

## Marines, corpsman awarded for valor

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.

– Ten Marines and one sailor were awarded medals during a Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, award ceremony here, Nov. 7. Three Bronze Stars, one Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal were awarded, respectively, to the service members.

All the awards were given for the troops' service in Afghanistan during Operation Enduring Freedom. Many of the service members disregarded their own

safety to save lives of others or accomplish the mission at hand.

“It’s motivating to see our young service members be recognized and have their stories told,” said Master Chief Gerard C. Chiu, command master chief, 1st MLG. “Far too often we get distracted in garrison from the things that matter, like these gentlemen today. It was very energizing as they were awarded, to say the least.”

Gunnery Sgt. Quentin K. Black, explosive ordnance disposal section leader, EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, CLR-1, 1st MLG, was the first to be awarded the Bronze Star. According to his citation, on Dec. 1, 2010, Black led his team during a clearing operation in southern Marjah. Black, from Willard, Missouri, and his team manually

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*Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard M. Don was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic actions that took place Feb. 3, 2011 in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Don, ignoring his own injuries, rendered aid to a Marine severely injured by an improvised explosive device, ultimately saving his life.*



*Marines from Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepare a 10,000-pound steel structure to be rigged to the bottom of an MV-22 Osprey during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Nov. 8.*

## Braving a storm

### Marines rig Osprey for external lift

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

### MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.

– As the aircraft hovers, creating 125 mile per hour winds equivalent to a category three hurricane, the sand and dirt below blows in every direction as Marines from Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st

Marine Logistics Group, trained for air-lifts here, Nov. 8. The Marines repeatedly rigged a 1,500-pound cement block, simulating a re-supply load, to the bottom of one of two MV-22 Ospreys.

The process of rigging equipment to an Osprey requires the aircraft to hover over the landing zone and drop its tow cable. The Marines on

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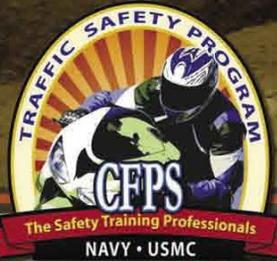
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# Marine awarded for logistics excellence during Operation Enduring Freedom

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMPENDLETON, Calif.** – A Marine from 1st Marine Logistics Group was recently awarded for excellence in logistics by the Navy League.

Each year, a few individuals get recognized to join the Navy League of the United States and receive awards for the work and accomplishments they've done throughout the year.

Staff Sgt. Robert A. Brown, Marine Corps Community Services specialist, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, recently received the Admiral Ben Moreell Award for Logistics Competence at the 2011 Annual Navy League Sea Service Awards in Chattanooga, Tenn., Oct. 29.

Brown, 26, from Boise, Idaho, is the only enlisted service member in the Department of the Navy to receive the award for logistics competence in 2011.

Founded in 1902, NLUS is a national organization established to educate and motivate the American people to support the country's maritime capabilities and services, according to NLUS.

The league presents awards to individuals each year in recognition of their outstanding achievements – such as leadership, maritime affairs, scientific progress, engineering excellence, logistics competence, excellence in intelligence, and service to the community as well as the country.

According to NLUS, the Admiral Benn Moreell Award for Logistics Competence recognizes an officer and an enlisted service member who has made an outstanding personal contribution that has advanced the logistics readiness and competence of the naval service.

Noticing the effort and dedication Brown put in at work, his superiors recommended him for the award at the beginning of May, while he was still deployed in support of 2nd MLG, Brown explained. Brown found out he was recognized as the award recipient by the end of June.

While serving as the non-commissioned officer in charge for the Warfighter Express Services Team in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Brown improved services of the mobile exchange to more than 14,000 Marines and sailors in more than 57 combat patrol bases throughout Helmand Province, Afghanistan.

He doubled the sales by implementing simultaneous WES Team missions at once. Therefore, they were able to aid more Marines and sailors on the frontline on a more frequent basis, Brown said.

"I took my job very seriously," he said. "As a prior infantry Marine, I've been where those guys have been and I know how important these few simple things are to them. So I made sure to bring these comfort items and our services to them as often as we can to support their needs."

Having served as an infan-



Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Robert Brown

**Staff Sgt. Robert A. Brown shows off his Navy League Award for excellence in logistics. The Navy League presents awards to individuals each year in recognition of their outstanding achievements.**

try Marine with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, in Fallujah, Iraq, Brown understood how important items such as snacks and a few beverages can raise morale, and how invaluable a phone call home was to those men living out of fighting holes. He made a goal to provide services to those Marines, now that he's on the logistics side.

