The

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Bridge Company deploys improved ribbon bridge



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Cover Page:

A CH-53E Sea Stallion deploys an improved ribbon bridge when Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted an IRB training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013. Five IRBs were transported and delivered by a CH-53E Sea Stallion and dropped into Oceanside harbor. Being one of only two bridge companies in the Marine Corps, this was the first time for the Battalion and for the entire West coast that the IRB has been deployed in this manner.

(Photo by Cpl. Timothy Childers / Released)

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

THROUGH LOGISTICS

Episode 9 features Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducting improved ribbon bridge training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.







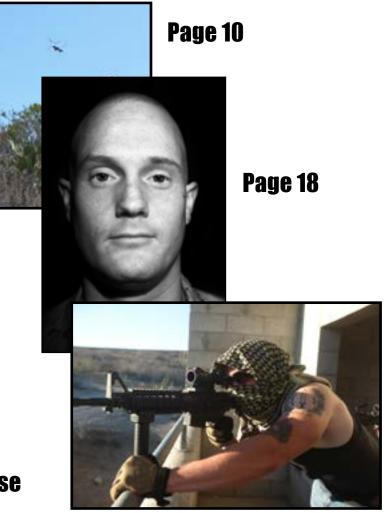
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7th ESB Marines deploy improved ribbon bridge from the air



^ A CH-53E Sea Stallion deploys an improved ribbon bridge while Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted an IRB training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013

CAMP PENDLETON. Calif. – The steady hum of a helicopter grew louder as it approached the harbor. A heavy payload underneath weighed the helicopter down until it dropped the steel structure into the blue Painto action.

Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted improved ribbon bridge training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.

During the exercise, five IRBs were transported and delivered by a CH-53E Sea Stallion and dropped into Oceanside Harbor. Being one of only two active duty bridge companies in the Marine Corps, it was the even make bridges to span rivers." first time for the West Coast battalion to have the IRB deployed in this manner.

the capabilities of air operations in conjunction with the bridge platoon itself and its capabilities for the MLG," said Staff Sgt. Timothy J. Liners, Bridge Co. gunnery sergeant, 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "The setup within the for many of the Marines. It allowed cross-

basin area was pretty swift. I can definitely say that this platoon has worked hard to lead up to this moment."

The IRB is a transportable floating bridge that is easily deployable on any calm body of cific water. Immediately, the Marines went water. It can be used as a ferry to transport military equipment and vehicles across water or act as a bridge between land to continu- fore." ously transport Marine forces, which can aid in anything from combat missions to humanitarian operations.

> "These bridges are easily deployable in water to support the mobility of other units," said Cpl. Alexander D. Krieger, a combat engineer with Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "We can ferry tanks or whatever you want, or process began.

Using Bridge Erection Boats, small twinjet aluminum vessels that push the bridges, "The purpose of today's training is to show ropes and a few tools, the Marines were able to deploy, move and assemble the bridges into a five-piece IRB raft that includes three come the Marine Corps' next bridge team. interior pieces and two end ramps.

This was the first experience with the IRB

training between the different occupational specialties within the company.

"The training today was a really good time," said Cpl. Alexander C. Alberter, a combat engineer with Bridge Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "I really enjoyed it. I learned a lot and it was something I've never done be-

After the five-piece bridge was finished, the Marines maneuvered the bridge to the shore in order to test its integrity. Tactical vehicles were driven on the bridge and shuttled into the bay in order to demonstrate its capabilities. After the Marines could see the structure was sound, the disassembling

As the sun was setting over the Pacific Ocean, the Marines finished their training. For the first time off the west coast, an IRB raft was constructed via helicopter insertion and a new set of Marines were trained to be-

Story and Photos by: **Cpl. Timothy Childers**



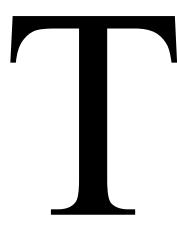
[^] Marines with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, assemble an improved ribbon bridge raft while the company was conducting an IRB training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.

v A Marine with Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, operates a Bridge Erection Boat during improved ribbon bridge training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.



