

The Convoy

Dagger Convoy Challenge

CLB-7 patrols through Mojave desert



Lance Cpl. Cruz A. Mendoza, a motor transport operator with Material Readiness Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provides security for a combat logistics patrol during an exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 19. Marines were re-introduced to scenarios where they encountered improvised explosive devices, performed vehicle maintenance and practiced combat lifesaving during the training.

Story and photos by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – For Marines not currently deployed to Afghanistan, rigorous training continues to keep their combat mindset fresh at all times.

The Marines with Material Readiness Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 1st Marine Logistics Group, took to the sands of the Mojave Desert to perform combat logistics patrol operations training, Aug. 19.

During the training evolution, Marines took part in scenarios that included encounters with improvised explosive devices, vehicle maintenance and combat lifesaving.

“The purpose of the training is to get these guys back into that mentality, the combat mindset,” said 1st Lt. Amanda L. Jones, operations officer, CLB-7, 1st MLG.

With CLB-7 currently deployed, the remaining members of the Material Readiness Company continue training at Twentynine Palms.

“It’s only a matter of time before another unit is going to need a certain amount of motor transport operators and they snatch up one of our Marines,” said Jones, 28, from Bernville, Penn.

For many Marines who have already deployed, the training helps keep the techniques fresh in their minds. But for those still awaiting

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Corporals Course gives NCOs leadership tools for success

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – ‘Fall In!’ shouted the corporal as the rest of the Marines in the area scurried to get into formation and ready themselves for the next command.

That’s how the day started for the corporals attending the Combat

Logistics Regiment 17 Corporals Course here, Aug. 17.

The corporals attending the course learned basic leadership skills needed to lead the Marines under their charge. They learned close-order drill, small-unit leadership, Marine Corps common skills, sword manual and other Marine Corps knowledge.

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A Marine with 1st Marine Logistics Group draws his noncommissioned officer sword as an instructor critiques him during the close-order drill portion of the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Corporals Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 17.



Master Gunnery Sergeant retires after 30 years

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Sgt. Maj. Black takes his post with CLB-5 Page 2

Marines re-supply units from the sky Page 5

CLR-17 Marines help retired veterans Page 7

CLB-5 appoints new sergeant major

Story and photo by
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – An Afghanistan veteran who deployed last year as an infantry battalion sergeant major is now in charge of the Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Replacing the previous sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Brian Cullins, who left the command last month, Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black officially took his post as the battalion sergeant major of CLB-5 during an appointment ceremony here, Aug. 16.

“It’s my pleasure to be assigned to CLB-5,” said Black, 42, from Louisville, Ky. “I’m excited to be here.”

Black’s previous assignment was as the sergeant major of 3rd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. During his time with 3/7, he deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. While in Afghanistan, Black witnessed many combat logistics battalions fighting their way through the deserts of Helmand province to support his battalion by transport-



Sgt. Maj. Troy E. Black, sergeant major, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, speaks during his appointment ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 16.

ing food, water and equipment.

“These Marines are very proficient,” said Black. “I’ve seen them in their job, and they understand the fundamentals of leadership.”

As 3/7 was supported by CLBs two and six, Black was impressed with the professionalism he saw in the logistics units, which is why he said he’s excited to be the senior enlisted leader of CLB-5.

“As their sergeant major, I serve them,” said Black. “I need to accomplish something every day to

serve them. I will focus on that they are Marines first, and their [Military Occupational Specialty] comes second.”

Black also said he is excited to be deploying with CLB-5 early next year, in order to provide the same services to coalition forces that he received while with 3/7.

“I like any chance to deploy,” said Black. “Many of these Marines haven’t deployed before, but we’re going to be training them so they are prepared for Afghanistan.”

CORPORAL

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“The 1st MLG Corporals Course or any corporals course in the Marine Corps is designed to give the corporals basic fundamental leadership skills,” said Gunnery Sgt. JoAnna Mendoza, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Corporals Course, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “It’s a basic foundation for any Marine NCO.”

