers utilized expandable barriers filled with dirt called HESCO. Engineers built structures out of wood and fortified positions using a combination of materials including concertina wire and sandbags.

The wood-work requires carpentry skills and HESCO barriers need to be erected and tied together before they can be filled with sand.

"This is exactly what we'll be doing in country," said Staff Sgt. Jason P. Flynn, combat engineer, Alpha Company, CLB-1. "We will be constantly doing improvements to [patrol bases, combat outposts] and FOBs as well as building new ones."

The Marines and sailors are

improving their skills, and they see improvement each time they conduct a mission.

"The training out here has been very good," said Lance Cpl. Taylor D. King, combat engineer, Alpha Company, from McKinleyville, Calif. "It's done nothing but made us stronger, and we get better with every mission."

The Marines preparing for Afghanistan know that the training is helping them become more proficient in their job, which provides Marines a place to call home in Afghanistan.

"I'm looking forward to [deploying with this unit]" said Flynn, 35, from Burnsville, N.C. "I've got great Marines, [a] great chain of command and I'm ready to get out there and get started."



Marines with Alpha Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, install concertina wire at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., July 29. Combat engineers with Alpha Company, CLB-1, improved a small forward operating base as part of Enhanced Mojave Viper training in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

## 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.

### Sprint Triathlon Saturday

Navy Assault Craft Unit 5 will host a 500-yard swim, 30k bike ride and 5k run event, Saturday. The event is scheduled to start at 8 a.m. and is free to active duty service members stationed on Camp Pendleton. For more information visit, <http://camppendletonraces.com/sprint.html>.

### NASCAR Simulator

Suave Men's NASCAR Simulator is scheduled to be at the Country Store from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Aug. 9. Come and take a test drive!

### Adventure Expo

Information, Tickets and Tours in partnership with Latitudes Travel will host a free travel expo at the ITT mainside parking lot next to the bowling center, from 10 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Aug. 12. The expo will feature free lunch, giveaways, attraction and travel experts. For more information, call (760) 725-5863.

### Tactical Athlete Challenge

Come participate in a 4-person active duty squad competition 9 a.m.-2 p.m., Aug. 16. The challenge incorporates speed, agility, strength and power events. For more information or to sign up, call (760) 763-0657.

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# - GIVE HIM ONE! -

## CPL. ROBERT NADEAU

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
Staff Writer

It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to be successful in the Marine Corps. One Marine who went above and beyond was recognized here, July 26.

Cpl. Robert Nadeau, intermediate radio repairman, Repairable Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, received the 1st MLG Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter award. The 22-year-old native of New Britain, Conn., stood out from the rest of the NCOs in the Group.

To be considered for NCO of the Quarter, a Marine must be a sergeant or corporal, must not have had any court martials, must have a first-class Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test, must have a current rifle score and be within Marine Corps height and weight standards. The selected Marine then participates on a board, during which he or she is assessed by Staff NCOs on Marine Corps knowledge, bearing and uniform presentation.

Nadeau beat out four other selected Marines with perfect scores of 300 on the PFT and CFT, and an expert shooter qualification with a score of 313. Nadeau expressed how he felt being rec-



**Brig. Gen. John Broadmeadow (background) looks on as Cpl. Robert Nadeau is named the 1st MLG NCO of the Quarter, July 26.**



**Cpl. Robert Nadeau (left), radio technician, Repairable Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG, shakes hands with a representative from Pioneer Military Loans after being presented a gift for receiving the 1st MLG Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter award at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 26.**

ognized among his peers.

"I feel outstanding, I can't even put it into words right now," said Nadeau.

Nadeau named two influences, Sgt. Daniel Goicochea and Sgt. Rudy Bolio, who helped him get to this point in his career.

"I would like to thank my mentors Sgt. Goicochea and Sgt. Bolio," said Nadeau. "They are outstanding leaders. They have enabled me to get to this spot, and I hope to enable all of my Marines to perform proficiently in their [Military Occupation Specialties] and as Marines."

Goicochea had a few words to say about the recently named 1st MLG NCO of the Quarter.

"He sets the example in all he does. Every challenge he takes with a positive attitude," added Goicochea, radio technician, RMC, 1st Main. Bn., CLR-15, 1st MLG. "He is the type of Marine that can be relied upon to contribute to the excellence of the Marine Corps. Through his actions, I know this Marine will make me and the Marine Corps even prouder with future endeavors."

"Cpl Nadeau is a very impressive Marine," said Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Miller, CLR-15 sergeant major. "He seeks knowledge and guidance from his sergeants and SNCOs in order to fix any deficiencies he might have in order to be a better leader for his Marines. He always puts his Marines before himself and visits them after hours and on weekends in the barracks just to talk to them and make sure

they have everything they need."

Miller also added that Nadeau works tirelessly to help his Marines improve their physical fitness. He is a great family man, volunteers his time outside of the Marine Corps to different programs that need help, and is just a fantastic role model overall for young Marines.

Sgt. Maj. Antonio N. Vizcarrondo Jr., 1st MLG sergeant major, gave Nadeau a few words of encouragement during the ceremony.