Warrior Disciples Marine Corps Martial **Arts Instructor Course**

By Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez



hroughout history, warriors have lived who pursued both military and scholarly disciplines. These balanced warriors exist today in the form of Marine **Corps Martial Arts Pro**gram instructors, and the course to become one of them is tough and rigorous.

Eighteen Marines sat exhausted after intense physical training at the obstacle course. Their martial arts instructor, Staff Sgt. Randy Camacho, paced around with the demeanor of a warrior but taught with the wisdom of classical philosophers.

"Some people live with anxiety about the future and some want to return to the past," said Camacho, chief martial arts instructor with 9th Communications Battalion, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force. "Be in this moment, live for this moment and work hard for this moment. After the moment is done, that's when you'll find yourself."

The philosophy behind martial arts is a crucial part of the MCMAP instructor program. During the threeweek course, Marines conducted rigorous physical activities such as free sparring while learning a variety of lessons such as MCMAP techniques, philosophy and history of MCMAP, combat conditioning, **6.**



nutrition and anatomy.

Marines from 7th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, and 9th Communications Bn. participated in the course. The Marines are in their second week of becoming MCMAP instructors and none have dropped out despite the physical strain of the course.

"By the second week one or two Marines get dropped due to medical reasons," said Camacho. "A lot of the time they aggravate pre-existing injuries due to how physically

rigorous the course is."

The instructor course is a way for Marines with a passion for martial arts to grow in the field.

"I've always been involved in martial arts as a kid, like traditional karate and taekwondo as well as mixed martial arts," said Gunnery Sgt. Jonathan H. Smith, a MCMAP instructor trainer with 7th ESB. "That was why I wanted to become an instructor."

Martial Arts Program Instructor Course aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16. 2013.

"Some people live with anxiety about the future and some want to return to the past. Be in this moment, live for this moment and work hard for this moment. After the moment is done, that's when you'll find yourself."



Smith, a native of Apple Valley, Minn., has been practicing MCMAP for more than a decade now and is still learning. For some instructors, the unique opportunity to learn from many students drives them to teach.

"I'm always learning," said Sgt. Jose A. Tellez, chief martial arts instructor with 7th ESB. "It doesn't matter if I'm an instructor and you're a student. We have students that come in users." as boxers and Brazilian jiu-jitsu learn from them. The instructor course helps you as a teacher become an even better martial artist."

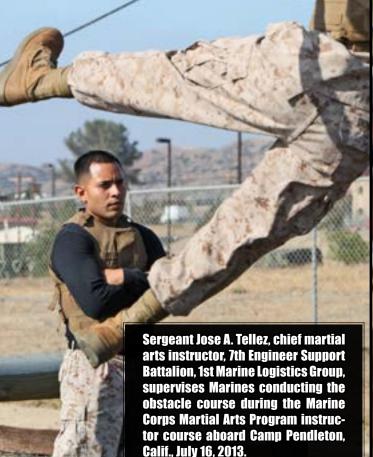
Furthermore, the instructor course provides many career because it doesn't just teach

are able to pass it.

ferent things that they can apply teaches you how to be a good to their units, like nutrition planning and knowledge of anatomy and physiology," said Tellez, a ceive the Military Occupational Specialty of 0916, martial arts the quality of life." instructor, which allows them

Most importantly, the MC- any wisdom he had to add. practitioners and we can always MAP instructor course focuses on character, mental and physical discipline and how to enforce those disciplines into future students, said Tellez.

"When it comes to martial arts, you have to think about what it takes to be a student of life. Everything you do in martial arts is about the quality of life."





"I feel MCMAP is important

opportunities to Marines who you martial arts and it doesn't just teach you how to be a good "We teach them so many dif- Marine," said Camacho. "It person in general. When it comes to martial arts, you have to think about what it takes to native of Miami. "They also re- be a student of life. Everything you do in martial arts is about

As Tellez took to the to certify other Marines as belt stage, his students, weary but eager to learn, looked up for

> "Stand by," said Tellez. "It's only week two."

> v A martial arts instructor teaches Marines attending a Marine Corps Martial Arts Program Instructor Course aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.