The 3-week course is designed to challenge the instructors to create better leaders and better Marines.

“The course is more demanding than anything else based on the coor-

dinating instruction that we’ve had,” said Cpl. Ryan Cordle, training clerk, CLR-17, 1st MLG, from Orlando, Fla. “We’re held to a higher standard as NCOs, and that’s why we’re in this course, to learn what to do.”

During the course, the non-commissioned officers learned a great deal.

“At the beginning it was a rough transition,” said Mendoza. “A lot of them are not used to the basic customs and courtesies, like the proper greetings of the day, standing when someone senior talks to you ... there is a difference and they’re improving everyday.”

Even though it started out bumpy

in the beginning, by the end of the course the NCOs will be well polished and ready to pass on what they have learned to the future NCOs of the Marine Corps.

“It’s very important because when they make that transition from junior Marine to noncommissioned officer, they are taking on that torch,” said Mendoza, from Eloy, Ariz. “They’re the torch holders, keepers of the flame, they carry on these traditions and pass those onto the junior Marines to continue to make our Marine Corps strong, and to continue to pass those courtesies and traditions on for many years to come.”

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.

Food Drive

Pacific Plaza and San Onofre Commissaries are holding food drives, July 25 - Aug. 31. Food banks across America are facing severe shortages. For more information, call (760) 725-4012 or (760) 725-7136.

Ireland Tour

Experience Ireland with Marine Corps Community Services ITT/ Latitudes Travel Aug. 30 - Sept. 10, for \$3,900. For more information, call (760) 725-5459.

Heartbreak Ridge Half-Marathon

Camp Pendleton Races is hosting a 13.1-mile course through the rolling hills of Las Pulgas, Camp Pendleton, Calif. The race is scheduled to start at 8:05 a.m., Sept. 10. Registration and free T-shirt pick-up opens at 6 a.m. Registration is free for all active duty personnel stationed at Camp Pendleton. For more information, contact the race office at (760) 725-6836.

Kids Fishing Derby

Marine Corps Community Services is hosting a fishing contest for kids ages 3-15 at Lake O’Neill, Sept. 10. Registration is scheduled to start at 7 a.m. For more information, call (760) 725-5611.

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Petty Officer 3rd Class Niko Lunetta, corpsman, Headquarters and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 1st Marine Logistics Group, gives medical attention to a simulated casualty during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 19.

CONVOY

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their first tour, the continuous training evolutions provide the knowledge necessary for deployments.

“It allows us to practice, and it creates muscle memory,” said Pfc. William T. Barrios, a landing support specialist with Material Readiness Company, CLB-7, 1st MLG. “When we’re in country, doing the real thing will be smoother and more efficient.”

During the combat logistics patrol, seven trucks worked together to accomplish multiple objectives. One of the scenarios presented a situation in which one of the trucks was blown up by an IED. While part of the group worked to recover the vehicle, another portion provided medical attention to the Marines who were in the attacked vehicle. Additional members of the combat logistics patrol provided security while the recovery was in effect.

“This type of training is important; it’s what we do over there every day,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Niko Lunetta, corpsman, Headquarters and Support Company, CLB-7, 1st MLG. “When an

injury or an IED occurs, this training gets me used to what to expect so I can get my job done, which is to save lives.”

Within minutes of the call that an IED blast took out one of the vehicles, Marines and their corpsmen worked fast to handle the situation, utilizing communication networks to send “Nine-Lines,” the casualty information report, to higher command in order to request medical evacuations.

“There’s always room for improvement, but they did extremely well,” said Lunetta, 27, a Miami native. “We got to the injured quick, we got them to a safe location and called in the Nine-Line.”

Jones said the participants of the combat logistics patrol did a great job handling their objectives.

“A lot of these guys are Afghan veterans so this is still pretty fresh in their minds,” said Jones. “Doing this training reminded them that they know what they are doing and builds up their confidence. They performed as expected, if not better.”

