



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

July 14, 2009
Issue 12

JEC helps Marines earn college degree

Story by Lance Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – He works as an administrative operations clerk, but his ultimate goal is to one day become an architect. Going to college is the first step.

Pfc. Christopher Kolbe, supply administration operations clerk, with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, started with drafting and architecture in high school and is pursuing his goal by using all of the services the Joint Education Center has to offer.

"I always liked building things and working with my hands," said Kolbe, 19, from San Bernardino, Calif. "I used to watch my dad build things as I was younger, and as I grew up, I started to pick up on it."

Kolbe is a soft-spoken person at about five feet six inches tall. He is also married with no children. After graduating from high school, Kolbe joined the Marine Corps. He was influenced by a friend, who took the same step.

"I joined the Marine Corps to make self improvement," Kolbe said. "It was also a way to have a steady career."

Even with a steady paycheck, Kolbe wanted to continue his education.

"I want to go to college to get a better education, I'm not afraid to say it," Kolbe said. "I meet a lot of people who don't want to go to college simply because they are scared to go."

The JEC offers opportunities for Marines, sailors and civilians to further their education. Each person, just like Kolbe, has the option to have a counselor help them choose the

» See EDUCATION, PAGE 2



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin
Pfc. Christopher Kolbe, 19, a supply administration operations clerk with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, speaks with a counselor about possible colleges he could attend, at the Joint Education Center July 7.

HST gets carried away



Photo by Sgt. Brian Lautenslager

U.S. Marines with Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, watch as the 12,000 pound target they attached is lifted by a CH-53E from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. The targets will be used for live fire training on Camp Pendleton. For more HST photos, see Page 4.

Maintenance Marines perform high-octane mission

Story by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – There's no "I" in team, but there's teamwork in Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Motor Transport Maintenance Co. uses teamwork on a daily basis to take care of the Marines and increase work productivity.

"We're here to take care of each other," said Cpl. Aleta A. Ammerman, 21, from Crawfordsville, Ind., a diesel mechanic with MTM Co. "If someone needs help, the Marines will jump in and offer it."

The third echelon maintenance shop replaces main components in vehicles ranging from engines to transmissions. The Marines work as a team installing parts to get the vehicles back to their units. Not too long before the Marines start working, they're welcomed to the company during a shop gathering after work.

"Once a quarter the shop has a party to welcome the new Marines and say farewell to the ones leaving," said Gunnery Sgt. Covid L. Hackshaw, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, 2nd Platoon, MTM Co. "The new Marines get to see the respect and admiration the shop has for the ones getting out."

The MTM shop conducts these events at the bowling alley on base or at Lake O'Neil. When the Marines are at the lake, they usually cookout and play a team sport such as football, volleyball or softball.

"We play sections versus sections," said



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

Lance Cpl. Javier E. Meza, 22, from Las Vegas, Lance Cpl. Trevor A. Chapman, 23, from Norwich, Conn., and Pfc. Joshua A. Lopez, 18, from Tucson, Ariz., mechanics with Motor Transport Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, adjusts a door on a 7-ton truck to make it seal tighter at Camp Pendleton July 7. Motor Transport Maintenance Co. uses teamwork on a daily basis to take care of the Marines and increase work productivity.

Cpl. Richie T. Mejia, the hazardous materials noncommissioned officer with MTM Co. "The winner has bragging rights and proof that they're the best"

While playing the competitive sport, the MTM Marines use teamwork to coordinate a plan to reach a common goal, defeat the opponent and win the game.

"The Marines here have a lot of pride in this

company," said Staff Sgt. Brian J. Zadrozny, 31, from Chicago, the company gunnery sergeant of MTM Co. "This allows them to feel more part of a team."

After the Marines get done playing a sport during the shop functions, they don't leave the cohesion they used at the field.

» See TEAMWORK, PAGE 2

7th ESB Marines to receive award

3 Marines nominated by Marine Corps Engineer Association

Story by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Three staff noncommissioned officers within 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, have been nominated to receive awards for their leadership by the Marine Corps Engineer Association at the annual awards banquet in Las Vegas Oct. 14.

The Marine Corps Engineer Association works in conjunction with Headquarters Marine Corps to recognize and honor outstanding leadership and achievements of individual Marines within the engineer related fields.

