



The Convoy

March 28, 2014

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group





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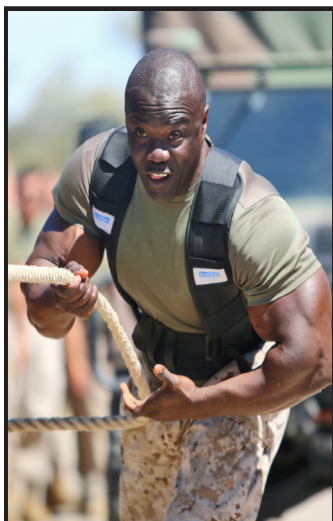


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Cover Page:



Staff Sgt. Franklyn Johnson, Utilities Chief, Engineer Company, Marine Wing Support Squadron 372, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, represents his company in a Humvee-pull competition during the St. Patrick's Day field meet, March 17, 2014. Engineer battalions and companies from 1st MLG, 1st Marine Division and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, meet annually, near the holiday, to compete in a number of events to determine the best engineering unit while building camaraderie, communication and morale between the units. Photo by Cpl. Timothy Childers

To view more photos, see page 26.

St. Patrick's Day Field Meet

Engineer battalions and companies from 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Division and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, compete in the annual St. Patrick's Day Field Meet aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 17, 2014. Video by Cpl. Timothy Childers



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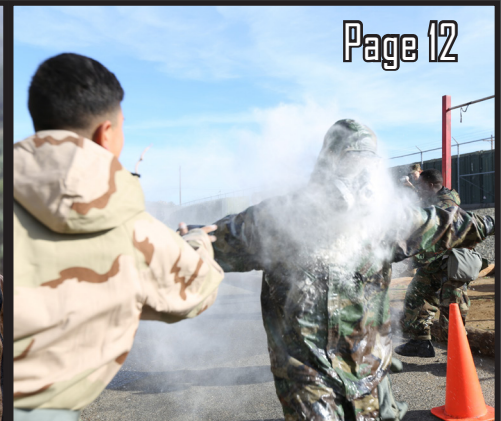


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Marines receive IED a

Story and photos by: Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski



awareness training



Marines with the Redeployment and Retrograde in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group (R40G), 1st Marine Logistics Group, receive a class on the proper course of action if they hit an improvised explosive device during IED awareness training.



Sergeant Jeremy Sands (right), Heavy Equipment Mechanic, Retrograde in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group, 1st Marine Logistics Group, looks for an improvised explosive device with the assistance of Sgt. Richard Cheeks (left), Heavy Equipment Operator, R40G, 1st MLG, during IED awareness training.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — Throughout the Global War on Terror and in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, one of the greatest threats Coalition militaries face has been the improvised explosive device. These devices can be made out of nearly anything and can look like little more than trash on the side of the road.

Three hundred ninety-five Marines with the Redeployment and Retrograde in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group [R4OG], 1st Marine Logistics Group, received pre-deployment training aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 10, 2014, to prepare for an upcoming deployment in support of OEF.

“As part of the R4OG, we will be deploying in the near future to support the retrograde in Afghanistan,” said Gunnery Sgt. David J. Guerrero, Ammunition Chief, R4OG, 1st MLG. “We are going to Afghanistan to identify what we can reuse, bring it back and reallocate it, saving American tax dollars.”

The majority of equipment used during OIF was moved directly to Afghanistan to support OEF, so the equipment has sustained about a decade’s worth of wear and tear.

“At the end of every conflict, we bring our assets and equipment back in order to restore the gear to a like-new condition in preparation for the next conflict that [arises],” said Col. Joseph Whitaker, Commanding Officer of the R4OG.

The retrograde mission began around 2010, and Marines have been reducing the equipment in Afghanistan ever since. This seven to nine month deployment will begin later this spring.

“Not only is it the fifth rotation, this is the final chapter of Marines in Afghanistan,” said

Whitaker, a native of Hauppauge, N.Y. “By the end of this year, we are scheduled to have Marines out.”

In order to accomplish this mission, the Marines receive training to properly prepare them, including infantry immersion training, which prepares Marines for combat during their support of the operation, and IED awareness training.

The Marines will operate in an area known for IEDs, which makes it crucial for Marines to be aware of the threat of IEDs and how to identify them.

“Having never deployed before and knowing that these bombs can look like anything and could be anywhere is definitely scary,” said Lance Cpl. Kobe Hoshibata, Heavy Equipment Mechanic, R4OG, 1st MLG.

The training junior Marines received will help build the confidence necessary to carry out any mission. They learned different types of explosives, including remote control, pressure plate and timed IED’s. They also learned common indicators of IEDs, to include disturbed earth and out-of-place objects or wires protruding from the ground.

Several of the Marines have never deployed so the experience will be new to them, and they don’t know exactly what to expect.

“Having deployed twice to Iraq, I know that this training works. It gives me a warm, fuzzy feeling knowing that my junior Marines have been introduced to the reality of this threat,” said Sgt. Raymond Hosch, Assistant Operations Chief, R4OG, 1st MLG.

Guerrero, a native of The Bronx, N.Y., agreed, adding that when he deployed to Iraq, they did not receive this type of training, and unfortunately, learned primarily by trial and error before more was known about the explosives.

Despite the threat, the Marines of R4OG seem optimistic as they prepare to deploy.

“Nobody signed up for the Marine Corps to play football in a field,” added Guerrero. “We joined to go to combat, defend our country and hopefully bring everyone back in one piece. That is what we intend to do on this deployment.”



Marines with the Redeployment and Retrograde in Support of Reset and Reconstitution Operations Group [R4OG], 1st Marine Logistics Group, observe an example of a pressure plate improvised explosive device during IED awareness training.

