



The Convoy

Delivering quality information on the 1st Marine Logistics Group

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Marines raise toys for kids

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Sleigh bells could be heard ringing in the early hours of dawn as a battalion of Marines ran by. While it may have seemed like another Marine Corps formation run, this particular one had a special purpose.

Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, went
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Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, take off on their third consecutive Toys for Tots run at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 16.

Egress training prepares Marines for vehicle rollovers

Story and photos by
Cpl. Michele Watson
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – While improvised explosive devices remain the greatest threat to the lives of service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, new equipment, such as the mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle, has made a huge impact for those on the battlefield.

Over the past decade, technological advances have helped to

significantly decrease the amount of casualties involved in tactical vehicle rollovers caused by IEDs.

“The IED survival rate has increased dramatically because of the MRAP,” said Sgt. Timothy Guy, egress training instructor, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward). “It has 9-layer glass windows and a ‘V’ shaped hull that deflects the blast of an IED. One of the main things that are killing Marines now is roll-overs.”

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A Marine attached to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) jumps out of the turret from a simulated mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle during egress training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 12.

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Marines pay respects to fallen brother

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – “Cpl. Johnson! ... Cpl. Kenneth Johnson! ... Cpl. Kenneth Dean Johnson! ... Cpl. Kenneth Dean Alexander Johnson!”

Despite how loud the company first sergeant screamed his name for roll-call, Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, food service specialist, Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, could not respond. A memorial service was conducted at the base chapel for Marines to pay their respects to Johnson, Dec. 9.

Johnson, 21, from Koliganek, Alaska, passed away Nov. 30 but continues to live on in the hearts and minds of the people he touched.

“A lot of times as Marines, individuals come into our lives and forever leave an impact on us even though we don’t see it initially,” said Sgt. Maurice Toole, food service specialist, Food Service Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. “For me, Cpl. Johnson was one of those individuals.”

When he started working with Johnson in December, 2009, Toole said he thought Johnson was going to be tough to train.

“I realized as our time working together progressed that I wasn’t training him, he was actually training me,” said Toole, 27, from Philadelphia. “I’ve never told him this but I would like him to know that I admire him... for teaching me that sometimes, using actions instead of words is the best way to train your Marines; for showing me that by illustrating a calm attitude in the worst situations will



Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, 21, from Koliganek, Alaska, food service specialist, Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, passed away Nov. 30.

instill composure in your Marines, and for showing me that an effective leader is one who looks at adversity not as an obstacle, but as a challenge. He taught me so much in a short span of time. He represented the exact beauty of the Marine Corps.”

Johnson has left this world forever, but the memories of him and the lessons he taught others will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of everyone that Johnson crossed paths with.

“Like so many others whose lives he had affected, I will forever treasure those memories I shared with him,” said Toole. “On that note, I would like to leave everyone with my fondest memory of him. He was my corporal, my troop, my Marine, Cpl. Kenneth Johnson.”



Cpl. Nicholas G. Mike, 21, from Kokhanok, Alaska, pays respect to his cousin, Cpl. Kenneth Johnson, who recently passed away, during a memorial service at the base chapel aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 9.



Marines with 1st Marine Logistics Group attend a memorial service for Cpl. Kenneth Johnson at the base chapel aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 9.

Commanding General's Message

During this holiday season, I extend my sincere appreciation for your tireless efforts in defense of our nation's freedom and for your family's many sacrifices in support of your service. Many of you will travel to see family or engage in outdoor activities over the holidays so please take the time to assess the circumstances and plan ahead, evaluate the hazards and exercise appropriate caution. For many, the holidays can be a period of increased stress and uncertainty. If you find yourself in need of assistance, please ask for help. Additionally, be proactive and respond appropriately when you identify a member in need. Your involvement will help build a stronger, more resilient and safer Marine Corps.

While the holidays are a time for celebration, they are also a time of increased risk, particularly on the nation's highways. Assuming unnecessary risks or engaging in careless behavior can have disastrous consequences. Consider your loved ones and your marine family with every decision you make. Last winter holiday, the Marine Corps lost four marines due to motor vehicle accidents, one to alcohol poisoning and one to hypothermia. When driving in cold and wet weather, you must acknowledge and mitigate your risks by planning your routes, inculcating a safety mindset, and develop alternative travel plans. Risk acknowledgement tools to support small unit leadership are redundantly stated each holiday weekend, however, we must accept personal responsibility for our safety. Leaders at all levels must continue to advise and mentor Marines and sailors about the consequences of speeding, driving fatigued, motor vehicle maintenance, texting while driving, improper motorcycle operation, and the lead indicators of domestic violence. If you drink alcohol, have a plan. If you have been drinking, have a designated driver, call a friend, relative, or use the Arrive Alive program to get home safely.

All leaders will commit themselves to listening and speaking with their Marines and sailors and encourage problem-solving to overcome adversity and prevent life stressors from building to crisis levels. Seeking assistance for yourself and others is a sign of strength. Seeking assistance for others is consistent with Marine Corps ethos. This is a battle we cannot afford to lose, and with everyone's direct involvement, no Marine or sailor will be left behind.

I expect each of you to be at the forefront of our 1st MLG force preservation efforts and to reinforce resiliency. Let's continue our positive trend And maintain zero fatalities or serious injuries this winter holiday. Take care of each other and have a safe, memorable, and enjoyable holiday.

*Semper Fidelis,
J. J. Broadmeadow
Brigadier General
Commanding General
1st Marine Logistics Group*

HAPPENINGS

Arrive Alive

Marines are encouraged to use the arrive alive program to safely return home after drinking. For more information, contact your SACO.

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.

Belmont Retirement Home Visit

The Single Marine Program is looking for Marines to volunteer at the Belmont Retirement Home on Dec. 29. The event will begin at 4:45 p.m. The uniform of the day is Bravos. Marines will require their own transportation. For details, log into www.mccscp.com.

Free Meal at Panda Express

On Christmas, Panda Express will be offering a free two-items combo meal with soda for all active duty personnel, family members, retirees and DOD employees. It will be open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. For details, log into www.mccscp.com.

Officer's Pub 1795 Opening Day

The new Officer's Pub will open on Jan. 6, from 4 p.m. - 9 p.m. The Pub is located in San Luis Rey Housing, building 1795. The Officer's Pub offers LCD televisions, pool tables, Wii games, ping pong and darts. For details, log into www.mccscp.com.



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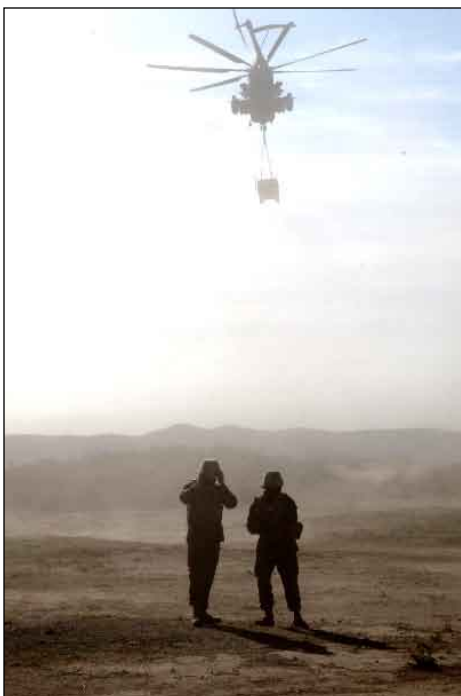
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Marines from Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, brace themselves from sand and debris after rigging a Humvee to the bottom of a CH-53 Sea Stallion during a training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 8. Landing Support Co. supported an exercise establishing a Jump Command Post.



A Marine from Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, braces a radio antenna during a training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 8. The Marines established a Jump Command Post to increase the command's communication abilities.



A Marine from Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, boots a computer to establish a Support Wide Area Network at a Jump Command Post.

CLR-17 trains for deployment

Communication Company exercises expeditionary nature

**Story and photos by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer**

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Marines from Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, deployed a Jump Command Post during a training exercise, Dec. 8. A Jump CP establishes a forward point for a command to communicate with its troops.

A CH-53 Sea Stallion helicopter flew into the simulated forward operating base. As it landed, Marines covered their faces as sand and debris was kicked up from the helicopter's rotor wash. The troops walked in a column formation into the rear of the helicopter, carrying radio equipment they would use to establish communications when they landed.

Marines from Landing Support Company, CLR-17, 1st MLG, rigged a Humvee to the bottom of a CH-53, making three trips in under half an hour. The helicopters transported one Humvee and more than 10 Marines during each of the three flights. Once all the Marines touched down, they transited via Humvee to a location where they would establish a Jump CP.

"Marines [from Communications Co.] rarely get to conduct helicopter insertions," said Gunnery Sgt. Erich J. Wolfinger, operations chief, Communications Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. "This exercise breaks the monotony and will give the Marines a good idea of their abilities and effectiveness."

After driving off-road to the jump location, the Marines dismounted their Humvees and began to construct the Jump CP. The setup included deployment of a Support Wide Area

Network. A satellite dish is used in the network to increase the capabilities of long-range communications. It allows the unit to carry a smaller network package. A generator that was towed behind a Humvee powered the Jump CP's electronics through extensive wiring that also connected the system together.

Once power was established, Marines adjusted the dish to connect to a satellite with the aid of a computer program. The dish sent radio signals to the satellite which relayed them to another dish in the simulated FOB, allowing a clear connection. The mission was accomplished.

CLR-17 is transitioning back to its expeditionary roots, under the command of Col. James W. Clark, commanding officer, CLR-17, 1st MLG. The regiment is now conducting exercises that focus on the expeditionary nature of the Marine Corps.

"The future of the Marine Corps is likely smaller exercises," said 1st Lt. Samuel R. Howe, executive officer, Communications Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG. "The regiment plans to get back to its expeditionary roots. Colonel Clark's vision is to be able to get close to the frontlines with dependable communications. This training exercise is a great example of operations with expeditionary nature."

Communication Co. has conducted many training exercises. The repetition has allowed them to become more efficient and skillful at their work.

"It's good to get challenging and realistic training similar to real scenarios," said Howe. "I've been with the regiment for two years and every exercise I have seen improvement from the last. This is the best part of the job."



Marines from Communications Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, establish a Support Wide Area Network at a Jump Command Post, during a training exercise aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 8

CLR-17 competes for Maj. Gen. W.P.T. Hill Award

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Each year, mess halls around the Corps compete for an award, sponsored by the National Restaurant Association, that earns them the right to be named the best mess hall in the Marine Corps.

For the second year in a row, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force elected food service Marines with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group to represent them in the competition for the Maj. Gen. William Pendleton Thompson Hill Memorial Awards Program for Food Service Excellence. The winner of the award will earn the title as the best field mess in the Marine Corps for 2011.

Established in 1985, the W.P.T. Hill Award was intended to improve food service operations and recognize the best messes in the Marine Corps in four different categories – full contracted mess halls, military and contractors garrison mess halls, reserve field mess and active field mess.

Arthur Ritt, evaluator representing the National Restaurant Association, said he saw everything they were looking for in the work of the competitors.

“These Marines worked as a team,” said Ritt, from Deerfield, Ill. “They showed great camaraderie helping each other. They did great on sanitation and showed great cooking skills. The food was excellent and I enjoyed the meal.”

Being judged for every small detail – from hygiene, sanitation, supervision and management, site selection and layout camouflage to presentation and cooking skill, Marines had no room for mistakes, explained Master Gunnery Sgt. Thomas A. Wolff, evaluator for the event.

“The food quality was great. It was served hot with proper portion,” said Wolff, from South Vend, Ind. “They don’t get to this level of performance still making a lot of mistakes. We’re looking at what they do, how they do it, and are they



doing it better than everyone else.”

Wolff stressed that it’s going to be stiff competition, but he said that the skills and performance of food service Marines with 1st MLG were top notch.

“We’re here to evaluate field messes throughout the Marine Corps for recognition of food service excellence for the W.P.T. Hill Memorial Award,” he said. “It’s a very prestigious award that shows the capabilities of each of the units, as far as being able to support Marines. I can definitely understand and see why these Marines were selected to represent I MEF for being the best field mess hall.”

Generally for the evaluation, the unit would set up a temporary field site to feed anywhere from 150 to 200 Marines and tear it down after one meal, Gunnery Sgt. Carlos J. Alcaraz, operation chief, Food Service Co., CLR-17, 1st MLG explained.

“When we found out that the evaluators were coming about the same time as some training that 1st MLG Marines were conducting and that we were going to be supporting them, we decided to combine the evaluation with actual support that we provide to these Marines,” said Alcaraz, from Riverside, Calif.

Being an actual operation, food service Marines prepared three meals a day to feed more than 900 personnel for the duration of the operation, Alcaraz said. He was pleased with



his Marines performances.

“The Marines did an outstanding job,” said Alcaraz. “This is my third iteration with the W.P.T. Hill evaluation and I have to say, by far, this is the best effort I’ve seen put forth, especially with the amount of personnel that we’re feeding out here because it is an actual operation.”

During the meal that the Ma-

rines were being evaluated for the award, they served more than 650 Marines, said Alcaraz.

“It’s just another day for Food Service Company and Marines still need to be fed,” he added. “Our job doesn’t stop just because we’re done with the evaluation process. We’ll continue to move forward with food service support as required.”

EGRESS

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To combat the fatalities caused by rollovers, Marines and sailors preparing to deploy as part of 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) participated in egress training, Dec. 12. Following the simulated rollover, service members also received practice conducting security procedures.

"With the MRAP being the main vehicle used in convoys, we need to know exactly how to get out of a rough situation such as a roll over," said John Staley, corpsman, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. "We also need to know how to maintain proper security for the vehicle."

During egress training participants are placed in a vehicle simulator. The MRAP used during the training is a machine that demonstrates how a vehicle rollover could play out. Ten service members, dressed in a full combat load, enter the vehicle and buckle up. Once all the doors are locked, the vehicle is put into motion.

"The machine rolls you to your critical rollover points," said Guy. "This is the degree in which a rollover is imminent."

To show Marines the effective-

ness of the seatbelt harnesses inside the MRAP, the machine pauses in an upside-down-position during its rotation.

"The Marine puts their hands in the air and places all of their weight on the harness to show that they do work and save lives," said Guy.

After participants conduct position familiarity, where the simulator is rolled into multiple angles that a passenger could experience during a rollover, the vehicle is then stopped in a random position and the Marines and sailors trapped inside have to figure out the fastest method to egress and which exit to use before conducting 360 degree security.

"I do feel better prepared in case of a rollover," said Staley. "The training provided definitely prepares deploying service members for getting out of a vehicle once it has flipped."

In addition to teaching security procedures and methods of getting out of an MRAP, Marines and sailors also received training on extracting any casualties that might remain in the vehicle. With Marines properly trained with the newest military equipment, the survival rate of service members will continue to increase, bringing home more troops in the long run.



Marines attached to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) work to unstrap a mock casualty from a mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 12. The MRAP used during the training is a machine that demonstrates how a vehicle rollover would play out in order to prepare Marines for their upcoming deployment to Afghanistan.



A Marine attached to 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward) jumps out of the turret from a simulated mine-resistant ambush-protected vehicle during egress training at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 12.

Mobile Immersion Trainer

CLB-5 Marines simulate real-life scenarios

Story and photo by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. - The Marines of Company E, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, trained in the Mobile Immersion Trainer here, Dec. 9. The Mobile Immersion Trainer simulates real-life scenarios Marines may encounter while conducting a combat logistics patrol.

The MIT better prepares Marines how to act and react while operating vehicles and is similar to the Infantry Immersion Trainer, where Marines learn to operate under stressful conditions and work with the local populace. Some of the scenarios of the MIT include recovering downed vehicles from the result of an improvised explosive device, evacuating civilian casualties, conducting resupply missions and handling ambushes from enemy combatants. All of the scenarios are based off of real combat logistics patrol experiences and are designed to challenge the Marines.

The first mission Company E received was recovering a downed vehicle. Before they could begin to recover the vehicle, the Marines needed to secure the location. With the use of a hand-held mine detector, a Marine swept the vicinity of the wreckage for secondary IEDs. Once a possible IED was detected, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team was called in to confirm and clear any other IEDs.

After the area was secured, a vehicle recovery team attached the vehicle to a winch. Under the patrol's security, the team successfully pulled the downed vehicle from the ditch, where it could be taken back to the Forward Operating Base for repairs.

The second scenario was an evacuation of a civilian casualty. As the patrol rolled into one of the mock

towns in the MIT, they were stopped by a civilian vehicle and a group of role-players acting as the local populace. In the vehicle was a casualty of an IED that needed immediate medical aid. It was the patrol's job to evacuate the casualty back to the FOB for medical treatment.

The Marines had to deal personally with the local populace, trying to control the crowd as they evacuated the casualty without upsetting them. They used an interpreter and what Pashto phrases the Marines already knew to create a level of understanding between the troops and the villagers. Without incident, the Marines successfully evacuated the casualty and brought him back to the FOB.

"It's important for us to receive training on how to complete the mission, repel the enemy and preserve the hearts and minds of the civilian populace," said 2nd Lt. Christopher S. Sheckel, platoon commander, 3rd Platoon, Company A, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "This is an exercise of cultural sensitivity."

While the Marines completed each scenario, they were evaluated by Combat Skills Instructors on their performance. At the end of the training event, the instructors reviewed with the troops by pointing out their weak and strong points.

"I believe they have a good base to build upon," said Sgt. Juan A. Salazar, combat skills instructor, 1st MLG. "This is their first step. If they continue to train by the time they deploy, they will be good to go."

The unit has shown good communication throughout the exercise. They did a great job of posting security and accomplished both scenarios quickly and without incident. From here, they will progress and be better equipped for tasks in the future, said Salazar.

The Marines feel they have benefited from the MIT and are one step closer to deploying.

"I've learned a lot from this training," said Pfc. Susan J. Cantrel, motor transportation operator, Com-



Pfc. Susan J. Cantrel, motor transportation operator, Company E, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, sweeps for simulated improvised explosives during the Mobile Immersion Trainer aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 9.



Marines from Company E, Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, recover a simulated downed vehicle during the Mobile Immersion Trainer at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 9.

pany E, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG. "It's helping us prepare for the deployment next year. I feel more confident after the training today."

The time left for training is decreasing as the deployment comes closer. It's important that the Marines are well prepared before they

go to Afghanistan, said Sheckel.

"The Marines performed very well," said Sheckel, "It's been a valuable training experience, some of the most valuable training so far leading up to our deployment. I would definitely recommend it for any unit."



Col. James W. Clark, regimental commander, CLR-17, 1st MLG, talks to senior leaders during a PME session aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 13.

Senior PME Senior leaders learn from the past to improve future missions

Story and photos by
Cpl. Khoa Pelczar
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – Senior leaders with 1st Marine Logistics Group met at the South Mesa Club here, Dec. 13, to conduct professional military education, discussing how to improve future missions using past experiences.

The PME focused on the pros and cons of the withdrawal from Iraq and the Korean War, in order to come up with solutions to improve future missions.

“For the Marine Corps, our past is our future. It’s plain and simple,” said Col. James W. Clark, regimental commander, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st MLG. “There’s a right way and there’s a wrong way to conduct business. Being Marines, it’s very important for us to uphold that high standard and do things the right way.”

With many 1st MLG Marines preparing to go to Afghanistan, Clark wants to ensure Marines are accountable for all of their gear.

During the PME, Clark noted that billions of dollars of equipment



Col. James W. Clark, regimental commander, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, talks to senior leaders during a professional military education session aboard Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 13.

and assets were left in Iraq while troops headed home. Clark said he wants Marines to learn from the past, as situations like these can be prevented through leadership.

Clark reminded senior leaders of how Gen. Oliver P. Smith, commander of 1st Marine Division during the battle of Chosin Reservoir, refused to give up and fought his

way through 10 Chinese army divisions to bring home their gear, personnel and casualties, staying true to Marine Corps traditions and its core values of honor, courage and commitment.

Inspired by the valor demonstrated by the Marines back then, Clark wants 1st MLG Marines to leave Afghanistan in a similar dis-

ciplined manner.

“If General Smith can do that under the worst of conditions, then the least we can do is to account for all our equipment and send everything home,” Clark said.

To further inspire Marines and to learn more about the war, Clark invited a historian from Marine Corps History Division, Dr. Thomas Baughn, to the PME to talk about the logistical achievements under fire during the Korean War.

Baughn shared his knowledge of the war to senior leaders, and spoke in detail about what the Marines did during that time to accomplish their missions.

Overall, Clark addressed the importance of Marines being accountable for their equipment and suggested that senior leaders keep track of everything to make sure every single piece of gear makes it back to the states as Marines prepare to leave Afghanistan.

“It’s like our first general order states, ‘to take charge of your post and all government property in view.’ I have no doubt that we’ll leave Afghanistan in an honorable fashion,” Clark said.

CLB-5 hosts a 'Families in the field day'

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Jerrick Griffin
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. – “Mommy, there’s Daddy! I can see him!” A boy screamed as the bus approached its destination. Families have always been on the receiving end, waiting for buses to bring their Marines home. This time they’re the ones riding the bus, heading to the field to visit their loved ones.

Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, hosted a ‘Families in the Field’ event here, Dec. 11. The purpose of the event was to give family members and friends the chance to experience what Marines do while they are in the field.

“Instead of hosting a Jayne Wayne, we decided to actually have the families visit their loved one on an actual field operation,” said Christine Winicki, family readiness officer, CLB-5.

There were various stations for the families to enjoy and learn from. The kids’ favorite was a static display of tactical vehicles. The children seemed very excited when they were told they could get in and explore the massive vehicles. Other stops included weapon stations, where family members were able to get a feel for the M2 .50 Caliber machine guns, Mark-19 40mm grenade launchers, M240B machine guns and M16A4 service rifles, which are all weapon systems used by Marines while deployed. There was also Marine Corps Martial Arts Program demonstrations for the families to enjoy.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, show a family member the proper sitting position to fire the M2 .50 Caliber machine gun during the ‘Families in the Field’ event at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 11.

Most Marines were happy to give their loved ones tours around the simulated forward operating base to show how life in the field really is.

“I was glad to have my family out here with me,” said Pfc. Alissa Maxwell, motor transport operator, CLB-5. “It’s a good thing for them to come out and experience and see a lot of the things they’ve had questions about before.”

Although they spent only a few hours in the field, each and every family member got to witness how much work goes into setting up and maintaining FOBs for extended periods of time.

“I think it’s important for families to be able to see what actually goes on when the Marines are away,” said Winicki. “It helps us further appreciate what they do.”



Lt. Col. Robert T. Meade, commanding officer, CLB-5, CLR-1, 1st MLG, shows his daughter the M16A4 service rifle during the ‘Families in the Field’ event at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 11.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 5, Combat Logistics Regiment 1, 1st Marine Logistics Group, demonstrate Marine Corps Martial Arts Program techniques as family members watch on during the ‘Families in the Field’ event at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 11.

Police Advisory Course

Marines train in Host Nation Police Advisory Course

Story and photos by
Pfc. Timothy Childers
Staff Writer

MARINE CORPS
BASE CAMP PEND-
LETON, Calif. - Marines with Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, trained in the Host Nation Police Advisory Course here, Dec. 15. The course trains Marines to become Police Advisory Teams that work together with the Afghan National Police force.

The Marines from CLR-17 are training to become Police Advisory Team instructors. Once qualified, they will then be able to teach senior enlisted and officers to become Police Advisory Team members.

It is the job of Police Advisory Teams to deploy and embed with host nation police forces to share and build police skills including detaining suspects and gathering evidence to be brought to a judicial trial.

The two week course was developed in 2010 and consists of two phases. During the first phase, the Marines learn the material needed to become instructors in a classroom setting. The second phase is instructor development, said Brad Smith, police advisory course instructor, Homeland Security Inc.

"A big part of the class is [learning]community-oriented policing," said Smith. "It's important for the Marines to establish a rapport and trust within the community for security and intelligence."

The training event required Marines to work together with a mock Afghan National Police force during multiple scenarios. During one scenario, the Marines and Afghan National Police talked with village elders about selecting a location for a local election poll. Another scenario involved the assassination of a village elder by insurgents, which outraged the community. The Marines had to rely on the Afghan National Police to control the locals and restore peace to the community.

"We're doing phenomenal,"



Staff Sgt. Joseph Salazar, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Detainee Operations, Military Police Support Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force, speaks with a village elder role-player during the Host Nation Police Advisory Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 15. The course trains Marines to become Police Advisor Teams that work together with the Afghan National Police force.

said Staff Sgt. Joseph Salazar, staff noncommissioned officer in charge, Detainee Operations, Military Police Support Company, I Marine Expeditionary Force. "The training is going great so far. This will be one of the biggest missions and it's a necessity for Marines about to deploy."

The Military Police Companies from 1st MLG, I MEF, I Marine Aircraft Wing and 1st Marine Division are slated to join as a single Military Police Battalion in the future in order to create a stable police force in Afghanistan as troops begin to pull out, said Master Sgt. Joseph C. Starzy, Military Police Chief, G-3, 1st MLG.

"You have to establish the security of a country," said Smith. "We're there to help them transition so they can stand on their own. Once they will be able to stand on their own two feet, we can successfully pull out of Afghanistan."



Marines from Military Police Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, speak with role-players during the Host Nation Police Advisory Course at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 15.



Marines with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, sort toys collected during their third consecutive Toys for Tots run at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 16. The purpose of the run is to collect toys and give hope to those who may not have hope. Many families will receive hope and joy this year as the Marines raised over 650 toys, eclipsing their total from last year's event.



A Marine with Combat Logistics Battalion 13, Combat Logistics Regiment 17, 1st Marine Logistics Group, loads the toys collected from their third consecutive Toys for Tots run at Camp Pendleton, Calif., Dec. 16.

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on their third consecutive battalion run in support of the Toys for Tots program here, Dec. 16. Prior to the run, each Marine donated at least one toy for the foundation.

"The Marine Corps is known for a lot of things; since 1947 the Marine Corps has been known for the Toys for Tots program," said Lt. Col. George W. Markert, battalion commander, CLB-13, CLR-17, 1st MLG.

Toys for Tots is an international program founded by Maj. Bill Hendricks and a group of Marines who wanted to bring joy and share the holiday spirit with the less fortunate children during the Christmas season of 1947.

"The purpose of this program is to give hope to those who may not have hope," said Markert, from Virginia Beach, Va.

Many families will receive hope and joy this year as the Marines raised over 650 toys, eclipsing their total from last year's event.

"This is the greatest collection we have had in three years," said Sgt. Maj. Dennis Collins, battalion sergeant major, CLB-13, CLR-17, 1st MLG, from New York City.

Patti Siegman, Toy for Tots representative and executive officer of Eagle Young Marines, stated that it was an outstanding turn out and it gets better and better every year.

For their hard and generous work in collecting the toys, CLB-13 was presented with a plaque from the Marine Corps reserve and the organizer of the event. Siegman also thanked them for their work and presented them with a few kind words.

"They're extremely helpful," said Siegman, from St. Louis. "They have big hearts and always want to help those in need. I thank each and every one of them."

Photos from around 1st MLG



(Left) Cpl. Christine Vongphrasouk, Cpl. Jeanique LaCour, Cpl. Mercedes Armstrong and Master Gunnery Sgt. Morayma Rodriguez with G-4, decorated their door with the motivated Kool-Aid man carrying a Non-commissioned officers sword and a wire brush for the Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Door Decorating Contest. (Below) A giant Christmas tree graces the entrance of the 1st Marine Logistics Group Headquarters building.



(Above) Cpl. Ureana, Lance Cpl. Penn and Lance Cpl. Ibarra with G-1, got in the holiday spirit with their door decoration for Combat Logistics Regiment 17 Door Decorating Contest. (Right) Cpl. Crystal Villanueva and Lance Cpl. Vanessa Mercado with the inspector general's office, with their Simpson's TV show themed door decoration complete with characters. The judging for each door was conducted Dec. 21, by Col. James Clark and Sgt. Maj. Robert Ledferd.

