



# The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

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Issue 47

## 3rd Annual Motor-T event

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Shannon E. McMillan  
The Convoy Staff

SAN DIEGO, Calif. – Marines from all ranks and civilian employees from motor transport duty stations across the world attend the 3rd Annual Motor Transport Symposium held this year at the Westin Hotel in San Diego from March 30th to April 1st.

Attendees came to the event with an understanding of current operations and procedures and left with new information on what the future can and will offer. Marines and civilians alike were able to voice their concerns not only to their peers but to their senior leadership as well.

“It gets better every year,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Benino Guerrero, operations officer, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “This event, from the beginning, was to help reset the Motor-T community.”

Guerrero explained the purpose of the event was for the community to come together as a team to discuss concerns and come up



**Brig. Gen. Michael Brogan, commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and guest speaker at the 3rd Annual Motor Transport Symposium speaks to the motor transport community at the Westin Hotel, San Diego, March 31.**

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## Commandant visits EOD Marines

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Kenneth C. Jasik  
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Marines with Explosive Ordnance Disposal show the ropes to the highest Marine Corps ranking officer, Gen. James T. Conway, here at the Deluz Combat Town, March 31.

During the visit, Marines from 4th Platoon, 1st EOD Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, demonstrated different tactics, techniques and procedures used in Iraq and Afghanistan.

After the demonstration, the Marines were given the opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions on particular challenges and possible solutions to the CMC.

“Rarely does a sergeant or staff sergeant get an opportunity to talk to the commandant like that,” said Chief Warrant Officer Jason H. Perry, operations officer, 4th Plt., 1st EOD Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

He further explained it was a



**Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason H. Perry shows Gen. James T. Conway the details of the training exercise at Deluz Combat Town here, March 31. During the visit, Marines from 4th Platoon, 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Demonstrated different tactics, techniques and procedures used in Iraq and Afghanistan. The CMC was able to view tactical robots in action during his visit.**

productive opportunity. The visit from the CMC gave the Marines a chance to show the commandant exactly what challenges they face and the possible solutions to overcome them.

The challenges and problems talked about during the open discussion were based on scenarios that occurred in Afghanistan and Iraq. The demonstration showed the skills and equipment necessary to perform the mission.

As the demonstration took place not only did Conway get to see how the Marines conduct standard operating procedures, but he also observed how the Marines utilized tactical robots, an important asset of the Marines in EOD.

The commandant was able to view the capabilities of the Packbot by iRobot and the Talon by Foster Miller, QinetiQ. These robots perform a variety of tasks that have aided the armed forces since 2000.

“It had a positive impact for the EOD community,” said Staff Sgt. Robert Perez, EOD techni-

cian, 1st EOD Co. It was a great chance for the unit to talk directly to the commandant, he said.

The discussion brought up particular problems that the EOD community is currently trying to solve. They talked about difficulties in planning with a high amount of failures at their demanding military occupation specialty school. Also, they suggested a course for EOD team leaders that will teach skills to Marines that have not seen much use in Iraq and Afghanistan but will likely be seen in the future.

The techniques EOD demonstrated to Conway showed the individual problems EOD faces. The unit was glad that they had a chance to bring the issues up to the commandant so they can be solved. With the changes EOD is looking for, they will be able to support the operating forces to an even greater extent than they are now.

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**Staff Sgt. Justin E. Schmalstieg, 4th Platoon, 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, begins working on a buried simulated improvised explosive device during a training exercise at Deluz Combat Town here, March 31.**

# Marine Fights Fires and Terrorism in Afghanistan

Story and Photos by  
Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin  
Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan -- Deep in the sands of Afghanistan, a Marine reservist, who is also a volunteer firefighter, carries out the missions placed upon him.

Lance Cpl. Thomas Hind brings enthusiasm and dedication to every endeavor from installing computers to raising money for wounded warriors.

Before joining the Marine Corps, Hind, a 25-year-old East Meadow, N.Y., native, spent part of his time as a volunteer firefighter at the East Meadow Fire Department Ladder 1 and still volunteers today.

"I've been a firefighter for [more than six years]," said Hind, a generator operator assigned to the Communications Maintenance Section, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). Hind's parent command is 4th Marine Logistics Group, a reserve unit based in Brooklyn, N.Y., and his primary mission here is to provide the necessities of communication to 1st MLG (FWD), from satellites to computers.

Hind's desire to help people was one of the reasons he be-



**Lance Cpl. Thomas Hind, 25, of East Meadow, N.Y., works on building a pull-up bar at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 30. Hind is a volunteer firefighter with the East Meadow Fire Department Ladder 1 and is currently on his first deployment to Afghanistan as a generator operator electrician from the Communications Maintenance Section, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward).**

came a firefighter.

"It's good helping out people, and I like the type of camaraderie we have at the fire station," said Hind.

