



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

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Corpsmen honor Navy veterans

Story and photo by
Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Whenever a Marine falls, there's always a Navy corpsman nearby to treat and care for that Marine. Since World War II, corpsmen have been working with Marines. To this day, that tradition hasn't changed.

The American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen worked together with Company C, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, to provide veterans a site visit through Field Medical Training Battalion and the corpsmen's training site at Box Canyon, Sept. 25.

"Field Medical Training Battalion provides training for Navy Hospital Corpsmen in preparation for going out to the Fleet Marine Force," said Lt. j.g. Brook Borden, the S-3 planning officer for 1st Medical Bn.

Things have changed since these veterans last worked, said Borden, 37, from Golden, Colorado. The purpose of the visit was to show them how today's Navy hospital corpsmen train in preparation for deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan.

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Unleashing the Beast



Photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar

Takelsho J. Gordon, running back for the Beast, breaks a tackle and continues to advance during 1st Marine Logistics Group's match-up against 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, at the 11 Area football field, Sept. 22. To read the full story, see Page 3.

Working Dogs keep Marines safe



Cpl. Bryan N. Manthey and his military working dog, Zzisko, work side by side.

Story and photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – "Watch him! Watch him!" is all it takes for a seemingly docile canine to transform into a trained killer, its snarling teeth exposed as it readies to attack.

When Horst, a 7-year-old German Shepherd and military working dog, hears the command from his handler, he instantly prepares to take down the enemy. When the command "Bite!" is given, Horst rushes his attacker in the blink of an eye, grabbing onto the enemy's arm with the utmost strength – and not letting go.

Military working dogs have helped Marines on and off the battlefield for years, but their training continues to adapt to

new circumstances. To become more familiar in a combat environment, Military Working Dogs and their handlers headed out to San Mateo here for field training, Sept. 26, with Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group.

The dogs were brought out to the field so they could experience a live-fire movement while working together with Marines, explained Sgt. Alfred C. Nieto, working dog handler with Military Police Support Co., 1st Marine Headquarters Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

"(By bringing the dogs) out here, we can get them used to things we encounter on a daily basis and have them operating with a Marine squad," he said. "They need to be able to adapt and work

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Petty Officer 2nd Class Vincent Falcetta, a corpsman with Company C, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st MLG, stands next to two Navy veterans during the American Association of Navy Hospital Corpsmen site visit to Box Canyon, Sept. 25. During the visit, veterans got to see the modern-day 'mobile ER' tent that corpsmen use on the battlefield.

Beast stomps rivals 28-13

Story by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — “Off-fense, ‘clap, clap, clap!’ Off-fense, ‘clap, clap, clap!’” The crowd went wild as they cheered for the Beast. All eyes were on the field as the referee blew the whistle signifying the start of a football game between 1st Marine Logistics Group’s football team, the Beast, and 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division’s Cannon Cockers, at the 11 Area football field, Sept. 22.

Right from the start, the Beast took control of the game. The defense did their job by making sure their opponent wouldn’t advance. The offense intensified the team’s spirits by scoring the first touchdown of the game and completing a two-point conversion, putting eight points on the scoreboard for the Beast.

“It feels good to put one on the board for the team,” said Raymell D. Stewart, a small arms repair technician for Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st MLG.

Stewart, running back for the Beast, used an opening on the right side of the field to run the ball into the end zone — too fast on his feet for the Cannon Cockers’ defense to react.

“I have to give it to our linemen,” said Stewart, 23, from Los Angeles.

“Our line is moving the ball and making things happen. I couldn’t have done it without my line.”

Cannon Cockers saw the situation as a wake-up call, and the team started to run better plays and tighten up their defense. The score remained 8-0 for the rest of first quarter.

The two teams fought hard for every inch, both refusing to give in. The ball was punted up and down the field by both sides. The second quarter was about to be over and the two teams battled to a stalemate. Just when things started to even out, the Beast broke the silence by scoring another touchdown with less than two minutes left in the first half, bringing the score to 14-0.

Knowing that they were behind, Cannon Cockers stepped up their game and pushed the Beast back to maintain their position. Their hard work paid off as they scored a touchdown, followed by a field goal, closing the gap to 14-7.