Every Marine a rifleman: CLB-7 attends BCS Course

Private 1st Class Hadron O. Megia, a motor transportation operator with Transportation and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participates in a mock combat logistics patrol aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 18, 2013. Sergeant Luis A. Quinonez, a motor transportation operator with Transportation and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, inspects his Marines' gear before conducting a mock combat logistics patrol aboard Camp

Pendleton, Calif., July 18, 2013

Marines with Transportation and Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct a mock combat logistics patrol aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 18, 2013.

Story by: Cpl. Timothy Childers Staff Writer

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pon graduating from Boot Camp,

Marines are required to attend the School of Infantry, where they learn the essential combat skills to become a Marine rifleman. Like most things learned, these skills are perishable.

More than 90 Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 7, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, began their final exercise of the Basic Combat Skills Course aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 18, 2013.

The BCS Course is a weeklong class that teaches Marines and sailors the basics of operating in a combat environment. The training includes classes in land navigation, combat logistics patrols, counters to Improvised Explosive Devices and combat hunter skills. After training day four, they apply these classes in the field.

"During the BCS [course], we teach individual and collective skills to prepare the Marines for combat," said Staff Sgt. Juan A. Salazar, operations chief, Combat Skills Training School, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. "After [training] day four, they apply everything they learned for the final exercise. This is just a stepping stone to build the small



unit leadership needed for future opera- chael M. Tatosian, company commandtions in combat."

16 instructors are tasked with teaching and supervising the class. The team conducts a course every other week, where they qualify Marines in the basics of leadership in combat.

"Our main focus is on the small-unit leadership, the squad leader or fire-team leader," said Salazar, a native of Houston. "This is their bread and butter. I enjoy training the Marines so I can better prepare them for the worst case scenarios. We teach the small-unit leaders to figure things out on the spot and in a the comfort of their jobs and puts them timely manner."

CLB-7 embarked from Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, located at 29 Palms, Calif. Coming all this way, the Marines made sure the valued training would be put to good use.

"We're here to prepare our Marines for a future deployment," said Capt. Mi-

er, Transportation and Support Com-To ensure the course runs effectively, pany, CLB-7, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "The training gives them more confidence in basic infantry skills. Typically, we're not exposed to this type of training as [motor transportation Marines]," added the Lewiston, Maine, native.

> During the final exercise the Marines had to put their knowledge to the test and conduct combat logistics patrols, where they encountered simulated IEDs. They also interacted with an Afghan community portrayed by role-players.

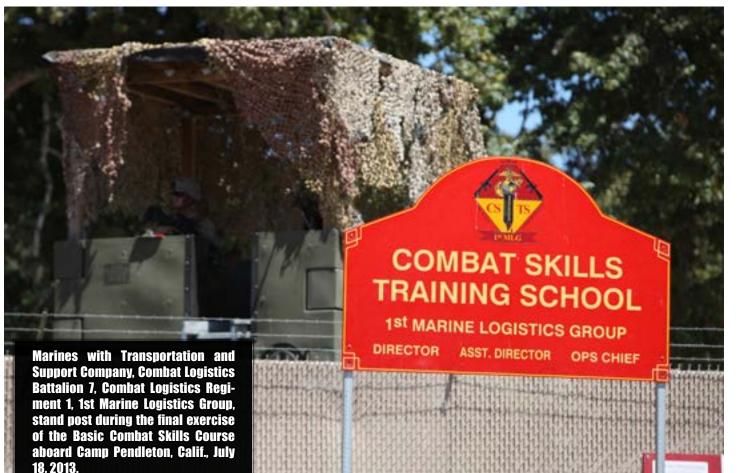
"The course takes them away from in the role of a basic infantry Marine," To attend the course, Marines from said Staff Sgt. Harold E. Linsley, BCSC chief, CST School, CLR-17, 1st MLG. "These basic skills are perishable. The training brushes off the rust and ensures basic combat skills are remembered. Scenarios like the one with role-players can give the Marines a new training experience. It puts a cultural face on the

operations, giving the experience of dealing with a different culture," added the Mount Vernon, Ohio, native.