Gunnery Sgt. Serjio C. Gonzales, the platoon commander with Operations Platoon, 1st Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG was nominated for bulk fuel staff noncommissioned officer of the year.

"It was a shock when I found out I won the award because I felt like I just did my job," said Gonzales, 36, from Gridley, Calif. "It really boils down to my Marines, coworkers and leaders; it's through their diligence, work and leadership that I won this award."

While deployed to Iraq, Gonzales operated security teams to provide protection for convoys. Many of the Marines he worked with recognized his personal commitment to his troops.

"Gunny Gonzales always kept in mind his junior Marines by putting them first before himself," said Cpl. Michael D. Linn, a bulk fuel specialist with Bulk Fuel Company. "Whenever a mission came down the pipe, he would inform the troops in a timely matter and made sure they had everything for their welfare and the mission."

Linn, 23, from St. Cloud, Minn., stated that Gonzales would visit with Marines in Iraq about their families and personal problems to make sure there wasn't anything wrong. If there was, he would do what he could to help fix the problem.

Gunnery Sgt. Clifford J. Williford, the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Operations Platoon, Company C, 7th ESB,



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank



Photo Courtesy of DVIDS

Gunnery Sgt. Serjio C. Gonzales (left), platoon commander for Operations Platoon, 1st Bulk Fuel Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, Gunnery Sgt. Clifford J. Williford (middle), the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of Operations Platoon, Company C, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG, and Staff Sgt. Stephen H. Kuester, platoon sergeant for Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 1st MLG, received awards for leadership by the Marine Corps Engineer Association. The Marine Corps Engineer Association works in conjunction with Headquarters Marine Corps to recognize and honor outstanding leadership and achievements of individual Marines within engineer related fields.

"It really boils down to my Marines, coworkers and leaders; it's through their diligence, work and leadership that I won this award."

Gunnery Sgt. Serjio C. Gonzales

Marine Corps Engineer Association award recipient

1st MLG also cares greatly about the health and welfare of his troops. Williford, 33, from Dorris, Calif., was nominated for Engineer Staff Noncommissioned Officer of the Year.

"It's an honor to receive this award," Williford said. "My Marines are the ones who made me look good by working their tails off while deployed and back here in garrison."

Williford planned and supervised missions during his deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He added that his Marines got every job done successfully by not missing a timeline.

"During missions in Iraq, Gunny Williford

would constantly be on the move, never taking a break," said Sgt. Mario Munoz, a heavy equipment mechanic with Engineer Equipment Platoon, Support Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG.

Munoz, 31, from Paramount, Calif., stated that Gunny Williford got down and dirty and helped pull out Hesco barriers. He would also be teaching his Marines information about the job to be more proficient.

"Gunny Williford would also push us to test and know our limits and pass knowledge on to the junior Marines," said Lance Cpl. Marco A. Martinez, 23, from San Antonio, a

heavy equipment dispatcher with Engineer Equipment Platoon, Support Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "He taught me how to better communicate with heavy equipment operators when ground guiding them."

Staff Sgt. Stephen H. Kuester, an Urbana, Ohio, native, has been recognized for his leadership abilities by the Marine Corps Engineer Association. He has been named the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Unit Technician of the Year.

"I was surprised when I heard I won the award because I never thought this would happen to me," said Kuester, 30, platoon sergeant for EOD Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "It's an honor to be the EOD Tech of the Year."

"He's a really good guy and a very solid staff (noncommissioned officer)," said Staff Sgt. Clayton Rue, Explosives Ordnance Disposal Technician with EOD Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "You probably won't find someone (who will) work harder."

jacob.singsank@usmc.mil

TEAMWORK

Continued from Page 1

"We take our teamwork from the sports field to the shop," said Mejia, 21, from Sedro-Woolley, Wash. "Everything we do involves teamwork"

One Marine could work on the transmission and another one on the engine to fix the same vehicle at an increased pace.

The MTM Marines work together in being more proficient when fixing vehicles. This makes the process faster and easier on them.

"At times, this job can be monotonous and boring," said Hackshaw, 40, from Camber Heights, N.Y. "Some days the Marines are fixing the same problems on vehicles over and over again."

Hackshaw stated that they commonly are replacing blown engines with new ones on humvees.

The teamwork MTM Marines use effects the whole Marine Corps. By them completing their mission, other Marines can complete theirs.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
Cpl. Aleta A. Ammerman works on a Humvee at Camp Pendleton July 7.

