



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

November 9, 2012

Volume 5 Issue 6



CLB-2

supports mission, supplies Marines



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Cover Page:

Cpl. Travis Martin, wrecker operator, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, secures chains to lift a trailer off a truck bed, Oct. 24, 2012. The combat logistics patrol delivered a trailer and picked up two broken trailers and a forklift before returning to Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan. (Photo by Cpl. Timothy Lenzo)

To read the story and see more photos, go to page seven.

1ST MLG'S VIDEO FEATURE

We Are Logistics: This is part one of a series highlighting the Logistics Command Element while deployed to Helmand province, Afghanistan. This video features Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, supplying Marines and Coalition Forces on the frontlines in Afghanistan with much-needed supplies and equipment.

Produced by Sgt. John Jackson.

CLICK HERE TO VIEW ON YOUTUBE.



Tuition Assistance Class

Every Wednesday at 11:30 a.m., Joint Education Center offers a College 101 class to inform service members about different college offers, on and off base, as well as providing information about tuition assistance and how to use it. For more information, call the JEC at (760) 725-6660.

Motorcycle Safety Courses

An advanced riders course will be held weekly, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. A basic rider's course will be held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Both courses will take place at Bldg. 200071. For more information, call Kevin Frantum at (760) 725-2897.

CLICK ON THESE LINKS TO FOLLOW US ON:



> Jonathan Bear, 6, son of Sgt. Tyler Bear, the unit movement coordinator center chief with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, holds an M4 semiautomatic rifle during CLB-1's family day at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 3.

▼ Cpl. Elizabeth Stevens, a radio operator with CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG, shows her daughter, Vanessa, the M240 Bravo during CLB-1's family day at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 3.



Photos by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

CLB-1 hosts family day

▼ Nicholas Corapi, 3, son of Petty Officer 1st Class Michael Corapi, lead petty officer with CLB-1, CLR-1, 1st MLG, sits behind the M240 Bravo during CLB-1's family day at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 3.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

CLR-17 hosts Jane Wayne Day and Family Day



▲ Marines and spouses of Headquarters and Service Companies, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct a three-mile hike near Lake O'Neal at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 2.

> Golda D. Burns, the wife of Gunnery Sgt. Justin C. Burns, with CLR-17, fires a mock .50-caliber machine gun at the indoor simulated marksmanship trainer at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 2.

▼ Children play on an inflatable slide at the Headquarters and Service Companies Jane Wayne Day and Family Day at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 2.



Photos by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer



To see more photos, [click here.](#)



1st EOD returns home

Photos by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

▲ Master Sgt. Jackie Canaday, an explosive ordnance disposal chief with 1st Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, greets his family at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 26, after a seven-month tour in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



◀ Staff Sgt. Jason Hilker, an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 1st EOD Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, greets his family after returning to Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 26, from a deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan.

▼ Gunnery Sgt. Kristopher Hocking, an explosive ordnance disposal team leader with 1st EOD Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, holds his child at Camp Pendleton, Calif., after returning from a seven-month deployment to Helmand province, Afghanistan, Oct. 26.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)



Marines with 1st Supply Battalion, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participate in a pie-eating contest, pumpkin-carving contest, pumpkin-tossing contest and a pork shoulder cooking contest during 1st Supply Bn. Barracks Bash at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 25.

Photos by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

1st Supply Bn. Barracks Bash



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

CLB-2 supports mission, supplies Marines

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – The Marines and sailors supplying the infantry and other coalition forces have a job with long hours, late nights and early mornings.

Recently, a combat logistics patrol comprised of 22 vehicles and more than 60 Marines and sailors traveled to three forward operating bases.

The convoy departed at 8 p.m. and returned 32-hours later. They returned after picking up an additional two vehicles, three trailers and a forklift.

For service members with 4th Platoon, Transportation Support Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, this is a typical convoy.

They travel to different bases with supplies for the Marines and pick up anything broken or not needed.

“On this last mission, we resupplied 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines,” said 1st. Lt. Andrew Schlottmann, the platoon commander.

Schlottmann’s platoon brought food, drinks, surveillance equipment and construction materials to three bases. The platoon often brings mission essential items.

