

## Marine Awarded Bronze Star



Photo by Cpl. Khoa Pelczar

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Singh, maintenance chief, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receives the Bronze Star for actions in Afghanistan during an award ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 8. During his 7-month tour, Singh, 31, from El Paso, Texas, led his team in numerous recovery missions, recovered more than 60 battle-damaged vehicles, and transported personnel back to camp safely.

## Maintenance Marine tells his story

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINECORPBASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – A Marine who went above and beyond the call of duty to lead Marines in the recovery of battle-damaged vehicles in Helmand Province, Afghanistan, was recognized for his leadership and accomplishments in a ceremony here, Sept. 8.

Staff Sgt. Nicholas Singh, maintenance chief, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was awarded the Bronze Star Medal for actions while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his 7-month deployment from August 2010 to March 2011, Nicholas led his team in numerous recovery missions, recovering more than 60 battle-damaged vehicles while

taking direct and indirect fire, and managing the constant threat of improvised explosive devices.

“I did what any Marine would do,” said Nicholas. “When I’m out there recovering vehicles, my instincts kicked in and I was focused on the mission at hand, which was to get those Marines and their vehicles back to camp safely.”

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# DAWN BLITZ **Marines exercise amphibious capabilities**

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

—Amphibious assault vehicles and Naval landing craft landed ashore at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to conduct a large-scale ship-to-shore landing exercise, Sept. 30.

The amphibious assault was part of Exercise Dawn Blitz, a training evolution designed to train Marine units on rapid crisis response.

After three waves of eight amphibious assault vehicles stormed onto Gold Beach, a landing craft brought trucks, troops, and cargo for the landing support Marines to organize. This was a chance for the Navy-Marine Corps team to plan and execute shore operations and sharpen the skills needed to react on short notice.

The 1st Marine Logistics Group, as part of the Marine Air Ground Task Force, helps provide a broad spectrum of responses when U.S. and allied interests are threatened or when immediate assistance is needed during times of crisis.

“If a natural disaster occurs, we need to be properly trained to respond immediately,” said Cpl. Kyle J. Schultz, landing support specialist, Transportation Support Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “A lot of people think we are just America’s fighting force, but part of the job is also to provide assistance to nations in need.”

“We take control of the beach after the landing craft drops off all the troops and supplies,” said Sgt. Scott W. Hayes, beach operations control group commander, Transportation Support Detachment,



*Marines with 3rd Amphibious Assault Battalion stormed the beaches of Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30, to reinforce the Marine Corps tradition as a maritime force-in-readiness. In a joint effort with the Navy, the unique amphibious and expeditionary capabilities as America’s expeditionary fighting force were demonstrated.*

Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “Our job is to maintain the organization of the packs and cargo to ensure accountability of the unit.”

The 1st Marine Logistics Group, functioning as part of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade, is capable of performing amphibious operations anywhere around the globe, from assaulting an enemy beachhead to bringing ashore supplies to a hurricane-ravaged nation.

Schultz said he thinks the training will be beneficial to his Marines, who will be going on an upcoming deployment with the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

“We’re the ambassadors for America,” said Schultz, 25, from St. Louis, Mo. “We’re the quickest reacting military force and we’re ready at a moment’s notice to help anyone in need. Dawn Blitz prepares us for future missions to come.”

By conducting these exercises,

1st MLG remains prepared to deploy forces quickly on short notice to any place in the world for a wide range of contingencies, from humanitarian aid and disaster relief to combat.



*Seaman Dontay L. Stewart, a construction mechanic from the USS Bonhomme Richard, directs vehicles off a landing craft air cushion at Gold Beach on Camp Pendleton, Sept. 30. Landing support Marines provided guidance to troops, trucks and cargo debarking the LCAC.*

## HAPPENINGS

### Buffalo Alley 10k and 5k Run

The Buffalo Alley Run is scheduled to start Oct. 15. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and race starts at 8:05 a.m. at the 53 Area Camp Horno. Registration is free to active duty stationed at Camp Pendleton. For participants not on active duty at Camp Pendleton, the registration fee is \$45 for 10k and \$30 for 5k for more information call 760-725-6836.