"As a logistics Marine, I worked harder and longer hours to service those Marines," Brown said. "Even though I'm usually smoked by the end of the day, it's a great feeling, rewarding, and I'm very humbled to be able to contribute."

As the award recipient, Brown made sure to recognize another Marine who assisted with the WES Team missions.

"Even though my name is the only name on this award, Sgt. Wesley Johnson was my partner," Brown said. "Everything I did, he was right there with me every step of the way. All the achievements that were mentioned on the award, he has contributed as much as me. I wish I could share the award with

him. I don't want his contributions and hard work to go unrecognized."

Johnson, MCCS specialist, Headquarters Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, congratulated Brown for the award.

"Brown was always keeping all the Marines in mind before thinking about himself," said Johnson, 29, from Provo, Utah. "He was dedicated to the job, always put effort in everything he does with positive attitude. I'm glad he got recognized for all the hard work he put in. His efforts showed through our success as a WES Team."

During the year he was deployed to Afghanistan, Brown conducted 27 WES Team missions, spent more than 100 days outside of Camp Dwyer and gave a piece of home to thousands of devil dogs fighting on the frontline.

After receiving the award, Brown continued to work as an MCCS Marine, supervising sales for a post exchange at Edson Range, waiting for another chance to return to Afghanistan and support the warfighters that continue to fight.



# GIVE HIM ONE!

## MR. WAZIR: THE 'VOICE'

Story by  
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin  
Staff Writer

A native of Afghanistan who served as a colonel in the Afghan National Army is giving back to U.S. Marines by serving as an interpreter.

The 57-year-old man, who goes by the name "Mr. Wazir" in order to ensure the safety of his family, served as an interpreter for Combat Logistics Regiment 7, 1st Marine Logistics Group, during their most recent deployment to Afghanistan, from April-October 2011, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"As the interpreter for CLB-7, I was the voice of communication between the US Marines, local people, Afghan National Police, Afghan National Army, and other coalition forces," said Wazir. "I assisted in the effective interaction and communication with all parties to ensure a strong and trustworthy relationship that resulted in a safer environment and a completed mission."

Wazir worked hand in hand with the Marines and local nationals on missions by serving as a filter between the two cultures while CLB-7 Marines paved new roads in various areas of Helmand Province.

"He was very effective in engaging locals and challenging their negative views of America and worked to help them see the benefit of our engineering missions to their lives," said 1st Lt. Garrett Verhagen, platoon commander, Bravo Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1.

Oftentimes during the deployment, Wazir helped to diffuse tense situations, allowing for positive relationships to grow between the Marines and local nationals while the Marine engineers worked to accomplish



Photo courtesy of Mr. Wazir

**Mr. Wazir (second from left), 57, from Afghanistan, served with Combat Logistics Battalion 7 as an interpreter during their recent deployment to Helmand Province, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Wazir moved to the United States in 2005 with his family and was recently nationalized as a U.S. Citizen. Serving with CLB-7 wasn't Wazir's first encounter with the military, he himself served in the Afghan National Army for 15 years achieving the rank of colonel.**

their mission.

"At the beginning of our work, especially in new areas, the local people looked at us like we were their enemies," said Wazir. "They thought we had come there to occupy their country and to fight against their religion. By the time the Marines had completed their project, however, you could see the happy and thankful faces of the innocent local people who really needed these work projects. They were thankful that the CLB-7 engineers did all of this work for them for free, and they also realized that not one of the US Marines was against their religion or their culture."

In addition to local infrastructure projects, the Marines provided medical care to local nationals, and Marines sometimes passed out candy and gifts to the local children.

"Several times the local peo-

ple told me that the 'US Marines are the real angels' which are sent by God to help them," said Wazir.

Serving with CLB-7 wasn't Wazir's first encounter with the military. He served in the Afghan National Army for more than 15 years and achieved the rank of colonel. He moved to the United States in 2005 with his family and was nationalized as a U.S. citizen earlier this year.

"I cannot describe my emotion," said Wazir of becoming a U.S. citizen. "It is impossible to write down that feeling. I was very happy because when I received U.S. citizenship certificate... I am American and now it is my America."

Wazir expressed how much he enjoyed working with Marines.

"It is very nice to work with U.S. Marines," he said. "I enjoy the work and I am proud

of them. When you are working with honest, confident and professional people and doing something with a good result, you feel like a real human who is doing what God created us to do. Our Marines are the most honest and [proud] people."

