



The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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7th ESB in Afghanistan



Photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew Snodgrass

Maj. Gen. John A. Toolan, commanding general of Regional Command Southwest, prepares to strike the ceremonial "golden spike" during a ceremony commemorating the completion of a road constructed by Marines with the 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 2nd Marine Logistics Group (Forward), in Helmand province, Aug. 5.

OSCAR helps prevent mental injuries

Story by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDELTON, Calif. – Stress can affect anyone, but Marines who have a high operational tempo are often more susceptible to it.

To prevent stress from overcoming a Marine, more than 100 service members with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participated in an Operational Stress Control and Readiness course here, Aug. 4.

“What makes OSCAR training important is that it is truly a war-fighting issue in the sense that we lose Marines to physical injuries and other Marines need to take his work load,” said Capt. Alexis Sanchez, executive officer, Headquarters Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “We need to prevent Marines from becoming mentally injured due to operational stress.”

The course curriculum is designed for Marines of all ranks, and teaches Marines how to handle different situations they may encounter in all kinds of settings, whether it be returning from a mission in Afghanistan or during a lunch break in garrison.

See OSCAR Page 2

Communication Marines learn SWAN

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDELTON, Calif. – With the constant improvement of new technologies, communications throughout the Marine Corps are becoming faster and more secure. One of these technologies, the Support Wide Area Network, is a series

of antennas that communicate via satellite. It's more advanced than older systems, which require a straight line with no obstructions between the two points of contact to be successful.

To remain current on the evolving technologies, Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group participated in a class to learn how to

See SWAN Page 2



A data communications technician with 1st Marine Logistics Group assembles an antenna for a Support Wide Area Network at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 3.



Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, learn about Operational Stress Control and Readiness and how to prevent mental injuries at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 4.

INSIDE



Sgt. Maj. Ledferd reminds Marines to stay motivated

Page 4

CLR-17 HQ Company welcomes new CO Page 3

CLR-1 leaves marks in history Page 5

7th ESB hosts Hawaiian luau Page 6

SWAN

continued from Page 1

set up, operate and troubleshoot SWAN communication antennas here, Aug 3.

“Our SWANs are getting upgraded,” said Gunnery Sgt. Franklin N. Nash, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Data Platoon, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. “It allows us to network over the horizon, as opposed to line of sight where you would need to see the next point you’re communicating with,” added Nash, 43, from Albion N.Y.

The network is key for Marines in environments similar to Afghanistan, in which small forward operating bases are spread out across the mountainous area of operation. The antennas connect via satellite and are able to maintain constant communication with each other.

“If you’re really far away, you can’t just run a cable, but with this you can send your signal to another place using satellites,” said Pfc. Raudel Avila, data communications technician, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG.

According to Nash, the Marines were able to set up and start operating a smaller satellite antenna in



Pfc. Raudel Avila, data communications technician, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group assembles an antenna for a Support Wide Area Network at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 3.

less than an hour and a larger antenna in less than two.

“This gives us the capability to drop anywhere in the world and pull communications from the satellite and have real-world Internet in a short amount of time,” said Nash.

According to Nash, who spent years in military communications, things are constantly changing, which is why it is important to keep up-to-date on the latest technologies.

“Fortunately, most of the Marines I have here are brand new and fresh out of school,” said Nash. “We’re able to show them the basics. This is one of the rare [military occupational specialties] where every-

thing changes so fast you have to be humble because coming out of the school, they might know more than you.”

Nash also added that the SWAN training was a good opportunity for everyone involved to brush up on their skills.

The training helped build the confidence of the Marines who will operate the new equipment in the future and very likely, use the new technology while forward deployed to Afghanistan.

“I didn’t know anything about SWANs before, and now I feel good about using these,” said Avila, 19, from Chicago.

OSCAR

continued from Page 1

“OSCAR is training created by Marines to provide mentors down to the fire-team level all the way up the chain of command,” said Sanchez, from Paterson, N.J. “It gives commanders the ability to know that they have Marines looking out for each other across the command.”