"You did a great job on the board," said Vizcarrondo. "You were certainly one of the Marines to stand out, and as you continue on in your career you will continue to do great things for the Marine Corps and more importantly, the young warriors looking up to you. You take great pride and take care of your Marines and lead by example. I think that is a great quality in a young leader."

At the end of the ceremony, the NCO of the Quarter thanked everyone for attending.

"I want to thank everyone for being here, but most of all I want to thank my family, particularly my wife," said Nadeau. "She has been amazing in supporting me. She understands what it takes to be a Marine and she understands the time I have to put into it and if it wasn't for her, honestly, I couldn't do it."

Nadeau also performed well on the MLG meritorious sergeant board and was meritoriously promoted to the rank of sergeant, Aug. 2.

# Marines improve through 'Lessons Learned'

Story by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Marines are constantly training for upcoming deployments or other contingency operations. But how do they know what training to focus on, or where to begin?

Marines in any military occupational specialty can learn more about their respective MOS and aid with professional military education through an online resource known as the Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned.

The MCCLL is one of many tools unit commanders can utilize in order to train their Marines.

Headquartered in Quantico, Va., MCCLL is an organization that collects, analyzes and maintains lessons learned from units and distributes those lessons to others so they understand what to prepare for, explained Robert Clark, MCCLL program analyst for 1st Marine Logistics Group, one of four program analysts within 1 Marine Expeditionary Force.

"My job is to gather information, observations and lessons from units and other sources out there to distribute them to units within the 1st



*Courtesy of Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned*

**The official Marine Corps Center for Lessons Learned Web site is located at <http://www.mccl.usmc.mil>. Headquartered in Quantico, Va., MCCLL is an organization that captures and maintains after-action reports from units and distributes those 'lessons learned' to other units in preparation for a mission.**

key personnel of units at locations to provide information to our supported units as well as to advocates and proponents at Headquarter Marine Corps, Marine Corps Systems Command and Marine Corps Combat Development Command," said Clark. "[By] establishing a relationship with key members of the organization, explaining to them what

operating forces, Clark explained. By identifying gaps and coming up with recommendations for solutions in all aspects of a mission, MCCLL can provide accurate information to 1st MLG and its subordinate commands.

According to Clark, MCCLL analyzes information across the entire Doctrine, Operations, Training, Materiel, Leadership, Personnel, Facilities (DOTMLPF) spectrum.

While a program analyst may take requests from units to conduct research and gather information on a specific subject, units can do their own information gathering on the MCCLL website and the 1st MLG SharePoint.

The MCCLL Web site – <http://www.mccl.usmc.mil> for unclassified materials, or <http://www.mccl.usmc.mil> for classified materials – allows units to view, create and submit after-action reports and share their experiences whether they're in garrison or deployed, Clark said. The search engine allows units to quickly go through the huge library of more than 50,000 records and material available to narrow down information related to their searches. Registered personnel can also create electronic binders to store files they find useful for their needs. They can later access those

files from any computer by logging in with their common access card.

They can also access the 1st MLG MCCLL SharePoint site by logging onto:

<https://1mlgsharepoint.nmci.usmc.mil/G3/mccl/default.aspx>.

In addition to the Web site, MCCLL also releases monthly electronic newsletters covering general training and information with links to documents related to each topic. Program analysts also send out weekly classified Tactics, Techniques and Procedures to personnel with secret clearances and access to view classified material.

"Our goal is to learn from those who have gone before and identify the problems beforehand to be aware and come up with solutions for those problems and continue to push and improve on things that worked," said Clark.

Clark offers assistance to any MLG Marine or their unit to obtain information, material and lessons that support their training and deployment preparations. He's also available to answer questions concerning the MCCLL Web site, the SharePoint, registration process and how MCCLL works. Marines and sailors can contact him at (760) 725-5931, or by email at [robert.clark8@usmc.mil](mailto:robert.clark8@usmc.mil).

**'Our goal is to learn from those who have gone before and identify the problems beforehand to be aware and come up with solutions for those problems.'**

*- Robert Clark  
MCCLL program analyst*

MLG and vice versa," said Clark, from Carlsbad, Calif.

The MCCLL program collects after-action reports from units and figures out what worked or didn't work for them in order to provide accurate information to those in preparation for various missions, explained Clark. On top of that, the program also seeks information by performing focused collections.

"We send out teams to collect data and conduct interviews with

MCCLL does, and also providing them with information and lessons that might benefit their units, we'll be able to gather more information to produce and disseminate our reports and recommendations."

Clark also tailors information that relates to the 1st MLG-specific missions, so each unit receives exactly what it needs to improve and accomplish its mission, including tactics, techniques and procedures of immediate importance to the

# On the road again



Lance Cpl. Ryan Spaulding, 22, from Portland, Maine, licensing noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, opens the hood of a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle to show his students the components of the engine during a weeklong M-ATV operator course on Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 26.

## Marines check under the hood, get in the driver's seat of M-ATV

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**M**ARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Twelve motor transport Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group graduated from a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle operator course here, July 29.