The firefighters of Nassau County, New York, where Hind volunteers, visit Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington D.C., Womack Army Medical Center in Fort Bragg, N.C., the Wounded Warrior Battalion at

Camp Lejeune, N.C. and the Bethesda National Naval Medical Center in Maryland, called "Operation Wounded Warrior."

"With Operation Wounded Warrior we visit these hospitals and hand out iPods, backpacks and things they may need," Hind said.

He also said that the program started a few years ago because some of the firemen were wound-

ed veterans. Every year since then, they have raised money by having fundraisers and pie sales, and collecting donations from local businesses to purchase items for wounded warriors.

"We raise close to \$100,000 every year," Hind said with a look of excitement on his face. "That's a big part of the organization."

The dedication he brought to fundraising is similar to the dedication he has brought to the workplace as a Marine.

"Lance Cpl. Hind is a very hard worker," said Staff Sgt. Stewart Hanna, communications maintenance chief, Headquarters and Service Company, 1st MLG (FWD). "He's one of my go-to guys and needs little or no supervision at all."

Hind joined the Marine Corps in December 2005, a year after becoming a volunteer firefighter. He is currently on his first deployment to Afghanistan and is happy to be a part of the mission of 1st MLG (FWD).

"It feels good to be here," Hind said. "I don't have any complaints because this is where I'm needed."

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## Transport

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with solutions.

In addition to discussing successful operating procedures, the attendees were also briefed on future plans that will support the war-fighters who are forward and those who will be deploying in the near future.

"As we discussed concerns, we came up with solutions. This provides an opportunity for all shops throughout the Corps to run the same way," said Guerrero, who is one of the original creators of the symposium.

During the event, classes were given on a variety of topics that effected the Motor-T population. Topics of concern included new equipment, school seats in furthering a Marine's military occupation specialty education, special duty stations and future logistical support.

As the classes were conduct-

ed, there was a discussion period with the attendees. This provided an opportunity for those who had concerns to speak freely to those who may have solutions.

"It's great to get the community together," said Brig. General Michael Brogan, commander, Marine Corps Systems Command and guest speaker of the event.

He explained it provides an opportunity to gather and bring up situations to senior leadership who are the ones that need to hear it and who can fix it.

Over the years the attendance for the event has grown, which seems to correlate with the positive changes and improvements being made out in the fleet.

"A few years ago I saw us at 93 percent (work proficiency), now I see us around 95," Guerrero said. "I plan on attending next year and look forward to the upcoming results."

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**Sgt. Raymond Kiser, platoon sergeant, Service Plt., General Motor Transport, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 and Charles Bell, team leader with Embedded Platform Logistics System explains to attendees of the 3rd Annual Motor Transport Symposium, at the Westin Hotel, San Diego, March 31, the new technology advances.**

# United Through Reading program helps deployed service members stay connected with families

Story and photos by  
Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar  
Forward Staff

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Saying goodbye to their families has always been one of the hardest parts of deployment for troops, and now there's a way for them to stay connected with their families while deployed overseas.

The United Through Reading program helps service members stay connected with their loved ones who are supporting them back at home by allowing troops to record and read aloud books to their children and then mail the recordings to their families on DVD's.

"The program was designed so that deployed Marines and sailors can keep in touch with their children back home and vice versa," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher D. Herrera, religious program specialist for Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). "The family can also get in touch with [the service members] by sending a reaction video of the children back to them."

The program provides an opportunity to reduce the stress of military families separated by deployment, said Herrera, 34, of Killeen, Texas. It also reduces the anxiety upon reunion and helps the children recognize their deployed parents when they see the Marines and sailors for the first time when service members come back from their deployment.

"It's a great way for the Marines [and sailors] to keep bonding with the families even when they're not around for an important part of their child development," said Herrera. "It helps the children remember who they are by constantly seeing the deployed parent's face."

Service members can sign up for a recording session by contacting their unit's religious program specialist who can be found in the Chaplain's office. They can then select a book title that they want to read to their kids. After

that, they will be directed to a United Through Reading center where they can record their read aloud.

"[Service members] can request whether they want to read a book or series of books," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Richard Mensah, religious program specialist for 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion, who serves as a liaison for troops who want to participate in the program.

Herrera is working on finding a location to open up a United Through Reading center for deployed Marines and sailors of 1st MLG (FWD). For the time being, service members deployed to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, can participate in the program at the United Through Reading center located inside the Chaplain's office by the Life Support Area 2.

"Marines can come and use the program as many times as they want," said Mensah, 21, from Ghana, Africa. "I have had over 50 Marines and sailors come and participate in the program in a period of six months. If they want to make five recordings, I'll allow them to do it."

According to Mensah, Marines and sailors who have participated in the program always come back and tell him how wonderful the program is, and how much their families love it.

"From the last deployment, we had a lot of Marines that ended up crying when they saw the reaction videos of their children," said Herrera. "After working and being busy all day at whatever job they're doing, their mind is not really focused on their children. Seeing those videos put them in tears."

