



Welcome home 7th ESB

A staff sergeant with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, embraces his son upon return to Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 2. The service members returned after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Story and photos by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – More than 250 service members from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, returned home, Dec. 2, after a seven-month deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Marines and sailors were welcomed by their families with warm embraces as they marched to the center of their barracks complex.

Their loved ones waited patiently as Marines and sailors turned in their rifles to

the armory and displayed many colorful signs that welcomed home their returning service members.

The Marine Corps Community Services organization provided food, entertainment and prizes for the family members as they waited. The United Services Organization also attended the homecoming. The volunteers offered free prizes, food and stockings made by a 5th grade class from a local school.

“We want to say thank you to all the troops fighting for our freedom.”

- Pat McCollough
USO volunteer

“We want to say thank you to all the troops fighting for our freedom,” said Pat McCollough, USO volunteer. “This is our way of giving back.”

Many family members and friends came to see their returning Marine or sailor. It was a proud moment for them to see their service member return from serving their country overseas.

“We’re very proud of [our son],” said Claudia L. Robles, mother of Cpl. Marco A. Robles, “We’re glad he’s coming home safe. We’re so excited today because we have been waiting for this day to come since he left seven months ago.”

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Marines shoot for combat accuracy

Story and photos by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The sharp report of rifles echoed through the valley near Las Pulgas as Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) qualified in the Combat Marksmanship Program here, Nov. 22.

The Marines qualified in the Combat Marksmanship Program as part of the Pre-deployment Training Program before the unit deploys to Afghanistan next year. The CMP includes a 25-yard engagement, as well as movement and pivot drills. But before the Marines qualify, they must establish the Battle Sight Zero of their rifle optics.

To do this, the Marines lay in the prone position at the 25-yard line to minimize human error in accuracy. The riflemen fire enough rounds to create a definable shot group on the paper targets. Once all shooters have fired their rounds, they walk to their targets and make necessary adjustments to their optics.

The Marines qualifying are not alone on the firing range. Instructors and safety officers ensure a safe and beneficial day for the Marines to qualify on the range.

“The purpose of the CMP is to have Marines qualified in combat marksmanship before their deployment,” said Sgt. Michael A. Kelly, chief, Marksmanship Training Unit, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “But it’s also very important for the Marines to be familiar and confident in their issued rifles, and



Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) fire their rifles to qualify in the Combat Marksmanship Program at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 22. The qualification is part of the Pre-deployment Training Program 1st MLG (FWD) will complete before deploying to Afghanistan next year.

if they listen to our instruction they learn to be safer and more accurate marksmen.”

The instruction was very helpful, said Pfc. Michael Isabelle, field wireman, Wire Platoon, Communications Company, 1st MLG (FWD).

“This is the first time I’ve shot this rifle,” said Isabelle. “I’m glad I can get familiar with it and use it before I deploy. Every Marine is a rifleman so it’s important that we all are capable of engaging the enemy in combat.”

It wasn’t just the inexperienced

junior Marines qualifying during the shoot; experienced Marines with years of service under their belts also qualified.

“I enjoyed the shoot. It was good training for all of 1st MLG,” said Maj. Gabriel A. Perez, commanding officer, Headquarters and Support Company, 1st MLG (FWD). “Even experienced shooters should come out and refresh their marksmanship skills. After firing a few rounds, I feel

more comfortable with my rifle.”

After the group of Marines returned from the firing line with smiles on their faces and a little mud on their knees and elbows, they were now qualified to engage enemies with their rifles in combat. The Marines who had never fired their current rifles and those who have fired hundreds of rounds were both confident and capable with their sights now set closer to the deployment.



A Marine from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) checks his target for shot patterns in order to adjust his rifle optic before qualifying in the Combat Marksmanship Program at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 22.



Marines from 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) fire their rifles after conducting a pivot drill to qualify in the Combat Marksmanship Program at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 22.

A DAY OF PLAY

Marines run with children during annual Jog-A-Thon

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

SAN CLEMENTE, Calif. – More than 20 Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, along with parents and students, participated in an annual Jog-a-thon at the Clarence Lobo Elementary School, Nov. 30.

The purpose of the event was to raise money for the school and give the children a chance to have fun with their military visitors.

The event consisted of several color-coded stations represented by each class participating in the Jog-a-thon. Each session consisted of 5-7 classes at a time running for about 30 minutes each. The students were broken down by grade, beginning with kindergarten and first graders and ending with fourth and fifth graders. The Marines led in stretching exercises before taking off for the run. Fields of reds, blues, greens, oranges, purples, yellows and blacks could be seen as hundreds of children sprinted to complete as many laps as they could around the course.