The training is meant to be different from traditional suicide awareness in that OSCAR focuses more on how to prevent mental injuries at the small-unit level. Prevention measures range from talking to the person to assisting him or her in seeking help at a higher level.

“This class wasn’t so much about

the warning signs of suicide,” said Cpl. Byron M. Solano, chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear specialist, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “It taught us what we can do as small-unit leaders to keep our Marines in the fight and how to deal with certain situations and when to intervene.”

During the course, OSCAR instructors said the training built upon the leadership principles, which guide all Marines in everything they do.

“I think what makes it different is that it brings to the forefront that Marines like to fight, but they do not like confrontations,” said Sanchez. “As Marines, the term ‘suck it up’ is something we hear from boot camp. What OSCAR training does is it challenges that train of thought. It’s no longer ‘suck it

up,’ but it’s ‘hey, if there’s something wrong with you we need to talk about it and try to fix it because having you in the fight is what is important.”

The OSCAR program aims to tear down the stereotypes associated with mental injuries, said Sanchez.

“It helps remove the stigma that if you have mental injury or if you seek help that it’s going to have a negative impact on your career,” said Sanchez.

The Marines who took the class learned the truth about mental injuries and how it’s possible to start healing by simply talking to others or seeing a mental health professional.

“The OSCAR training taught me a lot about mental health,” said Solano, 20, from Reno, Nev. “It’s OK to seek help if you need it.”

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.

Mongolian BBQ

South Mesa Club is scheduled to have a Mongolian BBQ day at 4:30 p.m., Aug. 15. Create your own feast at 70 cents an ounce. For more information, call (760) 725-2231

Tactical Athlete Challenge

Come participate in a 4-person squad competition 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Aug. 16. For more information or to sign up, call (760) 763-0657.

Free Cholesterol Screening

A free cholesterol screening is scheduled to take place at the Paige Fieldhouse, Aug. 16, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (760) 725-6394.

San Onofre Beach Party

Marine Corps Community Services hosts the 2011 Endless Summer Party at San Onofre Beach, Aug 19, starting 10 a.m. Fun events and activities are scheduled throughout the day and live entertainment at night. Food and adult beverages available for purchase.

Summer Surf Camp

The 2011 Summer Surf Camp Program is enrolling new students. Cost is \$180 per surfer. For more information, visit www.mccscp.com.

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Headquarters Company welcomes new CO

Story and photos by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS
BASE CAMP PEND-
LETON, Calif. – The
Marines of Headquarters Com-
pany, Combat Logistics Regi-
ment 17, 1st Marine Logistics
Group, received a new company
commander during a ceremony
here, Aug. 5.

During the ceremony, Maj.
Larry D. Parker relinquished
command to Maj. Roy L. Miner,
and gave over complete control
of the Marines who run the head-
quarters element of 1st MLG.

Miner, 39, from Pleasantville,
Calif., comes from Marine Wing
Support Squadron 374 and said
he's excited to become the new
company commander for the Ma-
rines who work in the headquar-
ters element of 1st MLG.

"From what I've seen of the
Marines with Headquarters so far,
is that they are very professional,"
said Miner. "Like with any new
command, this will be a challenge,
and I'm excited for it."

Parker, 40, from Temple, Texas,
will head to Headquarters Marine
Corps in Quantico, Va. He said he
is proud of the sense of team and
professionalism he helped build
within the company.

"The Marines [of Headquarters
Company] are highly profession-
al, highly motivated [and] always
greeted me with the utmost motiva-
tion every morning," said Parker.

During his time with 1st
MLG, Parker deployed twice.
The first time was with Combat
Logistics Battalion 11, CLR-17,
1st MLG, with the 11th Marine
Expeditionary Unit. Following
that tour he deployed to Af-
ghanistan as the executive of-
ficer of Headquarters Company,
1st MLG (Forward).

"It was a great experience to
be able to train the Marines up,
then deploy to combat," said
Parker of his tour with Head-
quarters Company. "Then I got
to see them do their respective
jobs at the [Forward Operating
Bases]. That was fulfilling."

While in Afghanistan, Parker
observed the Marines of his
unit successfully complete
their mission.

