



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

October 27, 2009
Issue 26

7th ESB Marines deploy to Afghanistan

Story and photo by
Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Approximately 70 Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, said goodbye to their families before loading up the buses to deploy to Afghanistan, Oct. 25.

The 7th ESB will be deployed to Afghanistan for about seven months.

Their mission is to “provide general engineering support of an expeditionary nature to the Marine Expeditionary Brigade, to include mobility, counter mobility and survivability enhancement, explosive ordnance disposal, and general supply support to include the handling, storage and distribution of bulk water and fuel.”

The 7th ESB recently wrapped up a month-long Enhanced Mojave Viper training at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Marines with 7th ESB will deploy in two groups, said Master Sgt. Alan Reid, family readiness officer for 7th ESB. The advance party deployed Oct. 25, and the second group will join 7th ESB forward in the near future.

“I’m confident that the Marines trained hard and readied for this deployment,” said Reid, 42, from Cleveland.

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1st Lt. Brian J. Reed, 27, from Garden City, Michigan, executive officer of Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, gives his significant other a kiss before deploying.

Enhanced Combat Skills



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, retrieves a simulated wounded Marine to safety while providing cover-fire as the patrol was ambushed by role-played insurgents during the week-long Enhanced Combat Skills Course at Camp Pendleton, Oct. 19-23. The Enhanced Combat Skills course replaced the Rear Area Security Course to shift the focus of the training to Afghanistan.

Course preps Marines for Afghanistan

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – “Possible (Improved Explosive Device), possible IED.” The patrol halts as Marines locate a possible threat to the mission.

Part of being a Marine is to be ready for any situation, whether it’s overseas or back home. Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepared themselves for future deployments to Afghanistan by taking the week-long Enhanced Combat Skills Course at Camp Pendleton, Oct. 19-23.

The ECS Course focuses on most skills needed to survive and identify threats in Afghanistan.

“(Rear Area Security) Course was

replaced by the new ECS Course,” said Sgt. Miguel E. Cruz, an instructor with Combat Skills Training School, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “This new designed course focuses more on Afghanistan rather than Iraq like the RAS Course.”

Changes were made to the course to reflect what Marines will experience if they deploy to Afghanistan. Many classes were removed or replaced with new classes to handle the needs of deploying troops.

“We cut down unnecessary classes to provide more time for (practical application) to the Marines,” said Cruz, 24, from Brownsville, Texas. “RAS originally had 22 classes while ECS only has 15.”

During the first three days of the course, Marines receive instruction on

combat orders, hand and arm signals, patrolling, combat profiling and call for fire, Cruz explained. Since there is more time for Marines to conduct practical application, they get more hands-on instruction for training, making them more efficient after the course.

“The course is also good for non-commissioned officers, staff non-commissioned officers and junior officers,” Cruz said. “It familiarizes them with the situation, the environment and helps them understand the leadership role in patrolling. This portion of the course is the (Combat Patrol Leaders) Course.”

The course helps them build confidence in decision making in a stressful environment, helping them understand that any decision is better than no decision at all.

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Camp Pendleton kicks off CFC 2009

Story by Lance Cpl. Michael Atchue
The Scout staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Camp Pendleton is inviting all service members and federal civilian employees to donate money to the Combined Federal Campaign to help those in need.

Pledges can be made during the campaign season which began Sept. 1 and lasts through Dec. 15.

Unit CFC representatives want to increase awareness and participation of the campaign by educating service members about the various organizations involved, said Maj. Alan T. Young, CFC action officer, Camp Pendleton.

"Last year was tough, but we are ensuring this year that everyone will be aware of the campaign and have the opportunity to donate," he added.

The CFC is the world's largest annual workplace charity campaign and the only one authorized to solicit and collect contributions from federal employees in the workplace on behalf of charitable organizations.

Nearly four million service members and federal civilian employ-

ees raise millions of dollars for national and international charitable organizations of their choice each year, according to the CFC Web site www.opm.gov/cfc.