“The construction materials will help the combat engineers improve the base,” said Schlottmann. “What we bring to the bases is often used very quickly. Sometimes we have gear critical to the Marines’ mission, so they’ll have someone waiting for us to get that piece of gear.”

Marines understand supplying the battalions is vital to the mission. They take pride in making sure the Marines and coalition forces at the smaller bases have what they need.

“What we do is critical,” said Sgt. Adam Virosztko, platoon sergeant, 4th Platoon. “Without us, the Marines at the bases wouldn’t be able to do what they do. It’s not just about driving from point A to point B, it’s

about making sure they have everything they need at each point.”

With the number of vehicles and personnel, keeping track of everything is not an easy task.

“It can be a challenge to coordinate all the moving parts,” said Schlottmann. “Fortunately, we have some extremely competent noncommissioned officers, and Sgt. Varosztko does a very good job.”

The Marines traveled knowing the dangers involved of driving in a combat zone. While firefights are a possibility, the main concern for the convoy is improvised explosive devices.

Each patrol travels with a security team. The team investigates any potential IED threats, provides security and is ready to engage an enemy when needed.

The platoon has been in Afghanistan for approximately three months and has traveled throughout Helmand province supporting Marines and coalition forces.

“We’ve become very proficient,” said Schlottman. “The Marines proved they can operate their vehicles according to our standard operating procedures.”

Following the SOPs is vital for drivers who often find themselves in tight places and on roads not designed for large vehicles.

Operators are vigilant not to cause damage or harm to any locals or their buildings.

“Fortunately, all our operators are extremely well trained, and we haven’t had any incidents with locals and always accomplish our mission,” said Schlottmann.

Despite the drawdown of troops in Afghanistan, supplying the Marines is still a vital and necessary job.

The Marines with CLB-2 continue to drive through Afghanistan, dropping off and picking up anything and everything until the mission is accomplished.

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Timothy Lenzo
Regional Command
Southwest

> Marines with CLB-2, CLR-15, prepare to leave Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, to resupply three forward operating bases, Oct. 23. The combat logistics patrol also picked up two additional vehicles, three trailers and a forklift.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

Loadmaster supplies service members

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan – More than 20 vehicles of varying shapes and sizes kick up dust and sand as a combat logistics patrol drives through Afghanistan.

Corporal Armando Muniz, loadmaster, 4th Platoon, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, keeps track of everything the patrol drops off and picks up. He makes sure everything gets where it needs to be.

The battalion supplies Marines and other coalition forces throughout Helmand province. Most of the food, drinks, building materials and equipment come from their logistics patrols.

“We take everything from point A to point B and sometimes even C,” said Muniz, from New York.

A loadmaster’s job ranges from seeing that everything is loaded safely and securely, to making sure gear is signed over to the proper person. Muniz also makes sure he knows what the Marines need for future deliveries.

“Sometimes Marines don’t always get everything,” said Muniz. “I talk to the Marines. When I’m back, I make sure we load it on the next convoy. If there are other Marines going back to the base, I’ll give it to them.”

It is this kind of dedication that developed Muniz’s reputation of being professional and helpful. The Marines at the bases know when the logistics patrol arrives to find Muniz if they need anything.

“When people call our office looking for gear, they ask for Cpl. Muniz by name,” said 1st Lt. Andrew Schlottmann, Muniz’s platoon commander. “He’s earned himself a reputation with the Marines with 2nd Battalion, 7th Marines. They know when he shows up, he’s there to work, and they take him very seriously.”

When a patrol arrives at a forward operating base, there are a lot of moving parts. Certain bases receive certain items and quantities. In addition, Marines at each base

might have something to return with the convoy. With more than 20 vehicles and 60 Marines and sailors moving around large boxes of cargo, the importance of a loadmaster quickly becomes clear.

“Corporal Muniz is always the first person on scene when we get to other FOBs,” said Sgt. Bryan Hall, security team leader, 4th Platoon. “He’s always coordinating with the other units, and he makes the unloading and loading a lot easier.”

Muniz is active when the logistics patrols arrive. He makes sure the correct personnel sign for items, checks unloaded gear and accounts for loaded gear.

“He’s also on the trucks with the Marines undoing straps and unbinding chains,” said Hall, from North Tonawanda, N.Y. “He doesn’t just sit there and tell people what to do. He gets his hands dirty and works with the Marines.”

