



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group.

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Comm. Co. set up Command Post Exercise

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

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – “Can you hear me now? Good!” This is a quote that most people remember when referring to cell phone commercials. Things aren’t always as simple as they appear to be. In order for Marines to make a phone call, a communications network must be established.

Marines with Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted training by establishing communications for a Command Post Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 12-13.

“Marines with Communications Company are here to set up the site early,” said 1st Lt. Drew Colville, officer in charge of Cross-Functional Alpha Platoon (XFA Platoon), Comm. Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. “It’s our duty to set up communications before everyone comes out here and conducts the exercise.”

The Command Post Exercise is a training event set up to familiarize the regimental staff Marines with the equipment in the Command Operations Center. This is equipment which they’ll be using later when they deploy.

“The exercise mission is to ensure that our staff can actively operate the equipment in the existing COC in other countries,” said Staff Sgt. Jarris D. Mayfield, staff noncommissioned officer in charge of XFA Platoon, Comm. Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. “This training helps the commanding officer track the progress of the operating units overseas.”

According to Colville, the actual training kicked off Monday. The regimental staff established communication with Combat Logistics Battalion 6, who conducted enhanced Mojave Viper at Twentynine Palms, Calif. Their goal was to track the progress of CLB-6 and report it to the commanding officer.

“The key staff members receive training on the logistics control system,” said Mayfield, 28, from High Point, N.C.

Marines used set up time to enhance

‘Coyotes’ howl for volunteers



Photo by Sgt. Whitney N. Frasier

Young Marines from Camp Pendleton Company, 4th Battalion, California Regiment, Division 6, are in need of more volunteers to become a part of the 25-year-old company to assist them with functions and events during their weekly meetings. The Young Marines is a youth program offered to kids between the ages of 8 and 18, which is designed to set them up for a path to success.

Volunteers influence Young Marines’ futures

Story by Sgt. Whitney N. Frasier
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – More than 50 years ago, the Young Marines program was established in Waterbury, Conn. by members of the Brass Detachment of the Marine Corps League. It wasn’t long before they had 300 members and finally became a nationally known youth program.

Fifty years later, there are over 12 thousand Young Marines, nationally and internationally, who are dedicated to achieving their motto, strengthening the lives of America’s youth.

The youth education and service program is offered to boys and girls between the ages of 8 and 18, said commanding officer Keith Sheffield, Camp Pendleton Company, 4th Battalion,

California Regiment, Division 6.

The Young “Coyote” Marines of Camp Pendleton are in great need of volunteers to help keep the 24-year-old company active.

“We need as many volunteers as we can get,” said Trish Jones, the Coyotes’ public affairs officer, 30, from San Diego. “I love the program and it’s great for kids. It makes you feel really good to volunteer for them.”

Volunteers for the Young Marines act as mentors for more than 60 youth members of the company. The duty of a volunteer is to assist Young Marines with events.

“Volunteers are a big help,” said Young Marine Master Sgt. Adam J. Keydeniers, the senior Young Marine of Camp Pendleton Co., 4th Bn., Calif. Regiment, Div. 6. “There’s a lot of stuff we can’t do without them, like the ob-

stacle course and the shooting ranges,” said Keydeniers, who is 16-years-old.

Many may think that the volunteers must have prior service, but that isn’t the case in this situation. Anyone over the age of 18 can volunteer. No experience is necessary.

“We have all types of volunteers,” said Sheffield. “They range from active duty and retired military, to teachers, parents and doctors. Everyone brings a certain skill that has positive influences on the Young Marines.”

There is more than just a positive influence that comes with each volunteer. Volunteers’ experiences and jobs can also create an educational atmosphere, giving the Young Marines different activities to participate in.

“It’s cool when we get new volunteers

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Wrecker operators: An important asset to 1st MLG

Story by Pfc. Khoa N. Pelczar
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – For most motor transport operators, it is an amazing feeling to drive a 7-ton tactical vehicle around. But when these vehicles break down in the middle of the road, things can be frustrating. A few selected Marines went through additional training to mainly deal with these situations.