Each of the more than 2,600 organizations, ranging from advocacy groups to international aid organizations, must go through an extensive review of their financial and governance practices prior to acceptance to ensure they make the best of their donations, the site explained.

Even in the tough economy, the CFC was able to raise more than \$3.62 million across the Department of Defense last year, Young said.

"Times are tough, but for many of us, we are in a good position because we have job security as service members. With the tough times, it is probably more important than ever to give because many charities are receiving less money because of the economy," he added.

Donations can be as little as \$1 per month and can be taken through salary allotments or in one lump sum.

Whether its your generous nature, religious upbringing or passion about a cause, donating will



Photo by Lance Cpl. Michael Atchue

Camp Pendleton service members and federal civilian employees can donate money to the Combined Federal Campaign from Sept. 1 to Dec. 15.

help you feel you are making a difference for the community, he said.

Service members and federal employees interested in donating can contact the assigned CFC

representatives in their unit. Also, for more information, visit www.cfc-sandiego.org.

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Breaking down insurgency



Photo by Lance Cpl. John McCall, Regimental Combat Team 7

Cpl. John Mensch with Combined Anti Armor Team 1, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, uses an axe to break open a hidden compartment after discovering illegal drugs and improvised explosive device-making material while searching a compound in Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Oct. 19. Combined Anti Armor Team 1 and Marines with Weapons Company, 1/5, conducted a two-day operation to clear out local villages known to be used by enemy insurgents and to rid commonly traveled roads of IED's.

ECS

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"We try to get them away from their natural pause and act instantly upon given situations," Cruz said.

After three days of classes and practical application, Marines are tested for their patrolling skill, combat orders, hand and arm signals, and how to handle locals and insurgents during a 36-hour field exercise.

"Most of us have never met each other before Monday," said Capt. Paul W. Harris, from Olney, Texas, commander of Headquarters and Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "And all it took was about ten hours for everyone to work together efficiently as one unit."

During the field exercise, Marines patrol around the training site, guarding the Command Operations Center and communicating with the locals. The patrol unit also has to clear a town, which the villagers and insurgents are role-played by instructors and the unit NCOs. The Marines learn how to react to an IED and how to care for the injured. Finally, Marines learn to clear a building full of insurgents, react to an ambush and how to communicate with the COC. Perfect practice makes perfect. Marines must take their training seriously to become efficient later during



Lance Cpl. Javier Marciano Diaz, 29, from Puerto Rico, a mechanic with Maintenance Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, takes cover and provides security to the Command Operations Center during the weeklong Enhanced Combat Skills course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 19-23.

deployment in a real situation. The harder they train here, the less they'll bleed on the battlefield.

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Beast, Titans hold nothing back on field

Story by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The lines have faded, jerseys covered in dirt, sweat runs down each player's face; the rematch was as intense as the first face off.

The 1st Marine Logistics Group football team, the Beast, battled the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego 'Titans' team once again at the 11 Area football field, Oct. 20.

The Beast was looking forward to repeating the previous outcome, defeating the Titans in their last game 19-14. However, the Titans came prepared to leave their mark. Both teams came in strong, showing no weakness to their opponents. Each second felt like hours on the field, leaving the scoreboard 0-0 as they began the second quarter.

On fourth and long, with the aggressive defense of the Titans staring them down, Beast chose to go for a field goal. As the ball snapped back to the place-kicker, the Titans' defense had already broken through the line of scrimmage in an attempt to block the kick. Despite the efforts of the Titans' defense, Brian Gunther, kicker for the Beast, successfully scored a field goal, putting three points on the score board for the Beast with only two minutes left in the first half.

Taking the lead in first half, Beast

felt more confident going into the final half of the game. However, the outcome didn't turn out as they planned. Yellow flags flew up and down the field as penalties were called against the Beast in most of the plays.

The Titans scored a touchdown in the third quarter and maintained the score through to the final quarter of the game. The Beast struggled to keep their heads in the game as they were frustrated with the referees' decision making.

As they were down on fourth down and the end zone was in sight, Beast attempted to even the score with another field goal.