### Halloween Horror Night at Universal Studios

The Single Marine Program will be providing transportation to Universal Studios for Halloween Horror Night, Oct. 21. It’s only \$20 per person and the fee includes transportation and entrance into the park. Participants will depart from the Mainside Bowling Center parking lot and no costumes are permitted. Advanced sign-up is required, space is limited. For more information call 760-725-6722

### Leatherneck Field Meet

A field competition will be held at the 11 Area Field from 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oct. 26. The Men’s division will feature 10-member teams and the women’s division will include 5-member teams. For more information, call 760-725-6614.

### Harvest Festival

Come celebrate the Harvest Festival with Marine Corps Community Services at the Stuart Mesa Community Center, Oct. 26 from 2-5 p.m. There will be music, arts and crafts, costume parade, giveaways, food and fun for everyone. For more information call 760-725-9717

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## BRONZE STAR

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Juan Singh, Nicholas' father, flew in from El Paso, Texas, to be at his son's award ceremony.

"I'm very proud of his accomplishments," Juan said. "It's a parent's dream to see their son's success in life. I knew he would make it because since he was a teenager, he has always excelled in school. He wasn't afraid to work hard to accomplish his goals."

Nicholas used that mentality to lead his Marines, mentoring them to do the right thing.

"I always tell my Marines to stay strong and keep their heads up," he said. "They can't let anybody keep them from doing what they want to achieve their goals."

But Nicholas wasn't always a leader of Marines. In fact, before he was recovering and repairing tactical vehicles for the Marine Corps, Nicholas worked with sick animals at a veterinarian clinic in El Paso, Texas.

While going to college and working as a veterinarian, he felt that there was something missing in his life, so he decided to take control and make some changes for himself by joining the Marine

Corps on Feb. 23, 2000.

Nearly 12 years later and after our combat deployments under his belt, to include three tours to Iraq and his most recent tour to Afghanistan, Nicholas is still leading Marines and repairing tactical vehicles – quite a change from his previous occupation.

"I wanted a change of pace," he said. "I wanted to see what else is out there and at the time, it felt like the Marine Corps was calling my name."

His father was surprised of Nicholas' decision to join the Corps, but supported him all the way.

"It was a shock to me," said Juan. "One minute he was taking care of animals and going to school, the next he was telling me he enlisted in the Marine Corps. But I supported his decision. I told him, 'You need to make something of yourself if you go.'"

After receiving the Bronze Star, Nicholas remained humble and credited his success to his subordinates.

"All the things that I do, I do for these Marines I serve with," said Nicholas. "I don't do it for the fame, I don't do it for the glory, or the attention, but I do it for them. They're the future of



**Staff Sgt. Nicholas Singh, maintenance chief, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receives the Bronze Star for actions in Afghanistan during an award ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 8. During his 7-month tour, Singh, 31, from El Paso, Texas, led his team in numerous recovery missions, recovered more than 60 battle-damaged vehicles, and transported personnel back to camp safely.**

this organization and if I can help even just one of them to become better at their job, it'll help us to accomplish our missions."

He added, "The way I see it, this award isn't just for me but it also represents my Marines. Without them, I don't think I could have done all those missions on my own. I would do anything for these Marines."

Even up to the point where he stood in front of a formation of Marines awaiting to be awarded, Nicholas still couldn't believe it was real.

"It's hard to describe this feeling," he said. "When they told me I was put up for this award, I didn't believe it. I thought it was a dream. But now that it's on my chest, I know that it's a reality and I am honored to receive it."

Nicholas plans to continue his career as a Marine and help mentor new devil dogs when he transfers to Okinawa, Japan, next year.

"1st MLG is a good unit," he said. "It takes care of me and it treats the Marines fair. I'm glad

# MPs sharpen marksmanship skills



**Military policemen with Combat Logistics Regiment 17 fire their M4 rifles during a small-arms fire exercise aboard USS Bonhomme Richard Oct. 1. Marines with MP Company conducted a live-fire shoot during Exercise Dawn Blitz, a large-scale amphibious training event off the coast of Southern California.**

**Story and photo by  
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik  
1 MEF Public Affairs**

As Marines participating in Exercise Dawn Blitz continue to get their sea legs, Combat Logistics Regiment 17 military policemen got a feel for firing their weapons aboard USS Bonhomme Richard, Oct. 1.