Wazir also said he enjoyed assisting Marines to "help the people and government of Afghanistan and to provide safety and security for them, support them to have a peaceful country ... and [provide] security of their country from the attacks of terrorism and world extremism."

His next mission will be working with the Marines of Combat Logistics Battalion 1 as they prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.

"Working with my U.S. Marines," Wazir said, "I found that I have a new, great, honest, helpful and a big family."

# AWARDS

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rendered safe multiple improvised explosive devices while exposed to enemy machine gun and small-arms fire, ultimately clearing a safe path for the Marines of his patrol to close with and destroy the enemy. Throughout the deployment, Black's outstanding leadership resulted in his section accomplishing 545 combat missions and rendering safe 141 IEDs. This prevented the loss of countless lives in both coalition forces and the civilian populace.

The second Marine to be awarded the Bronze Star was Staff Sgt. Kelvin L. McDonald, EOD team leader, 4th Platoon, EOD Company, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG. According to his citation, while in Afghanistan, McDonald was embedded with a Quick Reaction Force in pursuit of an individual that was seen emplacing IED components, Jan. 12, 2011. During the pursuit, the QRF encountered a high concentration of IEDs along their route. Quickly and without regard for his own safety, McDonald rendered safe nine IEDs within five hours. His actions allowed the safe movement of the QRF and saved the lives of Marines and Afghan soldiers. McDonald was also awarded a Purple Heart for an injury suffered on a previous deployment.

McDonald, from Visalia, Calif., said he was just doing his job; any other Marine in his position would have done the same. He said he was glad the service members were being recognized for their heroic actions in Afghanistan.

The one sailor awarded was Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard M. Don, corpsman, EOD Company, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG. Don, from San Diego, Calif., was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic actions that took place Feb. 3, 2011. According to his citation, Don



*Eleven service members stand at attention during a Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, award ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 7. Three Bronze Stars, one Purple Heart, two Meritorious Service Medals, five Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals, and one Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, respectively, to the service members.*

responded to a suspected location of an IED. Upon arrival, Don and an EOD team member began searching the area for additional hazards when the team member stepped on and detonated another IED. The explosion blew Don to the ground and inflicted numerous secondary fragmentation injuries along the entire right side of his body. Immediately, Don began to render aid to the fallen Marine. Even as Don began losing feeling in his right arm, he continued to aid the Marine until another corpsman physically removed him from the casualty. During the evacuation process, Don continued to aid the team member, ultimately saving the life of the Marine.

"It's a good day to be a white hat in a sea of green," said Chiu in reference to Don being the only sailor in the group of Marines. "Corpsmen bring an extra level of confidence and care to the Marines. EOD Marines are faced with much more danger and need to

be confident in themselves and their fellow Marines and sailors. The corpsmen will train these Marines in combat life-saving skills so they will have that confidence when it really counts."

The following Marines were awarded Meritorious Service Medals: Gunnery Sgt. Jeb P. Adle, from North Platte, Neb.; and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Joseph M. David, from Downers Grove, Ill.

The following Marines were awarded Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medals: Staff Sgt. Garrett E Cheatum, from Niceville, Fla.; Staff Sgt. Andrew J. Barnes, from Portland, Ore.; Staff Sgt. Daniel L. McCarty, from Lompoc, Calif.; Sgt. Anthony W. Delmont, from Franklin, N.J.; and Staff Sgt. Francis L. Arnold, from Waterford, Ohio. The Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal was awarded to Chief Warrant Officer 2 Shane A. Sehi, from Sigel, Ill.



*Staff Sgt. Kelvin L. McDonald, explosive ordnance disposal team leader, 4th Platoon, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, is awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart medals aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 7.*



*Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, receive various awards for actions during a recent deployment to Afghanistan during an award ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 7.*



**Marines from Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepare a 10,000-pound steel structure to be rigged to the bottom of an MV-22 Osprey during a training exercise at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Nov. 8.**

## OSPREY

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the ground must first ground the cable using a static wand before they rig the load. The constant vibration of the cable generates static electricity that can severely injure Marines or even detonate ordnance. Once the cable is grounded, Marines attach the load and quickly exit the landings

zone. The Osprey then lifts off and circles around to drop off the load and repeat the process.