Marines with wrecker team, Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, are in charge of aiding and recovering tactical vehicles for units in the field and off base.

"As a wrecker operator, I make sure to get to the site and assist the unit recovering the vehicle," said Cpl. Stephen L. Rudinsky, wrecker non-commissioned officer in charge for Support Co., 7th ESB, 1st MLG. "This will allow Marines to get right back to their training or mission at hand."

Rudinsky said it could be difficult to complete a mission if a 7-ton tactical vehicle in a convoy stops running while carrying equipment and Marines. A wrecker operator's duty is to answer the emergency call and respond quickly.

"In my battalion right now, I'm the only Marine with a wrecker license, since the other sergeant is de-

ployed," said Rudinsky, 21, from Londonderry, N.H.

According to Rudinsky, a Marine must be a motor transport operator and have at least two years left in service to get a license. The Marine must be selected by his chain of command as well. Then they would get to tag along with a wrecker-team and receive hands-on experience. Finally, they must go through a 7-week course to get the license.

"I enjoy being the only wrecker operator in the battalion," Rudinsky said. "I am in charge of all the wreckers in the battalion."

Rudinsky said the wreckers aren't fast, but they can pick up almost anything, from a crashed tactical vehicle to a flipped over 7-ton. Each arm on the vehicle can support 30,000 pounds, and the crane lift can hold approximately 22,000 pounds.

"I love my job without a doubt," said Rudinsky. "It makes you feel like you have power, lifting up a 7-ton vehicle with just one push of a button."

Without the extra equipment cost that they carried on them, each wrecker is worth more than half a million dollars, Rudinsky said.

"There are two types of wrecker vehicles," said Rudinsky. "The (Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement) MK-36 Wrecker, which is hydraulic operated,

and the (Logistics Vehicle System) MK-4815 Wrecker, which requires manual power to operate."

To be proficient, a wrecker always carries extra equipment for all possible towing scenarios Marines might have to deal with, Rudinsky explained.

"I like to have a spare tire for each type of the vehicle on the wrecker at all times," said Rudinsky. "That way, if it's just a flat-tire, I can quickly replace it so (the Marines) can carry on with their training instead of taking the vehicle back to maintenance."

To keep the wreckers operating smoothly, Rudinsky inspects them every day. He conducts the inspection by checking tire pressure, fuel and oxygen tanks, cleaning the vehicles, and making sure the equipment is properly functioning.

Tactical vehicles are an important part of a combat logistics patrol, and keeping them running is a part of mission accomplishment. Wrecker Marines are always prepared to go out and recover crashed or damaged vehicles to support units with their missions in any situation.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Cpl. Stephen L. Rudinsky, 21, from Londonderry, N.H., wrecker non-commissioned officer in charge for Support Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, operates a crane lift on a Medium Tactical Vehicle Replacement MK-36 Wrecker at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 10. The MK-36 Wrecker equipment is operated by hydraulics. Wrecker Marines assist units with their mission by recovering damaged vehicles and taking them back to maintenance for repairs.

khoa.pelczar@usmc.mil

COMM. EX

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their skills and also familiarize themselves with the equipment.

"While the actual training starts on Monday, we're getting ours in right now," said Colville, 25, from Bettendorf, Iowa. "We have some Marines searching for a satellite signal, Marines setting up the actual COC tent and Marines putting up the (high frequency) anten-

na to have radio communication with CLB-6 at Twentynine Palms."

Marines are constantly training, whether they're going forward to the fight or staying back to support. The Command Post Exercise will improve how regimental staffs can track progress of the operating force.

khoa.pelczar@usmc.mil



Photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa N. Pelczar

Cpl. Jeff A. Keeley, 23, from San Diego, Calif., a Mobile Multi-Channel Communications Specialist with Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, searches for a satellite signal with a Demand Assigned Multiple Access Satellite during the Command Post Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 12-13. The Command Post Exercise familiarizes the regimental staffs with the equipment in the Command Operations Center, which they'll be using later in Afghanistan.

VOLUNTEER

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because they bring something different to the table for us," said Keydeniers, who has been in the program nine years and is from Oceanside, Calif. "We get to do new things all the time."