The differences may have been minor to an outside observer, but looking down the sights, the Marines could see their targets moving with the ship.

"It was an experience," said Cpl. James L. Nelson, an MP with CLR-17. "It's a little different than solid ground with the boat rocking on the waves."

The shooting was similar to growing their sea legs, something they have done recently, as this is the first time aboard ship for many of the Marines. Marines at every level used this chance at sea to refine what it takes to plan, embark and operate at sea, with an emphasis on a large-

scale amphibious landing.

"It's good training," said Nelson, 23, from East Liverpool, Ohio. "I'm enjoying it so far because it's different and it's new."

This was the MPs first opportunity to fire aboard Bonhomme Richard since they left San Diego, Sept. 28.

"It was a good chance to throw rounds downrange," said Gunnery Sgt. Dorian A. James, company gunnery sergeant, MP Company.

"Shooting on ship is different than shooting on land."

While the Marines shot their rifles on the starboard side of the ship, sailors fired M16s portside. The leaders of MP Company had little trouble coordinating the shoot with their Navy counterparts who run the ship.

"We literally said 'Hey, this is what we want to do,'" said James, 35, from Denver. "[The Navy] has been very supportive of our training needs."



# GIVE HIM ONE!

## SGT. SETH STRAIT

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

- An explosive ordnance disposal technician was recently named Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Sgt. Seth Strait, EOD technician, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, became a member of the EOD community just earlier this year and saves lives in one of the most dangerous jobs in the Marine Corps.

Strait, 25, from Hartford City, Ind., joined the Marine Corps out of high school in January 2005 "to get a different experience," he said.

"At the time, I didn't really know what direction I wanted to go," said Strait. "I just knew I wanted to do something better, and I thought the Marine Corps could do that for me, and so far it has."

With high first-class scores on the Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test, as well as a sixth-award rifle expert badge and a brown belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, Strait was nominated by his company for the battalion-level NCO of the Quarter board. After winning the battalion board, he went on to win the regimental-level board and, finally, the group-level board, surpassing all other NCOs in knowledge, professionalism and proficiency.

In addition to high PFT and CFT scores, he completed the Sergeant and Staff Sergeant non-resident Marine Corps Institute courses, as well as the Sergeant resident course, graduating with a near-perfect 99-percent average.

"Sgt. Strait [has] demonstrated



**Sgt. Seth Strait, explosive ordnance disposal technician, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 25, from Hartford City, Ind., was recently named Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter for 1st Marine Logistics Group.**

all the qualities our Corps demands of its NCOs," said Sgt. Maj. Antonio N. Vizcarrondo Jr., 1st MLG sergeant major. "He has deployed to combat and excelled and maintains a positive outlook in leading his Marines ... he is a confident leader and we are fortunate to have him leading our young Marines."

During Strait's first enlistment as a ground radio repairman, he deployed for a year with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit to Thailand, Korea, the Philippines and Hong Kong. Wanting to go on a combat deployment, he decided to lateral move into EOD because he "wanted to contribute more" and be "more involved," he said.

"I talked to a few EOD Marines, and it really seemed like a tight-knit family, and that's what I wanted, more of a family," said Strait of the EOD community. "EOD Marines take care of each other."

Strait joined EOD and graduated from EOD School in January

2011. Just a few weeks later, Strait deployed to Afghanistan for three months as an EOD combat replacement, providing support to Regimental Combat Team 8. During his deployment, he responded to IED calls, rendered safe and disposed of IEDs and unexploded ordnance, conducted combat logistics patrol support missions and provided invaluable post-blast analysis to gather information on IED trends and potential bomb-making facilities.

"As a new EOD member, it was a learning experience," said Strait. "I had good team leaders, and I learned a lot."

"He's a solid Marine, performs well and upholds the core values on and off duty," said Gunnery Sgt. Quentin Black, section leader, 4th Platoon, 1st EOD Co. "He's definitely dedicated, and he's got the skills and intelligence to be a valuable team leader."

Even with all the accolades

he's received from senior leaders, Strait remains humble, crediting his success to his mentors.