The continuous use of training will keep the remainder of CLB-7 Marines prepared for any upcoming billets they may need to fill while forward deployed.



Lance Cpl. Cruz A. Mendoza, a motor transport operator with Material Readiness Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provides maintenance on a downed vehicle during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Aug. 19.



- GIVE HIM ONE! -

MGYSGT. CHARLES E. VINSON

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

With the support of his friends and family, Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles E. Vinson wore his Marine Corps uniform for one last time at his retirement ceremony here, Aug. 19.

Vinson, chief supply administrator, G-4, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, retired from the Corps after 30 years of faithful service.

“There are certain times in a Marine’s career that he is allowed to choose his officer – promotion, reenlistment and promotion,” said Maj. William Frazier Jr., G-4 deputy, 1st MLG. “I am honored to be chosen by him to be his retiring officer.”

Having only been working with Vinson for a little over a year, Frazier noticed a few things about him.

“When I look at Master Gunnery Sgt. Vinson, I see a wise, humble, and patient man,” Frazier said. “He understands how to use all the knowledge he gained in life and during his Marine Corps career to assist others.”

As a young boy growing up, Vinson knew he wanted to become a Marine, Vinson said.

“It wasn’t because of the recruiter. It wasn’t for the uniform. When I watched the movie, *The Sands of Iwo Jima*, that’s what really captured my attention for joining the Marine Corps,” Vinson said. “It was their will to fight and how they fought gallantly. From that point on, I told myself that I wanted to be a part of that organization. After the first term, I knew I was going to be a career Marine.”

From Montgomery, Al., Vinson attended basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Paris Island, S.C., in 1981. During his 30 years of service, Vinson deployed to Norway with 5th Battalion, 10th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division in 1983, and to Afghanistan



Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles E. Vinson, chief supply administrator, G-4, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, listens to the remarks of his retiring officer during his retirement ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 19.

in 2010 with 1st MLG (FWD).

Vinson said that his Marines’ success reflects his image as a leader.

“Master Gunnery Sgt. Vinson was a great leader,” said Cpl. Jeanique LaCour, administrative clerk, G-4, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “It was a privilege to work for him.”

LaCour was grateful to be able to learn from Vinson as a young noncommissioned officer, she said. Vinson took the time to pass on some of the knowledge he’s gained during his career.

“I know I’m not the only one he has helped out,” said LaCour. “I’m sure he has inspired numerous Marines over the span of his career.”

Frazier agreed with LaCour. “Vinson is a great man and was well respected by everyone he worked with,” Frazier added. “Even though he’s leaving the Marine Corps, the Corps hasn’t lost any of the knowledge that he gained because he has deposited that knowledge into those around him.”

Vinson might have left the Corps,



Master Gunnery Sgt. Charles E. Vinson, from Montgomery, Al., hugs family members after his retirement ceremony, Aug. 19.

but his accomplishments will not be forgotten. According to his retirement ceremony citation, his personal awards include the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with two gold stars in lieu of third award, and the Good Conduct Medal ninth award.

He plans to continue to work in the logistics field as a civilian and to

spend time with his wife, Charlena.

“As much as I love the Marine Corps, my family comes first,” said Vinson. “My son is currently going to college and my daughter is living in Washington, so I’ll have more time to be with my wife. My time with the Marine Corps, it has been challenging but rewarding at the same time. I’m glad I got to be a part of this organization.”



Lance Cpl. Alejandro Uribarri, air delivery specialist, Air Delivery, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stacks a box of Meals Ready to Eat, which will be bundled and rigged with a parachute, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 15. Marines new to Air Delivery received hands-on training on how to properly secure items that will be dropped in order to prepare them for their deployment to Afghanistan next year.

Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Delivery from above: Landing support Marines prepare supplies for air delivery

Story by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with Air Delivery, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, put in a lot of work preparing bundles of supplies before they are put on an aircraft and delivered to Marines in the fight.

