



The Convoy

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Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

Tips from a Marine Wife

Courtesy of
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Stress Control Public Affairs

I keep resilient by staying focused on the bigger picture and what it means for us all. I surround myself with people who support that same cause, and it is not about political party lines. The bottom line is, they are fighting and we are left behind-- what can we do about it now? Move forward, don't look back.

The advice comes from one who knows whereof she speaks. Aime Fountain, 32, is the wife of Marine Corps 1st Sgt. Kevin Fountain, who recently deployed to Afghanistan on his third combat tour. It's his fifth deployment in total, and Aime has been through them all.

During the first three, the couple did not have children. Now they have two, a boy, 4, and a 2-year-old daughter, and a third child is due before Kevin returns home.

The deployments never get easier, Aime says, but her job as a nurse and a solid network of friends "have helped me keep my sanity."

Working made time go by quickly and helped me keep my mind off the deployment. I was able to meet new people and feel like I was making a positive contribution. When I wasn't working, I had a wonderful group of girlfriends that I surrounded myself with. Deployment is such a personal experience but with so many commonalities, it's easy to relate to another military spouse if you just start

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Courtesy photo by USN

A family looks on as they see the ship making ready to leave port.

Come fly with me



Photo by Cpl. Robert C. Medina

A KC-130J Super Hercules demonstrates its in-flight refueling capabilities with two CH-53 Super Stallion helicopters during the Marine Air-Ground Task Force demonstration at the MCAS Miramar Air Show, Oct. 2. The MAGTF is comprised of four different elements, the Command Element, Ground Combat Element, Aviation Combat Element and Logistics Combat Element.

Marines to conduct Pacific Horizon

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Throughout history, the Marine Corps has earned the reputation of being experts at beach landings. Due to the United States' activity in Iraq and Afghanistan, service members in training haven't been afforded much of an opportunity to conduct all-out beach landings - until now.

I Marine Expeditionary Force will be conducting the Pacific Horizon training mission from Sept. 30 - Nov. 5 at Camp Pendleton's Red Beach to improve its competencies in preparation for future deployments and operations as a Marine Air-Ground Task Force. "We're focusing on getting the Marines back into the amphibious

force in readiness mindset," said Capt. Alexis Sanchez, S-3 training officer with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "The Marines are used to being in Iraq for so many years."

During the mission, Marines and sailors will offload equipment and supplies from the United States Naval Ship Williams onto Red Beach to assemble a forward operating base to conduct the training.

The Marine Expeditionary Brigade-sized event will involve service members from 3rd Marine Aircraft Group, 1st Marine Division and 1st MLG, working together to complete a mission.

According to the mission statement, the training event is designed to rehearse and re-familiarize units with maritime prepositioning force opera-

tions. Maritime prepositioning force ships contain and deliver almost everything, to include tanks, ammunition, food and water for initial military operations. One vessel can support up to 15,000 MAGTF service members for up to 30 days to complete a mission.

The combined training event between I MEF and 3rd Fleet will improve core competencies and strengthen the relationship between the United States Marine Corps and Navy through training of offloading supplies from a ship. "Marines should know how to offload a ship and distribute the gear to units," said Sanchez, 31, from Paterson, N.J. "If we don't know how to do this, who will?"

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Hazing tarnishes Marine Corps mission

Story by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marine Corps upholds its standards by having strictly disciplined service members in its ranks who've been trained the right way.

According to Headquarters Marine Corps, hazing is defined as any action taken "or situation created" that intentionally produces mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule, or could cause mental or physical harm or injury.

"We know you continue to emphasize standards throughout the Marine Corps, but we still have some Marines that think they are not Marines 24 hours a day," wrote Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent, sergeant major of the Marine Corps, in an e-mail to senior leaders. "(I) ask that you continue to educate noncommissioned officers on the importance of making corrections when a Marine is not doing the 'right thing.'"

There are ways to correct Marines, but it must be done tactfully under the rules and regulations set forth by the Marine Corps. If done improperly, it can be considered hazing.

There are many different types of hazing, to include hitting chevrons into a promotee's collarbone during a promotion ceremony or forcing someone to drink too much water.