"The kick was good," said the announcer.

However, there was a yellow flag on the field. The Beast's audience nervously awaited the referees' decision on the call, wondering if their team has evened out the score.

As a moment of silence went by, the crowd cheered as a referee signaled the call was against the Titans' defense. Beast had a choice of accepting the penalty for a first down or declining it to keep the field goal.

"Penalty on the Titans, first down Beast," said the announcer as the Beast made their final decision on the call.

With a couple yards keeping the Beast from regaining their lead, they decided to go for it. For the Beast, these might have been the longest yards they've ever fought for. The

Titans defense was tight, not giving any room for the Beast to breathe; the Titans claimed their territory and refused to move away.

With about ten minutes left in the game, Cameron Boone, quarterback for the Beast, squeezed through the line of scrimmage and reached out for as far as his arm could go to secure the ball inside the end zone, adding six more points on the scoreboard for the Beast.

Even though they had regained their lead, the Beast couldn't help but worry as penalties were called on them from left to right.

The Titans had one goal in their mind, to win the game, and they gave it everything they had. Ernest Diaz, the Titans' running back, gave hope for his teammates as he ran the ball to the Beast's 30-yard line and gained a first down for the Titans. After a long battle, Titans scored another touchdown. Then the defense intercepted the ball and ran out the time left on the official clock, ending the game with the score 12-9. Titans secured their victory in this match-up against the Beast.

"It's not over yet," said Camell Martin, 41, from Los Angeles, a supporter of the Beast all season. "This game should make us stronger. We can't let the official decision get to our head. We lost, so what? Games like these happen all the time. That just means we know what we (have to) do next time."

The Beast was overwhelmed by this loss, but they're determined to

practice harder to prepare for their next game against Weapons and Field Training Battalion's football team at 5 p.m., Oct. 27.

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Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar
Brian Gunther, kicker for the Beast, kicks the ball all the way down the field during a football game between 1st Marine Logistics Group, the Beast, and Marine Corps Recruiting Depot San Diego, the Titans, at the 11 Area football field, Oct. 20.

TRAM course available to non heavy equipment operators

Story by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Marines are required to learn the jobs of the men and women they work with so they can complete the mission in their fellow service members' absence.

Six Marines in various units and jobs, other than heavy equipment operators, throughout the 1st Marine Logistics Group, participated in the Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multi-purpose vehicle course that started Oct. 19 at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"I instruct Marines around the base on how to operate the TRAM if their unit doesn't have a licensing noncommissioned officer," said Cpl. Jason E. Bush, heavy equipment operator/licensing NCO with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG.

The 20-hour TRAM course requires Marines to pass a written test and operate the vehicle. During the operation part, Marines had to change the fork and bucket attachments, move palletized boxes and ground-guide, all while being graded by their instructor on performance and safety.

"Safety is a number one priority," said Bush, 25,



Photo by Cpl. Jacob A. Singsank

Cpl. Travis V.C. Nauta, warehouseman with Supply Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, 22, from Tamuning, Guam, uses hand-signals to ground-guide a Tractor, Rubber-tired, Articulated steering, Multi-purpose vehicle during the TRAM course that started Oct. 19 at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The 20-hour TRAM class requires Marines to pass a written test and operate the vehicle.

from Springfield, Ore. "Not only personal safety, but safety of others and equipment."

Prior to operating a TRAM, the students are required to inspect it first for preventative maintenance every time they work with the vehicle.

"The heavy equipment Marine instructor teaches the same way he was taught at military occupational specialty school," said Staff Sgt. Jose A. Quinonez, platoon sergeant with Engineer Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, 41, from San Jose, Calif. "We want the incidental operators to have the same knowledge that heavy equipment operators receive at basic school."

The TRAM is widely used throughout the Marine Corps. It's used to load gear and equipment on ships, aircraft and trucks. The TRAM is also used to move earth, dig ditches and build forward operating bases deployed and in garrison.