The touchdown drove the Beast to play harder and more intense. Their hunger to score more touchdowns was satisfied when Richardson Jacques, running back, scored another touchdown for the Beast, increasing the score to 20-7.

Cannon Cockers replied to the touchdown immediately with an impressive 65-yard kick-return run that brought them two yards away from the end zone. After a hard fight for those few yards, they



Photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar

Isiah F. Beauchamp, running back, ‘juked out’ his opponents and advances forward toward the end zone during 1st Marine Logistics Group’s match-up against 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, at the 11 Area football field, Sept. 22.

scored at the last second of the third quarter, changing the score to 20-13.

The Beast came in strong in the fourth quarter. Steven V. Wade, wide receiver, topped it off with another touchdown. The Beast ended the game with their season’s first win by completing another two-point conversion with a final score of 28-13.

The Beast’s coaches congratulated the team for their win, said they played well, hustled hard and deserved the win. The coaches also liked the team’s attitude that they brought in the game and wanted them to carry it over to every game left in the season.

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CORPSMEN

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Corpsmen with Company C, 1st Medical Bn., 1st MLG, set up their training site the way they will set it set up overseas, to include a “mobile ER” tent, which can respond quicker to injured Marines in combat. The veterans cycled through each tent as corpsmen explained how each one operates, from the Shock Trauma Platoon and the Forward Resuscitative Surgical System to End Route Care where they evacuate patients once they’re stabilized.

“The purpose of the mobile [Shock Trauma Platoon] and mobile [Forward Resuscitative Surgical System] is to bring medical care closer to the injury site and to the fight,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Vincent Falcetta, a corpsman of Company C, 1st Medical Bn., 1st MLG. “Sometimes, it’s too far away to move the patient back to garrison.”

The Shock Trauma Platoon consists of an emergency room doctor, a family practice doctor, a handful of corpsmen and a nurse, explained Falcetta, 24, from Fort Leatherswood, Fla. This way, “docs” can treat and stabilize the patient right on-site.

After they showed these AAoNHC members through the camp site, a memorial was set up to pay tribute to those corpsmen who sacrificed their lives in past wars. The chaplain also said a few words. Then together, they read aloud the names on the list of corpsmen who have been killed in action.

“Our organization is nationwide,” said Retired Chief Petty Officer Harry D. Penny Jr. “We have annual meetings to keep the traditions alive. The corpsmen standing in front of us today, their names might have changed, but the traditions continue.”

WORKING DOG

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it through.”

It’s important for the dogs to become familiarized with their surroundings and the sounds of gunfire because it could easily become a hazard out in the battlefield if the dog isn’t properly trained, clarified Nieto. If the dog freaks out during battle and the handler tries to control his dog while having live rounds loaded, he could possibly flag the entire platoon of Marines and endanger those around him.

“Mission accomplishment is one of the most important things in the Marine Corps,” Nieto said. “Keeping our numbers up is a part of mission accomplishment.”

On a daily basis, these dogs are constantly training; everything from doing line drills or taking them on hikes, to having them run through obstacle courses, explained Nieto. Sometimes the dogs also get to go out with a patrol unit or a convoy exercise.

Handlers teach their dogs the five phases of aggression and how to react accordingly to each command.

Phase one, “bite,” is when the dog is ordered to take down the fleeing suspect by force. During phase two, “stand-off,” the suspect surrenders or is taken down by the dog, and the dog lets go of the suspect. If the suspect tries to escape again, though, then the dog receives the command to enter phase three, “re-attack.”

Phase four is simply “search,” in which the dog approaches to check out strangers, making sure they have nothing dangerous on them. Phase five, “field interview,” is when the dog and trainer come up to a stranger who tries to enter the base to make certain the person has a good reason to enter.

“Everything is a game to the dogs,” added Nieto, 24, from San Antonio. “So it’s instantaneous how their aggression changes from chill and calm to tearing a man apart.”

Military Working Dogs are trained to obey orders instantly, which is important in a life or death situation.

“If the suspect flees, (the dog is) one step less than lethal, right below a gun,” said Cpl. Ramiro Olguin, working dog handler with Military Police Support Company, 1st Marine Headquarters Group, I MEF.