"Hazing can cause serious injury or death, permanent or temporary disability; it affects unit cohesion/war fighting, and tarnishes our reputation with the American public," said Gunnery Sgt. Craig A. Ranney, the equal opportunity advisor with 1st Marine Logistics Group. "To prevent hazing from taking place, we need to educate Marines that it is not the way to lead or enforce regulations and reinforce the leadership traits and principles, and core values."

Hazing is demeaning and brings morale down, added Sgt. Dariluz M. Polanco, disbursing clerk, Disbursing Office, Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, 21, from New York City.

Despite hazing being illegal and looked down upon by the military, it may still take place in the Marine Corps.

"I'm sure there are individuals that ignore the orders on hazing set forth by the commandant and Headquarters Marine Corps," said Ranney, 36, from Silver Lake Village, Ohio. "I think sometimes

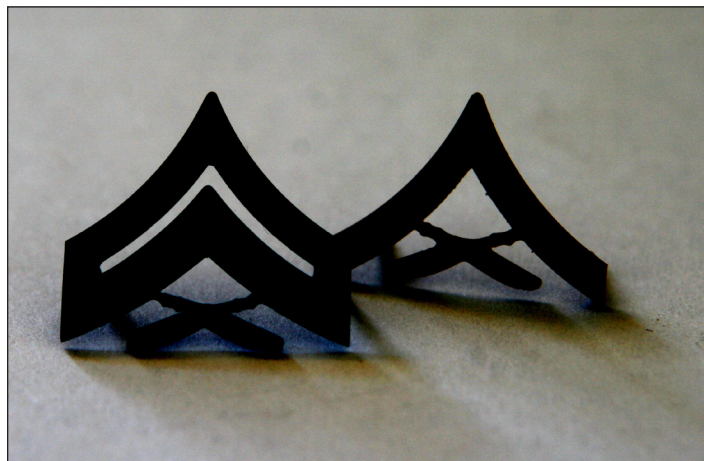


Photo by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

Headquarters Marine Corps encourages noncommissioned officers to correct junior Marines to uphold the standards of the Marine Corps. However, NCOs are reminded that hazing a chargeable offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

individuals think hazing is the Marine Corps way when it is truly not; these individuals are misguided on what they think the traditions of the past are."

Misunderstood traditions from the past can jeopardize a Marine's career by causing them to be punished under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

If a service member is found

guilty of hazing, they can be charged with several different violations and face severe punishment if found guilty.

To report hazing, service members can contact their chain-of-command, chaplain, legal office or equal opportunity advisor.

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MARINE WIFE

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talking.

Her advice to young military wives is to learn the system, stay informed about the battalion or unit, and don't be a hermit in your house.

Take the base programs, classes and trainings. They teach you much about the military and support resources, and you meet people. You need to be dialed into your unit, your base, your neighborhood. Know where to go, what to do and be proud in doing so. For me, information is power and it helps me feel more in control in a situation where I have very little control.

Even with the benefit of her experience, Aime says she is nervous about Kevin's current deployment. Their 4-year-old son gets teary-eyed and misses his father terribly. Aime is taking the advice she would give to another spouse and seeking out support.

This deployment is more of a challenge than I've ever had before, and it wears on me. I don't always know how to answer our little boy so I called my Family Readiness Officer and we've got a meeting scheduled with someone who can help.

Aime is confident that this latest deployment, in the end, will be a positive experience for her family.

Everyone has a breaking point. Some days you get there but if you are lucky, most days you won't. You get up, tackle another day, and know that no matter the cost, or where the journey takes you, it is worth the ride. I would not trade anything thus far. I know I've grown and changed so much with each deployment, and learned a lot about myself in the process.

Marines multi-task at Patrol base Fielder



Photo by Lance Cpl. John M. McCall

Gunnery Sgt. Shawn Hughes talks with two local Afghan men at Patrol Base Fielder Sept. 14, 2009. Hughes, 31, is the scout sniper platoon sergeant from Roseburg, Ore., deployed with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment. Marines are using the property as a base for conducting security patrols in the area.

Consolidated training schedule keeps Marines in 'CHEC'

Story by Sgt. Jennifer Brofer
The Convoy Staff

Marines are constantly training to prepare for when they deploy, and as the focus continues to steer toward the fight in Afghanistan, the Corps continues to adjust its training curriculum to prepare Marines for a different kind of enemy – one that isn't afraid to fight back.