For Muniz, the job is the next challenge he is trying to conquer.

This is his first year as a loadmaster. He volunteered for the position before he deployed. He enjoys working under the stress and time-sensitive conditions.

“After my first two deployments, I wanted to move up to a bigger challenge,” said Muniz. “When I’m loading, sometimes I feel like I’m playing Tetris. I’m trying to load as much as I can on one vehicle safely.”

Muniz may compare his job to a game, but he takes his job seriously.

“I play a supportive role for the guys out there in the fight,” said Muniz. “I want to make sure they have everything they need.”

With winter fast approaching, Muniz’s job as loadmaster will not slow down.

He will continue to make sure Marines and coalition service members throughout Helmand province receive the necessary gear and supplies to continue operations.

V Cpl. Armando Muniz, loadmaster, CLB-2, CLR-15, secures chains to a supply container, Oct. 24, 2012. Muniz said loading the gear is similar to playing Tetris.

**Story and photos by:
Cpl. Timothy Lenzo
Regional Command Southwest**



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

Combat Course improves deployment readiness

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Although every Marine goes through the School of Infantry following recruit training, the skills learned can diminish over time.

Many Marines spend time in the field conducting various evolutions to keep those skills fresh.

For any unit within 1st Marine Logistics Group, a course is offered to improve the overall combat readiness for members in the group.

The Basic Combat Skills Course is a week-long field operation that covers a broad range of subjects.

Marines conduct a two-hour hike, go on patrols and move through a makeshift

village known as MOUT town, military operations in urban terrain. They also receive classes on land navigation, improvised explosive device awareness and combat hunter.

During the course, participants learn vehicle and personal search procedures, practice setting up security, and build terrain models to prepare for missions.

Instructors with the Combat Skills Training School, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG, teach various topics to the participating unit before putting them in a 24-hour final exercise to employ what they learned.

The instructors role play as aggressors in MOUT town to give a realistic

scenario for squads moving through the makeshift town. Throughout the night, Marines conduct patrols and stand guard around their camp.

To keep each Marine in a high state of alert mock IEDs are placed in various areas where the squads patrol.

For non-infantry units, the course offers refresher skills as well as new tactics to prepare Marines for combat.

The Combat Skills Training School is offering 14 BCS courses during fiscal year 2014 for any 1st MLG units.

For more information regarding the course, contact Capt. James Montani, officer-in-charge, Combat Skills Training School, at 760-725-5993.



▲ A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, CLR-17, 1st MLG, stands guard at a vehicle entry point during the BSC Course, Oct. 18.

Story and photos by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer



▲ Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, CLR-17, 1st MLG, move through a make shift training town during the BCS Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 18.

◀ A squad leader with Combat Logistics Battalion 11, CLR-17, 1st MLG, stands guard during a night operation at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 18.

To see more photos, [click here.](#)

7th ESB Marines take on field exercise

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, completed a large-scale exercise here, Oct. 15.

The field exercise measured the battalion's readiness and provided a training environment where each section directly supported the objective.

"The purpose of the exercise was to gain an understanding from the battalion of where we stand for deployments," said Gunnery Sgt. Larry McCutcheon, Headquarters and Support Company gunnery sergeant, 7th ESB. "The morale was great, and I think we'll be ready to move forward if we're called."

McCutcheon said the various companies within 7th ESB conducted their portion of the exercise separately, like puzzle pieces. If one person or unit failed to do their job it could hinder the overall exercise.

"Everyone's job is important," said McCutcheon, 32, from Lake City, S.C. "The Marines were really great. They were provided with information on how their job

helps the battalion as a whole."

The exercise included the construction of the largest fuel farm built by 7th ESB in Camp Pendleton. The battalion constructed a temporary base site with a one-mile perimeter and a seven-foot berm earlier in the week. Marines constructed a combat operations center and opened communications with all supporting units, including Alpha Company, 7th ESB, which conducted its exercises at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif.

Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, constructed a 32,000-gallon fuel farm to support the exercise and train Marines. The fuel farms are used in a deployment environment to fuel machinery and vehicles to support operations.