According to Boeing Defense, Space and Security, the V-22 Osprey is a joint service combat aircraft that utilizes tilt-rotor technology to combine the vertical performance of a helicopter with the speed and range of a fixed wing aircraft. The Osprey can take off, land and hover like a helicopter. Once airborne, its rotors can be rotated, allowing it to accomplish high-

speed and high-altitude flight. The Osprey can transport 24 combat troops, 15,000 pounds of external and 20,000 pounds of internal cargo

“Landing support specialists are faced with a number of variables that complicate the job at hand,” said Cpl. Francisco N. Tomassini, landing support specialist, Landing Support Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “There’s always something happening. Because the aircraft has twin rotors, there’s no calm area, similar to the eye of a tornado, as there would be under a helicopter. The rotors create a downdraft that constantly changes direction. It makes it very difficult for us stay upright and rig the load.”

This was the first HST training for some of the Marines, Tomassini added. The training is very important to prepare Marines for actual operations in combat and in garrison. The Marines conduct HST training multiple times so in case something goes wrong, they can learn from the mistake and prevent it from happening again.

“The exercises are not only for Marines to train, but for the pilots as well,” said Cpl. Johnny Barron, landing support specialist, Landing Support Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. “Many of the pilots have little experience in HST exercises, so we both benefit from the experience.”

The constant training puts landing support Marines a step ahead of the game and the excitement they get working with the MV-22 Ospreys gives them an appreciation for their jobs.

“It’s a thrill!” said Tomassini. “Having the huge aircraft hover above you is exciting, and knowing that we can support Marines in the field is the best feeling ever.”



## Tim McGraw performs concert for troops

**Tim McGraw performs a free concert for Marines, sailors, military families and members of the local community during a ‘Tour for Troops’ concert at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 13. More than 30,000 spectators came out to enjoy the show. “The concert was great!” said Lance Cpl. David C. Hall, administration specialist, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “It’s good to know a country superstar can take time out of his tour to come support the troops.”**

*Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson*



*During a mass casualty training evolution, Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, act as litter bearers carrying a mock casualty at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 18. Aircraft from Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 364 flew out to pick up the mock casualties for simulated medical evacuations.*

## CLB-15 increases humanitarian assistance capabilities

Story and photo by  
Cpl. Michele Watson  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON**, Calif. – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted their first ever battalion-sized humanitarian assistance disaster response, mass casualty and non-combatant evacuation operation training evolution, here, Nov. 17-19.

In a simulated Afghan town, a scenario was staged in which the town had burned down and 1,000 people needed assistance with food, water and shelter. More than 30 role players participated in the exercise, giving CLB-15 a realistic training evolution.

With assistance from the Special Operations Training Group, CLB-15 conducted the multi-day exercise and experienced new obstacles they had not yet overcome as a battalion.

“As a junior battalion con-

ducting their first humanitarian assistance disaster response, mass casualty and NEO exercise, I think the Marines demonstrated sufficient skills and knowledge,” said Lt. Col. John J. Wiener, commanding officer, CLB-15, 1st MLG. “There’s always room for improvement and training like today’s evolution sets us on the right course for our eventual deployment.”

The moment the Marines arrived at the mock town, role players began aggressively seeking aid, food and water. In response, Marines and sailors immediately set up their refugee camp and worked to organize the masses in desperate need.

“We don’t normally train on the humanitarian side,” said Lance Cpl. Alex W. Wilkens, ammunition technician, CLB-15, 1st MLG. “There’s a lot more to a MEU than just going to Afghanistan. Most of the training I’ve done before was just playing grunt and it’s important to learn how to deal with

people who aren’t armed and are in need of help. Everyone thinks of Marines as going out to fight and not reaching out to help others.”

CLB-15 has conducted multiple field evolutions to prepare them for their change of operational control to the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit early next year. Wiener said as part of a MEU, the most likely mission is a humanitarian assistance disaster response operation.

During the mass casualty drill, corpsmen attached to the CLB-15 took on the responsibility of providing aid to the multiple victims from the local town. Role players wore make-up to simulate real-life wounds. As Marines posted security and eliminated the enemy, corpsmen began their triage, working on patients while waiting for two CH-46s to touch down and provide medical evacuations.

Flying out of Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, aircraft with Marine Medium Helicopter

Squadron 364 flew out to pick up the casualties. Groups of litter bearers carried wounded civilians to the aircraft, evacuating the highest priority patients.

During the evacuations, some of the role players acted as insurgents, shooting at civilians, Marines and sailors.

“Originally this mission was just supposed to be a medical evacuation mission,” said Cpl. Joshua Ruiz, landing support specialist, CLB-15, 1st MLG. “It seemed like insurgents had pushed through this town and they let the (military police) take charge of security, which is exactly what should happen. Rehearsals helped a lot and in doing so, each Marine knew his part and played his role.”