"The Afghan fighter is something to be reckoned with," said Maj. Steven W. Hodge, Tactical Readiness and Training officer for G-3, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "We know that the enemy in Afghanistan is organized. They're prepared to fight, and they don't run. You have to fight them off."

For a Marine to be considered ready to deploy, he or she first has to first complete Blocks One, Two and Three of the Pre-Deployment Training Plan. Block One includes annual requirements such as the physical fitness test, rifle range, gas chamber, swim qualification, and Professional Military Education classes on counseling, equal opportunity, substance abuse and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Consolidated Training

To speed up the process of getting Marines through Blocks One and Two, Combat Logistics Regiment 17 has created a consolidated training plan that allows Marines to complete each block in two-week increments.

"We've developed the training in two-week packages, so Block One will be done in conjunction with the rifle range," said Capt. Alexis Sanchez, S-3 training officer for CLR-17, 1st MLG, 31, from Paterson, N.J.

Marines during Grass Week generally have classes and "snap-in" time in the morning; after which, they are usually released for the day. Under the new plan, Marines will be able to take advantage of the extra time the Friday before firing week by completing swim qualification in the morning and the gas chamber in the afternoon. The new plan went into effect starting with the first CLR-17 range detail for Fiscal Year 2010.

Block Two includes training specific to Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom, such as the week-long Enhanced Combat Skills (ECS) course, a revamped training course tailored to Afghanistan that replaced the Rear Area Security course earlier this year. During the ECS course, Marines receive classes on combat orders, hand and arm signals and patrolling. The course also includes a 24-hour field exercise.

Block Two also includes culture awareness classes given by the



Photo by Sgt. Terika S. King

ECS: A Marine provides rear security during a simulated patrol at the Enhanced Combat Skills course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., July 12. During the ECS course, Marines receive classes on combat orders, hand and arm signals and patrolling. The course also includes a 24-hour field exercise. The ECS course replaced the Rear Area Security course.

Center for Advanced Operational Culture Learning (CAOCL), the Humvee Egress Assistance Trainer (HEAT), and Table three of the Combat Marksmanship Program (CMP), which teaches unknown distance day and night shooting. HEAT classes teach Marines how to respond during a Humvee roll-over by learning immediate action skills through the help of a Humvee roll-over simulator.

Block Two training has also been condensed so the CAOCL, HEAT, ECS and CMP courses – or CHEC – can all be completed in a two-



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Marines fire their rifles at Wilcox Range in September 2009. A consolidated training program is in effect that allows Marines to complete Block One of the Pre-deployment Training Plan during Grass Week of the rifle range, to include gas chamber and swim qualification.

week period.

"You 'CHEC' your PTP, and you're going to get a majority of your Block Two PTP requirements complete," said Hodge, 41, from Oklahoma City, Okla.

Block Three is the "culmination" of training that units conduct about a month or two before deploying, which Marines generally complete during Enhanced Mojave Viper, a month-long field exercise that takes place at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif. During EMV, Marines may be "graded" on how well they perform in various scenarios, which determines their level of combat-readiness, according to Sanchez.

New battlefield, new enemy

Marines who have deployed to Iraq after 2004 'will not recognize' what they're going to see in Afghanistan when they deploy, as the enemy uses different tactics, and Afghanistan is a very "austere environment," said Brig. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general of 1st MLG.

Taking lessons learned from Afghanistan, leaders took a 'hard look' at the enemy tactics, techniques and procedures to come up with a new training program that would prepare Marines for an enemy that is completely different from the enemy in Iraq.

"It's a different battlefield," said Hodge. "We oriented more on things like convoy operations, immediate action drills, patrolling – those kinds of things. We upped the ante on that in ECS."

Unlike in Iraq when an insurgent is known to shoot and run, the enemy

in Afghanistan isn't backing down so easily.

"This is not Iraq," said Sanchez. "You have to be prepared that people are not just going to shoot (at) you and leave."

Adapting to the enemy

In addition to tailoring the Enhanced Combat Skills course to focus on Afghanistan, 1st MLG is also developing another weeklong course called the Combat Patrol Leaders course. The course is targeted for sergeants, staff sergeants and junior officers, said Hodge.