"They did a great job. They
knew their job, and they were
excited about getting to do it
in a real-world, combat situa-
tion," said Parker. "They do
a lot of training around Camp
Pendleton, but they had a
chance to go and do it for real,
where it truly counts."

Parker was proud of his
headquarters Marines while
deployed, and since his return,
Parker has been the company
commander of many of the same
Marines in garrison.

"It's been an honor and a
pleasure to work with the MLG
and all aspects of it from the
CLB to the regiment, and I'm
leaving out on a high note,"
said Parker.



Maj. Roy L. Miner (left), incoming company commander, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receives the company guidon from Maj. Larry D. Parker, outgoing company commander, during a change of command ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 5.



Maj. Roy L. Miner, company commander, Headquarters Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG, provides remarks to the crowd during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 5. Miner said he's excited to become the new company commander for the Marines who work in the headquarters element of 1st MLG.



Maj. Larry D. Parker, outgoing company commander, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receives a plaque presented by his Marines after he relinquished command of the company during a change of command ceremony, Aug. 5.



- GIVE HIM ONE! -

SGT. MAJ. LEDFERD

Story and photo by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Public Affairs Chief

When Sgt. Maj. Robert Ledferd, 48, from Springfield, Ill., first considered joining the military in 1982, his father wanted him to join the Air Force. But he had other plans.

When he and his father went to visit an Air Force recruiter, "My dad walked out of the room, and I snuck over to the Marine recruiter," said Ledferd, sergeant major of Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "Before you know it, I was already signed up and ready to go."

His father tried to talk him out of it, claiming the Marine Corps would be "too tough" for the 119-pound 20 year old.

"That just made me more resilient," said the 158-pound former drill instructor.

Ledferd shipped out for boot camp in July 1983 and spent four years in artillery before being honorably discharged. But eight months later, after having difficulty finding a job, and having missed his Marine Corps "family," he quickly re-enlisted – and hasn't looked back since.

After 28 years, including two tours on the drill field, multiple deployments and his most recent 2-year stint as the director of the Staff Noncommissioned Officer Academy aboard Camp Pendleton, Ledferd has amassed a wealth of knowledge on what it takes to be a successful leader, which he gladly shares with his fellow Marines.

'Drink the Kool-Aid'

When the sergeant major tells his Marines to "drink the Kool-Aid," he refers to "the buy-in that the Marine Corps is the best insti-

tution in the world," he said.

"If you believe that, you'll put forth a lot more effort," said Ledferd, who added Marines should be upholding the core values of honor, courage and commitment every day.

The key, said Ledferd, "is to remind Marines of why they joined the Marine Corps in the first place."

"Every Marine who signed that contract to go in, they were motivated, they were excited about it, they were ready and wanted to be a Marine," said Ledferd. "I emphasize to the staff NCOs that they have to remind the Marines every now and again that the Marine Corps is a great institution and try to get inside the Marines' mind and thoughts and get them to do an internal look of why they joined the Marine Corps."

'Wire-brush' to remove the rust

Marines are encouraged to "wire-brush" other Marines to ensure they are adhering to Marine Corps regulations and policies, said Ledferd. And junior Marines shouldn't be afraid to correct a senior Marine, in a tactful manner, if needed.

"I got wire-brushed by a PFC the other day because I didn't quite blouse my trousers correctly," admitted Ledferd.

From private to general, every Marine should evaluate themselves daily to ensure they are upholding the high standards of a Marine, to include getting back to "the basics": remembering to walk left and abreast of a senior Marine, giving the appropriate greeting of the day and standing up when a senior Marine enters the room, said Ledferd.

"Look at yourself and look at others, and make sure there's no rust, there's no complacency within yourself or your Marines around



Sgt. Maj. Robert Ledferd, sergeant major, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 48, from Springfield, Ill., has amassed a wealth of knowledge on what it takes to be a leader throughout his 28-year Marine Corps career. 'The key,' said Ledferd, 'is to get them back into that mindset of when they first came into recruit training. Every Marine who signed that contract to go in, they were motivated, they were excited about it, they were ready and wanted to be a Marine.'

you," said Ledferd. "Look at yourself in the mirror and ask, 'Would you want to follow you?'"