Wiener went on to say that while most MEU battalions have rollovers from previous deployments, CLB-15 only has five Marines with prior deployment experience. He said starting from scratch is one of the biggest challenges CLB-15 will face.

# Supply Bn. coordinates offload of a MEU

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

## USNAVALSTATIONSANDIEGO, Calif.

– The pier here is bustling with activity when a ship returns from deployment. Service members and contractors pace up and down the pier as they dodge heavy equipment and vehicles that move supplies from the ship. It's a race against time to transfer supplies to places that need them.

Marines from 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assisted in the offload of supplies from the USS Boxer here, Nov. 15. The USS Boxer returned from deployment as part of the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit, and the Landing Form Organic Reserve supplies it was carrying needed to be taken back to Camp Pendleton for future operations.

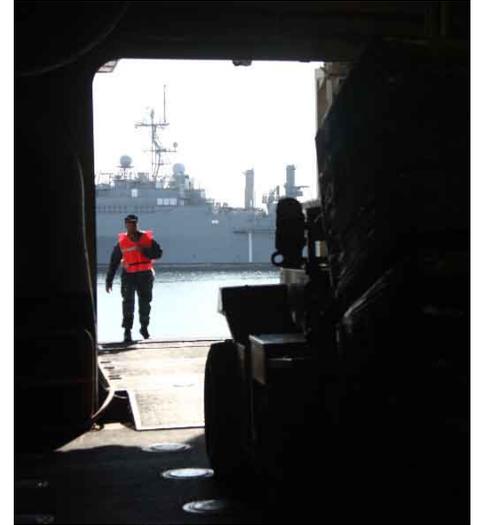
Landing Form Organic Reserve supplies, or "L-Form" as it's more commonly known, are supplies reserved in case of emergencies. If a ship is incapable of resupplying at port, the reserves are a last fallback for the service members aboard the ship, but the reserve is only to be used for real-world contingency operations, said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Scott Allison, combat cargo officer, USS Boxer.

The Marines from 1st Supply Battalion transported the following provisions back to Camp Pendleton: 120 pallets of Meals Ready to Eat; more than 80 barrels of petrol, oil and lubricant; and 84 boxes containing construction and fortification building materials. These are the three major supply classes that are essential to the ship and crew, said Allison.

The Marines transported the pallets using several flat-bed trucks that were loaded by forklift. It was also the job of the Marines to keep record of the supplies they were taking to Camp Pendleton to ensure accountability of all the supplies when they may be needed again.

According to the ship's official website, the USS Boxer is a Wasp Class Amphibious Assault Ship. It is part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group, which also includes the amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock and amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay. The 13th MEU returned home to San Diego in September after a 7-month deployment to the Western Pacific and U.S. Central Command area of responsibility.

Performing these tasks often, keeps the Marines' skills sharp. Their experience speeds up the process so other goals at hand can be accomplished, said Sgt. Larry

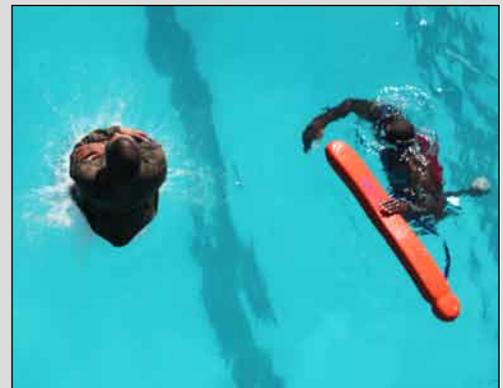


**A sailor directs a forklift, carrying two pallets of Meals Ready to Eat out of the USS Boxer and down a loading ramp at US Naval Station San Diego, Calif., Nov. 15.**

A. Moore, embark chief, 1st Supply Bn., CLR-1, 1st MLG.

"I've been with the battalion for only two years and have already offloaded ships like the USS Boxer over 50 times," said Moore. "I love my job. I enjoy being able to work with gear and see that it gets where it needs to go."

## MARINES DIVE FOR QUALIFICATION



*Photos by Cpl. Michele Watson*

**Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group take a dive into the training tank at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 15. As part of the pre-deployment workup, Marines conducted their annual swim qualifications. Basic tactical swim tactics include swimming in full uniform, treading water, swimming with a 25-pound pack, removing flak and Kevlar underwater, and jumping off a 30-foot tower.**

# CLB-13 welcomes new commander

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, said farewell to the battalion's former commander and welcomed a new face to the unit.

