



The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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1st MLG deploys to Afghanistan



Photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy Childers

Staff Sgt. Scott Bowen, admin chief, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), says goodbye to family and friends before deploying to Camp Leath-erneck, Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 7.



During a combat logistics patrol exercise, a wrecker is called in to remove a disabled truck from the side of a hill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.

CLB-15 Marines head to the field

Story and photo by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, piled into their trucks to conduct a combat logistics patrol exercise, Jan. 12.

Throughout the week, Marines and sailors took part in missions that includ-

ed engineer support, water purification, detainee pick-up and movement, and explosive ordnance disposal support.

During the CLP, Marines encountered a simulated improvised explosive device blast and direct fire, that required quick reaction efforts.

“The Marines need to learn about what’s going on in country so they can better prepare themselves for any kind of deployment they might go on,” said

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7th ESB moves forward with new sergeant major

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron relinquished his position as the top senior enlisted advisor of 7th Engineer Support Battalion to Sgt. Maj. Paul M. McElearney during a Post and Relief ceremony here, Jan. 12.

McElearney served as the battalion sergeant major for Combat Logistics Battalion 15 prior to assuming his current position with 7th ESB. He expressed how honored he was to start serving with these Marines.

“7th ESB has a storied history of superior performance,” said McElearney, from Arlington, Mass. “That’s the epitome of what you expect out of a unit. They work hard, they play hard, they do the right things and they’ve proven themselves. I’m just extremely excited to be able to be a part of this battalion.”

Charron will take over as the base sergeant major of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow after spending

the last year and a half with the ‘Big Red Seven’.

During the ceremony Charron reflected on his time with 7th ESB and gave a few words to the new incoming sergeant major.

“Sgt. Maj. McElearney, you hit the lottery,” said Charron, from Lodi, N.J. “You’re not only joining a great battalion but an outstanding family as well. I wish you the best of luck.”

Before the end of the ceremony McElearney spoke to the troops about moving forward.

“Marines of ‘Big Red Seven,’ I am in awe just from hearing what you all did on your last deployment,” said McElearney. “I look forward to spending everyday with you guys and seeing what you do.”

Before his departure, Charron gave the Marines a few kind words on their success together and all the things they’ve done while he was their sergeant major.

“Marines, I would like to thank all of you for what you have done,” said Charron, “You will all be missed by me.”



Sgt. Maj. Paul M. McElearney (right) receives a noncommissioned officer’s sword, from Lt. Col. Daniel Dubbs, commanding officer of 7th Engineer Support Battalion during a Post and Relief ceremony at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12, symbolizing a transfer of responsibility. McElearney, who served as the sergeant major of Combat Logistics Battalion 15, replaced Sgt. Maj. Richard Charron, who will become the base sergeant major of Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow, Calif.

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Sgt. Larry Wright, motor transport specialist, CLB-15, CLR-17, 1st MLG.

Once the CLP stopped for the IED, gun shots began to sound from a nearby hill. Marines and sailors took cover behind their trucks, locating the direction of the shots and returning fire while providing medical aid to the mock casualties of the IED.

After enemy threat was neutralized, explosive ordnance disposal technicians were called to the scene to locate and render safe any secondary IEDs in the area. A wrecker team was also brought out to remove a disabled truck before the CLP pressed on.

The overall goal for CLB-15, like

any other unit, is to gain proficiency in the conduct of CLPs for all personnel from private through battalion commander, in order to better prepare us for our upcoming deployment with the 15th (Marine Expeditionary Unit),” said Master Sgt. Jason Topp, operations chief, CLB-15, CLR-17, 1st MLG. “The key is to ensure that we diversify the training while still maintaining a firm direction towards our overall mission statement of providing combat service support to the MEU.”

Topp said the primary goal was to expose Marines and sailors to realistic CLP training. The missions simulated exposure to indigenous personnel, friend or foe, and IED encounters. It also allowed CLB-15 to refine standard operating procedures for CLPs.