"So many people have influenced me over the last several years," said Strait, who added that his wife, Erin, has been extremely supportive of his Marine Corps career.

Having been recently selected for promotion to staff sergeant - which he expects to pin on in June or July of next year - his goal as a leader is to gain more knowledge in the EOD military occupational specialty and be able to serve as a team leader and mentor to incoming EOD Marines.

The most difficult aspect of the job, said Strait, is that "it's always changing," referring to how the enemy is constantly adapting their tactics, techniques and procedures when laying roadside bombs. But he knows the job, while difficult, saves lives.

"I feel like I'm making a difference."

# CLB-1 deploys to Afghanistan

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – It was a typical foggy morning here as Marines and sailors spent their last few precious moments with their families and friends before embarking on a 7-month deployment to Afghanistan.

Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Sept. 29. The troops exchanged hugs and kisses with their family members as they waited to load up on the buses.

The battalion's mission is to provide logistics support to Regimental Combat Team 1 in order to allow the continuation of operations in Afghanistan. The unit will also be responsible for supplying ground units, maintaining vehicles and equipment, installing and maintaining force-protection barriers, managing utilities, and building, maintaining, and improving the roads used by coalition forces and Afghan citizens within Helmand Province.

The roads improved or built will aid movement in Afghanistan and prevent the use of Improvised Explosive Devices. Force-protection barriers are installed in forward-operating bases and checkpoints to protect from a number of threats, including IEDs and hostile vehicles.

The deployment is scheduled to last seven months, said Sgt. Nabi Ross, combat engineer, Engineer Platoon, Company A, CLB-1.

For many of the Marines and sailors this would not be their first deployment. Having gone before, they were excited and anxious to deploy.

"I'm very excited to get back [to Afghanistan]; this will be my second deployment and I've been wanting to go back since my first," said Lance Cpl. Joseph J. Lebaron, motor transportation driver, Operation Platoon,



**A Marine hugs his family goodbye at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 29., before deploying to Afghanistan with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group. The Marines and sailors are deploying to provide logistics support to Regimental Combat Team 1 in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.**

Company A, CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "It's hard being away from the family, but being able to serve my country overseas is well worth it."

"It's an honor to serve my country," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Garrett C. Lakie, corpsman, Embedded Partnering Team, CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "I like to do something that makes a difference."

The family members and friends who saw off their Marines or sailors also felt proud of their loved ones heading to Afghanistan to serve their country. Their pride was expressed by their expressions and words.

"I have two sons in the Corps. It is both a privilege and an honor for me to be their father," said Vernon L. Temnis, father of Cpl. Adam L. Temnis. "I will have two sons deployed to Afghanistan. I will miss them but it's a very proud moment."

The Marines and sailors picked up their personal gear as they headed to the buses. But before they departed, they turned around and waved a final goodbye to their friends and families, their biggest supporters in the coming seven months.



**Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, align their packs at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 29., before loading the buses to deploy to Afghanistan. The service members are deploying to provide logistics support to Regimental Combat Team 1 in Afghanistan's Helmand Province.**

If any spouses, family members, or friends would like to learn how to support or cope with the absence of their Marines and sailors deployed

in Afghanistan, they can contact the battalion's family readiness officer, Jamilia Earheart, at (760) 725-6578.

# Marine of the Quarter: Richard Hogan

Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Brofer  
Staff Writer

## MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– Inside a large warehouse full of tactical vehicles, Lance Cpl. Richard Hogan can be found wearing blue coveralls, his hands covered in axle oil from having just worked on the engine of a Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle as part of a week-long MRAP repair course.

As an automotive technician with 2nd Platoon, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Hogan works day in and day out, maintaining and repairing tactical vehicles like Humvees, 7-ton trucks and MRAPs.

The 21-year-old Marine from St. Louis has only been in the unit for a little over a year, but he's already impressed leaders with his tenacity and work ethic – so much so that he was recently named Marine of the Quarter for 1st Marine Logistics Group.

With first-class scores on the Physical Fitness Test and Combat Fitness Test, a second-award rifle expert badge and a green belt in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, it's no wonder that Hogan stood out among his peers.

But it was more than high scores that put him over the top on the Marine of the Quarter board, said leaders, who lauded his initiative and ability to tackle any assignment.