The meetings are held every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., excluding holidays, said Sheffield, a retired master gunnery sergeant.

"We have a variety of events our Young Marines participate in," said Sheffield. "We have a color guard, attend in parades, we even take them rappelling."

Other events include recruit training, a birthday ball and land navigation.

Duties aren't always physical. Many of the Young Marines look up to their volunteers for mental support.

"Volunteers provide leadership to assist Young Marines in taking the right path and to have a plan for their future," said Sheffield.

The volunteers help the Young Marines experience and learn new things that will make them become better people, said Young Marine Pfc. Loren S. Galdiano, the Coyotes' guide. The volunteers are tough on the Young Marines, but it helps them learn, said Galdiano, 15, Carlsbad, Calif.

Volunteers can become registered staff and can transfer to any of the 300 units available upon moving or change of station. There are four Young Marine programs on Camp Pendleton.

To help make an impact on Young Marines, visit the Young Marines Web site at www.youngmarines.com for additional information.

whitney.brakett@usmc.mil



Photo by Sgt. Whitney N. Frasier

Young Marines from Camp Pendleton Company, 4th Battalion, California Regiment, Division 6, plot coordinates on a map for land navigation at Del Mar on Nov. 14.

Equal opportunity keeps Marines mission ready

Story by Sgt. Whitney N. Frasier
The Convoy Staff

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marine Corps is built on the trust shared between individuals and their leaders. It is important for leaders to understand that fair and unbiased treatment is every Marine's right.

For this reason, equal opportunity advisers and representatives are available at every command to ensure the responsibilities of Marine Corps Order P5354.1D, or the guidelines for equal opportunity, are properly enforced.

"As an equal opportunity adviser, we are advocates for the order," said Gunnery Sgt. Craig A. Ranney, equal opportunity advisor, Special Staff, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group. "We make sure the process works and that it's adhered to."

According to the MCO, all Marines are expected to promote camaraderie among one another, regardless of age, color, gender, race, religion, or national origin, by setting the example.

Although it may be unlikely, every Marine could possibly become a victim of discrimination, racism or sexual harassment.

"If someone is being discriminated against or sexually harassed, an individual can't be expected to live up to their full potential," said Ranney, 36 from Silver Lake, Ohio.

A violation of the MCO could have adverse affects on not only the individual, but unit cohesion and teamwork as well, said Ranney.

Everyone is responsible for ensuring that equal opportunity is present in the Marine Corps aside from the EOA and EOR.

"Applying proper equal opportunity leadership is using the diversity of the individuals within our Marine Corps to enhance war-fighting capabilities," said Ranney.

Finding information regarding equal opportunity shouldn't be a hard task. It is policy for every command to make it available to its service members.

"Commanders are required to make equal opportunity statement,"

said Ranney. "It should cover sexual harassment, avenues to file a complaint, and potential outcomes if found guilty of discrimination or sexual harassment."

The chain of command is the preferred method of correction according to the MCO.

"There are two ways a member can file a complaint report, formal and informal" said Ranney.

Filing a complaint report is the number one method, said Ranney. This involves requesting mast.

Informal reports can be as simple as having a third party speak to the offender or the victim approaches the accused directly, said Ranney.

Military members should not fear reporting incidents. To ensure this is possible, information is only shared with those who must know.

"Issues are protected under the Privacy Act of 1974," said Ranney. "Information given to us can only be given to those who need to know about it."

Even after reporting the incident, the victim still has the opportunity to not do anything at all if they wish.

When a member is found guilty of discrimination or sexual harassment, he or she will be held responsible for their actions.

Violators can receive an administrative or punitive punishment, non-judicial punishment or the member could be processed for separation, said Ranney.

If a member feels that he or she has been a victim of racism, discrimination or sexual harassment, it is suggested the issue be reported immediately.

"We can only suggest they do something and tell them their options," said Ranney. "They aren't forced to do anything about it if they choose not to. Each command has its own representative available, even down to company level when necessary."