“The training is good for those junior Marines who haven’t had this kind of experience yet,” said Wright. “It gets them in the mindset that anything can happen at any moment. It’s also good to refresh the memory for those that have already been overseas.”

In a realistic setting, it takes multiple hours to rectify a situation involving an IED blast, said 1st Lt. Jeffery Pioszak, the CLP’s commander. Their efforts took a relatively short amount of time, from the EOD response to the vehicle removal.

“The Marines got the casualties away from the vehicle that had been hit, got all the other personnel and serialized gear away from the vehicle, and after that it was a pretty short time to get a wrecker in to pull a vehicle off the side of a hill,” said Pioszak. “The

Marines maintained a good combat mindset and strong posture and continued sending reports the entire time.”

As part of the 15th MEU, CLB-15 does not yet know where their deployment will take them, so constant training is necessary to ensure they are prepared for any kind of mission, from combat operations to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

“Going to the field multiple times in itself doesn’t do a unit any good unless there is a solid training plan that focuses on specific mission essential tasks that allow the leadership to gauge readiness in those areas,” said Topp.

Until CLB-15 sets off with the MEU, the unit will continue to conduct multiple training missions and field exercises to ensure their complete readiness as an amphibious force.



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LANCE CPL. TIMOTHY CHILDERS

CONTACT US: 760-763-7795 1MLG_PUBLIC_AFFAIRS@USMC.MIL

Ceremony marks completion of barracks project

Story and photo by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines, sailors and civilians gathered in the new barracks amphitheatre to observe the ribbon cutting of the opening to the final Combat Logistics Regiment 17 barracks building, Jan. 6.

Col. James Clark, commanding officer, CLR-17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, praised the contractors for their outstanding efforts and timeliness in completing the \$250 million project.

“This represents the final piece of the barracks puzzle,” said Clark. “It really completes the good community of our Marines and sailors.”

Contractors began construction of six new barracks in August 2010, with a goal to improve living conditions and the quality of life for single Marines and sailors residing in the building.

“Those of us who have been in for a few years have seen first-hand the effects of our new barracks,” said Sgt. Vincent Garcia, barracks manager and resident of one of the new buildings. “Just recently we were living in old, damaged barracks and now we are practically in a new hotel. I feel as though morale is high with the Marines living here. They now have something to



Col. James Clark, commanding officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, cuts the ribbon during a ceremony marking the completion of the new CLR-17 barracks at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 6. Six new buildings offer Marines and sailors an improved quality of life, including an 18-hole Frisbee golf course, obstacle course, and outdoor barbecue pits.

claim as their own.”

Inside the community center of each building are pool tables, air hockey, and theatre rooms with large television screens and cable. Outside, an 18-hole Frisbee golf course surrounds the barracks along with a centrally-located ob-

stacle course. Each building has basketball and volleyball courts for physical training and down time. The centers also have barbecue pits for cookouts and a sand box for horseshoe.

The day following the ribbon-cutting ceremony, a group of

Marines gathered in one of the theatre rooms to watch a football game on the big screen, demonstrating the new community’s ability to build camaraderie amongst neighbors while providing an atmosphere that residents can enjoy being a part of.

Chaplain’s Corner

Do you ever wonder how prayer actually works? What we feel and think about prayer says much about who we are and how we approach life. Several years ago, a relative was lamenting to me about her life struggles. Concerned by her predicament, I asked if I could pray for her, a gesture that she welcomed and for which she expressed appreciation. Shortly after and for reasons unclear to me, she became critical of that prayer by telling me, “Well, just saying a prayer will not make everything better.” Although my prayer for her was not intended to be a magical cure-it-all remedy for her life’s troubles, I was distressed at her remark. I am convinced that prayer always makes a difference, whether its outcome

is obvious to us or not. Sadly, attitudes like my relative’s are not that uncommon. What we believe about prayer says more about the spiritual state of our hearts than anything else. For some, if praying doesn’t produce the desired results according to a pre-determined set of expectations, it is an exercise in futility at best.