"We built it completely from the ground up," said 28-year-old Sgt. Kelly A. Brown, from Manassas, Va., a bulk fuel specialist with Bulk Fuel Company. "This is the largest fuel farm we've built for a training exercise. It gave the Marines much opportunity to learn their jobs. We had to come

up with the fine details, schematics, layout, measurements and how big to build the berm."

Combat engineers with Bridge Company, 7th ESB, built a non-standard bridge to move heavy equipment in a deployed environment and overcome obstacles. The bridge can also be installed to provide better driving conditions and improve foreign relations.

"They put the bridge up, which normally takes around nine hours, in about five hours," said 34-year-old Staff Sgt. Timothy Liners, from Brooklyn, N.Y., a combat engineer with Bridge Company. "It was a textbook move, very smooth. They did it exceptionally well."

The battalion tore down the base site six days after the set-up. No major hitches or problems hindered the exercise and McCutcheon considered it to be a success.

"It's been a great learning experience working with these Marines," he said. "When that time comes and we're called, we can go out there and get the job done."



▲ Marines with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, disconnect hoses from a fuel farm during a field training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15.



▲ Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Potts, from Pittsburgh, a bulk fuel specialist with Bulk Fuel Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, drags a fuel hose during a field training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15.

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Joshua Young
I Marine Expeditionary Force

▼ Staff Sgt. Wayne Plew, an operations chief with Bridge Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, directed by Staff Sgt. Timothy Liners, a combat engineer with Bridge Co., drives across a newly constructed non-standard bridge during a field training exercise at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Oct. 15.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

7th ESB restores range in Twentynine Palms

MARINE CORPS AIR GROUND COMBAT CENTER TWENTYNINE PALMS, Calif. – As part of their ongoing training, Marines with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, completed their restoration on a fire and maneuver range, here, Oct. 17.

Several bunkers, which serve as targets, were riddled with bullet holes during live fire exercises. The 7th ESB engineers replaced these bunkers as part of a battalion-sized exercise

taking place in Twentynine Palms and Camp Pendleton.

“The purpose [of this exercise] is to gain proficiency in survivability operations, general engineering operations and command and control operations,” said Capt. Brent L. Kershaw, company commander, Alpha Company, 7th ESB. “We had a couple of construction projects we wanted to execute for the [Range and Training Area Maintenance Section].”

Although their work took place at Twentynine Palms, the Marines maintained a tactical

mindset throughout the process to present an atmosphere similar to that of a combat zone.

“The training out here is for Marines to get better at their job,” said Cpl. Clarence J. Cly, a motor transportation operator with Alpha Company, 7th ESB. “It really builds the team’s camaraderie a lot and it gives us a taste of our jobs in a combat environment.”

The project not only gave the engineers a chance to work together in a new environment, but also helped them smooth out any rough edges.

“At the beginning we had hiccups, but over time we worked out the kinks,” said Cly, 22, from Fruitland, N.M.

Once the Marines’ project on the range is finished, they will continue to perform different tasks until the completion of the exercise.

“I’m proud of the work everyone has done,” said Kershaw, 29, from Burleson, Texas. “It’s good to see an ESB company with all its forces working together, showing how we can be a force multiplier on the battlefield.”

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

> Cpl. Alex C. Vincent, a combat engineer with Alpha Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, guides a drill bit at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 15.

▼ Marines with Alpha Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG, dig out a bunker at MCAGCC Twentynine Palms, Calif., Oct. 15.



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

CLB-15 celebrates 25th anniversary

ABOARD THE USS RUSHMORE - The ship was unusually busy one early morning aboard the USS Rushmore as the golden sun rose, casting long shadows of Marines standing in formation across the flight deck.

Combat Logistics Battalion 15 celebrated their 25th birthday with a Battle Color Rededication Ceremony here, Oct. 15, during the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit and Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group's Western Pacific deployment.

During the ceremony, the unit's battle colors were adorned with award streamers the unit had received since it was first activated 25 years ago in 1987 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif.

The unit was then known as Marine Amphibious Unit Service Support Group 15 and was assigned to the 1st Force Service Support Group, which is now 1st Marine Logistics Group. Since that time, the unit

has had a rich history of serving the Marine Corps and United States.