Nearly three decades of service

Ledferd recently re-enlisted for two more years in the Corps, which

would bring his total years of service to 30. But he has no plans to hang up his uniform just yet.

"From there I'll just take it as it comes and see what the Marine Corps has in store for me," he said. "If they ask me to stay longer, I'll stay longer."



RE-LIVING THE LEGACY

Combat Logistics Regiment 1

Story by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

Since World War II, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 has played a significant role in the logistical support of the Marine Corps. From the battles of Guadalcanal and Okinawa, to today's war on terror, the daily works of Marines and sailors have contributed to decades of support to the Corps.

Originally activated at Marine Corps Air Station New River, in 1942, as the 1st Pioneer Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Fleet Marine Force, CLR-1 participated in many World War II campaigns including Guadalcanal, Eastern New Guinea and Okinawa.

According to CLR-1 lineage, the unit was relocated to Camp Pendleton, Calif., following the end of WWII in 1947. In addition to receiving Presidential Unit Citation Streamers with one Silver and one Bronze Star for efforts in World War II, CLR-1 also received a Navy Unit Commendation Streamer with two Bronze Stars for their efforts in Pusan, Inchon and the Chosin Reservoir.

During the Korean War, CLR-1, designated as 1st Shore Party Battalion, participated in the defense of the Demilitarized Zone from 1953 to 1955. In "All in a Day's Work," written first hand by Lynn Montross, the author describes the daily efforts of 1st Shore Party Battalion. Along with the engineers, both groups helped support 1st Marine Division with road repair, supervision of refugee workers, creating future tactics, and loading and landing operations. Commanded by Lt. Col. John H. Partridge, the shore party devotedly ran support operations for the combat troops and contributed by providing security as well.

At the end of the Korean War, the unit was deactivated, and remained that way until 1964, at the beginning of the Vietnam War. The unit later went on to provide logistical support during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm as Headquarters and Service Battalion, 1st Division Support Group.

After a deployment to Iraq in sup-



Photo by Cpl. Peter McDonald, USMC

A column of troops and armor of the 1st Marine Division move through communist Chinese lines during their successful breakout from the Chosin Reservoir in North Korea. During the Korean War, CLR-1, designated as 1st Shore Party Battalion, participated in the defense of the Demilitarized Zone from 1953 to 1955. The Marines were besieged when the Chinese entered the war Nov. 27, 1950, by sending 200,000 shock troops against Allied forces.

port of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the regiment was reorganized and officially joined 1st Marine Logistics Group in October 2005.

Today, CLR-1 encompasses service members within Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, and 7th Engineer Support Battalion located here on Camp Pendleton. Additionally, the regiment includes Combat Logistics Battalion 7, the only battalion-sized element that supports the 1st Marine Division, 7th Marine Regiment at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

From motor transport operators, to food service Marines and legal services specialists, every form of support for infantry Marines is provided by the regiment, today. The landing support Marines still wear the red patch, originally designated during World War II to identify landing support Marines from infantry Marines. Mail clerks keep Marines motivated with letters from home, water purification specialists keep the laundry clean and explosive ordnance disposal technicians keep Afghan roads safe.

"They do a tremendous job supporting division," said Col. John M. Schultz, 1st MLG chief of staff, who commanded CLR-1 from October 2007 to June 2009.

During deployments, CLR-1

Marines train Afghan soldiers, participate in community relations, build and repair roads, transport troops and resupply combat outposts. They make seemingly simple things possible, like making a phone call or doing laundry which, when deployed to Afghanistan, are considered luxuries.

"We are a combat-capable, fully-trained force to support the fight in Afghanistan," said Col. James Caley, commanding officer CLR-1.

Despite having more than 40 different military occupations, the regiment ensures every Marine is trained and prepared to deploy.

"Fundamentally, the strength or weakness of any unit lies in the [non-commissioned officers]," said Caley, who assumed command of the regiment recently from Col. Thomas B. Eipp. "The corporals and sergeants have got their head in the game and they are leading Marines every day. God knows they are the strength of this one."

For Marines and sailors who are not deployed, the work is just as hard to keep things going. Those remaining in the rear are responsible for keeping the irons in the fire.

From the time they come home, until they cycle for another deployment, Marines continue their training, spending days or weeks in the field to keep their skills sharp.

"We get requests for field operations all the time," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard M. Don, corpsman, 7th ESB. "The operations get rotated for corpsmen but we are always out there for safety. Getting Marines ready for deployment isn't always fun, but I know that we have to do this job so they can do theirs."

Don, who has been with 7th ESB for almost two years, said he loves his job because of the opportunities it presents.

"It's the best job I can think of," said Don, 25, a San Diego native. "Not only do I get to see Marines for their injuries or for being sick, I get to go on operations with them and be part of everything they do."

While each person plays their part, the regiment remains strong to support the efforts both at home and abroad. Everywhere the 1st Marine Division goes, there are CLR-1 Marines supporting them directly.

"It wouldn't matter if they were 10 feet in front of me or 10,000 miles away, their distance is irrelevant," said Caley. "There are none better."

From the islands of the Pacific so many years ago, to the efforts made in the freezing mountains of Korea, CLR-1 will remain a force multiplier for the combat troops of today's war, and any more to come.



A Marine returns the ball during a volleyball match at 7th Engineer Support Battalion's luau at Camp Pendleton's Del Mar Beach, Aug. 3.



A Hawaiian dancer welcomes service members and their families to the 7th ESB luau at Del Mar Beach aboard Camp Pendleton, Aug. 3, where they enjoyed food, volleyball, hula dancing and 10-minute massages.

7th ESB celebrates with Hawaiian-style bash

Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
Public Affairs Chief

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – It was no ordinary day at the beach as more than 500 Marines, sailors and family members gathered for a Hawaiian luau at Camp Pendleton's Del Mar Beach, Aug. 3, celebrating the halfway mark of 7th Engineer Support Battalion's 7-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Hawaiian-style bash was complete with food, volleyball, face painting, music, hula dancers, a coconut-breaking demonstration and – if the beach setting wasn't relaxing enough – a massage therapist who provided 10-minute massages throughout the event.

The purpose of the luau was to bring together families of the deployed Marines, said Alan Reid, family readiness officer, 7th ESB, Combat Logistics Regiment, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

"We want to show our appreciation for the Marines who are here in the battalion

main, just want to thank them for all the hard work they've been doing supporting everyone," said Reid, 44, from Cleveland, "and also a chance for us to say 'thank you' to the families for their support to our Marines."

One of the Marine spouses, Jennifer Drake, attended the beach party with her son and husband Sgt. Jordan Drake, who deployed to Afghanistan last year. She said she and her husband enjoy the events organized by the family readiness officers.

"I love the family events, especially because they involve the kids and play music," said Drake.

One of the volunteers who helped organize the luau credits the battalion's success to family-oriented events like these.

"I think the family readiness program is pivotal in the Marine Corps right now," said Dawn Francis, command team advisor for 7th ESB's family readiness programs. "The battalion would not be what it is without it. We've had a really successful deployment because of our family readiness officer."



Jennifer Drake and son take a stroll on the beach during the 7th ESB luau at Camp Pendleton's Del Mar Beach, Aug. 3. More than 500 family members gathered at the beach to celebrate the halfway mark of 7th ESB's 7-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Devil Pups

Devil Pups scream at the top of their lungs with their instructor after completing a hike aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 30. More than 600 children, between the ages of 14-17, graduated the Devil Pups program.



Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. – More than 600 children, between the ages of 14-17, graduated the Devil Pups program, July 30. Nine instructors from 1st Marine Logistics Group got involved in the program, teaching the values of the Marine Corps. Throughout the course, the kids participated in multiple events including beach runs, group hikes, and mock swim qualifications. Formations were held and the group got to learn about the basics of the Corps.



Devil Pups participate in a beach run during the program, learning about team work while boosting morale and building camaraderie, July 30.