From the minute they receive an order, the Marines work quickly to put together packages of food, water and equipment to be air delivered to Marines in austere areas. Marines conducted air delivery training here, Aug. 15, to ensure they are ready for this on deployment.

It starts with a phone call from the unit that needs support. Once Air Delivery receives the order, they begin preparing the air delivery systems by cutting skid boards as a base upon which to place the items. They then put slabs of cardboard padding called “honeycomb” on top of the base to absorb the impact when the pallet hits the ground. Next, the Marines inspect the A-22 bags, which are placed around the supplies in order to hold them securely in place, ensuring that they’re serviceable and that the nets are in proper working order. Once the bundles are inspected one last time, they are loaded onto an



Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Lance Cpl. Matthew Rylee, air delivery specialist, Air Delivery, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepares a bundle of Meals Ready to Eat at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 15.

aircraft and sent to its destination.

In order to ensure the packages land safely on the ground, various parachutes are used.

“Depending on what you’re dropping, that’s what decides on what parachute you use,” said Cpl. Samuel Church, air delivery specialist, Air Delivery, LS Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG.

The Marines practiced packaging bundles of Meals Ready to Eat, by using a G-12 parachute, which is larger and descends more slowly in order to ensure a softer landing for fragile items. For items that are not easily broken, like tires, the

Marines use the 26-foot high-velocity parachute that descends at a faster rate than the G-12.

The training the Marines conducted is “pretty much the same” to what they can expect in Afghanistan, said Sgt. Samuel Helt, air delivery specialist, Air Delivery, LS Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. “Out there, we might not have the supplies we need, so there [are] times we may drop it without this [A-22] bag; it would just be a net. It’s just getting our hands on material, that’s the only difference out there.”

Air delivery plays an important role during deployments because

there are areas that trucks can’t reach to deliver supplies due to the threat of improvised explosive devices or lack of roads.

Utilizing air delivery is a lot safer because fewer trucks on the road means reduced odds of hitting an IED. The Marines with Air Delivery know they are doing their part to keep the troops on the ground in the fight.

“I love my job,” said Helt, 28, from Raeford, N.C. “I know I’m doing my part in-country. The way I see it is, without air delivery, they wouldn’t have the supplies they need to get their job done.”

1st MLG Marines display M-ATV, Humvees for judges

Story and photos by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit observed a static display of Marine vehicles at Edson Range here, Aug. 17.

Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group displayed a Mine-Resistant, Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle and three Humvees on the parade deck to show court judges the changes that have been made to military vehicles in the past few decades.

“The judges ... wanted to reconnect with the Marine Corps,” said Maj. Rory L. Nichols, the operations officer for Weapons and Field Training Battalion, Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego. “I think this will be one of the opportunities for (Marines) to interact and talk to (the judges) about the caliber of Marines we have in the Corps today,” said Nichols.

Many of the judges are prior service members, and the majority of them were Marines.

“Since their Marine Corps day, this is all new,” said Nichols, “I wanted to give them a firsthand look at the equipment we have nowadays.”

Not only did the court judges benefit from the display, the Marines who participated in the event were given the chance to meet with retired Marines who went on to

have successful civilian careers. The Marines had a look at the accomplishments they could achieve after their Marine Corps careers. The doors of the Marine Corps opened for them, said Nichols.

Robert S. Brewer Jr., a partner in the law firm Jones Day, said he found the show terrific.

“I’m totally interested in supporting Marines,” said Brewer, 65, from Ithaca, New York. “I enjoy coming out here and seeing all these vehicles.”

The command chose to have the display at Edson Range because it’s a place where raw recruits are transformed into Marines.

“Edson Range is part of the Recruit Depot in San Diego,” said Capt. Daniel Kobyra, the assistant operations officer for Weapons and Field Training Battalion, MCRD San Diego, “And it’s where Marines are made.”

Lance Cpl. Ryan Spaulding, a licensing non-commissioned officer, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, helped facilitate the M-ATV display. He and his fellow Marines explained to the judges how the engineering in the vehicle’s design increases its ability to withstand improvised explosive devices and improves its performance on the battlefield.