“These dogs are trained,” added Olguin, 22, from Eagle Pass, Texas. “It takes months and years to train these dogs. They’re trained to attack and they’re trained to find explosives.”

After months of training, eventually the dog and handler develop a special bond.

“Me and my dog, Horst, he’s a part of me,” said Olguin of his faithful four-legged partner who waits by his side. “Rapport building is very important, it never ends.”

Military Working Dogs have worked side by side with Marines on the battlefield for years, helping them to accomplish the mission. Through proper training, man’s best friend can continue to keep Marines safer in combat.

Unique convoy reaches Marines at remote outposts

Story by Cpl. Daniel Flynn
Regimental Combat Team 3

HELMAND PROVINCE, Afghanistan — When Marines and sailors are deployed in remote locations, they don't take much for granted. The basic hygiene items that most people just pick up at the local convenience store are not always readily available for these service members.

A platoon with Regimental Combat Team 3's MRAP Company, which is named such for the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles it operates with, has been co-located with Marines from 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, RCT-3, at several distant combat outposts (COPs) for the last few months, according to Gunnery Sgt. David R. Hickman, 4th platoon commander.

The MRAP Co. Marines, who normally operate Amphibian Assault Vehicles, are attached to RCT-3 from Company D, 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, based in Camp Lejeune, N.C.

To bring the Marines at these outlying posts some much needed items, the company transported the Mobile Post Exchange and Dispersing from Camp Dwyer to six different COPs along Route 605 in Nawa District.

"We brought the PX and dispersing to the Marines because they

were starting to run low on necessary supplies like razors and toothpaste," said 1st Sgt. Mike Sparkman, company first sergeant.

In the absence of a PX, the Marines usually purchase items from the local bazaars near the COPs. According to Sparkman, this is a good way for the Marines to get what they need and help the local economy at the same time. The only problem is the Marines eventually run out of cash, so the dispersing services were just as important as the PX.

Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected Vehicle Co. also delivered cold-weather and personal gear for their Marines spread out between six COPs.

"They were very happy to get the PX as well as their personal gear," said Sparkman, a Homestead Fla., native. He explained that most people never realize how much they miss these things until they don't have them.

The mission also had an additional benefit — the MRAP drivers gained valuable experience during transit, according to Hickman.

The route they took to the COPs brought them down narrow farm roads and across several bridges spanning irrigation canals in the area with very little room for error.

"Up until now, we have always driven in the open desert," said



Photo by CWO4 Philippe E. Chasse

Gunnery Sgt. Jason C. Chisholm, operations chief for Marine Corps Exchange services, and Sgt. Marcus Kibble, both attached to Regimental Combat Team 3, provide much needed services to Marines from Combat Outpost Sullivan. Marines attached to RCT-3's MRAP Company, named for the Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles it operates with, conducted a convoy to several combat outposts to deliver items such as mail, hygiene gear and disbursing services, Sept. 20.

Hickman. "This allowed the drivers to experience operating in different terrain and helped them learn the capabilities of the MRAPs."

He added that they also gained some familiarity with 1/5's area of operations, which is helpful for a

unit that conducts frequent ground movements.

After the MRAP Marines completed their mission at the COPs, they did not waste any time. Within hours, they were on the road once again.

New Footbridge Eases Movement for Locals, Marines in Helmand

Story and photo by Cpl. Aaron Rooks
2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Helmand Province, Afghanistan — "Building bridges," as the expression goes, is a vital task in connecting with the people in a counterinsurgency environment.

But the Marines of 2nd Platoon, Company C, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan didn't stop at expressions, they actually built a bridge.

The recently-built, 69-foot footbridge spans a canal in Hasan Abad, a village near Forward Operating Base Delhi in Garmsir District. It was built in three days by the Marines in an area where major roads and trails intertwine with irrigation ditches and canals.

First Lt. Carla Gerlach, a combat engineer and native of Kennesaw, Ga., said Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Regimental Combat Team 3, MEB-Afghanistan, patrol the area regularly and needed a way to get across the canal and into the populated areas nearby.