Lt. Col. Jay D. Wylie relinquished his duty and responsibilities as commander for CLB-13 to Lt. Col. George W. Markert at a change of command ceremony here, Nov. 17.

"You can tell a lot about the unit by its commander. By the look of things, CLB-13 was in great hands," said Col. James Clark, regimental commander, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "They've accomplished a lot on their deployment and congratulations on a job well done."

After a great run at Camp Pendleton and a successful deployment with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit to Western Pacific, Wylie, from Salem, Oregon, passed on the battalion's accomplishments and its legacy to a new leader as he takes on the role as G-4 for 1st MLG.

"I'm extremely proud of the Marines and sailors of CLB-13," said Wylie. "It was a privilege to be their battalion commander. They've made my job a lot easier by doing the right thing at all times."

Since he took on the role as the

battalion commander on Sept. 18, 2009, Wylie said he knew that it was where he needed to be.

"This is the job that I joined the Marine Corps for," he said. "It's an honor to say that I've led a battalion of Marines. They've done a fabulous job and I'm sure they'll continue to do great things under their new commander."

Clark welcomed Markert to the battalion, known as 'Lucky 13.'

"It's a big honor to be a member of CLB-13," said Clark. "To be a commander of this battalion of Marines is beyond even that."

Markert was humbled and honored to take on the role as the battalion commander.

"CLB-13 is an outstanding and professional organization," said Markert, from Virginia Beach, Va. "The Marines and sailors have done a lot worldwide and I'm lucky to have them. You've made a name for yourself as a great Marine Expeditionary Unit. I don't think I could have been set up any better."

Markert said he is looking forward to continue the great traditions of the battalion and prepare for their future deployment.

"It's a great day for me," he said. "I couldn't be more ready to step up and continue the tradition and accomplish great things with the Marines and sailors. It's an honor and a privilege to lead and command a battalion of Marines."



*Lt. Col. Jay D. Wylie (center), from Salem, Oregon, salutes during the National Anthem at a change of command ceremony for Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 17.*



*Lt. Col. Jay D. Wylie (right), from Salem, Oregon, relinquishes his duty and responsibilities as commander for Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, to Lt. Col. George W. Markert, from Virginia Beach, Va., at a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 17.*



*Lt. Col. George W. Markert, from Virginia Beach, Va., speaks to the guests and the Marines and sailors of Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, as he takes on the role as the battalion commander at a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 17.*

# How to reduce convoy accidents

Story by  
Sgt. John Jackson  
Press Chief

While Fiscal Year 2011 was a statistically recording-breaking year for vehicle safety in the Marine Corps, most tactical vehicle accidents that did occur could have been prevented or made less severe.

According to the United States Marine Corps' Safety and Force Preservation Office, FY 2011 saw a 60 percent decrease in tactical vehicle mishaps compared to the 10-year average. However, in October, there were two accidents in which Marines were seriously injured or killed.

The Safety and Force Preservation Office says if Marines simply follow the rules and regulations with regards to seatbelts, speed, over-steering, and understanding the vehicle's center of gravity, these incidents could have been avoided or made much less severe.

## Convoy Operations

Convoy operations have several guidelines, rules and regulations to adhere to, and the Safety and Force Preservation Office lists several tips to ensure accidents are mitigated.

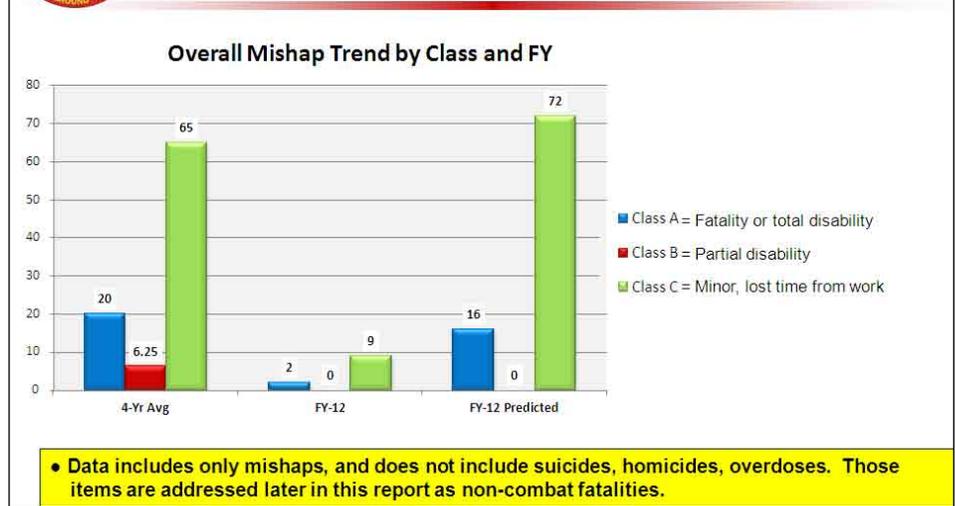
**Convoy Speed** – The normal speed at the lead of the column is five to 10 mph below the posted speed limit.