"He's definitely a self-starter," said Staff Sgt. Seth Whiteley, maintenance chief, 2nd Platoon, MTM Co., 1st Maintenance Bn., CLR-15, 1st MLG. "He's not afraid to jump on a truck ... that type of initiative is something that's sought-after in a young



**Lance Cpl. Richard Hogan, an automotive technician with 2nd Platoon, Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was recently named Marine of the Quarter for 1st MLG. Hogan, 21, from St. Louis, joined the Marine Corps in January 2010 and has been with 1st MLG since August 2010. His job as a mechanic is to repair and maintain tactical vehicles, a job he looks forward to performing while deployed to Afghanistan next year.**

Marine."

In order to be named the MLG Marine of the Quarter, Hogan was first nominated by his leaders to go on the company-level board, which he won, along with the regimental board and, finally, the group-level board, for which he received a Meritorious Mast and challenge coin from the 1st MLG sergeant major, Sgt. Maj. Antonio N. Vizcarrondo Jr.

"Lance Cpl. Hogan of CLR-15 performed in an exemplary manner during the board portion of his selection," said Vizcarrondo. "His knowledge was impressive and he displayed maturity beyond his years. He is another fine example of the outstanding young warriors that we have filling our ranks here in the MLG."

"Lance Cpl. Hogan is a good Marine," added Cpl. Antonio Jimenez, 21, from

Chicago, Hogan's mentor and former fireteam leader. "He likes to seek knowledge; he constantly challenges me by asking me a lot of stuff. The way he carries himself, he still believes in the basics, he gives the proper greeting of the day, and when he's told to do something he does it the way it's asked of him and in a timely manner."

Of his selection as the Marine of the Quarter, Hogan simply said, "It's an honor."

Hogan's philosophy is to give "110 percent" and "lead from the front" at all times, he said.

"If [leaders] task me with something, it gets done," said Hogan, a graduate of Hazelwood Central High School.

Hogan joined the Marine Corps in January 2010 and is the first Marine in his family; his sister is a specialist in

the Army. He said when considering joining the military, he originally wanted to become an Army Ranger, but decided later that he wanted the challenge that the Marine Corps offered.

"If I'm going to go, I might as well join the best," Hogan recalled of his decision to become a Marine.

Early next spring, Hogan will deploy with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. He said he's excited at the prospect of being able to employ his skills in a deployed environment.

Hogan also said he plans to reenlist and will stay in the Corps "as long as the Marine Corps will have me."

"I can't wait to be promoted," said Hogan, "and have more Marines under my charge to lead."

# Homecoming: CLB-13 returns home

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** - A boy stands, watching as a white bus approaches. The bus comes to a halt as a man in uniform steps off. The boy instantly smiles and runs towards the Marine. He jumps into his father's embrace which he hasn't felt in seven months.

This was the sight here as Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 1st Marine Logistics Group, returned home, Sept. 29, from their deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Family members of arriving troops waited with heart-warming posters and eager smiles before the Marines and sailors returned home.

"I'm very excited to see [my husband] again after waiting seven months," said Terri P. Cline, a Marine spouse, "I'm proud of him and all he's done on this deployment."

The troops were also proud of what they were able to accomplish during the seven months overseas traveling from port to port.

"It was a great deployment," said Maj. Samuel D. Davis, battalion executive officer, CLB-13, 1st MLG. "The Marines performed superbly."

During their seven-and-a-half-month deployment, the unit traveled to many countries including Djibouti, Thailand, China, and Kuwait, where they conducted multinational cross-training exercises with host-nation militaries. Almost 3,000 Marines from CLB-13 were deployed, said Davis.

"The Marines were outstanding, exceeding our expectations," said 1st Sgt. Dennis J. Collins, battalion sergeant major, CLB-13, 1st MLG. "My satisfaction came from the success of each individual Marine."

While deployed, the Marines conducted joint training with foreign countries and counter-piracy operations. In their off time, they developed themselves through the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program, advancement through noncommissioned officer courses, and many other educational op-



**Cpl. Charles A. Robles, radio operator, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 1st Marine Logistics Group, greets his family at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 29, after returning home from a 7-month deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.**

portunities.