A bridge located further south featured too many dangers for the patrolling Marines to



Photo by Master Gunnery Sgt. Garlen Powell

Marines from 2nd Platoon, Company C, 8th Engineer Support Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 2, Marine Expeditionary Brigade-Afghanistan, build a footbridge, Aug. 20, in Hasan Abad, Helmand Province, Afghanistan. Since its completion, the 69-foot bridge has helped ease movement for both Marines and locals in the area.

cross, while one to the north was simply too far away to reach, resulting in the Marines having oversight of the area, but not control.

"This bridge will allow the Marines to have a

better grasp of the area," Gerlach said. Gerlach said a local member of the Afghan National Security Forces stated he was excited to have the bridge for it also allows local Afghans more freedom of movement around the area instead of being forced to walk down to the other distant bridges.

Gerlach also said the bridge will last for years to come for use by the local Afghan populace.

The bridge was designed by Master Gunnery Sgt. Garlen Powell, 8th ESB's operations chief and a combat engineer of 25 years. It features an expeditionary design, being made mostly of just two A-frames, cables, Hesco Barriers and a mixture of pavement and rocks.

"It turned out very well," said Sanborn, N.D., native Sgt. Charlie Clyde, a combat engineer and squad leader from 2nd Platoon. "The design was flawless, and everything worked out according to plan in the build. Everybody knew what was going on and how to make it work."

Powell, a Sardis, Ohio, native, said there's a possibility that another company from 2/8 will request to have a similar footbridge built in its area of operations in the near future, which is a sign of the reputation the bridge has already created.

Photos from around the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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



Photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar

Sgt. Eli R. Bodie, block noncommissioned officer of Edson Range, Weapons and Field Training Battalion, observes his opponents' moves to bet accordingly during the Single Marine Program Poker Tournament at the 21 Area SMP Recreation Center, Sept. 23.



Photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar

Darnell R. Johnson, wide receiver for the Beast, takes off running after a complete pass during 1st Marine Logistics Group's match-up against 11th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, at the 11 Area football field, Sept. 22. 1st MLG's first win raised the team's spirit, which they hope to maintain throughout the season.



Photo by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar

Lance Cpl. Joseph R. Engelbert (left), 23, from New York, disperser with Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Lance Cpl. Chase H. Connelly (right), 21, from Aloha, Oregon, supply administrative clerk with 9th Communication Battalion, 1 Marine Expeditionary Force, conduct a morning colors ceremony at the 1st MLG Headquarters Building, Sept. 24. The ceremony included morning colors and addresses to the crowd from the sponsors, Retired Sgt. Maj. Frank E. Pulley and Retired Master Gunnery Sgt. Art Leedale. The ceremony ended with outstanding service members receiving Marine and Sailors of the Quarter awards.

Happenings

Miramar Air Show

The Miramar Air Show is scheduled Oct. 2-4 at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar. Free general admission, parking and blanket seating is available. Preferred seating tickets can be purchased at 877-772-5425. For more information, visit www.miramarairshow.com.

Suicide Prevention Week

In recognition of Suicide Prevention Week, the Military Pathways Program has launched an expanded online screening tool that allows service members and their families to assess their mental well-being anonymously, and to identify symptoms linked with mental health disorders. To access the tool, visit www.pd-health.mil/mhsa.asp.

Pub 1795 to Open

Join us every Friday at the Pub 1795 in the San Luis Ray housing area building 1795, for eating, drinking and activities. Pub 1795 offers special activities, big-screen TV, pool, ping pong, darts, private events, outdoor patio and more. For more information, visit www.mccscp.com.

Clippers Open Practice

Free Los Angeles Clippers open practice for anyone who wants to watch at the Paige Fieldhouse Oct. 10. Doors open 1 p.m., Scrimmage at 1:30 p.m.

14 Area Pool Open

The 14 Area Pool is now open. Hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 6 a.m. - 2 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m., Closed on Sundays. Private swim lessons are available. For more information, call 725-5084.

Base Movie Theater

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra (PG-13) - Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) - Friday at 6:30 p.m., Saturday at 9 p.m.

The Hurt Locker (R) - Friday at 6 p.m.

The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard (R) - Friday at 9 p.m., Saturday at 8 p.m.

Shorts (PG) - Saturday at 3:40 p.m.

District 9 (PG-13) - Saturday at