These representatives are available for military-related equal opportunity matters; however, it's essential to know whether the issue is more serious. Sexual assault is a crime.

Sexual assault, for example, can be described as intentional sexual contact that is physical in nature, said



Photo by Lance Cpl. John M. McCall

Marines with Weapons Company, 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, use metal detectors to search for hidden items at a compound in Nawa District, Helmand Province, Afghanistan on Nov. 6. Marines conducted an operation to search compounds for weapons and improvised explosive device making materials in a local village here.

1st Lt. Diane X. Moga, the Uniformed Victim Advocate for CLR-17.

Sexual harassment, on the other hand, is unwanted sexual advances, said Moga. For example, threatening one's career in exchange for sexual favors.

"When someone is sexually assaulted, they have the option to report it to the Uniformed Victim Advocate," said Moga, from Orlando, Fla.

The UVA, not to be mistaken with the EOR, is a person specifically trained to deal with sexual assault victims and get them the help they need, said Moga.

Due to the fine line between sexual harassment and sexual assault, either representative will point the victim in the right direction to filing a complaint.

"Having an equal opportunity representative is important because it keeps the playing field level for all service members," said Capt. Eric C. Malbrough, the maintenance officer, Headquarters Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. "It doesn't matter what gender, religion or color they are."

Each representative has been through a 40-hour course instructed by advisers, said Ranney.

"They are briefed on how to run the

equal opportunity program at company level, processing complaints and the interview process," said Ranney.

Because the program is made widely available to every Marine, it is every Marines' duty to ensure equal opportunity is known at every unit.

The Marine Corps' number one asset is its Marines. If every Marine isn't treated fairly and impartially, mission accomplishment could be negatively affected.

Violating the MCO is a serious offense. Additional information on how to prevent equal opportunity can be found by visiting the command EOR office.

[Editor's note: This is Part 8 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.]

whitney.brakett@usmc.mil

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

Photos from around the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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

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

Pfc. Boe J. Brown, 25, from McMinnville, Oregon, data specialist with Cross-Functional Alpha Platoon, Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, sets up a high frequency antenna during the Command Post Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 12-13. The Command Post Exercise familiarizes the regimental staffs with the equipment in the Command Operations Center, which they'll be using later in Afghanistan.



Lance Cpl. Trung Bao, disbursing specialist with Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, posts sentry for the Command Operations Center during the Command Post Exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 12-13. Bao, 22, from Saigon, Vietnam, moved to San Diego, Calif. when he was seven years old. The Command Post Exercise familiarizes the regimental staffs with the equipment in the COC, which they'll be using later in Afghanistan.

Happenings

REC Center Dinner

A catered Thanksgiving dinner will be provided at Camp Pendleton's Single Marine Program Rec Centers, Nov. 26 at 11 a.m. All single Marines and sailors are invited to attend.

Home for the Holidays

Home for the Holidays is a special program sponsored by the Single Marine Program that places single service men and women into homes of community families to celebrate Thanksgiving.

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.

Holiday Horn Blower Dinner Cruise

There will be a SMP Horn Blower dinner cruise on San Diego bay December 4th. The price is \$20 and will cover transportation, dinner and gratuity. The attire is semi-formal civilian attire and the event includes dancing and a cash bar. Departure will be from Mainside Information Tickets & Tours & Latitudes Travel.

Free Thanksgiving Dinner

There will be a free Thanksgiving Dinner at the Blinder Memorial Chapel Nov. 22 from 2 - 4 p.m. For more information contact Pastor Kenneth Bivens at 725-2929

Base Movie Theater

Wednesday - Zombieland (R) at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday - The Invention of Lying (R) at 6:30 p.m.

Friday - Zombieland (R) at 6:30 p.m. **The Stepfather** (PG 13) at 9 p.m.

Saturday - Fame (PG) at 3:30 p.m. **Couples Retreat** (PG-13) 6:15 p.m. **Surrogates** (PG-13) 9 p.m.

Sunday - Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince (PG) 1 p.m. **Up** (PG) 4:15 p.m. **The Ugly Truth** (R) 6:45 p.m.