Back to the basics:

CLR-17 conducts land navigation course

Story and photos by: **Lance Cpl. Keenan Zelazoski**

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Throughout the week of Feb. 24-28, Marines with Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, participated in a course that evaluated their land navigation skills aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif.

"As a leader and a Marine, it is your duty to be able to get your men to the fight, and more importantly back home," said Master Sgt. Trinidad Zendejas, Training Chief, CLR 17, 1st MLG.

To complete the course, each Marine was issued a compass, protractor and map and had to locate six points in six hours within an area covering more than two miles of arduous landscape.

"Being able to terrain associate and being comfortable with a map are basic skills that can directly affect mission accomplishment," said Lance Cpl. Adam Raethke, Engineer Equipment Mechanic, Landing Support Company, CLR 17, 1st MLG. "You always want to know where you are going when you are on a patrol. Nobody likes being lost."

The Marines were split into pairs for the course and each pair had different points to locate in the training area, so knowing how to avoid getting lost was crucial.

"At first we had a little trouble," said Raethke, a Scappoose, Ore. native. "We couldn't find our points, and when we were looking at the map, we chose bad routes sometimes. We eventually started from scratch, plotted our points again, and instead of trying to navigate the hills and draws, we stuck to the roads, which ended up being significantly easier and faster. The rain really made a lot of the hills too slippery."

Sergeant Robert Baca, Communications Chief, LS Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG, agreed on the importance of the training. Adding, if there was a rescue operation to find or evacuate a Marine, not knowing basic land navigation skills could cost that Marine his life.

"We may have a GPS when we deploy, but it can break, run out of batteries or just not work properly," said Baca. "Technology will fail us eventually."

For some, the true importance of this skill is shown when Marines deploy.

"I deployed twice with infantry units," said Zendejas, a native of Houston, Texas. "During one of my deployments, we had a point man that was really good at getting us where we needed to go, and finding a good spot to [conceal ourselves] in."

Marines should prepare for the worst case scenarios and when things go wrong, they know how to respond.

"There is brilliance in the basics, and Marines practice the basics," said Zendejas.



Lance Cpl. Adam Raethke (left), Engineer Equipment Mechanic, Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and Lance Cpl. Brice Rider (right), Landing Support Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG, consult their map to find the quickest route to their next point during a land navigation course.



"There is brilliance in the basics, and Marines practice the basics," said MSgt. Trinidad Zendejas

Crisis response for crisis responders:

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Within the span of two months, Staff Sgt. Kristen Rios was struck with a series of tragedies: her grandfather committed suicide, her grandmother was admitted to a hospital for open-heart surgery and her father was diagnosed with cancer. In addition, her husband was involved in a motorcycle accident rendering him unable to work.

“The events during those two months had a ‘domino effect’ on me and my family,” said Rios, a Maintenance Management Chief with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group. “My husband couldn’t work, so we didn’t have the funds to get myself home.”

Fortunately, the financial assistance provided by the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society helped her get back on track.

“They fixed my vehicle, assisted me with a grant and provided me with a zero-interest loan,” said Rios, a native of Tampa, Fla. “It was everything. Without that help, I wouldn’t have been able to transport my husband to the hospital or visit my family.”

The NMCRS provides a safety-net for Marines in times

of emergency and unexpected events by offering zero-interest loans and grants depending on the situation.

“Things happen,” said Rios. “We can’t plan for all the bad things that are going to happen to us. It’s sometimes hard for junior enlisted Marines, without proper planning and financial stability, to pick up the pieces and keep moving.”

This safety net ensures Marines are able to focus on their missions, and alleviates the financial stress they may face at home.

“People matter in our organization,” said Col. Tracy W. King, Commanding Officer, CLR-15, 1st MLG. “If a Marine isn’t worrying about his house or his family, then he can be 100 percent ready.”

In 2013, more than 600 Marines with CLR-15 sought help from the NMCRS, totaling \$372,762 in grants and loans. This is part of the \$65.5 million raised throughout the year through loan repayments, contributions, thrift shops and reserve fund withdrawals.

“To me, the [NMCRS] is about keeping faith with our Marines and sailors,” said King, of Oklahoma City. “Just from this regiment, we have benefited from nearly half a million dollars in loans and grants. It’s all about peace of



Sergeant Maj. Bernard C. Coleman, left, Sergeant Major, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, and Col. Tracy W. King, Commanding Officer, CLR-15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, donate money to the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society.

The Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society

mind, especially when Marines are deployed.”

Despite the large contributions made by the NMCRS, active-duty service members from Camp Pendleton have only contributed \$90,000.

The leadership of CLR-15 believes that awareness is important in ensuring the NMCRS can continue helping Marines and sailors in need.

“It’s all about messaging,” said Sgt. Maj. Bernard C. Coleman, Sergeant Major, CLR-15, 1st MLG. “This is one of those programs which people don’t understand until they’re the ones in need. I have Marines every week that come across crises and get that \$500 grant and there are times when they have not donated to the organization before.”

In order to receive grants or loans, service members go through a rigorous screening process to ensure that they are eligible for the monetary assistance that the NMCRS provides.

Ultimately, CLR-15 leaders believe that the NMCRS is

an important tool in ensuring both troop welfare and mission accomplishment.

“Troop welfare leads to mission accomplishment,” said Coleman, of Norfolk, Va. “I’ve had several families that were supported by [the NMCRS] while the Marines were forward deployed.”

Recently, Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, held a base-wide dodgeball tournament on Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 3, 2014. The festive and informative event included Marines from 1st Maintenance Battalion, CLR-15, 1st MLG, and was held as an attempt to raise funds and increase awareness about the NMCRS.

Marines that wish to donate or seek assistance may visit the NMCRS building at E St. & 14th St. Building 1121, Camp Pendleton, Calif., 92055-5006 or visit their website at www.nmcrs.org.