The battalion was split up between three ships comprising the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, the USS Boxer, USS Green Bay, and the USS Comstock.

The San Antonio class amphibious transport dock, USS Green Bay, is a warship that transports and lands Marines, including their equipment and supplies. It can launch or land two CH53E Super Stallion helicopters, or two MV-22 Osprey aircraft, or up to four CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters. Its landing and attack craft includes two Landing Craft Air Cushions or one Landing Craft Utility, and 14 Expeditionary Fighting Vehicles. The ship has a crew of 363.

The Wasp class amphibious assault ship, USS Boxer, is used to embark, transport, deploy, command, and fully support all elements of a MEU and has a crew of 1,292. The ship carries a mix of assault helicopters plus six to eight Harriers. It's armed with two radar-guided Nato Sea Sparrow missile systems, two rolling airframe missile systems, and two Phalanx close-in weapon-system mounts.

The Whidbey Island class amphibious dock landing ship USS

Comstock's role is to transport and launch amphibious craft and vehicles and has a crew of 413. Its armament includes two 25mm MK 38 Machine Guns, two 20mm Phalanx mounts, six .50 cal. Machine guns, and two Rolling Airframe Missile mounts. The ship carries four LCACs that can deploy Marines and sailors onto hostile shores.

This was the first time all the Marines from CLB-13 have been

together at the same time since they left port in February, said Collins.

The service members from CLB-13 that returned home came back as more experienced, skilled, and successful service members than before they left. They were given opportunities to improve themselves through training exercises and operations, and improve their bonds with their fellow Marines and sailors.



**Family members display homecoming signs at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 29, for their Marines and sailors returning from deployment. Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, 1st Marine Logistics Group, deployed in support of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit.**

# Let's Play: Marines volunteer during recess

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – As the bell sounds and the gate swings open to reveal the playground at Mary Fay Elementary School, screaming children rush the yard with a few extra visitors.

Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group volunteered their time at the Mary Fay Elementary School, here Oct. 6. Students ranging from kindergarten through eighth grade participated in various activities with the volunteers such as playing tag and basketball. Marines also volunteered to read to students in the classrooms and serve food during the lunch hour.

One of the Marines, Pfc. Kaylin Deloney, G-1, 1st MLG, spent his time on the playground shooting hoops, running around and giving the students a memorable day.

“Today we watched the kids and helped them when they needed help,” said Deloney, from St. Louis. “We played sports, like football and basketball.”

The volunteers started their day with the kindergarteners. Hundreds of smiling and screaming children yelling ‘Get the Marines’ chased the volunteering Devil



**Pfc. Kaylin Deloney, G-1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, from St. Louis, plays basketball with students of Mary Fay Elementary School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 6. Deloney along with a few other Marines volunteered their time to play with students from kindergarten to 8th grade. The faculty highly encourages Marines to volunteer their time and participate in activities with the students. There is no formal sign-up process, the only thing you have to do is show up and check-in at the front office. The time available to volunteer is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., during the school week.**

Dogs around the yard. Once they caught one, the students grabbed a body part and held on for dear life so their ‘prisoner’ couldn’t escape. ‘Ok you got me,’ the Marine said to the children. They released him and the entire process started again.

As the bell rang and the old-

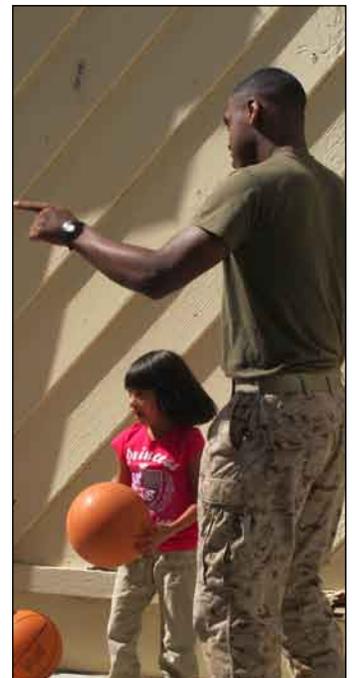
er children arrived to play, the games started steering towards sports. A lot of the older children wanted to play basketball, football or soccer. A few even challenged the Marines to a game. For the children it was a great time to be around those they could look up to.