"Teamwork allows our mission accomplishment and keeps I MEF combat ready," said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Lorenzo A. Townsend, the company commander of MTM Co.

Townsend, 49, from Killeen, Texas stated that the Marines are motivated to deploy and ready for when the call comes down; Afghanistan is their next calling.

EDUCATION

Continued from Page 1

right college, so they can get as much information as possible.

"There are a million and one services people can use here," said Pat Jeffress, branch manager for the JEC. "Even though we have all of these opportunities not many people use them."

Marines get \$4,500 in Tuition Assistance every fiscal year to use for college courses. There are also many useful methods to use when going to college that the JEC can help set up. There are local colleges around base and classes for college on base. Classes can even be taken online, so education can continue while overseas or deployed. Marines can also earn college credit through the College Level Examination Program.



Courtesy Photo

The Joint Education Center offers education counseling to service members.

"Most people are wasting a benefit," said Jeffress, from Riverside, Calif. "This is the opportunity to prepare themselves for the transition out of the military. Most people don't even get this kind of opportunity."

For more information, contact the Joint Education Center at 760-725-6414.

Visit the 1st Marine Logistics Group

- victorythroughlogistics.vox.com
- flickr.com/photos/victorythroughlogistics
- dvidshub.net/units/1-MLG
- myspace.com/1stmlg
- youtube.com/user/1stmlg
- facebook: Group name "1st MLG"

For more information, please contact the 1st MLG Public Affairs Office at (760) 763-7795.

The Convoy Staff

- Public Affairs Officer.....1st Lt. Kendra N. Hardesty
- Press ChiefStaff Sgt. Matthew P. Shelato
- Editor.....Sgt. Jennifer D. Brofer
- Editor.....Cpl. Tyler B. Barstow
- Reporter.....Lance Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
- Reporter.....Lance Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin
- Reporter.....Pfc. Khoa Pelczar

Afghan flag raises above Khan Neshin

Flag signals arrival of Afghan governance for first time in south

Story by Cpl. Aaron Rooks
2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

KHAN NESHIN, Afghanistan - The Afghan national flag was raised above Khan Neshin castle in the Rig District Center July 8 for the first time, signaling the arrival of Afghan governance in

the southern reaches of Helmand province.

Khan Neshin and the areas south of the Helmand River have never experienced the sustained presence of coalition forces or Afghan national security forces, until now, seven days after the beginning of

Operation Khanjar.

"The number one question we get from the people is, 'when are you leaving?'" said Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commanding general of Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan. "The answer is we're not leaving until

the transition for security is made to the provincial government, to include the Afghan forces."

"...we're not leaving until the transition for security is made to the provincial government, to include Afghan forces."

Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson

commanding general, Marine

Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan



Photo by Cpl. Aaron Rooks

The Afghan national flag was raised above Khan Neshin castle in the Rig District Center, July 8, for the first time, signaling the arrival of Afghan governance in the southern reaches of Helmand province.

william.rooks@afg.usmc.mil

Retired Marine teaches scuba diving lessons

Story by Lance Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Underwater, there's a world that can be difficult to imagine full of fish and colorful plant life. To some people it's a dream to interact with that underwater world. But there's a man on base who can help make that dream a reality.

Retired Capt. Ray Simon, 53, from New London, Conn., teaches scuba lessons to Marines, sailors and civilians at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

Simon owns The Scuba Center located at the 14 area swimming pool and has been the owner since he opened it in 1993.

He began recreational diving overseas in 1974 while serving with the Marine Corps. He became a dive professional in 1986.

Once retired, he decided that owning a scuba shop was how he would spend his retirement. He had traveled the world and dove in numerous exotic places.

"I've been a lot of places diving, like the Red Sea near Egypt and ice diving in Alaska,"

said Simon. "Everything is so beautiful (underwater)."

Simon is a Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI) Course Director, Divers Alert Network Instructor Trainer, an Atlantis/Dolphin Rebreather Instructor Trainer, as well as a Tec-Deep Instructor Trainer. As one of only a dozen PADI Course Directors in the state of California, he has a reputation for extensive experience, vast dive knowledge, and strong, honest business practices.

"He is a great diver and instructor," said Omaira Moore, Customer Service representative for The Scuba Center. "Everything I know and learn I get from him and the stories he tells about his experiences," said Moore, 27, from Venezuela.