**Catch-Up Speed** – The speed required to regain lost distance between a vehicle and the vehicle it is following. The catch-up speed is five to 10 mph faster than the convoy speed, but will not exceed the posted speed limit.

**Inspection** – The final action that should take



## FY-12 Mishap Trends



place prior to a convoy movement should be a leadership inspection of the convoy and the Marines. This will ensure all Marines are wearing the required personal protective equipment for the specific mission, are wearing their seatbelts, and are alert and mentally prepared.

**Vehicle Intervals** – Proper vehicle intervals ensure there is adequate space between each vehicle. For opened column convoys, the proper distance between vehicles is normally 50 to 100 meters, depending on road conditions and weather. For closed column convoys, which is a tactic typically used during night and limited-

visibility conditions, the proper distance is generally 25 meters.

## Complacency Kills

According to the Safety and Force Preservation Office, the key components in tactical vehicle accident reduction involve leadership, training, situational awareness, wider use of risk management and strict adherence to rules and regulations.

By wearing appropriate PPE, wearing their seatbelts, maintaining correct intervals and adhering to the correct speed, Marines can reduce tactical vehicle accidents.

# Stay safe during the Holidays

Story by  
Pfc. Timothy Childers  
Staff Writer

With the holidays approaching, it's very important that Marines stay safe by taking proper precautions before and during liberty hours. There are a number of precautions that Marines can easily take to save lives.

Operational Risk Management is a major fundamental practice of the Marine Corps that increases the safety of Marines. ORM is applied both on-duty and off. There are six steps in the ORM process: identifying the hazards; assessing the risks; analyzing risk control measures; making control decisions; implementing risk controls; supervise and review.

If Marines plan on driving during liberty periods, they should be prepared for problems

*“Staying safe is one thing, being prepared is another,” said Sablada.*

entangled with operating a vehicle. Marines and their mentors should conduct vehicle inspections before being released for liberty. It's also very important to be well rested before operating a vehicle.

Though there are many alcohol and drug influenced accidents, there is a majority of accidents that are caused by falling asleep at the wheel or improper operation of a vehicle, said Petty Officer 1st Class Joseph E. Sablada, lead safety officer, Safety and Environmental, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Marines from 1st MLG can also use an

Arrive Alive card to receive a free cab drive to a safe place in case they are in a state where they should not operate a vehicle. There's no reason to be driving under the influence with this program.

“Staying safe is one thing, being prepared is another,” said Sablada, “It's impossible to eliminate all dangers and risks. But at least you can control an incident if you are prepared.”

The lessons remain the same whether during the holiday season or throughout the rest of the year; ensure risk mitigation strategies are included in the planning and execution of all on-duty and liberty activities. For motorcycles, get the required training, wear proper protective equipment. For all vehicles, wear seatbelts, don't speed and avoid distractions like talking on the phone or texting.

# Thanksgiving Safety Message

**T**hanksgiving is an opportunity to spend time with family and friends and to give thanks for the many blessings we enjoy. Thanksgiving also marks the beginning of the winter holiday season. While the holidays are a time for celebration, they are also a time of increased risk and potential for injuries and needless loss of life, particularly on the highways.

As we celebrate with family and friends, let us pause to remember our fellow Marines and sailors who are deployed this holiday season. Just as we anticipate their safe return, we must do all we can to ensure the safe return from leave and liberty of all our personnel.

Integrate and inculcate a safety mindset through use of seatbelts, do not drink and drive, do not speed, and do not operate a motorcycle unless you are qualified and licensed. Accept responsibility and accountability for planning, a decision to determine a designated driver should not be created after you've had your first drink. Create a culture of risk acknowledgement, although you are driving safely, remain vigilant for the travelers around you. The greatest hazards on the road are the other drivers who drink and drive or try to multi-task while driving.