“To me, the [NMCRS] is about keeping faith with our Marines and sailors,” said Col. Tracy King

Story and photos by: Lance Cpl. Shaktiel Dominguez



Meredith Lozar, Director of the Navy and Marine Corps Relief Society, Camp Pendleton, Calif., speaks to Marines during a dodgeball fundraising tournament to increase awareness for the organization and raise funds, March 3, 2014.

CLB-1 MARINES RUN RSD COURSE

Photo by: Lance Cpl. Jordan Gilbert





Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group conduct a Reconnaissance Surveillance and Decontamination course ran by the Marines of Chemical Biological Radiation and Nuclear Platoon, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., February 13, 2014. The Marines received training on conducting reconnaissance and identifying potential CBRN threats, while operating equipment in stressful environments to ensure Marines do not become casualties.

1ST MED NEW I

A full-page photograph of Petty Officer 3rd Class Ian Gebalski. He is a young man with short, dark hair, looking down and to his right. He is wearing a U.S. Navy camouflage uniform. On his left chest, a name tag reads "GEBALSKI". On his right chest, a name tag reads "U.S. NAVY". He is standing in front of a red wall. To his right, a portion of a whiteboard is visible. The overall tone of the image is professional and focused.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Ian Gebalski, a Corpsman with Bravo Surgical Company, 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, observes the new Portable Patient Transport Life Support System.

BN TRAINS WITH LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEM

Story and photos by: Cpl. Laura Gauna



CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - Navy corpsmen are charged with providing critical medical care to patients in life threatening situations during transport to higher echelons of medical care. To ensure the best medical care possible, they have identified the need for a better life support system.

Sailors with 1st Medical Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, trained with the new Portable Patient Transport Life Support System, for the first time, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 25, 2014.

PPTLSS was designed as a lightweight, mobile replacement for the current, bulky, life-support systems used for serious

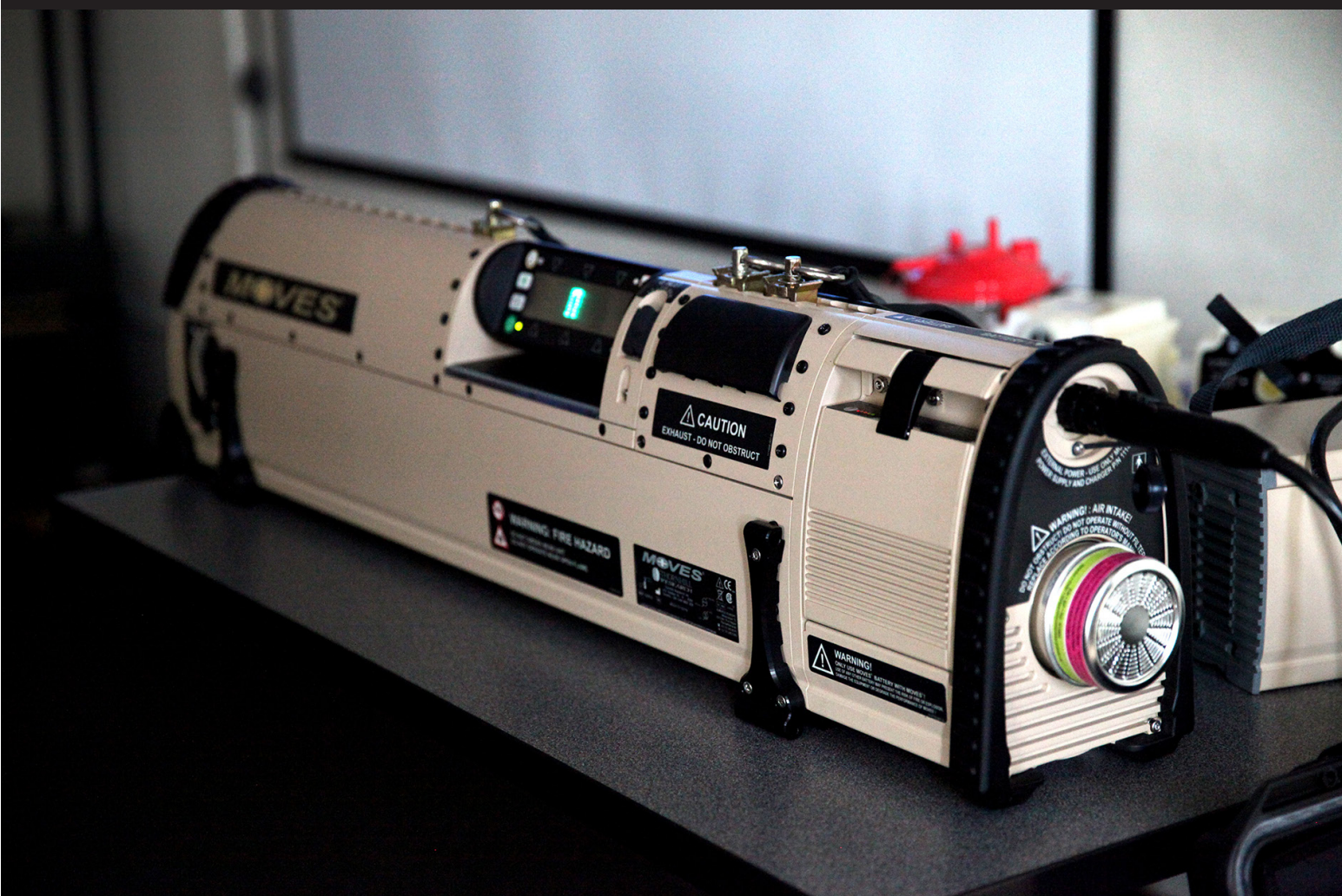
injuries. More than 200 pounds together, the older system included the ventilator, physiological monitor, suction device, oxygen tanks, and a platform to mount the equipment and secure it to the litter. With the PPTLSS a single person can carry the 55 pound system.

