



The Convoy

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June 21, 2013

Volume 6 Issue 9



CLR-17

teams up with Navy during MPF offload



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Cover Page:

Sailors with Beachmaster Unit 1 support a Maritime Prepositioning Force offload exercise aboard Coronado, Calif., June 13, 2013. The exercise provided the Navy and Marine Corps team an opportunity to employ all the procedures involved in an offload operation.

(U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez)

To read the story and see more photos, go to page three.

THROUGH LOGISTICS

Episode 7 features Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and Navy Beachmaster Group 1 participating in a Maritime Prepositioning Force offload exercise at Coronado, Calif., June 13, 2013.

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MLG Chief of Staff's bittersweet farewell

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – After seeing his brother's transformation from civilian to Marine in the early 1970s, Col. Randy Lawson knew the Marine Corps was a special organization that could benefit him as well.

"My brother was a troubled kid," said Lawson, chief of staff, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "Instead of being drafted into the Army, he decided to join the Marine Corps. When I saw him return from boot camp, I saw a changed person. He was on the straight and narrow and has been ever since."

Lawson grew up in the Baton Rouge, La., area in a middle- to lower-income family. His goal after high school was to obtain his college degree, and while his father worked hard to provide for his family, he knew they did not have the money to send him to school.

After seeing the drastic change in his brother and learning of the benefits the Marine Corps had to offer, Lawson thought this would be the best way for him to achieve his goal of becoming a college graduate.

"I wanted a college degree, and I knew the Marine Corps could help me pay for that," Lawson said. "At 17, I went and spoke with a recruiter. It took a while to convince my parents to sign for me to join, but they did. I graduated from high school early January 1975 and went to boot camp later that month."

Upon graduating from Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego, Lawson became a radio operator. His three-year contract allowed him to complete multiple assignments as an enlisted Marine.

Lawson was able to deploy to Okinawa, Japan, the Philippines and Australia. Additionally, he was meritoriously promoted to corporal and then promoted to sergeant approximately six months before his contract with the Marine Corps expired.

"I really, really enjoyed the Marine Corps," Lawson said. "I got out though because I really wanted to go to college and get my degree."

Lawson completed his active-duty assignment during December 1977 and moved back to Louisiana. He enrolled at Louisiana State University and began to pursue his degree. He graduated in May 1984.

Following graduation, Lawson found work, but was never fully happy. He felt a void and knew he was missing the lifestyle of being a Marine. During late 1985, he decided he would again join the Marine Corps and during February 1986, he began Officer Candidate School.

"I really missed the Marine Corps. I missed the people," Lawson said.

Lawson was commissioned as a second lieutenant during April 1986, and following The Basic School, he was assigned as a combat engineer.

Throughout his more than 27 years as a Marine Corps officer, Lawson held many challenging yet rewarding billets. From a platoon commander with 7th Engineer Support Battalion to being the commanding officer of two battalions – at the same time – Lawson says his career was very fulfilling. However, he said his most gratifying position was as the commander of Combat Logistics Battalion 5 while deployed to Fallujah, Iraq.

"Deploying to Fallujah in 2005 with CLB-5 was the most meaningful," Lawson said. "When we arrived, it was definitely a hotly contested area. By the time we left after seven months, you could see the change. It was a great deployment. It was definitely



▲ Colonel Randy J. Lawson, chief of staff, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stands at attention during his retirement ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 20, 2013. Lawson, a native of Plaquemine, La., was presented with a certificate of appreciation.

meaningful work."

On Aug. 30, 2011 Lawson assumed his current billet as the 1st MLG Chief of Staff. While the job of Chief of Staff is challenging in itself, he also had the task of being the acting commander of the group while Brig. Gen. John J. Broadmeadow was deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"During my deployment, he took command of almost the entire MLG. The vast majority of the MLG remained in the rear when we deployed. He did a superb job leading during a very difficult time," said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow. "I was very fortunate to have a quality leader like Col. Lawson."

"This job has been very rewarding," Lawson said. "I never felt like I was the commander though. I was here to help keep things running while the boss was deployed. We had a great staff who really worked hard to keep things going. It made my job much easier."

This humility was typical of Lawson, who was known for accomplishing tasks without a lot of fanfare. While in command in the rear, "the lack of fanfare and the smooth transition were all directly due to his leadership," said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow.

For the past 22 years of Lawson's service, he has had one constant. His wife, Molly, has stood by his side and supported him the whole way through.

"As always, I don't give my wife enough credit," Lawson said. "Between 2008 and 2011, we moved four times, and she was always the one to make sure we were organized and ready to go. She is awesome. I never would have got to where I'm at without her by my side."

With more than 30 years of active service, Lawson retired on June 20, 2013. Leaving the Marine Corps is bittersweet.