Before students hop off the boat and into the ocean, they have to start small. Simon starts his course in the swimming pool so that his pupils can get used to the scuba gear and get over their fears if they have any.

"I knew very little about dry suit use," said Emma A. Williams, 56, from Escondido, Calif., about the new equipment she was using. A dry suit prevents water from entering and is

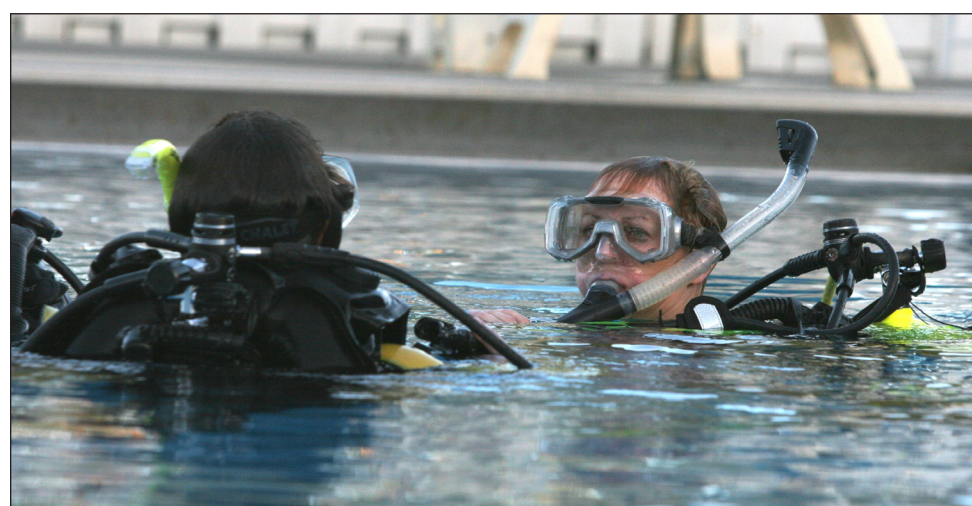


Photo by Lance Cpl. Jerrick J. Griffin

Emma A. Williams, 56, from Escondido, Calif. practices adjusting weights to stay submerged during a scuba diving course July 8 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

used for the cold water associated with scuba diving. "I relied on Ray's experience and help to find an appropriate suit for a beginner. I needed something that would not add extra buoyancy to complicate my underwater photography, especially since I was not used to diving with any weights at all."

Simon's course has many stages which include multiple hours of cold water instruction, technical diving and some salvage diving.

"Since I was unaccustomed to using the (dry suit), Ray had to catch me a few times

before I learned the best position for fine tuning my buoyancy," Williams said.

"If you can imagine being weightless in an undersea adventure," Simon says to the students before they take their plunge into the depths of the pool, "you have taken the first step into scuba diving."

To sign up for courses, contact The Scuba Center at 760-725-5910 or visit the 14 Area swimming pool. The open water course is taught on a weekly basis, Monday through Thursday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.

jerrick.griffin@usmc.mil

Photos from around the 1st Marine Logistics Group

A look at what Marines and their units are doing this week



Photos by Sgt. Brian Lautenslager

(Left) U.S. Marines with Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, run out from under a CH-53E helicopter with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 465, Marine Aircraft Group 16, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif. July 8. (Above) U.S. Marines with Helicopter Support Team, Landing Support Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG, prepare to load a 12,000 pound metal target to a CH-53E helicopter with HMH-465, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, MCAS Miramar, Calif. The targets will be used for live fire training on Camp Pendleton. (Bottom left) A CH-53E helicopter from HMH-465, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, MCAS Miramar, Calif., transfers a 12,000-pound target to a live fire range. (Bottom right) Sgt. Dustin Bert, Helicopter Support Team, shows Capt. Justin Amthor, a CH-53E pilot with HMH-465, MAG-16, 3rd MAW, MCAS Miramar, Calif., where to drop the 12,000-pound targets during a pre-load brief July 8.



Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and his commanders and staff, visited Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center Bridgeport July 10-12 to discuss the new commander's intent and plans for the 1st MLG. Hudson, 50, from Zirconia, N.C., took command of the 1st MLG June 26 and used the weekend with his command leaders to introduce himself and his ideals.