“It totally revolutionizes the whole concept of patient transport,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicole Mattera, an En-route Care Corpsman with Bravo Surgical Company, 1st Medical Bn. “The old system, the [Special Medical Emergency Evacuation Device], was only built to carry the same supplies we usually use, but it was considered bulky, inconve-

nient and sometimes a little bit tricky. This new system is an all in one machine.”

The system provides highly efficient components Navy personnel need to evacuate wounded Marines and sailors from the battlefield.

The training, coordinated by the Combat Support Systems Program Management Office of Marine Corps Systems Command, has undergone more than seven years of testing, said Mattera, of Chicago. The durability and the way it handles when transporting casualties were tested to ensure it meets the needs of medical teams in deployed environments.



The PPTLSS allows ease of use and mobility, in one of the most crucial times for a casualty, after receiving a serious injury. It can easily be transferred from the ground, to a vehicle, to an aircraft and provide monitoring and support for several hours.

“It’s going to, mainly, help the patient,” said Petty Officer 2nd Class Christopher McNaloy, a Corpsman with Bravo Surgical Co., 1st Medical Bn. “It can reduce times for oxygen delivery. To hook up a patient the old way took too much time, with too many cords and too many things that could go wrong. This could cause confusion and loss of time, which equals loss of

life down the line. So I think it benefits us, and the patient, by helping us get that patient to the next echelon of care as soon as possible.”

The first day of training consisted of classes about the components and operation of the equipment, while the second day covered the upkeep and maintenance of the equipment.

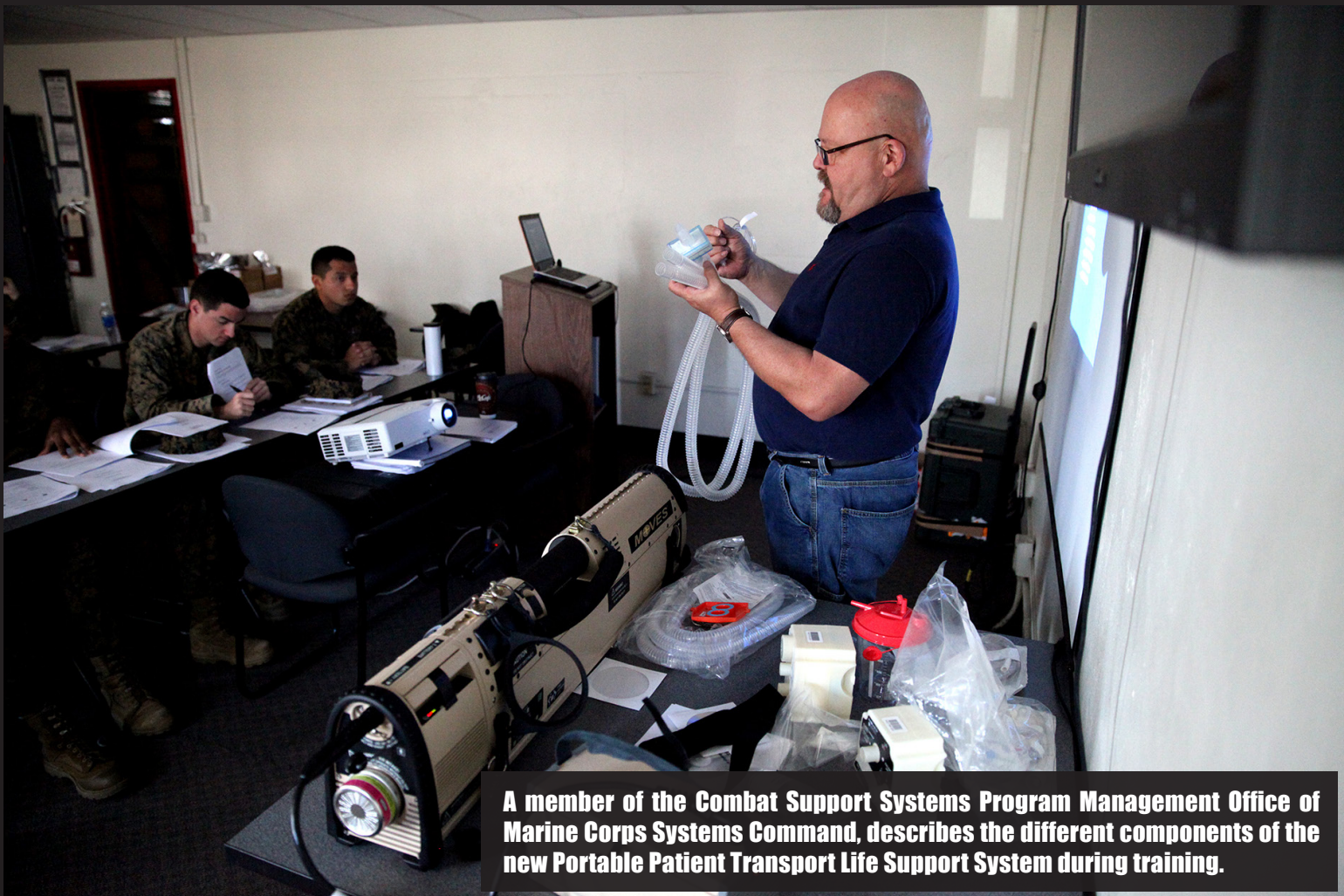
Another crucial aspect of the system is its ability to produce its own oxygen.