The weeklong course was designed to teach Marines how to operate and perform basic maintenance on M-ATVs in order to keep these life-saving vehicles on the road and in the fight.

The M-ATV features a V-shaped hull, designed to deflect the blast of a roadside bomb – a proven lifesaver in Afghanistan where the deadliest threat to ground troops is the improvised explosive device.

Before these operators got in the driver's seat, they received classroom instruction to

learn the basics.

“During the course, we provide them with basic knowledge about these vehicles,” said Lance Cpl. Ryan Spaulding, licensing noncommissioned officer, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. “We’ll teach them about the components of an M-ATV and show them the general vehicle maintenance, such as how to change tires, checking and changing oil, fuel and coolant. It’s only after they know the basics that we’d take them out on the road.”

After the class, it was time for these trainees to get some hands-on practical application with the M-ATVs. In order to earn their M-ATV licenses, the students must complete the final skills test and record 125 miles of driving experience, explained Spaulding, 22, from Portland, Maine.

“Knowing where everything is and [then] doing it are completely different,” said Spaulding. “We try to cover any situation we could think of so if they run into problems on the road, they would know exactly what to do.”

“The road-end skills test gives the students a chance to prove that they’re able to apply their knowledge and operate the M-ATV without any supervision,” added Spaulding. “They must learn to use the brakes and mirrors to get them to their designated zones.”

With numerous classes and more than 125 miles logged on the roads of Camp Pendleton, the graduates are now ready to take their new skills on the road in Afghanistan where unpredictable desert terrain will put their driving prowess to the ultimate test.

# Ammo techs stay on target with training

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
Staff Writer

**Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.** – The 1st Marine Logistics Group uses approximately \$8 million dollars worth of ammunition for training per week. Who is responsible for providing all of the ammo to the Marines and sailors? The answer is ammunition technicians.

Ammunition technicians and appointed ammunition handlers representing every unit within 1st MLG attended required training here, July 28. Ammunition handlers are Marines appointed to handle and gather ammunition for units that don't have actual ammunition technicians.

During the course, the Marines focused on a program called HERO, which stands for Hazards of Electromagnetic Radiation to Ordnance. It is designed to prevent the accidental ignition of electrically-initiated devices in ordnance due to radio frequencies and electromagnetic fields from computers, cellular phones and cameras.

"The ammo techs of 1st MLG are getting all the training required for all the ammunition they deal with," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Garcia, ammunition chief, G-4, 1st MLG. "They learn about everything that has to do with ammo."

Some of the ammunition the Marines handle on a regular basis



**Staff Sgt. Daniel Garcia, ammunition chief, G-4, 1st Marine Logistics Group, from Fort Worth, Texas, teaches ammunition technicians about the proper handling of various types of ammo at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 28.**

includes 5.56 X 45 mm rounds, 40 mm grenades, chlorobenzalmalononitrile gas capsules commonly known as CS gas, and electric blasting caps. But they also deal with more dangerous munitions such as tank and mortar rounds, hand grenades and sometimes even rockets.

Because they have to deal with potentially dangerous ammunition, the Marines also focused on ammunition safety, the different types of highly explosive ammunitions, how to store and transport ammunition and how to "forecast" ammu-

munition expenditures. According to Garcia, forecasting is used to let the personnel at the Ammunition Supply Point know how much ammo is needed by each unit.

"Forecasting is hard to do because each unit doesn't know exactly when their training will happen," said Garcia, from Fort Worth, Texas.

The classes proved beneficial for the ammunition technicians. From stowing the ammunition, down to the paperwork they have to fill out, the training will help better prepare them for missions ahead.

"I've learned a few things that are important to me as one of the unit's ammo techs," said Cpl. Ray Peck, ammunition technician, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG, from Fort Wayne, Ind. "Some things change a lot in this job field so taking the required training every month is important."

With all of the ammunition Marines employ on a weekly basis, whether it's for a shooting range or the gas chamber, it's up to the ammo techs of 1st MLG to ensure their magazines are never empty.

## CLB-7 supports ISAF

Story and photo by  
Lance Cpl. Bruno J. Bego  
2nd Marine Logistics Group (FWD)

**CAMP DWYER, Afghanistan** – Old dirt roads eroded by the extreme Afghan weather can limit the access of military vehicles in remote areas of Marjah, Afghanistan.

Engineers with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) are rebuilding 11 kilometers of road in the Marjah district in support of Regimental Combat Team 1.

"The road we are fixing wasn't very trafficable for military trucks,

and they want to improve the mobility in that portion of the [area of operation]," explained 1st Lt. Garrett J. Verhagen, from Cincinnati, the engineer platoon commander with CLB-7.

Some of the road improvements include placing new culverts for improved water management, laying gravel and refurbishing some sections of the deteriorated road.

"We have also installed retaining walls to widen out certain areas and re-graded some rough sections of the road," Verhagen explained. "Some areas are going to need some major work done, but it's nothing we can't do."



**Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward) assemble a drainage pipe during route repairs, July 12, in Marjah, Afghanistan. The engineers are improving 11 kilometers of road.**