Apart from the mental challenges of learning new skills and testing old ones, the course can be a challenge physically.

"The course is very physically demanding," said 1st Lt. Andrew J. Gerdes, platoon commander, 1st Platoon, TS Co., CLB-7, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "The Marines are constantly carrying a combat load and wearing flak and Kevlar while going up and down different types of terrain. Physically, it's taking a toll on their bodies."

Although the training was more than halfway over, the service members still had a lot left on their plate. It was only day one of their final exercise. Equipped with knowledge from the course and guidance from their dedicated instructors, they were confident and ready.



Landing Support Marines prove sky is the limit during HST training

PENDLETON. Calif. When Marines need essential gear in the field, vehicles or equipment, they call a group of landing support specialists known as a helicopter support team.

To ensure these Marines are ready for when duty calls, Marines with Transportation Support Detachment, Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted an HST aerial lift aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 25, 2013.

"In a combat situation, whenever you need to do a resupply or have to bring anything from A to B, it is our job to get vital cargo to any unit via land, air and sea," said Sgt. David A. Montes, a landing support specialist with TS Detachment, CLB-15, 1st MLG. "We are basically the (postal service) for the Marine Corps and HSTs are our bread and butter."

A single HST mission can provide up to 28,000 pounds of chow, water, ammunition or fuel needed to resupply a specific remote location, making it both expeditious and efficient while offering a very important resource to the ground combat elements.

The team of 10 practiced aerial lifts well into the night, lifting a cargo net filled with more than 700 pounds of oversized tires to help keep their skills sharp. The pilots and crew of two CH-46E Sea Knights assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 268 and HMM-364, participated in the exercise to bolster both the Marines on the ground and their own training.

"In those moments when Marines need equipment, food, ammo or fuel immediately, we need to be there," said Montes, a native of Dallas. "The main purpose of a landing support specialist is getting vital cargo to our Marines. Anywhere they need to pick this stuff up at, day or night, we will set up a secure landing zone and get it to them."

External lifts are important because not all cargo, like large vehicles or artillery weapons. can fit safely inside an aircraft, Montes explained. Additionally, the ability to quickly drop large cargo and leave while under enemy fire is a necessity.

The evening's training may have only been practice, but working underneath a hovering helicopter with 200 mile-per-hour winds presents unique dangers.

"The environment you find yourself in is important to make sure you know what you not an easy one," added Montes. "There are are doing at all times and be aware of your a lot of people that are nervous, but that's surroundings." why we practice. Marines are able to get While working under an aircraft in flight, more familiar with the job and operate well Marines wear flak vests, Kevlar helmets, under these situations. Not everyone knows goggles, gloves and face masks to protect what they will do in a certain situation, but themselves from high-speed debris kicked the more times you do it, the more efficient up by roaring rotor wash.

"It's important for us to practice continuyou get." HST Marines faced more than rotor wash ally," said Riley, a native of Wausau, Wis. while attempting to attach the cement weight; "Field training is the best training you can they had to overcome the challenge of difusget because you know how you will react ing 200,000 volts of static electricity gener- under pressure. You get hands on and it helps ated by the helicopter. To do so, the Marines build muscle memory. The more times we attached grounding rods to the cargo to neaudo this the more comfortable we feel with it, tralize the deadly static. so the faster we can get in there and get the "It's an adrenaline rush being under a (he- load set up for the units. It's all about speed licopter)," said Private First Class James E. and intensity."