Leaders, you are our best line of defense. Continue your efforts to improve individual and unit safety through conscious mitigation, make eye-to-eye contact with all of your Marines and sailors, and discuss their plans for the long weekend and listen for coherent planning. Also, listen to their nonverbal communication. Are they communicating signs of distress; are they having a rough time with the holidays? If they are, please don't leave them alone. Escort them to their supervisor, first sergeant, commander or chaplain so they can receive appropriate help.

I expect each of you to be at the forefront of our 1st MLG force preservation efforts and to reinforce responsible drinking, driving and motorcycle operations. Your safety focus is evident as demonstrated by us having the safest critical days of summer, with the fewest reported mishaps this year. Though our safety statistics are vastly improved, I do not want anyone to ease up. Please help me continue this positive trend. Use sound judgment and common sense over the holiday weekend. Take care of each other and have a safe, memorable, and enjoyable holiday weekend.

Semper fidelis,

**J.J. Broadmeadow**

**Brigadier General, U.S. Marine Corps**

**Commanding General, 1st Marine Logistics Group**



*Turkeys must be properly thawed before cooking.*



*Click here to login to TRiPS and complete your Personally Owned Vehicle Risk Assessment and leave form.*



*Avoid texting while driving to prevent vehicle accidents.*



*All motorcycle riders must be licensed and wear personal protective equipment while riding.*



**For more safety tips, visit the Naval Safety Center Web site.**



Corpsmen administer immunizations to Marines at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 4, in preparation for deployment to Afghanistan.

# Corpsmen prepare Marines for deployment

Story and photos by  
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Staff Writer

**MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif.** – To medically prepare the Marines of Combat Logistics Regiment 15 for their deployment to Afghanistan early next year as 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), corpsmen with 1st MLG (FWD), conducted a unit-wide medical examination here, Nov. 4.

During the examination, Marines had their blood tested for any infection. They also received vaccinations for any possible diseases they might be exposed to on deployment, such as anthrax, influenza, small pox and typhoid.

“Our mission is to provide normal medical care to sick Marines, as well as getting more than 400 Marines medically combat ready for our upcoming deployment,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Gracia, corpsman, 1st MLG (FWD).

While training and preparing for deployment are important for Marines, their health is never to be looked at lightly, said Gracia, from Anaheim, Calif. Six corpsmen are preparing to deploy and ready to support more than 400 Marines in Afghanistan.

Besides getting vaccinated and having their blood drawn, the Devil Dogs also conducted Pre-Deployment Health Assessments to make sure they are physically fit, explained Seaman Anthony Rich, corpsman, 1st MLG (FWD).

“They’re doing everything they can to make sure I’m ready for this deployment,” said Lance Cpl. Kendall Hawkins, from Houston, supply clerk, Headquarters Company, CLR-15. “I feel confident that I’ll be fine knowing they have my back.”

Rich, from Castle Rock, Colo., is excited for his first deployment.

“The deployment is looking great. Our Marines are medically and physically fit, and ready to deploy,” said Rich. “I’m grateful to have the chance to work with the Marine Corps. This is what I signed up to do and I’m excited to do my part.”

As for veterans like Gracia, he knows what to expect and he’s ready to contribute.

“I’m honored to be able to support Marines on the front, providing them with medical aid,” Gracia said. “I’m excited to come back to Afghanistan and do what we corpsmen were meant to do.”

With only a few months left until they deploy to Afghanistan, the Devil Dogs are preparing by staying healthy, getting vaccinated and training to be fit for combat.

“I think the Marines are ready,” said Gracia. “They’re itching to attack and accomplish any mission given to them. As for us, we’re gathering our medical equipment, getting our young corpsmen trained up and making sure we’re able to provide full support to the Marines on the battlefield.”



# Happy Birthday

## CLR-17 celebrates 236th Marine Corps birthday

Photos by Cpl. Michele Watson



Guest speaker R. Lee Erme, takes the first bite of cake during the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 birthday ball at the Pechanga Casino in Temecula, Calif., Nov. 18.



The color guard posts the colors during Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Marine Corps Ball at the Pechanga Casino in Temecula, Calif., Nov. 18.



Cake escorts with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, walk the cake down the aisle in front of hundreds of Marines, sailors, and guests during the annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball at Pechanga Casino in Temecula, Calif., Nov. 18. During the ball, guest speaker R. Lee Erme, star of 'Full Metal Jacket,' spoke to the guests attending the event about his love and dedication to the Corps.