"Because I work in storage, I'll be able to move gear around with the TRAM instead of requesting an operator from another unit," said Pfc. Phillip J. Sena, a warehouse clerk with Supply Company, 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st MLG, 19, from Pueblo, Colo. "This training will make me a more valuable asset to my shop both back here and while I'm deployed."

To find out information or to sign up for the next class, contact Cpl. Bush at (760) 725-8735.

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Photos from around the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Lance Cpl. Prince L. Huffman, 28, from Atlanta, an administrative clerk with Supply Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, retrieves a simulated wounded Marine during the weeklong Enhanced Combat Skills Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 19-23. The ECS Course replaced the Rear Area Security Course to shift the focus of the training situations Marines may see in Afghanistan.

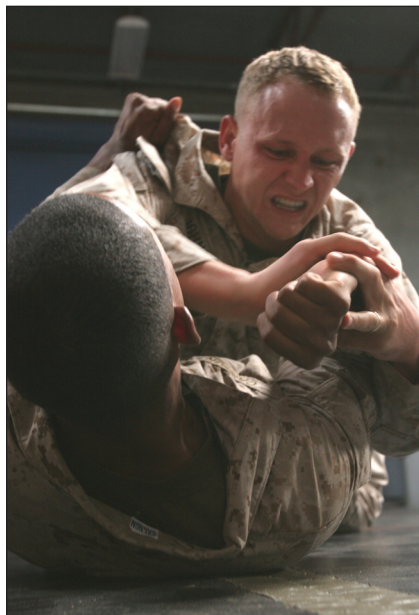


Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Sgt. John T. Johnson, 26, from Jonesboro, Texas, a Diesel mechanic with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, attempts to put his opponent into a submission hold during the grappling portion of the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program 'Train the Trainer' course at the 1st Maintenance Battalion MCMAP warehouse, Las Pulgas, Oct. 23.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Darnell Johnson, wide receiver for the Beast, team captain, motivates the team during the halftime break of a football game between 1st Marine Logistics Group, the Beast, and Marine Corps Recruiting Depot San Diego, the Titans, at the 11 Area football field, Oct. 20. As opposed to the last face off, the Titans defeated the Beast with the final score 12-9. The Beast was overwhelmed by the loss, but they're determined to practice harder to prepare for their next game against Weapons and Field Training Battalion's football team at 5 p.m., Oct. 27.

Happenings

Free food at Applebee's

In recognition of your service to our country, all veterans and active duty military personnel are invited to eat free at Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar Restaurants this Veterans Day, Nov. 11.

Free pony rides at Stepp Stables

Trick-or-Treat with the base ponies and take a free ride on the pony sweep, Oct. 30 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will also be a costume trail ride beginning at 5 p.m. Reservations are required and fees apply for trail ride. Call 725-5094 for more information.

Leatherneck Field Meet

Take the ultimate challenge at the Leatherneck Field Meet, Oct. 28. Test your teamwork in a series of events from tug-of-war to the agility course. For more information contact Marine Corps Community Services at 725-6614.

Meet Rudy Reyes

Rudy Reyes will be signing his new book 'Hero Living,' Nov. 20 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Country Store. Reyes draws from his own heroic life as an elite warrior in the mountains of Afghanistan and in the sands of Iraq, and finally in his post-Marine life as a personal trainer, actor and motivational speaker.

Base Movie Theater

- Whiteout (R)** - Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.
- Inglourious Basterds (R)** - Thursday at 6:30 p.m.
- The Informant (R)** - Friday at 6:15 p.m.
- Gamer (R)** - Friday at 9 p.m.
- Love Happens (PG-13)** - Saturday at 3:30 p.m.
- All About Steve (PG-13)** - Saturday at 6:20 p.m.
- Tyler Perry's: I Can Do Bad All By Myself (PG-13)** - Saturday at 9:00 p.m.
- Land Of The Lost (PG-13)** - Sunday at 1:00 p.m.
- Ice Age : Dawn of the Dinosaurs (PG)** - Sunday at 3:45p.m.
- Transformers 2: Revenge of the Fallen (PG-13)** - Sunday at 6:15 p.m.