"It is oriented on giving the combat logistics patrol leaders the tools they need to operate their patrol outside the wire in Afghanistan," said Hodge of the class that will accommodate 20 students.

The course will include classroom instruction on what they can expect to see on the battlefield, how to spot improvised explosive devices, and how to react. Marines will also get to go through the base's convoy trainer at Las Pulgas, a convoy simulator that allows Marines to go through realistic scenarios that they'll encounter in Afghanistan.

"(Insurgents in Afghanistan are) doing things a little bit smarter than the Iraqis did, and it's not just one IED we have to worry about," explained Hodge. "They'll place several IEDs in one area and cover it with small-arms fire, and fight, and have the ability to reinforce."

The first unit to go through the course will most likely be either Combat Logistics Battalion 5 or 1st Maintenance Battalion, according to Hodge. The first Combat Patrol Leaders course is slated for November or December.

Combat mindset

Whatever the training, Marines should prepare themselves for Afghanistan by taking the training seriously, whether it be swim qual or the rifle range.

"We can't afford to be complacent," said Gen. Hudson. "(Afghanistan is) a dangerous environment. The more you practice performing your mission, the easier it will be when it comes time to execute."

[Editor's note: This is Part 2 of a 9-part series detailing the issues Brig. Gen. Charles Hudson wants to address to the Marines and sailors of 1st MLG, including preparation for deployment, motorcycle safety, NCO leadership, suicide prevention, equipment accountability, family readiness, equal opportunity, and peer-to-peer review boards. Part 3 of the series will deal with motorcycle safety.]

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Photos from the MCAS Miramar Air Show



Photos by Cpl. Robert C. Medina

The Canadian Forces' Snow Birds spread out in a formation at the MCAS Miramar Air Show, Oct. 2. Traveling across North America, The Snow Birds' 24-member show team puts on approximately 65 shows in about 45 locations between May and November each year. The Canadian team's acrobatic stunts and maneuvers wowed spectators in the stands.



Corporal Andrew C. Hanson, an anti-tank missileman with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, shows Chris, 12, from San Diego, the M-220 Tube launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided (TOW) missile weapon system as part of a static display at the MCAS Miramar Air Show, Oct. 2.



(Above) Lance Cpl. Derrek E. Cardinan, tank crewman, 4th Tanks Battalion, Headquarters and Service Company, 4th Marine Division, helps local kids off an M-1A1 Abrams tank at the MCAS Miramar Air Show, Oct. 2.



(Left) A giant fireball captures the attention of the audience just after Marines fast-roped out of a UH-1Y helicopter. This was part of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force Demonstration during the MCAS Miramar Air Show, Oct. 2.

Happenings

Beach Camping

Why not book a relaxing stay at one of two pristine beaches located on base? Cottages and campsite spaces are available in San Onofre and Del Mar. For group camping, call 760-763-8368.

Hobby Shop

Do you like wood working, painting or knitting? Then head over to the base hobby shop to do all this and more. Phone 760-725-4880.

Paintball Park

Paintball fans, are you looking for a place to play? Camp Pendleton's Paintball Park is open seven days-a-week for private groups of 15 or more players. Please make reservations at least one week in advance. Phone 951-323-9883.

Need to plan a party?

Why not host your kid's party at Devil Dog Lanes, where you can enjoy bowling, billiards, arcade games and more. Phone 760 725 5945
Sun. 2pm-10pm
Mon.-Thurs. 9am-10pm
Fri.-Sat. 9am-Midnight

Base Theater

Wed., Oct. 7
District 9 (PG-13) 6:30pm to 8:22pm

Thurs., Oct. 8
The Time Traveler's Wife (PG-13) 6:30pm to 8:18pm

Fri., Oct. 9
District 9 (PG-13) 6:10pm to 8:02pm
Halloween II (R) 9:00pm to 10:45pm

Sat., Oct. 10
Shorts (PG) 4:00pm to 5:29pm
500 Days of Summer (PG-13) 6:30pm to 8:05pm
The Final Detination (R) 6:30pm to 8:10pm

Sun., Oct. 11
Terminator Salvation (PG-13) 1:00pm to 2:55pm
UP (PG) 3:50pm to 5:32pm,
The Hangover (R) 6:30pm to 8:10pm