“The best feature, I find, for the new system is the fact that it produces its own oxygen,” said Mattera. “We do have our own, but they are four feet tall, they take time to transport and

you can’t carry it with you. With this system you don’t have to worry about carrying twelve bottles of oxygen with you and can reduce the number to four in the chance of a PPTLSS malfunction. The system alone can develop enough oxygen to keep that person alive for as long as necessary.”

The corpsmen working with the system agree it is going to help the future of medical care in the military.

“I’m really excited to be able to use the system,” added Mattera. “I can already see how effective it can be. I see it making a complete change in regards to field medicine.”



A member of the Combat Support Systems Program Management Office of Marine Corps Systems Command, describes the different components of the new Portable Patient Transport Life Support System during training.





Mess champions defend title

Story and photos by: **Cpl. Timothy Childers**



ABOVE: Marines from Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, enter Camp Bloodstripe, for chow, during a Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition.

BELOW: Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, prepare lunch during a Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award competition aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 26, 2014.



CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – The Marines worked quickly, moving between tents and carrying trays of food as the lunch hour approached. They were preparing a meal in the field for more than 250 Marines. More importantly, they were defending their title as best field mess in the Marine Corps.

Last year, Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, earned the 2013 Major General W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award for Best Field Mess. On Feb. 26, 2014, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., a team, selected by the National Restaurant Association, judged the field mess to determine if the servicemembers would continue their reign as champions.

The award was established to improve food service operations and recognize the best field and garrison messes the Marine Corps has to offer. The field mess is evaluated for its organization, security, sanitation, food preparation and the quality and taste of the food served, among many other categories.

Combat Logistics Regiment 17 was competing against the best food service units across the Marine Corps. It was important that the Marines excel in every category of the evaluation.

“The scope of the competition is [vast] and it’s very important. It allows us to showcase what we can do and provides the opportunity for us to train,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 Louie G. Juarez, Commanding Officer, Food Service Co., CLR-17. “We’re graded on every aspect of food service from fiscal accountability to food preparation methods. It’s a pretty broad area.”

The Marines began building the field mess six-days before, with the help of motor transportation Marines, heavy equipment operators, combat engineers, corpsmen and other sup-

porting servicemembers from CLR-17.

Brigadier Gen. Vincent Coglianese, Commanding General, 1st MLG, came out the day prior to the competition to emphasize its importance.

“This is more than a competition. It goes beyond that; it’s a mindset,”



said Coglianese. “I want you to win, but more importantly, I want you to get that expeditionary mindset.”

Coglianese went on to explain that a field mess is essential to the success of expeditionary operations and the food service specialists will face and overcome the same challenges that forward deployed servicemembers may encounter.

“The competition is also a training exercise for us,” said Gunnery Sgt. David M. Anderson, Field Mess Chief, Food Service Co., CLR-17. “Today we incorporated a noncommissioned officer [lecture] at the site and handed out some hot chow to a training site with other Marines,” added the 35-year-old native of Roanoke, Va.

Anderson also said they met the essential mission tasks, which included embarking their gear, setting up their site and retrograding after the competi-

tion was over.

At the heart of the field mess is the Expeditionary Field Kitchen, a trailer that allows food service specialists to cook and prepare food for up to 500 Marines. It is easy to set-up and transportable enough to allow the Marines to support troops operating on the front lines.

Many Marines were unfamiliar with the EFK, including food service specialists from 6th Communications Battalion, Force Headquarters Group, U.S. Marine Forces Reserve, who joined CLR-17 during the competition.

“We came here to assist and learn as much as possible,” said Sgt. Timothy J. Graveline, Food Service Specialist, 6th Comm. Bn. “Reserve side, we don’t have the same amenities that active duty has. This is a learning tool for us. For example, some of my Marines have never seen an Expeditionary Field Kitchen before, so this is new to them and they want to learn,” added the 27-year-old native of Wappinger Falls, N.Y.

Graveline added that he, and Marines from his unit, benefited from the competition and planned on bringing what they practiced and learned back to New York.

“I think the Marines did wonderful,” said Juarez, 44, and native of Parlier, Calif. “I think all the hard work they put into this will definitely pay off in the long run. The training they got out of this is tremendous. They’re going to fully appreciate that once they realize how much they gained from the competition.”

When lunch was ready, a long line of Marines stretched out across the camp. The days of preparation led to the final moment where they would serve the meticulously prepared meal and the judges would make their final rating.

The awards are slated to be presented to representatives of each winning unit in May.

A low-angle, close-up shot of a soldier in desert camouflage operating a machine gun. The soldier's arm and hand are visible, gripping the weapon. The machine gun's barrel and mounting are prominent in the foreground. The background shows a clear blue sky and a green, hilly landscape.

7th ESB brings back



super squad competition

Story and photos by: Cpl. Timothy Childers

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – There is a deep-rooted tradition within the Marine Corps that pits rifle squads against each other to determine the most combat ready of them all. Engaging in a friendly, but challenging competition, the squads conducted a series of events that tested their mission effectiveness, and in the end, determined which is the “Super Squad.”

Marines and sailors with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, revived this tradition as they began a week-long super squad competition aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 10, 2014.

Eight squads, of approximately 80 servicemembers, competed in 12 events that reflect a Marine rifle squad’s mission; to locate, close with and destroy the enemy by fire and maneuver, and repel the enemy’s assault by fire and close combat. The events included live-fire of M240B machine guns, M2 machine guns and Shoulder-launched Multipurpose Assault Weapon route and area reconnaissance, infantry patrolling, and combat logistics patrols. Marines also conducted operations in urban terrain, casualty evacuations, movement to contact drills, day and night ambushes and mission oriented protective posture gear exchange.