Once the display ended, the judges piled back in their white bus with more knowledge and in-

sight on the life of Marines and the technology they use overseas. As the Marines quickly prepped their vehicles for the drive back to

their shops, they may have thought about their futures and the accomplishments they could achieve as retired Marines.



Robert S. Brewer Jr. (right), a partner in the law firm Jones Day, 65, from Ithaca, New York, asks a Marine questions about the M2 .50 cal. machine gun as he sits in the turret of a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 16.



Judges from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit observe the static display of a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected All-Terrain Vehicle at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 16.



A Marine from Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, directs a Humvee into its designated position for a static display at Edson Range, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif., Aug. 16.



More than 20 Marines with Disbursing, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, pose for a photo while volunteering with Costa Mesa Home Depot, 'Team Depot,' in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Aug. 18. 'Team Depot' is an organization that emphasizes serving U.S. military veterans.

CLR-17 Marines volunteer to help retired veterans

Story and photos by
Sgt. Shannon E. McMillan
Staff Writer

SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, Calif – Marines with the Disbursing Office, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, volunteered their time to help a retired veteran fulfill his dream at a local 'Team Depot' site, Aug. 18.

"Team Depot is a volunteer group that [was] founded by Home Depot," said Pamela Villano, human resource generalist at the Costa Mesa Home Depot. "The team helps out local residents in the community."

According to www.homedepotfoundation.org, the organization now emphasizes serving U.S. military veterans who are in need of assistance repairing and renovating their homes.

The volunteer group and the Marines worked to improve the house of James and Niki Edwards. James honorably served the Navy as a corpsman for more than 20 years. After retiring, James and his family moved to San Juan Capistrano where they reside in the house bequeathed by Niki's father, she explained.

"We are working on making this house livable, up-to-date and safe for the family," said Villano, 46, from Long Beach, Calif.

The Marines spent the day repairing support beams, painting interior and exterior parts of the house, and landscaping.

When the Marines were asked by 'Team Depot' if they wanted to help a fellow brother in arms, there was no hesitation.



Marines with Disbursing, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, landscape while volunteering with Costa Mesa Home Depot, 'Team Depot,' in San Juan Capistrano, Calif., Aug. 18.

"We automatically volunteered because we were helping a fellow service member," said Sgt. Marco Rodriguez, travel noncommissioned officer, Disbursing, Service Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "I didn't even know what service he served in, and it didn't matter."

"It's the camaraderie of being a service member and serving this country that brings us together," said Rodriguez, 28, a native of Humble, Texas.

"It shows camaraderie amongst the services and how far they are willing to help each other,"

said Niki Edwards.

Niki said she was extremely grateful that the Marines came out to help.

"I have the utmost respect for them," said Niki. "I can't thank them enough; words can't express it."

Not only was it an opportunity to help a fellow service member, but it was a chance for the Marines to build camaraderie with each other.

"Coming out here as a shop ... to do [nothing] besides help a fellow veteran is a great way to build camaraderie," said Rodriguez.

1st Dental Battalion's family day

Photos by Pfc. Timothy Childers



Senior Chief Line Barrios grills up a storm outside the Ranch House at Camp Pendleton, Calif., during 1st Dental Battalion's Family Day, Aug. 19.



The son of Navy Lt. Micheal Atherly, 32, general dentist, 1st Dental Battalion, plays with bubbles outside the Ranch House at Camp Pendleton, Calif., during 1st Medical Battalion's Family Day, Aug. 19. The event was held to build unit cohesion and boost morale.



(Above) A child takes a break from jumping around in a bounce house outside the Ranch House at Camp Pendleton, Calif., during 1st Dental Battalion's Family Day, Aug. 19. (Right) Toby "The Clown" Prager, a professional performer from New York City, paints a child's face outside the Ranch House at Camp Pendleton, Calif., during 1st Dental Battalion's Family Day, Aug. 19.