“It was a great experience,” said Deloney. “Some of the children have parents who are deployed, so having Marines come out and play with them during recess helps put them at ease... it’s a great thing.”

As the recess period came to an end and the Marines prepared to leave, students stopped to give high fives and tell them goodbye until next time.

“I had fun,” said Deloney. “I will do it again.”

The faculty highly encourages Marines to volunteer their time and participate in activities with the students. There is no formal sign-up process, the only thing you have to do is show up and check-in at the front office. The time available to volunteer is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., during the school week.



**Pfc. Kaylin Deloney, G-1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, from St. Louis, plays basketball with students of Mary Fay Elementary School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 6. Deloney along with a few other Marines volunteered their time to play with students from kindergarten to 8th grade.**



**A Marine watches as students of Mary Fay Elementary School at Camp Pendleton, Calif., play Oct. 6. A few other Marines volunteered their time to play with students from kindergarten to 8th grade.**

# CLB-5 prepares for deployment

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif.** – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, braved cold nights, a sandstorm, and time away from their families to train here, Oct. 6, in order to prepare for their deployment next spring.

The unit had just finished supporting 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, during Steel Knight, a Marine Corps Air Ground Task Force level exercise, Oct. 5. The battalion then turned its support to the Marines and sailors of 6th and 7th Marine Regiments, 2nd Marine Division, training during the Enhanced Mojave Viper exercise.

The focus of EMV for CLB-5 is to work on block two level training where each battalion can solidify their standard operating procedures and outside the wire operations. The battalion as a whole trains to command and control these units, while at the same time provides logistics support to the two infantry battalions, said Lt. Col. Robert T. Meade, commanding officer, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG.

The exercise is very important for CLB-5. The unit is not only able to assist the infantry battalions during the EMV but also train themselves before their future deployment. The support the unit gives in training will be similar to what will be required of them in Afghanistan, said Meade.

“There’s no better place to train than in the field,” said Meade, from Greenville, Tenn. “The Marines learn extremely valuable lessons and begin to work more proficiently, build, and grow throughout the exercise.”

Many of the Marines and sailors said they have seen how the exercise has challenged the unit and how each battalion has learned from the exercise as well.

“We’ve had some ‘road bumps’

since we started the exercise and it has allowed us to learn and move past the problems before it really counts, said Gunnery Sgt. Robert C. Burghduff, company gunnery sergeant, Headquarters and Support Company, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG.

For some of the troops, this deployment will be their first and the exercise will give the Marines and sailors an idea of what it may be like overseas.

Under Meade’s command of the battalion, this is the first field exercise the unit has done as a whole, said Meade.

Sgt. Ryan J. Niekamp said he finds the training exciting and enjoyable. It’s very important for Marines that have never been deployed to experience something similar to a deployment and for the more seasoned Marines to refresh their skills and learn something new.

The battalion is scheduled to finish supporting the exercise at the end of October. The month in the field should give service members the training and experience needed before the unit goes forward overseas.

“We have 180 days until deployment,” said Meade, “This is exactly what this battalion needs



**Sgt. Ryan J. Niekamp, training noncommissioned officer, Motor Transportation Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, operates a radio during a training exercise aboard Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 6. The logistics battalion supported two infantry battalions during the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise.**



**A combat logistics patrol pulls into Combat Logistics Battalion 5’s simulated forward operating base during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Ground Training Center Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 6. The logistics battalion supported two infantry battalions during the Enhanced Mojave Viper training exercise.**



Photo by Pfc. Timothy Childers

(Left) Servicemembers and spouses pick their favorite dresses off a rack full of free gowns at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 11. Approximately 1200 gowns were donated to servicemembers and spouses before the celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday.

(Below) Eric Bradford, the family readiness officer for 1st Marine Logistics Group, greets a child during a Marine Corps Ball gown giveaway, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 11

# Photos from Around 1st MLG



Photo by Pfc. Timothy Childers



Photos by Pfc. Ralph Mercedes

(Above) Navy Capt. Harold Bohman shares a few words with the crowd during a retirement ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30. Bohman retired after serving 30 years of exceptional service in the Navy. (Right) Navy Capt. Harold Bohman salutes during a retirement ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Sept. 30.