Religious program specialists run the program for Marines and sailors in their units. They try to inform service members in their unit about the program and make it available for everyone to use.

"Since our Marines are everywhere, I go out to some of the [forward operating bases] with some books, a video camera and a tripod and do the recordings there so those Marines have the opportunity to use the program," Men-



**Staff Sgt. Juan Carachure, supply administrative clerk with Combat Logistics Company 252, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, reads aloud in front of a video camera so he can send it to his 5-year-old daughter back home during a session of the United Through Reading program on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, March 31.**

sah said.

Mensah modified the program so even Marines without children can still send messages home to their families. The program was meant for the troops to read books to their children, but he expands the program by allowing troops to send messages back home in ways that Marines felt comfortable.

"I have people who have made a song and sang it to the camera to send it back to their families," Mensah said.

Even though deployed service members have to say goodbye to their families, they still get to be a part of their families' lives even halfway around the world.

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## Happenings

### Blood Drive

Marine Corps Family Team Building Blood Drive is scheduled to be held at the Marine Corps Family Team Building and Family Readiness Center here, April 20. For more information, contact Randy Johnson at (760) 763-7422 or visit [www.militarydonor.com](http://www.militarydonor.com).

### Paintball Tournament

A free paintball tournament April 9, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. will be held at Camp Pendleton's Tournament Paintball Park. Lunch will be provided to all participants. This will be open to the first 16 five-man teams. For more information call 760 725-6722

### Del Mar Beach Rescue Project

Support the Go Green initiative by helping to clean up Del Mar Beach April 24, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. All are welcome for "Fun in the Sun." After the clean-up, stay to join in on group volleyball, refreshments, wine tasting and much more. Your MCX and Gallo Wine Co. are coordinating this event. For more information, please call 725-6233.

### The Base Theater

**Mon-Tues - CLOSED**  
**Wednesday** -Percy Jackson & Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) 6:30 p.m.  
**Thursday** - The Wolfman (R) 6:30 p.m.  
**Friday** - Shutter Island (R) 6 p.m. The Craziest (R) 9 p.m.  
**Saturday** - Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief (PG) 3:30 p.m. Valentine's Day (PG-13) 6:15 p.m.  
Cop Out (R) 9 p.m.  
**Sunday** - !!Free Movies!!  
The Blind Side (PG-13) 1 p.m.  
Planet 51 (G) 4 p.m. Sherlock Holmes (PG-13) 6:30 p.m.

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### Visit the 1st Marine Logistics Group

To see photos of you and your unit, become a member of our Facebook Group and check the following sites for updates:  
-Marines.mil  
-dvidshub.net/units/1-MLG  
-facebook:  
Group name "1st Marine Logistics Group"

For more information or ideas that you want to see in this publication, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

# Photos from the 1st Marine Logistics Group

## CLR 17 hosts All Hands Sports and Health Day

Story and Photos by  
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The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDELTON, Calif. – It was a relaxing day for the service members and their families of Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Participants were given an opportunity to unwind and enjoy the festivities of the All Hands Sports and Health Day at Lake O'Neil here, April 2.

Events such as this are used as an opportunity to relax, build camaraderie and spend time with friends and loved ones.

The function gave the regiment a break. The unit has been working very hard with various deployments and needed a breather, said Col. Bruce E. Nickle, commanding officer, CLR-17.

The function held various events, which included a rock wall, miniature golf, pony rides, Easter egg hunts and a basketball and volleyball tournament. Events held at the function were geared not only for military families, but for everyone to enjoy.

"It was good to actually relax for once," said Lance Cpl. Jeremy M. Brooks, landing support specialist, CLR-17.

Many Marines at the event enjoyed having a chance to spend time with co-workers outside of the normal work environment.

These events are important because they help build camaraderie within the regiment and it gives the Marines a chance to get to know each other outside of a work atmosphere, said Christina J. Chilleme, coordinator with Marine Corps Community Services, CLR-17.

Along with coordinated events, service members at the All Hands Sports and Health Day enjoyed a day of barbecuing, music and dancing.

Service members and military families left with more than what they came with; some with presents from the Easter bunny, others with trophies from a tournament, but all left with memorable moments.

"I'm looking forward to having more (events like this) in the future," said Brooks.

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(Above) CLR 17 Headquarters Co.'s softball team poses after winning the CLR 17 softball tournament at Lake O'Neil April, 2 2010.



(Left) Staff Sgt. Timothy A. Collings, the Unit Movement Control Center chief, 1st Marine Logistics Group, teaches his son, Alexander M. Collings, to putt at Lake O'Neil, here, during the CLR 17 All Hands Sports and Health Day on April 2.



(Above) Cpl. Travis S. Starnes and Cpl. Charlie A. Streetzel, face off wearing sumo suits at the CLR 17 All Hands Sports and Health Day April 2.

(Right) Sgt. Shannon K. Johnston bats during the softball tournament at the All Hands Sports and Health Day April 2 at Lake O'Neil.