On the contrary, I believe that the practice of prayer is more powerful and effective than we can ever imagine and understand. As the lyrics to a popular inspirational song puts it, “Isn’t it amazing what a prayer can do, when it all seems hopeless it’ll pull you through.” In my faith tradition, prayer is a joyful appeal to a compassionate and all-powerful God who always

hears the cries of our hearts. It is not simply praying in and of itself that makes a difference. Rather, it is the hope-driven opportunity to connect with God through faith—a faith that realizes that there is One who is greater than my most daunting circumstances.

When we pray, we humbly acknowledge our mortal perspective on life’s big picture. Prayer brings us to that place of peace that “transcends all understanding” by assuring us that we are not alone because God hears us. One of the most insightful and encouraging testimonies about prayer is from spiritual writer, C. S. Lewis. He said that “I pray because I can’t help myself. I pray because I’m helpless. I pray because the need flows out of me all the time—waking and sleeping. It doesn’t change God- it changes me.” Every prayer

makes a difference because in every prayer I can experience the difference God makes.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Cmdr. George Mendes, Deputy Group Chaplain, 1st Marine Logistics Group

Camp Pendleton hosts powerlifting competition

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS
BASE CAMP
PENDLETON, Calif. —Every year, powerlifters from around the Camp Pendleton area come here to compete in a competition sponsored by United States Powelifting Assosiation, and this year is no different.

Competitors of all ages, from teenagers to senior citizens, participated in the 2012 USPA Camp Pendleton Championship, Jan. 14. Some of which were Marines and family members of the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

As the leading powerlifting organization in the United States, the USPA's mission is to provide high quality powerlifting competitions to all athletes who meet the criteria for membership throughout the country, said a representative for the association.

Powerlifting comprises three lifts—squat, bench press and deadlift. Powerlifters can either compete in a single event or all three events. The athletes are categorized by sex, age and bodyweight. Each competitor is allowed three attempts for each event and the best attempt is added to their total score. The lifter with the highest total is the winner.

"I feel pretty good about the competition," said 1st Lt. Margie Rodgers, executive officer, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. "I'm looking for that big jump in my deadlift. I've only gotten 225 [pounds] in a meet but I switched my stand to sumo from conventional and I pulled 255 [pounds] in the gym, so I'm looking for a big improvement."

Margie wasn't the only member of her family competing in the meet, Wes Rodgers, her husband and a former Marine, set the California State Record in bench press for his division when he benched 336 pounds, Margie said. Wes, from Pine Mountain, Ga., received best overall lifter in the competition with the total of 1,212 pounds.

"I'm happy for my husband,"



Courtesy photo of LJN Photography

1st Lt. Margie Rodgers, executive officer, Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, competes in a powerlifting competition sponsored by United States Powelifting Assosiation at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 14.

said Margie, from Waverly Hall, Ga., who also ranked first in her weight class. "I didn't get what I wanted to on bench, but I did decent at it to get a pretty good total for the meet."

Margie finished with 622 pounds total, as well as achieving the California State Record for her weight class in two of the three lifts, squat and bench press.

"I really enjoy going to competitions," said Margie. "Since high school, I'd go to the gym to build my strength up. Competitions like this give me something to measure up against and have a goal to strive for so I don't get bored in the gym."

The competition is over but it doesn't stop here for the competitors. For Margie and Wes, they're training to prepare for their next competition in May.



Courtesy photo of LJN Photography

Wes Rodgers, former Marine, husband of 1st Lt. Margie Rodgers, executive officer for Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, squats during a powerlifting competition sponsored by United States Powelifting Assosiation at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 14.

Photos from around 1st MLG



Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson

A gunner with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, surveys his area of fire during a combat logistics patrol exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Timothy Childers

Cpl. Samuel J. Nieves, combat cameraman, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), spends his remaining hours with his wife before deploying to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Jan. 7.



Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson

During a combat logistics patrol exercise, a Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, returns fire in the direction of gun shots from a nearby hill at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.



Photo by Cpl. Michele Watson

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 15, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, carry a mock casualty to safety after a simulated improvised explosive device hit a vehicle during a combat logistics patrol exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Jan. 12.