“[The competition] challenges the Marines, gives them the opportunity to test skill sets they have been practicing over the past few months and it brings the company together to develop camaraderie,” said Staff Sgt. Alfred Negrón, a Staff Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge with Alpha Co., 7th ESB.”

Negrón, a 28-year-old native of Columbia, S.C., said many of the servicemembers enjoyed the competitive nature of the training and pushed themselves to become the Super Squad. It was the first time they incorporated a squad competition into training, created to motivate the Marines and sailors and build esprit de corps within the company.

“It’s fun to compete against your fellow Marines,” said Lance Cpl. Jesse L. King, Combat Engineer, Alpha Co., 7th ESB. “You also get to see how the other [military occupational specialties] in our company work and get the chance to train with them,” added the 21-year-old of Chicago.

King stepped up as a fire-team leader during the area and route reconnaissance event, leading Marines, including those senior in rank, as they scouted simulated-enemy terrain and created accurate drawings and maps of potential convoy routes.

The training focuses on developing leadership skills in the junior enlisted Marines and sailors. The senior leaders only played the role of mission and task creators during the competition, the squad and fire-team

leaders were accountable for executing.

“There’s a lot of small-unit leadership going on here,” said Capt. David Tran, Commanding Officer, Alpha Co., 7th ESB. “I purposely asked the staff NCOs and officers to back-off in order for the NCOs to take charge of their squads throughout the week, so they are empowered to make decisions in the lack of guidance. It’s important [to develop leadership] across the Marine Corps, that’s why we take pride in our NCO corps more so than most other services. Having them build the confidence as [leaders] is going to make the [company] better.”

The Marines scheduled a warriors’ night on the final day of the competition, where the company commander would announce the winner and congratulate the Marines and sailors for their hard work with a meal deserving of their accomplishments.

“Regardless of who wins, I think the Marines will come out of the field with more confidence in their own abilities and their [leadership] abilities,” said Tran, a 31-year-old native of San Diego. “It translates to everything else we do as Marines, I think all the NCOs will walk out with the ability to make decisions of their own and be that backbone to the Marine Corps.”





Marines with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, compete in a squad competition aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Mar 10, 2014. Eight squads, of approximately 80 Marines and sailors, from Alpha Company participated in the week-long competition that focused on infantry rifle squad skills, tested small-unit leadership and combat-readiness.



Combat engineers celebrat

Photo by: Cpl. Timothy Childers



Combat engineers aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., face off in a pugil stick match during annual St. Patrick's Day field meet, March 17, 2014. Engineer battalions and companies from 1st Marine Logistics Group, 1st Marine Division and the 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, meet annually near St. Patrick's Day to compete in a number of events to determine the best engineering unit while building camaraderie, communication and morale between them. Apart from pugil stick matches, the Marines also contended in volleyball, basketball, pull-ups, a log toss, horseshoes, Humvee pull, and a "Dizzy-Izzy" race.

te St. Patricks Day



FATHER & SONS

compete for 2014 Western Division Matches top prize



Sergeant Erik A. Anderson, left, a Motor Transportation Operator with Headquarters Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, and his father Elmo Anderson, right, are greeted by Brigadier Gen. Vincent A. Coglianesse, center, Commanding General, 1st MLG, during the 2014 Western Division matches.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - The smell of gunpowder lingered as gunfire cracked through the firing line. Elmo Anderson watched his son, Sgt. Erik Anderson, squeeze off controlled and accurate rounds from his M-16A4 service rifle. For Erik, Camp Pendleton was not much different from the wilderness of Lake Preston, South Dakota, where his father taught him how to hunt pheasant as a child.

Now, Erik is a Motor Transportation Operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 15, 1st Marine Logistics Group, who competed against his father in the Western Division Matches aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Feb. 24 – March 7, 2014, where the top Marine Corps and civilian shooters, on the West Coast, gathered to test their marksmanship skills.

“We shoot together and are a team,” said Elmo. “For the 2014 Western Division Matches, we were on the same relay together during the whole first week. We’ve always been competitive, so we challenged each other.”

Erik joined the Marine Corps to follow in the footsteps of his father, who was a former medical technician with the Air Force and officer in the Army National Guard.

Throughout his career, Erik used the marksmanship skills he learned from his father to do his job as a machine gunner with 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, and the Army’s 10th Mountain Division, deploying to Iraq four times before coming back to the Marine Corps to become a motor transportation operator.

“When I was a kid, all the neighborhood kids would want to go out and play,” said Erik, who longed to join them. “At the time I didn’t think it was too fun when my father would have me stay with him and do schoolwork or learn shooting or how to be a mechanic. But looking back, there are so many things I’m thankful for. He taught me everything I needed to be a man.”

For the Andersons, learning how to shoot was a family tradition. Both father and son learned how to shoot at an early age.

“My dad and grandfather taught me how to shoot when I was 10 years old,” said Elmo, now

60-years-old. “I got Erik involved in shooting .22 caliber rifles and the .410 gauge shotgun at a young age too.”

Elmo became a medical pharmaceutical director after his military service. His work gave him opportunities to travel with his family.

“We traveled to Washington, Colorado, and Nebraska, which are all good hunting states. We hunted deer, elk, pheasant and antelope.”

As Erik progressed in skill, Elmo trained him in the more complex aspects of marksmanship and handling of firearms such as reloading ammunition, sighting in different weapons and building their own weapons platforms.

“We do a lot of target shooting so we get a lot of experience with different rifles and different sights,” said Elmo. “I also make him reload his own ammo so he understands how the ballistics tables and coefficients work. We have 38 rifles and shotguns, with the Weatherby rifles being our favorites for their quality and price.”

“Erik and I just recently made an assault rifle platform,” added Elmo. “He bought the lower receiver and drilled it out, while I bought the upper receiver and customized the iron sights.”

To this day, Erik says he continues to hone his skills alongside his father, and frequently visits him at his home near Las Vegas.

Training together paid off for the father-son duo. Erik won a bronze medal in the rifle portion of the 2014 Western Division Matches. Before this, he won medals in the 2013 Western Division Matches and the 2012 All-Navy Marksmanship Competition for his proficiency with pistols.

Erik plans on participating in the All-Navy Marksmanship Competition later this year and other local marksmanship competitions in the future.

However, what’s important for Erik and Elmo isn’t merely winning medals, but being able to support each other and having some friendly competition.

“It’s just a matter of me being there,” said Elmo. “Of course that ended quickly when he beat me,” added Elmo, jokingly. “He’s way better than me now, but I’ll always be there for him.”

7th ESB conducts SMAW training preparing for future deployments

Photos by: Cpl. Alex Quiles



READY...AIM...FIRE

Combat engineers with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, 1st Marine Logistics Group, locate their target during a live fire range, March 11, 2014. The Marines of Alpha Company performed a series of sustainment training operations alongside members of 1st Combat Engineer Battalion, 1st Marine Division.

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LOAD IT UP

Combat engineers with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, load gear after firing high explosive rockets from a MK153 Shoulder-fired, Multi-purpose, Assault Weapon. Fifty rockets were used during the training along with tracers, providing the combat engineers with another breaching tool to add to their arsenal.



BACK BLAST

Combat engineers with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, fire high explosive rockets from a MK153 Shoulder-fired, Multi-purpose, Assault Weapon .



MOVE OUT

Combat engineers with Alpha Company, 7th Engineer Support Battalion, move to another location during a live fire range. The training encouraged teamwork and cooperation between the engineers of the 7th ESB and their brethren from 1st Combat Engineer Battalion.

COMMAND POST EXERCISE 1

1st MLG supplies 'MEF FWD'

Story and photo by:
Sgt. Sarah Fiocco

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group hit the field to fine-tune the process of providing support to ground units during Command Post Exercise 1 aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 10-14, 2014, in preparation for the fast-approaching Exercise Desert Scimitar 2014.

The CPX allowed 1st MLG Major Subordinate Element headquarters, and its independent battalions, to establish their combat operation centers in order to facilitate communications in a field environment.

“For CPX 1, 1st Marine Division was serving in the [Marine Expeditionary Force] (Forward) capacity. The 1st MLG forces served as the logistics combat element, providing support to the MEF (Fwd),” said Master Sgt. Gabriel Reese, Current Operations Chief, 1st MLG Headquarters, and a Columbus, Ga., native. “All together, there were eight headquarters supporting units that came out.”

Communication between MLG units internally and the MEF (Fwd) was the main focus of the exercise. As a result, the intent behind the information passed was to provide MLG an opportunity to demonstrate command and control tactics.

“It’s a CPX, so some of the information that was passed was notional and developed for the exercise,” explained Reese. “It was to exercise our ability to command and control ‘what was taking place’ more than [executing actual] moving pieces.”

As with most exercises, Combat Logistics Regiment 1 provided most of the supplies to 1st MarDiv.

“CLR-1 is providing direct support to 1st MarDiv that is serving as the MEF (Fwd). They’re the direct link to Division,” said Reese. “The needs are being met by CLR-1. Additional needs of 1st MarDiv and CLR-1 are being farmed out to the remainder of the MLG.”

Although the focus was on passing information and putting simulated procedures in place, the Marines still conducted some actual logistics support during convoy responses, indirect-fire responses and scenario-based medical procedures.

During the exercise, convoys provided the ground units with the necessary supplies to sustain themselves. In addition to this responsibility, 1st MLG Marines were required to react to simulated combat-related dangers, like indirect fire, in which they had to employ proper tactics, techniques and procedures in response. Periodically, Marines would act out a medical emergency, requiring corpsman to go through the proper procedures to treat a patient.

Ultimately, CPX1, and the upcoming CPX2, provide 1st MLG a clear picture of standard operating procedures they need to refine and the day-to-day requirements they will need to fulfill during Desert Scimitar 14 in May.

“We’ll do the same thing with a little bit more regularity and a little bit more detail for CPX 2 and then the big piece – Desert Scimitar,” said Reese. “The command relationships we have during the CPXs are the same command relationships that we’ll be using in Desert Scimitar.”

Corpsmen with the Regimental Aid Station, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, provide medical care to Lance Cpl. Elizabeth DeLaRosa, an Administrative Clerk, Headquarters Company, CLR-1, 1st MLG, as part of a medical-response exercise during Command Post Exercise 1, aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., March 12, 2014. CPX1, and the upcoming CPX2, provide 1st MLG a clear picture of command and control standard operating procedures they will need to execute during Operation Desert Scimitar 2014 in May. Along with providing headquarters elements from 1st MLG the opportunity to exercise command and control, CPX1 provided corpsmen the opportunity to practice medical care in a field environment.





CLB-7 Marines

help Afghans prepare vehicles for upcoming

Story and photos by: **Sgt. Jessica Ostroska**



ing Afghan elections



ABOVE: Sergeant Jeffrey S. Watkins, Motor Transportation Maintenance Shop Chief with Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, works to remove the hood on one of the 215th Corps' tactical vehicles.

BELOW: Sergeant Jeffrey S. Watkins, Motor Transportation Maintenance Shop Chief with Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, and native of Marlin, Texas, checks the battery on an Afghan tactical vehicle.



CAMP SHORABAK, Afghanistan – Marines with Combat Logistics Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 7, recently conducted training with Afghan mechanics with the Regional Logistics Support Company, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, aboard Camp Shorabak, Helmand province, Afghanistan.

The training is part of a two-week specialized maintenance surge to assist the ANA mechanics in preparing their vehicles for the upcoming Afghan presidential elections in order to ensure mobility for the security forces. It will also enable the sustainability of their capabilities and equipment.

“The primary purpose of the Marine mechanics being on Shorabak is to increase the ANA’s security capability during the elections,” said Capt. Julius Oreiro, RLSC Maintenance Company Advisor, Regional Command (Southwest). “The success of the elections is highly dependent on the security of the Afghan people. Our team’s primary goal is to increase Afghan confidence and trust in the ANA’s security capability throughout the elections.”

One of the ways the Marines are working to accomplish this goal is by teaching the ANA how to conduct proper maintenance on their vehicles.

“The maintenance surge is the side-by-side cooperation and mentoring of ANA mechanics by Marine mechanics,” said Oreiro.

“The ANA mechanics are capable of learning the complex process of repairing the vehicles through mirroring and observation.”

Even though there are translators available to help alleviate the language barrier, both the Marines and ANA still faced some challenges while working together.

“Most of the Afghans don’t read or write, so the problem is if I can’t write it down, then I

take pictures,” said Warrant Officer Steven W. Pugh, Motor Transportation Maintenance Officer-In-Charge, CLC, CLB-7, and native of Vancouver, Wash. “I’ll take pictures of each step, such as removing a transmission, then print the pictures out and give it to the Afghans to help with teaching them how to work on these vehicles. It is something that is more enduring. A lot of these guys like to fix trucks. They like what they do and are anxious to help.”

When the Marines first arrived to begin the training, they were paired up with ANA mechanics and have been working together since then.



Shafi Mohibi, left, a mechanic with the 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, and Lance Cpl. Gerson Cardenas, right, a Mechanic with Combat Logistics Co., CLB-7., work to run diagnostics on an Afghan tactical vehicle during a two-week specialized maintenance surge.

“We’re very happy,” said Abdul Wakilzada, Shop Chief, RLSC, 215th Corps, ANA. “It’s really helpful to us. They are teaching very important jobs to us, and we like working with the Marines.”

Sergeant Jeffrey S. Watkins, Motor Transportation Maintenance Shop Chief, CLC, CLB-7, and native of Marlin, Texas, is the lead advisor for the maintenance training conducted on the ANA vehicles. He said he makes an effort to answer any questions the ANA have in regards to diagnostics and maintenance performed on their vehicles.

“The training is going better than expected,” said Watkins. “When triaging the condition of their vehicles, our task seemed daunting, but when the actual maintenance kicked off we all quickly fell onto the same page and were able to work together in accomplishing our mission. We are making our best effort to teach them what we know in regard to tactical vehicle maintenance to make them as proficient as possible in our trade before we leave Afghanistan. The saying, ‘Give a man a fish, he eats for a day. Teach a man to fish, he eats for a lifetime’ definitely applies to the training we are conducting.”

As the training comes to an end and the elections near, the ANA will be more prepared and capable of handling their own vehicle maintenance.

“The skills learned during the two weeks will be retained by the ANA mechanics working side by side with Marine mechanics allowing them to continue to refine and pass on the newly acquired maintenance knowledge,” said Oreiro. “These are some of the most sufficient and efficient ANA mechanics, and they are capable of conducting maintenance at their level.”



AROUND THE GROUP

Leatherneck Comedy & Entertainment tour:

Active duty servicemembers are invited to attend this year's Leatherneck comedy show, March 28 at 1:30 p.m. at the Pacific Views Entertainment Center.

Youth and teen dance marathon:

Join the fun at the youth and teen center Bldg. 201019, March 28 from 6-10 p.m. Children, ages 10-18, can take on the fitness challenge. For more information, call 760-763-0649.

Bachelor Enlisted Quarters Managers Training Course:

The course is a two day comprehensive class scheduled quarterly each calendar year to educate newly appointed BEQ managers and those seeking a refresher class on current BEQ policies and managing procedures. For more information, please call 760-430-4705/4706/4707.

Thompson Square live in concert:

Thompson Square will be live in concert April 11 at 7 p.m. at Palms Park. To purchase discounted tickets, call 858-577-4141, or visit www.mccsmiramar.com/itt.

FMEAP, ongoing, Camp Pendleton:

The Family Member Employment Assistance Program (FMEAP) is seeking motivated volunteers who are interested in assisting while building skills in the following areas: clerical, customer service & public speaking.



Voices around the Group

Q&A with Cpl. Jayme Copeland

Voices around the Group is a monthly interview, which features 1st MLG Marines



Q: Why did you decide that you wanted to join the Marine Corps and did it meet your expectations?

A: I joined because I have a really hard time sticking to things and I knew the military would make me stay for at least four years. I decided that if I was going to be made to stay in, I wanted some high expectations. I basically wanted to stay busy. It's held my expectations. I want to stay in. I love it.

Q: What is it about it that you enjoy?

A: You get to meet a lot of people from a lot of different places. You start building friendships you never thought you would, especially on deployment. You make friends with people from different countries. There are so many different cultures.

Q: Can you tell me how it was like going overseas?

A: I went to Afghanistan for seven months last year and I loved it there. Yes, it's a combat zone and we ran into our problems here and there, but we overcame them. It was interesting meeting all the other countries' military forces. For one country, bread was an extreme delicacy. It makes you realize what you take advantage of. So when you come back to the states you appreciate what you have more. We got care packages from kids and they sent us letters with them. We sent letters back and became pen pals. It was great and kept our mind off of a few things. Another thing is it's really hard on families. Everyone is always looking forward to the next time they can talk to them or see them. It's sort of like a way of knowing they are not forgotten about.

Q: How do you think this experience has changed you?

A: I'm very decisive now and more firm. I am more confident overall.



PARTING SHOT

By Cpl. Timothy Childers