"I will definitely miss the people," he said. "I will miss the camaraderie and just being around all these dedicated individuals."

"He made a huge impact not only on the Marines of the MLG, but the entire I MEF," said Brig. Gen. Broadmeadow. "I'll miss having him around."

**Story by:
Staff Sgt. John Jackson
Staff Writer**

MPF offload kicks-off Dawn Blitz

Cpl. Laura Gauna

CORONADO, Calif. – Marines from 1st Marine Expeditionary Force participated in a Marine Prepositioning Force offload exercise at Coronado, Calif., June 13, 2013. The purpose of the exercise was to provide the Navy and Marine Corps team an opportunity to employ all the procedures involved in an offload operation and readying a ship full of cargo to resupply ground forces.

“Many Marines are not familiar with MPF operations,” said Col. Bruce Pitman, the Arrival and Assembly Operations Group officer-in-charge with 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. “It’s important to reinvigorate expeditionary roots and get the Marines and sailors familiar with these operations.”

During an MPF operation, equipment capable of supporting

a regimental-sized mechanized Marine Air-Ground Task Force is unloaded, logged, inspected and repaired as necessary to ensure all gear is ready for future missions.

Due to the complexity of the operation, the Beach Operations Group, which is comparable to a military command operations center, is vital to a successful operation.

“This is where we are running our numbers from and communicating to other elements,” said 2nd Lt. Diana Stabers, BOG officer-in-charge with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, and a native of Guilford, Conn. “The mission here is to be quick and accurate when assets role off the ship. Information we gather needs to get to the landing force support party fast because if

we are not fast, no one else is going to be able to do anything.”

Marines working in the BOG have the responsibility, as the first ones on the scene as soon as the cargo reaches shore, of safely getting a full shipment of cargo and personnel to its intended location. They are especially important during an in-stream offload, in which the cargo is unloaded several miles off the coastline via onboard cranes, landing craft, and causeways and then transported ashore for further missions.

This capability eliminates the need for well-developed port facilities, which vastly expands the Marine Corps’ and Navy’s amphibious capabilities around the world.

“During the in-stream offload, Marines take over once the gear reaches the high-water mark,” said

Stabers. “Before that, the Navy works on getting the (equipment) ready for unloading. While on the beach, gear is serialized and tracked before being transported to its next location.”

This exercise was the first time in several years that I MEF conducted an MPF operation in support of Dawn Blitz, a scenario-driven, simulation-supported amphibious exercise designed to train Expeditionary Strike Group 3 and 1st Marine Expeditionary Brigade.

“The MPF portion of the exercise was added in late, but has been an important aspect of our training,” said Pitman. “This has given the Marines and sailors participating valuable hands-on training necessary to maintain such a high level of skill.”

Story by:
Cpl. Laura Gauna
Staff Writer

Sailors with Beachmaster Unit 1 support a Maritime Prepositioning Force offload exercise aboard Coronado, Calif., June 13, 2013.



Photos by Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez



CLB-5 moves forward with new commander



Photos by:
Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez
Staff Writer



Lieutenant Col. Robert Meade, outgoing commanding officer, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, 1st Marine Logistics Group, relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Brian Earius, incoming commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 14, 2013.

Armed to the teeth: The Mobile Dental Unit

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The sailors of 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, have proven that state-of-the-art dental equipment, treatment rooms, sleeping quarters, a waiting area and computer systems can be transported by one massive vehicle known as the Mobile Dental Unit.

Using this vehicle, sailors with 1st Dental Bn. are able to provide dental care in virtually any location.

“A Mobile Dental Unit is a dental office on wheels,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua J. Fallick,

a mobile dental unit coordinator with 1st Dental Bn. “The official mission of the MDU is to increase unit readiness.”

Because of its mobility, MDU personnel are able to perform a wide array of dental treatments for Marines and sailors in the vicinity of Camp Pendleton, Miramar, Yuma and Twentynine Palms.

“Through the MDUs, we can perform anything from X-rays to sterilization, cleaning, oral surgery, root canals, crowns, bridges, implants and gum surgeries,” said Fallick, a native of Rosenhayn, N.J.

Mobile Dental Units have

played a key role in increasing mission readiness.

On a recent two-day mission in Barstow, MDUs increased dental readiness from approximately 74 percent to 89 percent, said Fallick.

“Certain dental problems could prevent (Marines) from deploying if they are serious enough,” said Navy Capt. David A. Lowrey, branch clinic director, 1st Dental Bn., and native of Russellville, Ark.

The dental systems have also proven to be beneficial to those returning from deployment.

“Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Marines returned home from

deployment, so we parked out at the 22 area parade deck and more than 200 Marines showed up,” said Fallick. “They had fun coming here because it’s more relaxed than a dental office.”

“We go to the unit’s front door so they are not losing as much manpower and hours going to clinics,” he added.

For many, working with the MDUs provides dental technicians with a sense of accomplishment.

“It felt good getting the job done and helping everyone coming home,” said Fallick. “I enjoy being here and I think everyone who comes here enjoys it.”

Story and photo by:
Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez
Staff Writer



Petty Officer 3rd Class Joshua J. Fallick, right, a mobile dental unit coordinator with 1st Dental Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, demonstrates the MDU’s capabilities with the assistance of Navy Capt. David A. Lowrey, left, branch clinic director, 1st Dental Bn., 1st MLG, inside MDU-6 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., on June 7, 2013. The MDU is equipped with state-of-the-art dental equipment, two treatment rooms, sleeping quarters and an on-board computer to monitor the vehicle’s condition at all times.

Marine pursues passion for music, joins local band

Story and photo illustration by:
Cpl. Laura Gauna
Staff Writer



Lance Cpl. Bradley Dennis, a paralegal specialist with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, followed his passion for music by joining a local band.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Heavy metal music, which was developed in the late 1960s largely in the United Kingdom and United States, is characterized by highly amplified distortion, extended guitar solos, emphatic beats and overall loud-

ness. Today, metal bands are found everywhere, including the military.

Lance Cpl. Bradley Dennis, a paralegal specialist with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, brings this fad

to Camp Pendleton.

Born in Silver Spring, Md., the 21-year-old heavy metal enthusiast says much of his ability and love for music stemmed from his family.

"My mom was in a band," said Dennis. "Growing up, I re-

-member going to see her play live shows. We had her old demo CDs and everything."

Dennis first started singing in his school's choir program when he was eight, but it wouldn't be until later that he would turn to heavy metal.

"At first I just sang choral music, but then my stepdad came along, and I was introduced to metal," said Dennis. His stepfather introduced him to heavy metal bands and coached him in the unique style of scream music.

"I wanted to learn how those guys in the videos were able to scream like that," he said. "I would change my pitch and go from high to low and just tried to perfect it."

He traveled frequently growing up and music was the one thing consistent throughout his life.

Although he transitioned from one band to another, his biggest transition was the transformation from civilian to Marine.

"I like challenges and this was definitely a challenge," said Dennis, whose path toward earning the title Marine was set after he met a wounded veteran one Veterans Day.

"He was in for eight years and told me how he didn't want to get out, that it was just a medical issue," said Dennis. "He hooked me. After that I called the recruiting station."

He enlisted during August 2010. Marine Corps Recruit Training is often a shock to the system, with the recruit deprived of the amenities of their previous life. Dennis and music, however, did not remain separated for long.

"When I arrived (at Camp Pendleton) I was approached by one of my friends, who just got out of the Marine Corps, about joining a band," he said. "They liked my audition. They were speechless."

Dennis travels to Los Angeles every weekend to practice with his new band, Chaos Incarnate. The band is comprised of active-duty Marines, a retired Marine and a retired soldier.

He is the screamer for the band. Screamers use their diaphragm to produce a guttural sound mixed with melodies and lyrics.

Dennis, soon to be a father, plans to get his new baby into music as well.

"I definitely want my kid to do something with music," he added.

Marines with 1st MLG home again



Photos by:
Lance Cpl. Cody Haas
Staff Writer

Families of 1st Marine Logistics Group greet loved ones returning from a deployment to Afghanistan during a welcome home aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 8, 2013.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

Building bridges: 7th ESB volunteers help out Mud Runners

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – More than 300 Marines from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, volunteered to help runners during this year's World Famous Mud Run aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 1-15.

Over the course of three weeks, Marines with 7th ESB took on different tasks such as building a bridge for run-

ners to use, assisting runners through obstacles, maintaining hydration stations and handing out merchandise, said Gunnery Sgt. Jeremy W. King, bridge company first sergeant, 7th ESB.

"There were a lot of jobs to do," said Cpl. Eran O. Edwards, a heavy equipment operator with 7th ESB. "We maintained the hydration station, motivated the participants

and also handled the VIPs."

Volunteering for the event offered multiple benefits for the Marines such as raising funds for the Marine Corps Ball and strengthening ties with civilians.

"It gave Marines a chance to get involved with the community," said King, a native of Corinth, Miss. "The best part was that you got dirty doing it."

For King and Edwards, the

greatest benefit of volunteering was the sense of pride it gives.

"In the mud pit I worked in, everybody who participated let us know how much they appreciated our service," said King.

"It makes me feel proud," said Edward. "I'm looking forward to volunteering next year."