"Since World War II, in nearly every crisis, the United States Marine Corps has deployed projection forces, with the ability to move ashore with sufficient sustainability for prolonged operations," said Lt. Col. John Wiener, commanding officer, CLB-15, 15th MEU. "These forces have been organized into Marine Air Ground Task Forces, a combination of air, ground and support assets to maximize the combat power of each of the war fighting elements. [Marine Air Ground Task Forces] have long provided the United States with a broad spectrum of response options when U.S. and allied interests have been threatened and in non-combat situations that require instant response to crisis. Combat Logistics Battalion 15, as the logistics combat element for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit, is no ex-

ception."

The unit supported many operations even before it was assigned to 1st FSSG and has an intertwined record of service with the 15th MEU. In October 1989, elements of MSSG-15, under the operational control of the 15th MEU, participated in earthquake relief efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area of California, one of their first major operations.

Since that time the unit has participated in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Fiery Vigil, Operation Restore Hope, Operation Support Hope, Operation Vigilant Warrior, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Stabilize, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Unified Assistance. Among these operations were a number of humanitarian operations in countries including Pakistan, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Somalia, Philippines and Timor-Leste.

In fact, Oct. 11-16, the CLB conducted multiple humanitarian operations in Timor-Leste that included medical and engineering aid to remote locations. This was the second time the unit had visited the country.

"As one can see, the distinct ability of amphibious forces to gain access to critical areas anywhere in the world with ground, air and logistics forces enables the Navy-Marine Corps team to shape actions across the range of military operations to resolve conflict, conduct humanitarian assistance or combat the enemy in remote, austere environments that would otherwise be inaccessible. CLB-15 is no exception as her short but great history and lineage clearly attests to," said Wiener.

As the deployment continues, the 15th MEU plans to conduct more training operations with foreign countries and will continue to be America's away team, ready to respond to any call for action.

V The color guard for CLB 15, 15th MEU, presents their unit's battle colors to be rededicated during the CLB's 25th birthday aboard the USS Rushmore, Oct. 15.

**Story and photos by:
Lance Cpl. Timothy Childers
15th Marine Expeditionary Unit**



To see more photos, [click here.](#)

7th ESB wife runner-up in spouse of the year award

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Spouses throughout the military do great things every day. Many have jobs and families to care for while volunteering to help out in their spouse's unit.

For one spouse within the 1st Marine Logistics Group community, her hard work paid off when she was nominated to be the Marine Corps' Spouse of the Year.

The nomination was a great honor for Kerry-Ann Ellington, the wife of 1st Sgt. Delwin K. Ellington, company first sergeant, Bravo Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st MLG.

"I was shocked, but not surprised," said Delwin, 36, from West Palm Beach, Fla. "I knew she deserved the nomination, but

I didn't expect someone to see that and nominate her."

Kerry-Ann was nominated by her sister and several other people who thought she deserved the title.

"It was an honor, and I was kind of shocked to be selected as one of the five spouses from each [military] branch," said Kerry-Ann.

During the past year, Kerry-Ann has worked with Blue Star Families, a website dedicated to providing information to military family members, and the S.T.A.R. foundation, a group which educates young women about abstinence and safe sex.

Additionally, Kerry-Ann works as an assistant family readiness officer while maintaining her own household with three

children.

"I love giving information that's going to help people out," said Kerry-Ann, 31, from Kingston, Jamaica. "It can be a lot of work, but I'm glad to help."

Delwin is impressed by the hours his wife invests to assist military families.

"She is full steam," said Delwin. "I don't know how she does it. She gets everything done around the house and still finds so much time to help others. I call her the backbone of my family."

Kerry-Ann is thankful for the support Delwin gives her on a daily basis, she said.

"[Delwin has] been really supportive," said Kerry-Ann. "We see this as a great opportunity to get the word out about the organizations, and he's been my biggest fan."



^ Kerry-Ann Ellington poses with her husband, 1st Sgt. Delwin K. Ellington, company first sergeant, Bravo Company, 7th ESB, 1st MLG. Kerry-Ann was nominated for 2012 Marine Corps Spouse of the Year because of her work with Blue Star Families and the S.T.A.R. Foundation, along with filling the position of an assistant family readiness officer. (Courtesy Photo)

Story by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer