



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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CLB-1

supports infantry in field exercise



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Cover Page:

Marines with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, load onto vehicles operated by Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov. 5. Marines with CLB-1 completed an exercise coordinated with 1/4 on Nov. 8, where they subjected themselves to very austere conditions to train with an expeditionary mindset. (Photo by Cpl. Kenneth Jasik)

CLB-1 supports infantry in field exercise

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – As fewer forces rotate through Afghanistan, Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group are moving back to their expeditionary mindset and changing the manner of their training as they prepare for any kind of future operation.

Instead of training out of established forward operating bases, the Marines are setting up and conducting exercises on their own. Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st MLG, finished one of these exercises, Nov. 8.

“We are conducting field exercises to get back to the expeditionary practices of the Marine Corps,” said Sgt. Tyler J. Bear, unit movement control coordinator, CLB-1, 1st MLG. “This is not going into a FOB Marines have been in for years, it’s actually going somewhere and bringing everything you need.”

In addition to setting up their FOB, the Marines conducted combat logistics patrols in support of 1st Battalion, 4th Marines, who were simultaneously training in the field.

“We aren’t going to be in Afghanistan. The next place we are going to is not going to have established FOBs and bases,” said Bear, 27, from Aurora, Colo. “It could be landing on a

beach.”

The Marines of CLB-1 know they are essential in expeditionary warfare, because they may be the most significant support provided to the ground combat element.

“The entire purpose of a CLB is to support the grunts,” said Bear. “We do our best to give them what they need, so they can go do their thing.”

The Marines on the front lines only have what they can carry on their backs and are often loaded down with body armor, ammunition, water and anything else the mission requires. The logistics Marines know that they help alleviate that load.

“They are out there in the middle of nowhere,” said Sgt. Ashniel D. Britton, a motor transportation operator with CLB-1. “You feel that purpose when you bring them the supplies they need.”

The CLB-1 Marines know the grunts are working and fighting hard, so they constantly strive to help them in any way they can.

“I feel a lot of pride working with these grunts,” said Britton about his fellow CLB-1 Marines. “I know I can task out the most junior Marines, and they already know exactly what they need to do.”



Story and photos by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

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



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SOCIAL MEDIA BUZZ

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Cake holder, Lance Cpl. Donovan Lee.

Photo by: Staff Sgt. Mark Fayloga

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DVIDS Hub 1stMLG

Image Title: 7th ESB Marines hike through Camp Pendleton

Taken: Nov. 15

Photo by: Cpl. Kenneth Jasik

Page: 5

Web Views: 46

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Happy 237th Marine Corps Birthday

Photos from 1st MLG Officer's Ball

Camp Pendleton Football League Champions 1st MLG Beast

**Story and photos by
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer**

Record: 10 - 0

Beast - 20 vs. 3rd AA Bn - 0

Beast - 32 vs. MCRD - 0

Beast - 48 vs. MASS-3 - 0

Beast - 27 vs. 1st Marines - 0

Beast - 16 vs. Miramar - 14

Beast - 54 vs. 1st Radio Bn - 0

Beast - 42 vs. WFT Bn - 0

Beast - 34 vs. 11th Marines - 28

Beast - 42 vs. 3rd AA Bn - 0

Beast - 14 vs. Miramar - 6

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - From football training to the regular season to playoffs, the 1st Marine Logistics Group Beast succeeded in defeating every team they faced this year on the field.

After an amazing season of continuous wins, Marines and sailors with the Beast made it to the Camp Pendleton Cup championship game to face the Marine Corps Air Station Miramar Falcons, here, Nov. 20.

Winning the coin toss, the Beast deferred to the second half and kicked off to the Falcons.

Both teams played a strong defense and kept the ball centrally located for most of the first quarter.

Despite an interception thrown by Beast quarterback Matthew Petrie, the Falcons were not able to score from the recovery.

With only a few minutes left in the first quarter, the Falcons fumbled the ball, which

was picked up by defense player Steven Koller, who ran it for the first touchdown of the game. The extra point kicked by Christian Proud brought the score to 7-0.

During the second quarter, the ball was held mostly in centerfield by both the Beast and the Falcons. In the last minute of the half, the Beast finally got the ball within field goal range. The kick was blocked, but a penalty by the Falcons resulted in the Beast getting a fourth down repeat.

The Beast set up for another field goal attempt and the ball was snapped. Surprising the Falcons and confusing their defense, the Beast faked the field goal and the ball was passed off to wide receiver Charles "Hester" Robinson, who ran it for a first down. With only seconds left in the first half, Petrie ran the ball into the end zone for the second touchdown of the game.

The extra point was good, bringing the score to 14-0 at halftime.

The Beast started the second half with

possession of the ball, but neither team was able to add points during the third quarter. Both teams caught an interception, but neither was able to get any points out of it. The Beast came within field goal range; however, the kick was no good.

In the final quarter, the Falcons started feeling more pressure to stay in the game. A long pass caught by Falcon receiver Gregory Sergeant brought the Falcons to first and goal. The team was able to score a touchdown. As the clock ticked, the Falcons had to go for a two-point conversion if they were going to have a chance to win. The attempt was failed, and no more points were added to the board. The final score was 14-6.

The 1st MLG Beast was announced as the champions of the Camp Pendleton Cup and will play a final game against the Marine Air Ground Combat Center Twenty-nine Palms to compete for the "Best of the West" football team here, Dec. 8.



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

7th ESB Marines hike through Camp Pendleton

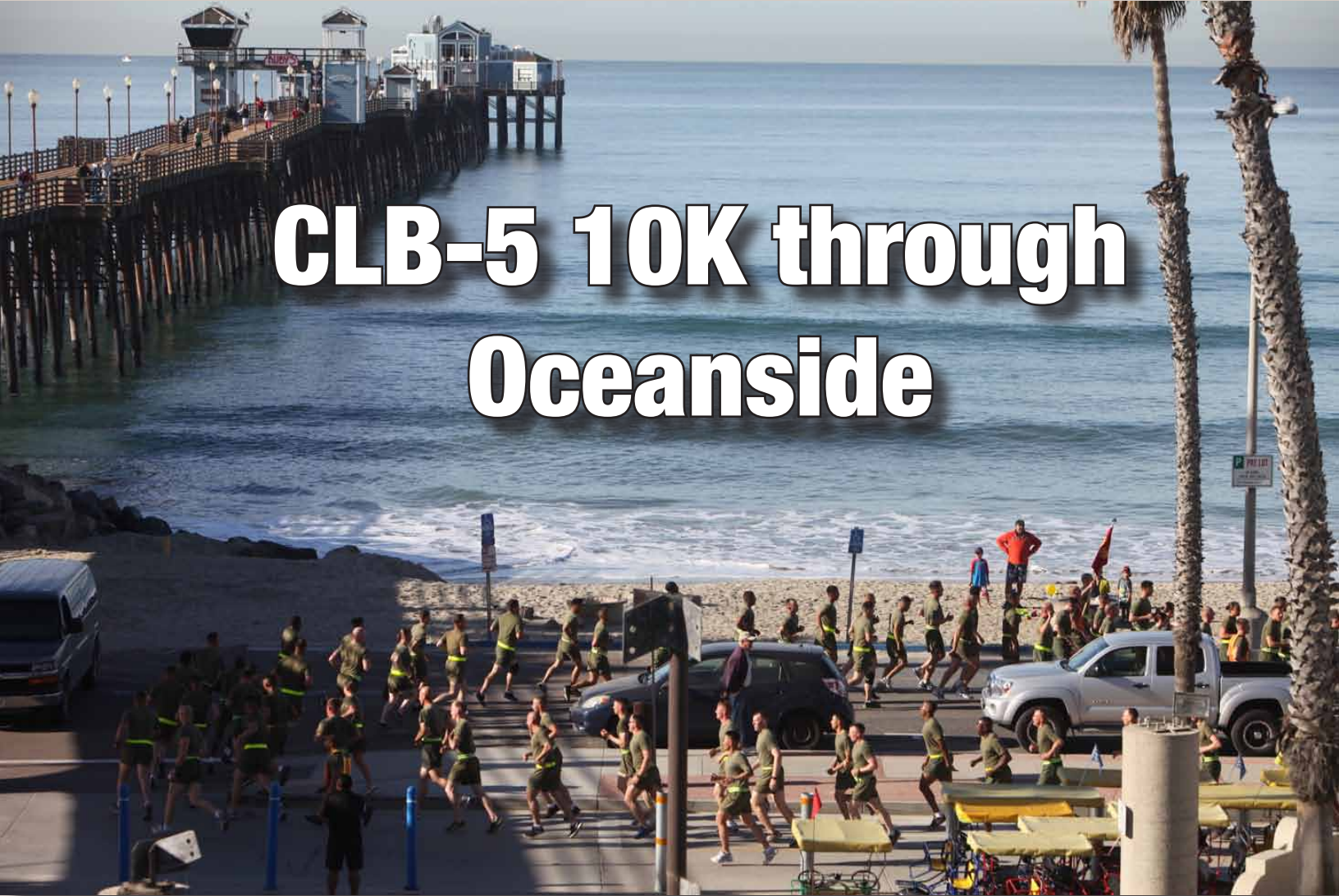


Photos by:
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer

Marines with Charlie Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conduct a six-mile hike at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Nov 15. The Marines conditioned themselves through the rugged terrain to prepare themselves for future operations.



CLB-5 10K through Oceanside



Marines and sailors with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, conducted a 10K run from Del Mar area at Camp Pendleton, Calif., to the Oceanside pier, Nov. 14.

Photos by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer



Operation Golden Gate connects Sangin, Musa Qal'ah

SANGIN DISTRICT, Afghanistan – Ground was broken for the start of Operation Golden Gate in the Sangin District of Helmand province, Afghanistan, Nov. 4.

Marines, sailors and soldiers are working together in an effort to build a bridge more than 24 feet wide that will span more than 150 feet across the Helmand River, allowing for easy passage for the local people.

“This is a joint project to build a permanent bridging solution to connect the east and west banks of the river,” said Marine 2nd Lt. Benjamin Nelson, mission commander for Engineer Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 2, Combat Logistics Regiment 15.

The current bridge site is near the northern causeway, which once housed a bridge

that connected the people of Sangin and Musa Qal'ah.

“The northern causeway was the site of an existing medium girder bridge,” said Lt. j.g. James A. Bruno, a platoon commander with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133. “Over time, the river expanded west, making it no longer feasible to have the bridge there.”

Still in the early stages of construction, the bridge involves each different unit involved to play specific roles.

“Right now, Engineer Company is working on the roadwork improvements,” said Nelson. “An Army unit will place the bridge, and the Navy is doing the majority of the work on the western side.”

Units involved include: 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, providing security; 20th Army Engineer

Battalion and 178th Army Engineer Battalion; 12th Georgian Battalion, and more units scheduled to support as the construction progresses.

With just a week of construction completed, the bridge is showing visible signs of progress. HESCO barriers are lining the banks, leveled out ground is expanding with each pass of the bulldozers, and the area leading up to the bridge is resembling a road more each day.

“I would say today we are about at 20 percent,” said Bruno. “We still have a lot of work to do.”

The work each of the units is putting in will culminate into a final, finished product that will not only aid and bolster the community, but also the military forces in the region.

“I understand that the market is 55 kilometers out of the way if you're taking normal routes, which is a significant detour,” said Bruno. “This is going to be easier for (the locals') Thursday market trips.”

“Although the bridge will be of strategic importance to the coalition forces while we remain here and for (Afghan National Security Forces) going forward, it will be a permanent bridge structure that Afghans, both military and civilian, can use,” said Nelson. “I think both socially and economically it will be extremely important for them.”

Each day, the servicemembers involved with Operation Golden Gate push further ahead and move steps closer to a final, district connecting bridge that will help shape the region.

> A service member uses a bulldozer to level out dirt at the construction site during Operation Golden Gate in Sangin, Afghanistan, Nov. 10. Operation Golden Gate is a combined effort involving several units from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Georgian forces.

V The Helmand River swelled throughout the years prompting the need for Operation Golden Gate in the Sangin District of Helmand province, Afghanistan. The operation calls for a bridge more than 150 feet long and 24 feet wide to be placed across the Helmand River to allow a better form of transportation for the local people.

Story and photos by:
Cpl. Anthony Ward
Regional Command Southwest



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

CLR-15 celebrates 237th birthday in Afghanistan

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan — Marines and sailors from Combat Logistics Regiment 15 celebrated the Marine Corps birthday here in a traditional cake-cutting ceremony during morning colors.

This deployed celebration of the Marine Corps birthday stands in stark contrast to the celebrations usually experienced in the United States.

Absent are the dress blue uniforms, formal dinners and fancy ballrooms. Spouses and family members were not in attendance. But there was still something special about this particular birthday despite the lack of decor.

Service members in desert

camouflage watched as the Marines designated as cake bearers carried the ceremonial birthday cake on a cart made from two-by-fours and adorned with a poncho liner. The presentation was simple yet significant.

Colonel Stephen D. Sklenka, commanding officer of CLR-15, explained why this ceremony will always stand out in the memories of the Marines and sailors present.

“You can add your name to the short list of Marines who have celebrated the Marine Corps birthday in a combat zone,” said Sklenka. “When you’re 75-years-old and you’re bouncing your grandchild on your knee, you can tell them

that you served in the Marine Corps and celebrated a birthday forward-deployed in Afghanistan. Not many others can say that.”

Remembering the past service of those Marines who have served in previous conflicts throughout the globe is a major part of the birthday celebration.

It is tradition to read a message from the current commandant of the Marine Corps as well as a message written in 1921, by Gen. John A. Lejeune, the 13th commandant of the Marine Corps.

It’s also part of the tradition to give both the oldest and the youngest Marine present the first and second pieces of cake.

This tradition symbolizes the passing years of experience to the younger members of the Corps who will someday pass on lessons of their own.

The oldest Marine was Maj. Michael Nolan, the officer-in-charge of Logistics Readiness Center, CLR-15, and the youngest Marine was Lance Cpl. Jorden Sexton, a motor vehicle mechanic with Combat Logistics Company 153.

As long as there is a United States Marine Corps, Marines will continue to celebrate the Marine Corps birthday in foreign lands. The service members of CLR-15 were proud to continue that tradition in Afghanistan.

Story by:

**1st Lt. Tyler Morrison
Public Affairs Officer**



▲ Marines with CLR-15 escort the unit’s ceremonial birthday cake during a ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 10.



▲ First Lt. Tyler Morrison, the adjutant for CLR-15’s cake cutting ceremony, reads Gen. John A. Lejeune’s birthday message during a cake-cutting ceremony at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 10.



◀ Colonel Stephen Sklenka, left, the commanding officer for CLR-15, hands a piece of birthday cake to Maj. Michael Nolan, center, the oldest Marine present during CLR-15’s ceremony on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, Nov. 10. The piece of cake was then given to Lance Cpl. Jorden Sexton, the youngest Marine present.

**Photos by:
Sgt. John Jackson
Staff Writer**

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

Marines celebrate 237th aboard USS Rushmore

ABOARD USS RUSHMORE

— Normally during the most important of Marine Corps celebrations, Marines would be looking sharp in their dress blue uniforms and seated at tables in a ballroom. Things were done differently during this festivity.

Marines from the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit swayed in formation as the ship pitched and yawned over a deep sea during the early celebration of the 237th Marine Corps Birthday, Nov. 7. Because the MEU is scheduled to conduct a training operation on Nov. 10, the official date of the Marine Corps birthday, the event was held early.

All Marines were in attendance for the ceremony on the flight deck as the official message from the 35th Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos, was read.

“The commandant, in his

message, reminds us that only a few Americans choose the dangerous, but necessary, work of fighting our nation’s enemies,” said Lt. Col. John J. Wiener, commanding officer of Combat Logistics Battalion 15, 15th MEU.

“The Marine Corps is what it is because of who you and I are, and we are who we are, in no small part, because of the training and experience the Marine Corps afforded us. So, as we celebrate our history, let’s reflect on what bonds us together,” added Wiener, speaking to troops during the celebration.

The cake-cutting ceremony was the main event in the time-honored ceremony. While most people use a spatula or knife to cut the first slice of cake, Marines use a sword to complete this rite.

The first slice of cake was given to the guest of honor, Cmdr. Brian Finman, com-

manding officer of the USS Rushmore. The second slice was handed to the oldest Marine attending, Master Sgt. Jason C. Topp, operations chief with CLB-15, 15th MEU. After taking a bite, he handed to the youngest Marine present, Lance Cpl. Marcos A. Solis, a motor transportation operator with CLB-15.

“This is the first time I’ve had the honor to be the oldest Marine at the ceremony,” said Topp.

“It’s humbling after being in the Marine Corps for more than 23 years to be that Marine. It’s something everyone thinks about but never believes will happen. I was able to pass on some words of wisdom to the youngest Marine present,” added the 41-year-old from Marblehead, Mass.

The passing of the slice of cake from the oldest Marine to the youngest Marine present

symbolizes the passing of history and traditions to the next generation.

“It was great for my first time celebrating the Marine Corps Birthday,” said Solis.

“It was an exciting experience. It’s an important tradition because it gives us time to reflect and honor what we did in the past,” said the 19-year-old from Mineral Wells, Texas.

After the ceremony, the Marines were dismissed to the mess-decks for evening chow. It’s customary for Marines around the world to be served a much deserved steak-and-lobster dinner as they reflect on the Corps’ illustrious past and promising future.

The 15th MEU is deployed as part of the Peleliu Amphibious Ready Group as a theater reserve and crisis response force throughout U.S. Central Command and the U.S. 5th Fleet area of responsibility.

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

V Marines with the 15th MEU carry the ceremonial birthday cake during an early Marine Corps Birthday celebration on the flight deck of the USS Rushmore, Nov. 7.



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

Marine goes on pilgrimage to Mecca

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines come from many different backgrounds, and their beliefs span almost all religions.

To support every Marine's faith, Navy chaplains try their best to promote everyone's spirituality through counseling, support services and travel opportunities.

Lance Cpl. Michael S. Isabelle, a wireman with Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, was given the opportunity to attend the Hajj, a pilgrimage that represents the fifth pillar of Islam, in support of his faith.

Every year, a Muslim service member from each branch of the military is chosen

to attend the Hajj, sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government. Isabelle was chosen to represent the Marine Corps this year.

"The reason the king of Saudi Arabia sends out the invitation every year is to build a good relationship with the United States," said Isabelle. "I was very well taken care of."

During the pilgrimage, Isabelle visited holy sites in Mecca, Mina, Arafat, and Muzdalifah. However, one event stuck out to him the most.

Going to Mecca and seeing the Kaaba for the first time in person made the most significant impact on Isabelle during his pilgrimage.

"The first time I saw it, I didn't speak for

ten minutes because I was in awe," he said.

The Hajj was first brought to Isabelle's attention by his regimental chaplain, Lt. Cmdr. John S. Kroener, CLR-17, 1st MLG, who also helped coordinate all the logistical aspects of the trip.

"It was really a wonderful thing to help a Marine attend the Hajj," said Kroener.

Isabelle said he was grateful for the support the Marine Corps and the king of Saudi Arabia, King Abdullah Al Saud, offered.

The Hajj is the most important trip in the lives of many Muslims.

"There isn't a word to describe it; the whole thing was a blessing," said Isabelle. "This should definitely be carried on into the future."

Story by:

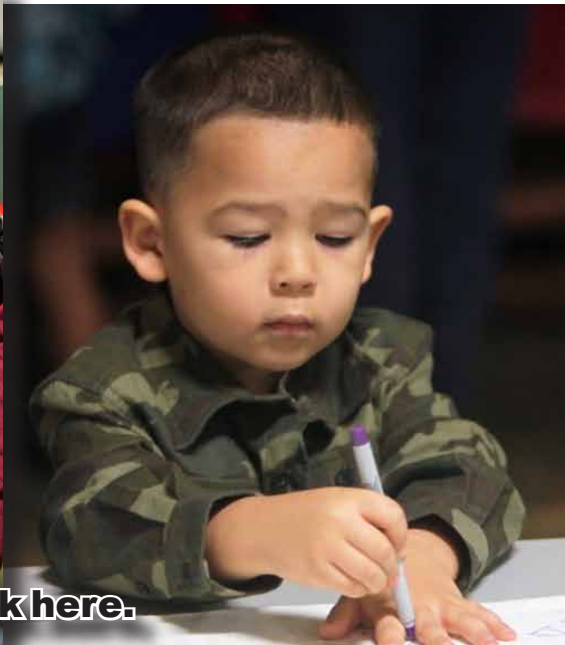
Cpl. Kenneth Jasik
Staff Writer



< Lance Cpl. Michael S. Isabelle, a wireman with Communications Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG, visits the Kaaba, the most sacred site in the Islamic faith. Isabelle was afforded a chance to participate in the Hajj by the King of Saudi Arabia in a show of good faith between the Saudi and United States governments. (Courtesy photo)

CLR-17 volunteers *stuff stockings* for deployed Marines and sailors before *holiday season*

Photos by:
Sgt. Michele Watson
Staff Writer



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

Around the Group

CHANGE TO THE FEMALE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST

ALMAR 046/12

1. THIS ALMAR ANNOUNCES A CHANGE TO THE FEMALE PHYSICAL FITNESS TEST (PFT). EFFECTIVE 1 JANUARY 2014. PULL-UPS WILL REPLACE THE FLEXED ARM HANG (FAH).

4.B. PULL-UPS SCORING FOR FEMALE MARINES:

EIGHT (8) PULL-UPS EQUAL 100 POINTS
SEVEN (7) PULL-UPS EQUAL 95 POINTS
SIX (6) PULL-UPS EQUAL 85 POINTS
FIVE (5) PULL-UPS EQUAL 75 POINTS
FOUR (4) PULL-UPS EQUAL 65 POINTS
THREE (3) PULL-UPS EQUAL 40 POINTS

4.C. TO PASS THE PULL-UP PORTION OF THIS EVENT, FEMALES WILL BE REQUIRED TO EXECUTE AT LEAST THREE (3) PULL-UPS.

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION.

FEMALE PFT WEBSITE

<https://fitness.usmc.mil/fpft>

Motorcycle Safety Courses

The Basic Riders Course is held weekly Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Experienced Riders Course is held weekly, Tuesday and Wednesday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Both courses take place at Building 200071 on Camp Pendleton.

For more information contact your unit motorcycle representative or call the Motorcycle Training Site Coordinator at (760) 725-2897.

Pendleton encouraged to stay safe during holidays

By Lance Cpl. Trevon S. Peracca
MCB Camp Pendleton

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, fires occurring during the holiday season injure approximately 2,600 individuals and cause over \$930 million in damages across the nation annually.

The Camp Pendleton Fire and Emergency Services is offering holiday safety tips to ensure service members and families have a safe and cheerful holiday season.

- Tips for selecting a fresh tree
- Tips for caring for your tree
- Maintaining your holiday lights

Have a happy and safe holiday season.

Click here for more information.

Combined Federal Campaign

Sept. 1 - Dec. 15

There are more than 2,500 charity organizations to choose from and you can pick on that means something to you.

Organizations such as the Wounded Warrior Project, American Heart Association, and Breast Cancer Relief Foundation need your help with donations.

If you give \$10 a payday, it will pay for 57 well-balanced meals for veterans in need or vaccinations for 800 children.

Contact your unit CFC coordinator for more information.

Click here to visit www.socalcfc.org.