Smiling faces showed the excitement for both Marines and the children alike.

“I really had fun running laps with all the children,” said Lance Cpl. Estela Sharp, administration clerk, G-3, 1st MLG. “I love children and the excitement they bring. I would definitely do this again.”

Along with the Marines, some parents also joined in on the festivities by either running with their children or helping with the smaller things such as handing out water,

doing their part to make the event a success.

“Come on, keep running don’t you want to be as strong as the Marines,” some of the parents said to their children. Even before the music stopped children and parents took time to stop and pose with their new military friends.

At the end of the event as the Marines left the school, all the children waved goodbye and said thank you. Though this year’s event is over, each Marine was invited back for next year’s Jog-A-Thon.



A Marine with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, run with a students at the Clarence Lobo Elementary School in San Clemente, Calif., Nov. 30.



Gunnery Sgt. Rafael N. Ortega, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, does pushups with students during the annual Jog-A-Thon at the Clarence Lobo Elementary School in San Clemente, Calif., Nov. 30. The purpose of the event was to raise money for the school and give the children a chance to have fun with their military visitors.

HAPPENINGS

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Tuesdays and 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.

Monarchs for Marines

The Mater Dei High School Dance Team and Football Team are sponsoring a free holiday lunch with Santa at the Paige Fieldhouse, Dec. 17 at 12:00 p.m. Enjoy food, a visit with Santa Claus and stocking gifts for the first 200 children ages 4-13. For more information call 760-763-2975.

Holiday Safety Tips

For those celebrating the holidays with joyous festivities, ensure safety precautions are in place. In addition to the traditional, “Don’t drink and drive,” Christmas time also brings the heightened chance of experiencing electrical fires. Make sure to unplug Christmas tree lights and house decorations before going to bed at night. ‘Tis the season.

R. Lee Ermey Appearance

R. Lee Ermey has made over 100 movie and television appearances. Ermey is planned to greet service members for photos and autographs at the Country Store at Mainside, Camp Pendleton, Calif., 10:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec 17, and at the San Onofre Exchange, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Dec 21.

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RE-LIVING THE LEGACY

COMBAT LOGISTICS BATTALION 13

Story by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

Combat Logistics Battalion 13 has supported countless operations throughout its 26-year lineage. The unit's story began in Desert Shield and Desert Storm and continues to be written as it supports the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit in many operations to come.

The unit was activated Jan. 6, 1985, here, as Marine Amphibious Unit Service Support Group 13, and was assigned to the 1st Force Service Support Group, which is now known as 1st Marine Logistics Group. The unit was then re-designated in 1988 as Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 13.

From 1988 to 2001 the unit participated in operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm in Southwest Asia, United Shield and Southern Watch in Somalia, and Determined Response in Yemen, according to the Battalion's Lineage. Following the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, the unit participated in operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, according to their official Website.

One notable operation the battalion supported was during the first offensive action against Iraq in October 1990. Elements of the 13th MEU boarded two Iraqi tankers that refused to obey the United Nations sanctions. The unit also supported a number of other operations during Desert Storm including a helicopter raid on Maradim Island, Kuwait, and other amphibious operations on the day the ground war started.

On May 18, 2006, MEUSSG 13 was re-designated as CLB-13 and reassigned to Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, as it remains today.

According to CLB-13's official Website, the unit's mission is to provide combat service support to Marine forces on deployments and in garrison. The battalion supports operations in

On deployments with the MEU, the unit provides a full range of expeditionary combat service in direct support of the Ground Combat Element, Aviation Combat Element and Command Element of the 13th MEU. The battalion has also conducted countless humanitarian missions and bilateral training with foreign military forces.

The true success of the battalion can only be expressed by the service members who have



Photo courtesy of Petty Officer 3rd Class Trever Welsh

Amphibious assault ship USS Boxer (LHD 4), front, amphibious dock landing ship USS Comstock (LSD 45), left, and amphibious transport dock ship USS Green Bay (LPD 20) steam in formation through the Indian Ocean on Augst 18, 2011. All three ships, as part of the Boxer Amphibious Ready Group that comprise the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit. The MEU recently returned from deployment to the Western Pacific

experienced it first hand.

"I've served with the MEU on numerous occasions in the past 10 years," said Lt. Col. George W. Markert, commanding officer, CLB-13. "I've gotten to know many commanders and their predecessors. It's been my personal observation that CLB-13 has gone out and performed in an extraordinary manner. It has had exceptional leadership that has done a lot of great things for this nation."

One of these great things includes Operation Determined Response in December 2000. The U.S. Navy guided missile destroyer, USS Cole, was battered by a terrorist attack in the port of Aden, Yemen. The 13th MEU provided security for the destroyer and crew during its recovery. CLB-13's support prevented further attacks that could have ultimately taken the lives of more service members.

Much has changed since the unit was activated a quarter century ago, but the core values the Marines have upheld have not. The Marine today is different than his predecessors, said Markert.

"I think they're the same in the respect that they're quality professionals," said Markert. "The Marines have unique skill sets and

contribute to the whole to accomplish the mission. But the Marines today are different. I believe Marines have grown smarter over the years. I see a higher caliber of individuals enlisting today. Marines are more educated and skilled at the use of technology."

Markert said the future looks bright for the Marines of CLB-13. There will be challenges in the upcoming years that CLB-13 will overcome as they have in the past. The Marines are just as, if not more capable as they were years ago.

During the battalion's last deployment with the 13th MEU, they conducted many operations and exercises while aboard the USS Boxer, USS Comstock and USS Greenbay. For example, in September they embarked at Darwin, Australia to conduct bilateral training with the Australian Army. Australia was one of ten countries the battalion trained and operated in during their deployment.

"I'm proud of their accomplishments; it's an honor and privilege to serve as their commander," said Markert. "All the Marines, sailors and their families deserve a great deal of credit for the sacrifices they have made throughout the years and continue to make."

MLG Marines learn Afghan culture

Story by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Members of 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) attended a class identifying many different cultural aspects of the Afghan community, Nov. 28-29.

To prepare for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan next year, Marines and sailors learned about the Afghan culture in order to improve their ability to maintain and increase relations with locals.

In the Operation Enduring Freedom, defeating the Taliban requires not only an extensive understanding of how the insurgent groups operate, but also how to win support from Afghan civilians. During the class, Marines and sailors learned about the political, social, religious and environmental aspects of the different groups in Afghanistan.

A native Afghan and member of the Center for Advanced Operational Cultural Learning gave multiple periods of instruction. Along with language classes, service members learned the importance of keeping local village elders, as well as Afghan government officials, involved in all operations Marines participate in.

From humanitarian missions, such as building wells, schools, clinics or roads, to patrol missions and house searches, making progress in Afghanistan would be impossible without the support of the locals.

“The support of the local community is crucial to conducting operations in Afghanistan,” said Capt. Michelle Over, staff judge advocate, 1st MLG (Forward) and participant of CAOCL. “Without that support, we would not be able to accomplish our mission of counterinsurgency. It is important to gain the trust of the local people by showing them that we respect them and their community so they will in turn help us accomplish our mission.”

During the 2-day course,

Marines and sailors participated in group exercises and knowledge quizzes, watched documentaries, and practiced speaking the local languages, Pashto and Dari.

“By learning to speak their language, even at a basic level, it will show the Afghans that we are making an effort to embrace their culture,” said Lance Cpl. Alex Quiles, combat cameraman, 1st MLG (Forward). “That little bit of effort will send a positive message to the Afghans and increase cooperation with our missions.”

For Marines and sailors who have not yet deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, the training is particularly important to prepare them for what is to come.

“It’s good to know what we are getting ourselves into,” said Quiles, 26, a Hawthorne NJ native. “I think that the more training we receive, the easier it will be to transition into being in country.”



Photo by Cpl. Zachaty Nola

With the help of a translator, Cpl. Bradley Penn, a section leader with India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, speaks with local elders during a dismounted patrol of the village of Kace Satar, Afghanistan, Nov. 11, 2009. During a cultural awareness course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 28-29, Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group learned the importance of gaining the trust and support of the local population.



Photo by Cpl. Zachaty Nola

Marines from India Company, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, walk with local elders during a patrol of the village of Kace Satar, Afghanistan, Nov. 11, 2009. In Operation Enduring Freedom, defeating the Taliban requires not only an extensive understanding of how the insurgent groups operate, but also how to win the support from Afghan civilians.

HOMECOMING

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The service members from the remaining element of 7th ESB were equally excited and ready to see the rest of their unit return home. Some had returned from the same deployment early and could not wait to see the Marines.

Lance Cpl. Jarrod L. Bridwell, motor transport operator, Company C, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG, was one of the Marines who returned beforehand. Bridwell said he loved coming back home and was sure these Marines will enjoy their own return. He was also proud of the battalion's accomplishments in Afghanistan.

"I'm glad for them to come back home after serving their country," said Staff Sgt. John J. Pilzite, assistant family readiness officer, Headquarters and Support Company, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "The Marines deserve some time to spend with their families. It's time for someone else to get into the fight."

For the Marines and sailors that returned home, they could not be happier.

"I'm definitely excited to see my friends and family," said Staff Sgt. Nathan Duenos, senior watch officer, H&S Company, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "It's nice being back on American soil. We did great work in Afghanistan, and the mission tempo was high. I think we deserve some time to relax back home."

Corporal Kenneth J. Nunez, bulk fuel specialist, Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG, said the battalion participated in a number of operations.

Nunez said they constructed observation posts, took temporary assigned duty for convoys, and maintained the forward operating base.

Another wave of Marines and sailors returned home later that night. This completed the battalion's deployment with a total of 503 Marines and sailors returning. After spending time with their loved ones, the service members will continue to do their duties and stay sharp as they enjoy being home.



A Marine from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, embraces his son upon return to Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 2.



A Marine from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, embraces her family during the unit's homecoming.



A loved one waits for the Marines and sailors from 7th ESB, CLR-1, 1st MLG, to return home from Afganistan. The Marines were away from home for more than seven months.

Advisory Training Group preps troops for combat

Story and photo courtesy of
Navy Lt. Kelly Trout
1st Medical Battalion

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – 1st Medical Battalion’s Advisory Training Group is a relatively new development of an old idea: use a person’s experience to train the new people.

What started out as a tool to train the unit’s deploying surgical companies has developed into training not only subordinate commands within 1st Marine Logistics Group, but has now ventured to the “ground pounders” of 1st Marine Division.

Members of the ATG recently coordinated a realistic training evolution with the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment Battalion Aid Station to help train the Marines and BAS corpsmen from 2/5 on combat-related medical skills.

“I read a story about ATG and their capabilities in the Marine Corps Times, and I contacted them through a corpsman I had previously worked with at Division,” said Chief Somsakul Birdsong, senior enlisted leader for the 5th Marine Regiment Regimental Aid Station.

So on a warm fall day, members of ATG packed up their training equipment and headed to San Mateo for 2/5’s field exercise.

“This would be the first time ATG was teaching in a division environment so we knew we would go in with a game plan, but chances were

that with all the moving pieces, we would have to be flexible,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class John Hawley, one of ATG’s medical subject matter experts.

According to Chief Joseph Rivas, the independent duty corpsman assigned to ATG, 2/5’s Echo and Foxtrot Companies wanted to incorporate the movement of battlefield casualties during their field exercise.

“We just followed the flow of patient move-

“When you are deployed to a war zone, combat trauma can occur to anybody under any command.”

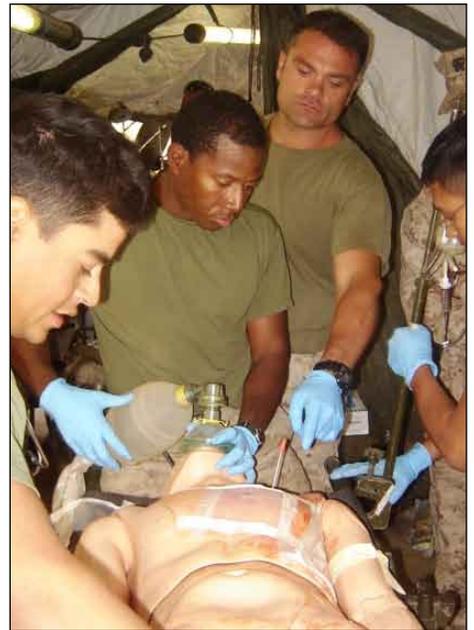
- Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Egan
leading petty officer
2/5 Battalion Aid Station

ment all the way to the BAS,” said Rivas.

Using high-tech mannequins that can actually respond to medical interventions, ATG was able to provide realistic and relevant training from point of injury all the way to the BAS.

“The mannequins were extremely realistic! Having patients ‘react’ really enhanced the training,” said Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Egan, the leading petty officer of the 2/5 BAS.

ATG hopes this is just a “foot in the door” for medical training outside the 1st Marine Logistic Group realm.



Members of the Advisory Training Group, 1st Medical Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, recently conducted a casualty-response exercise with Marines and corpsmen from 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division. The sailors used realistic mannequins to practice combat-related medical skills.

“When you are deployed to a war zone, combat trauma can occur to anybody under any command,” said Egan. “We have Marine and Navy personnel spread throughout the I Marine Expeditionary Force, and it’s imperative that people get the medical training they need so that they have a little bit of confidence in handling trauma.”



MLG sailor leads Sea Cadets in Vets Day parade

Photo courtesy by Harry Dunn

Petty Officer 1st Class James S. Bowes, safety inspector, 1st Marine Logistics Group, leads his Naval Sea Cadets in the Veterans Day Parade in Murrieta, Calif., Nov. 11. Bowes volunteers his free time to work with the Paul Revere Division under the Command of Lt. Cmdr. Hollie Brown, United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps located in Norco, Calif., where he holds the Sea Cadet Rank of warrant officer and trains the Cadets and officers in military drill, naval customs and traditions.

Giving back: Community gives thanks to Marines, sailors during Thanksgiving

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

FALLBROOK, Calif. – In the holiday spirit of Thanksgiving, Albertsons Grocery Store, located outside Camp Pendleton's Fallbrook gate, donated more than \$10,000 worth of turkey dinner meals to Camp Pendleton Marines and sailors, Nov. 22, in support of Operation Homefront Southern California.

Nearly 200 of the Thanksgiving meals were later distributed to Marines and sailors of 1st Marine Logistics Group, said Christine Winicki, family readiness officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 5. Out of those meals, 100 meals went to CLB-5, 67 went to 1st Maintenance Battalion and 25 meals went to Combat Logistics Regiment 1.

Formed in February of 2002, Operation Homefront is a non-profit organization, developed to support the families of deployed service members immediately following Sept. 11, 2001, according to the organization. In 2010, the organization met 167,348 needs for military families – including active duty and reserved service members from all branches of service. Since its inception, Operation Homefront has provided more than \$92 million of funding to programs to benefit military families.

For the second year running, Albertsons Grocery Store showed its support to the troops by participating in Operation Homefront and collecting a total of more than \$25,000 in donations to provide service members with Thanksgiving meals for the holidays.

Out of 248 stores participating in the operation in the Southern California region, Fallbrook's store ranks third in most donations collected, said Kirk Sandow, store director.

Since many of Fallbrook's residents are active service members and retired military families, the town was eager to support the men and women in the armed forces, Sandow said.

"There's something about this little town," said Sandow. "Everybody in this town gives a lot. They care about everything that goes on in the



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group load boxes of Thanksgiving meals onto a truck as part of Operation Homefront Southern California in Fallbrook, Calif., Nov. 22. In the holiday spirit of Thanksgiving, Albertsons Grocery Store, located outside Camp Pendleton's Fallbrook gate, donated more than \$10,000 worth of turkeys to Marines and sailors.

town. Anything we do for our troops, the town supports it all the way."

Whether they gave a little or a lot, everyone in town made sure they contributed to the cause, said Cris Flores, store cashier, who raised about 25 percent of the total donations this year.

"Everyone here is so friendly," said Flores. "Everyone here is related to the military somehow so you can see the respect they have for each other."

Sandow said he is glad to be a part of this community and to be able to contribute to the operation.

"This is such a wonderful program and I'm glad the town is supporting us," said Sandow. "It's our way of giving back and we're glad that we can help."

With the help of communities and programs like these, Marines, sailors and their families in Southern California can enjoy homemade Thanksgiving meals for free, said Winicki.

"The Marines and sailors were so excited when they saw the boxes. They especially loved the pies," said Winicki. "This has to be one of the best programs that the commu-



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group load boxes of Thanksgiving meals onto a government vehicle as part of Operation Homefront Southern California in Fallbrook, Calif., Nov. 22.

nity provides to Marines and sailors. It is an amazing show of support, especially since it covers the entire Southern California region."

Sandow said the store will continue to support the operation next year to give back to Marines, sailors and their families for their sacrifices.

The Vista Parade

Every year, the City of Vista, Calif., hosts a Christmas Parade to bring the community together and celebrate the holidays. Military policemen with Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provided two Humvees to take part in the parade and set up static displays prior to the start of the event on Dec. 3. The crowd enjoyed performances put together by local schools, clubs and businesses, that included marching, dancing, singing and a military tactical vehicles static display.



(above) A local high school marching band leads the 2011 Christmas Parade in Vista, Calif., Dec. 3. (left) The crowd cheers as the Marine Corps tactical vehicles pass by at the 2011 Christmas Parade in Vista, Calif., Dec. 3. (right) Military policemen with MP Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG, participate in the 2011 Christmas Parade in Vista, Calif., Dec. 3.



Holiday Safety Awareness Fair



(Above) Santa Claus poses with children during the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Holiday Safety Awareness Fair at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 4. (right) Families decorate cookies at one of the many activity stations at the fair. Children also took turns telling Santa their Christmas desires while adults competed in sumo wrestling.