Story by:

Lance Cpl. Shaltiel
Dominguez
Staff Writer



Photos by:
Lance Cpl. Orrin Farmer
Staff Writer



CLR-1 welcomes new CO

Photos by: Lance Cpl.
Shaltiel Dominguez
Staff Writer



The 1st Marine Division Band plays at the Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 20, 2013. The 1st Marine Division band consists of 50 Marine musicians with a primary mission of providing musical support for military parades and ceremonies.



Colonel James C. Caley kneels by his son Liam after the Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 20, 2013.



Colonel James C. Caley, right, outgoing commanding officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, hands the regimental battle colors to Col. Kurt A. Kempster, left, incoming commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 20, 2013.

1st Medical Battalion holds first public mass casualty drill

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines and sailors with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, displayed their medical expeditionary capabilities to dozens of spectators during the first public mass casualty drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 5, 2013.

The drill simulated an improvised explosive device attack on a convoy. The corpsmen had to respond quickly to sort through the casualties, provide life-saving techniques to stabilize the critically wounded and call for a medical evacuation in a high-stress environment.

“We are trying to show what we can do for the Marines and the community and how we can support with our medical abilities,” said Navy Lt. Keith Nemeroff, a company commander with Char-

lie Surgical Company, 1st Medical Bn., 1st MLG, and a native of Philadelphia. “It’s great to show everyone what we can do and all the hard work that we put into training every day.”

The personnel set up a field hospital capable of treating up to 50 patients, 20 percent of whom could be critically injured patients, within a 24-hour period.

Marines, seven role-playing casualties, arrived to the medical team. Each entered the tents screaming, pretending to suffer different injuries and wounds for the corpsmen to treat. Injuries included sucking chest wounds, shrapnel to the eyes, missing limbs and external fractures.

The corpsmen assessed each patient and either treated them on the

spot if their condition required immediate attention or moved them through the emergency tents to receive further treatment.

Marines portraying casualties wore detailed moulages and special effects makeup, bringing injuries such as face lacerations, compound fractures, severed body parts and puncture wounds to life. These injuries tested the team’s proficiency in applying life-saving procedures and stabilizing the victims prior to evacuation.

Many personnel participating just returned from Helmand Province, Afghanistan, where their patient survival rate was 98 percent.

“The scenario we ran today is what we saw in our deployment,”

said Petty Officer 3rd Class Jonathan Ramos, a field corpsman with Charlie Surgical Co., 1st Medical Bn., 1st MLG, and a native of Laredo, Texas. “With this exercise we are able to teach our new members how things work when we are forward deployed. We can share our stories and our experiences and set the foundation for their success when they go forward and deploy.”

Several families came to witness the drill and see what their loved ones experienced while deployed.

In the end, the exercise brought to life the importance of having these capabilities.



▲ Corpsmen and surgeons with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, tend to a simulated casualty during the first public mass casualty drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 5, 2013.

▼ Corpsmen with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, transport a simulated casualty to the shock trauma platoon tent during the first public mass casualty drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 5, 2013.



▲ Brigadier General John J. Broadmeadow, commanding general, 1st Marine Logistics Group, addresses the Marines and sailors who participated in the first public mass casualty drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 5, 2013.

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Laura Gauna
Staff Writer



▲ Corpsmen with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, wrap a simulated casualty during the first public mass casualty drill aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 5, 2013.

CLB-5 says farewell to company gunnery sergeant



^ Gunnery Sgt. Ryan S. McDonald, left, company gunnery sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stands at attention during his retirement ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 6, 2013.

> Gunnery Sgt. Ryan S. McDonald, center, company gunnery sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, stands with his family while the Marines' Hymn is played during his retirement ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., June 6, 2013.

Photos by:
Lance Cpl. Cody Haas
Staff Writer



Communications Company receives new commanding officer

Photos by:
Lance Cpl. Cody Haas
Staff Writer



Captain Arun Shankar, incoming commanding officer, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, takes the company's guidon from Capt. NaTasha M. Everly, outgoing commanding officer, during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 31, 2013.



Captain NaTasha M. Everly, outgoing commanding officer, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, gives a farewell speech during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 31, 2013.



Captain NaTasha M. Everly, outgoing commanding officer, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, is awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal during a change of command ceremony aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., May 31, 2013. Everly, a native of Fayetteville, N.C., was recognized for her superior performance as the Communications Company commander.

Around the Group

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UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

- The San Clemente Ocean Festival is in need of 300 volunteers on July 20 and 21. For more information, call Angelica Hurtado at 909-904-5403.
- The Camp Pendleton C.R.E.D.O. office is in need of a volunteer to help with office administration duties. For more information, email candi.heinberger@usmc.mil.

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