Riley, a landing support specialist with TS

"It's an adrenaline rush being under a helicopter"

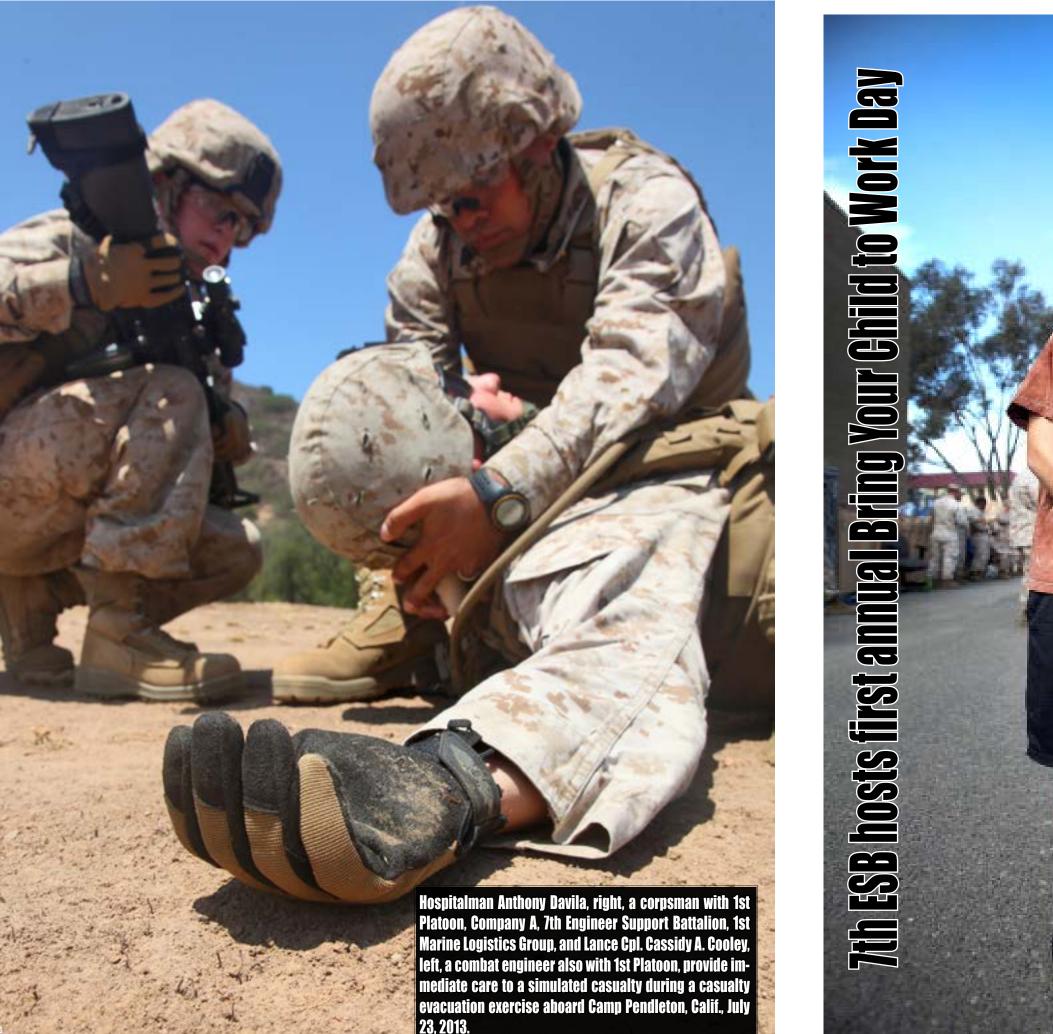
The HST Marines continue to train and Detachment, CLB-15, 1st MLG. "It hits rehearse with helicopter squadrons, refining you pretty quick and you need to be able to their skills, so they are ready to provide an stay on your feet and get the job done. It's external lift at a moments notice.



Private First Class James E. Riley, a landing support specialist with Transporta-

By Cpl. Laura Gauna

Helicopter support teams do more than attach external loads; they also set up terminals to process personnel and cargo for flights, recover downed vehicles or personnel, as well as load ships and rail cars.



Samuel, son of Navy Lt. Eric Melvin, 7th Engineer Support Battalion's chaplain, and a native of Speedway, Ind., handles the M-1014 shotgun during 7th ESB's first Bring Your Child to Work Day aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 12, 2013. The event was held to give military children a better understanding of what their parents do for a living. Throughout the afternoon, children learned about various weapons systems, EOD robots, and tactical vehicles.

By Cpl. Laura Gauna

Lieutenant Col. John D. Martinko, commanding officer, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, plays soccer with his son, Devon, and daughter, Kailey, during the 7th ESB Beach Bash party aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 18, 2013. Family and friends of Marines from 7th ESB participated in activities such as face painting, ziplining, sports and paintball.

By: Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Domingu

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Combat Engineer is ready to provide aid in Sri Lanka

Marines are asked why they joined the Marine Corps, they will likely give a number of responses. Whether they joined to serve their country or for the education benefits after their tour of duty, most responses share something in common, their world around them.

Corporal Jeremy W. Myers is one of those Marines. He joined the Marine Corps to become a combat engineer.

Originally, the engineering field appealed to him because of his fascination with high explosives and disarming improvised explosive devices. This soon evolved into something bigger than himself.

"I wanted to become a combat engineer as soon as my recruiter told me about the job," said Myers, who is now a member of Bridge Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "Apart from my job, I joined because I wanted to give back to a country that has given me so much. We were also a nation at war and I wanted to do my part in helping out."

After having some time under his belt serving the Corps throughout three deployments. Myers discovered what his true passion was in the military, his ability to use the tools he has learned to help others. He has now been given the chance to use those tools again.

"I'm motivated on a daily basis because I know I am making a

difference," said Myers, a 27-year-His Marines are a testament to old native of Mechanicsville, Md. his hard work and leadership. "Helping my junior Marines excel "Myers really does his job well," said Lance Cpl. Christina E. Maskin their daily jobs and knowing I get to help people out when the ley, a combat engineer from the time arises is what motivates me as same unit. "He motivates me. He's a combat engineer now. Which is all about being respectful and givwhy I'm excited about helping out ing courtesies to senior Marines. He's a good Marine to work with." an [undeveloped] country."

The country Myers speaks of is decision to better themselves or the Sri Lanka. Myers will be joining Cpl. Nicholas C. Wray, a combat engineer in the same unit, for Pacific Angel 13-4.

During the operation, Myers and Wray will join other members of the U.S. Armed Forces and Sri Lankan Military as they provide medical and dental aid at three separate locations.

The two combat engineers are slated to repair and reconstruct schools, including building bamboo blinds, painting walls, patching holes and constructing roofs.

"We're going to help out by [repairing] a few schools," said Myers. "I like that I'll be able to help these school kids have a good place to learn. They need to have a good environment to learn at."

When Myers is not preparing for a trip to South-East Asia, he works at the Bridge Company office. It is a change from what he has done in the past but he continues to lead as a Non-Commissioned Officer.

"Over the years I have learned how to lead others in almost any situation, to have confidence in myself and my abilities and how to handle any situation with tact and dignity." said Myers.

This will be the second time Myers has traveled outside the United States to provide engineering support to another nation.

"One of the perks of being in the military is traveling to other countries," added Myers. "Since I've joined. I've come to really enjoy traveling. I was stationed in Okinawa and have been to Thailand and the Philippines."

Myers is just one example of Marines who have learned to love the work they do. It may be traveling to exotic locations throughout the globe or supporting operations from the rear, Marines will continue to work diligently to carry out the mission.

"Over the years I have learned how to lead others in almost any situation, to have confidence in myself and my abilities and how to handle any situation with tact and dignity."

1st MLG Marines and sailors refresh lifesaving techniques

By Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez

Basic Life Support course, a one- next echelon of care," said Petty Of- battlefield environments are simuday course held twice a month for ficer 3rd Class James Allen, a hospi- lated," said Abreu, a native of the personnel to refresh their basic lifesaving skills aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 22, 2013.

The course is accredited by the American Heart Association and medical corpsmen are required to complete it every two years. It covers topics related to responding to lifethreatening emergencies such as conducting chest compressions, providing ventilation and the proper use of an automated external defibrillator.

"The BLS course is important in training corpsmen on how to provide high quality cardiopulmonary resuscitation in a hospital setting," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Aaron Christian Abreu, basic life-support program director, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st MLG. "For example, when a corpsman deploys to a hospital in Germany or a medical treatment facility overseas, once the first-line corpsmen stabilize the patients, it is up to (the hospital corpsman) to watch out for any complications and use BLS skills when needed."

The two Marines and 13 sailors from 1st MLG demonstrated both practical skills and knowledge in the class by performing chest compressions and providing ventilation to a training dummy.

"Cardiopulmonary resuscitation

wo Marines and 13 can be the one thing that keeps that also have to take courses such as sailors from 1st Ma- patient alive until emergency medi- the Tactical Combat Casualty Care rine Logistics Group cal services come to take care of course and the Advanced Combat participated in the that patient and bring them to the Tactical Training course, where tal corpsman with 1st Medical Bn.

In keeping with the Navy's high standards of training, corpsmen are course, each Marine and sailor is also required to regularly take a more knowledgeable on how to number of medical care courses be- perform BLS skills, increasing fore deploying.

"Prior to deployment, corpsmen

"Cardiopulmonary resuscitation can be the one thing that keeps that patient alive until emergency medical services come..."

Philippines.

With the completion of the their deployment readiness and ensuring that they are able to perform lifesaving procedures, whether in the field or in garrison, said Abreu.

v Marines and sailors with 1st Marine Logistics Group participate in the Basic Life Support course aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 22, 2013.





Petty Officer 3rd Class Nikolas Garhartt, a hospital corpsman with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, performs chest compressions to a training dummy during the Basic Life Support course aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 22, 2013.

Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct a regimental hike aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 19, 2013. To physically condition the service members for a combat environment, the regiment hiked more than six miles with a combat load.



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By Lance Cpl. Shaltiel Dominguez

7th ESB Marines role-play as insurgents during 13th MEU night raid

leven Marines from 7th tion, role-players from 7th ESB Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics explosive devices and concerti-Group, roleplayed as insurgents na wire around and inside buildin support of a night raid training operation conducted by Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 13th to the 13th MEU an immersive side so it helps us know (what Marine Expeditionary Unit, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 16, 2013.

The exercise was part of the fend our area," said Cpl. Kyle Composite Training Unit Exercise, a pre-deployment exercise Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB. for carrier strike groups, before departing for a six-month like heavy explosives and trip deployment. The exercise will evaluate the Boxer Amphibious duct integrated military operations at sea in realistic training their skills.

deployed simulated improvised ings at Bravo-3 combat town to provide infantrymen attached and realistic experience.

town and we're supposed to de- Mass. E. Tassinari, a squad leader with "We've got simulated traps wires."

The role-players waited well their ambush and eventually As part of the training evolu- mounted and the night raid rience."

commenced.

The Marines of 7th ESB believe the training is not only beneficial for the 13th MEU, but for themselves as well.

"We role-play the opposition's it's like to be) our enemy," said "We are guarding this whole Tassinari, a native of Palmer,

> For some Marines with less deployment experience, the exercise was a nice change of pace.

"(I've never really seen) anything like this since I've never deployed," said Lance Cpl. Kel-Ready Group's ability to con- into the evening to commence ly A. Usher, a bulk fuel specialist with 7th ESB. "It was very fired upon amphibious assault different and very educational. environments to further refine vehicles approaching the area. In case anything happens on pa-The 13th MEU infantry dis- trol, this exercise gives us expe-

Around the Group

Vehicle height restrictions:

Due to the construction of the Wire Mountain Bridge over Vandegrift Blvd., there will be clearence limitation on the southbound and northbound gate traffic beginnning Aug. 5.

The traffic height restrictions are scheduled to last until mid-January 2014.

De Luz prepares community for new school year:

The De Luz Community Center will be hosting a back-to-school event from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. on August 2.

The first 500 children from Sgt. families and below will receive free backpacks.

All participating families will be eligible to enter a raffle for school supplies and a couples night out to attend a San Diego Padres baseball game.

Pendleton works to maintain ATV safety:

When operating an ATV this summer make sure you follow these safety tips:

- Always wear protective gear.
- Do not ride with a passenger.
- Do not permit children to drive or ride adult ATVs.

Driver can contact the motorcycle training center for classes and formal training that teaches drivers how to control ATVs in typical situations at (760) 725-2897.



Parting Shot

